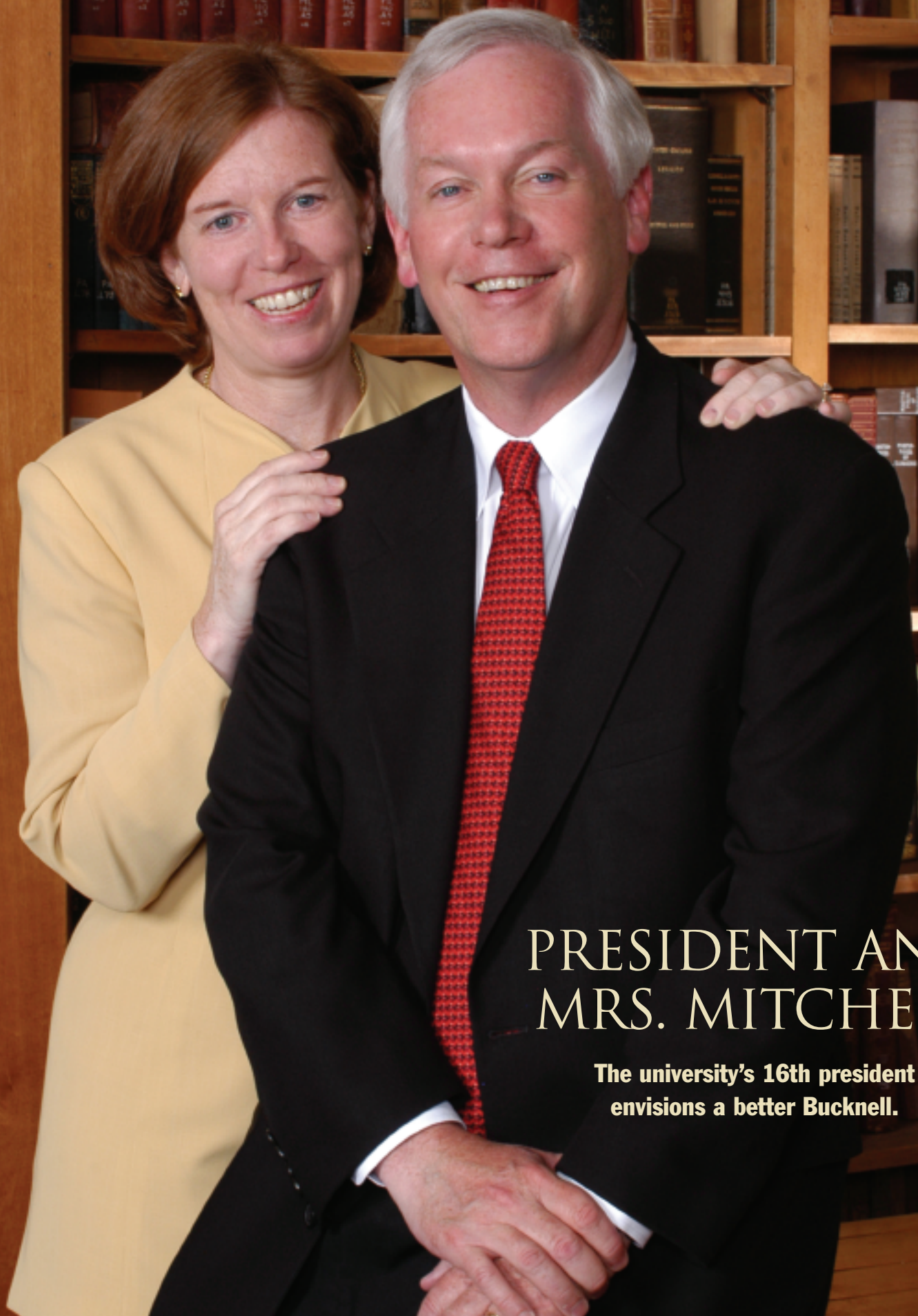


September 2004
Volume 32
Number 4

Wrestling Returns

Make Bucknell's Website Your Own

BUCKNELL *World*



PRESIDENT AND
MRS. MITCHELL

The university's 16th president
envisioning a better Bucknell.

ANTICS FROM THE PAST

GIGI MARINO

FOR THOSE OF US LUCKY ENOUGH to enjoy the rhythms of the academic life, the new year really begins in autumn. The air crackles with potential. Summer's vibrancy lingers even as the night air chills. Students are enthused and energetic. Deadlines seem far off, and the gorgeous world we inhabit at Bucknell brims with possibility. This fall is particularly exciting as our new president, Brian C. Mitchell, brings his own vitality and energy, which, too, is full of promise and potential (see the cover story on p. 10).

Often, when walking past historic buildings like Bucknell Hall (built in 1886) or Larison (1857), I wonder, what was it like here for students 100 years ago? Carol Rockwell Sullivan '37, who grew up in Lewisburg, wrote to tell us exactly what Bucknell was like back then, thanks to a journal her father left behind. Students arrived by train, board cost \$45 a year, laundry was 25 cents a week, water came from a tap at the end of the hallway, and a kindly janitor emptied the slop jars (called "Jim buckets") that were left outside the dorm doors each night.

Sullivan's father, Leo Lawrence Rockwell, Class of 1907, started his academic career at Bucknell in 1903 at the age of 14. He received his master's degree from Harvard and studied at universities in Munich and Heidelberg, finishing his doctorate at New York University. He returned to Bucknell to teach in 1909 and developed a course called the History of Western Civilization. But before his illustrious career as a scholar, he was a teenage boy. He wrote about some of the annual rituals students engaged in in times gone by:

"The fall of 1904, I returned to college as a sophomore. We had been mildly hazed as freshmen, our torture varying from an informal debate in our room on the subject, 'resolved that rain is wetter than water,' to nocturnal marchings through Market Street accompanied by members of the Class of 1906, who would yell orders and occasionally give us a crack with a paddle. Once or twice we were marched past the Sem [the women's seminary], singing, 'How green I am.' Only some of the more obstreperous members of our class had been treated at all harshly.

"There had been the annual class rush one morning after chapel in the fall, when the sophomores gathered on top of the hill in front of West College trying to keep us from climbing the hill. The first impact of two massed bodies was succeeded by individual wrestling matches in which my 135 pounds proved unequal to my enemy.

"There had also been a few unscheduled 'class scraps,' in one of which I got knocked about a bit. The battle was caused by an interference from the third-



Leo Lawrence Rockwell at age 18.

floor [Old Main, now Roberts Hall] element with our evening study. One night, our crowd all ran out of kerosene and rather than go all the way to Market Street for a fresh supply, we moved a table out to the end of the hall and began to study under the flickering gaslight — the only illumination of the long corridor. The third-floor crowd very soon began descending the stairs to hurl crumpled-up wet newspapers at our light, once or twice extinguishing it, but more often than not, plomping us in the head with their missiles. After turning the cheek for some time, we rushed the stairs and attacked. Begun in fun, the fight soon became earnest. I was accidentally paired off with a heavy but clumsy football candidate. By dashing in and out, I inflicted considerable damage on his countenance without suffering any punishment myself. Luckily, an upperclassman stopped the row; he probably would have demolished me in the end."

Rockwell's journal comes to us circuitously. Lynn Breyfogle, assistant professor of mathematics, is originally from Battle Creek, Mich., where her mother still lives and participates in a hand-bell choir with Carol Sullivan. The two women knew each other for years before they realized that they had a Bucknell connection. And as it so happened, when they discovered this, Breyfogle was visiting Michigan, and Sullivan was sorting through her father's papers — ergo, a gem from another century.

Small world, big Bucknell. *W*

BUCKNELL *World*

Executive Editor
Sharon Poff

Editor
Gigi Marino

Contributing Editors
Bob Gaines
Alan Janesch
Kathryn Kopchik MA'89

Class Notes Editors
Pat Parker
Erma Gustafson (Emerita)

Editorial Assistant
Paula Bryden

Art Director
Mary A. Meacham

Bucknell World Webmaster
Stephanie Zettlemoyer

Published by
Bucknell University

Bucknell World (USPS 068-880, ISSN 1044-7563), copyright 2004, is published six times a year, in the months of January, April, June, September, October, and November, and is mailed without charge to alumni, parents, students, faculty, staff, and friends of Bucknell University.

Periodicals postage paid at Lewisburg, PA 17837, and at additional entry offices.

Circulation: 46,000. Address all correspondence to the editor.

email: bworld@bucknell.edu

Bucknell World website:
www.bucknell.edu/BucknellWorld

Postmaster:
Send all address changes to Editor, *Bucknell World*, Judd House, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA 17837

Telephone: 570-577-3260
Fax: 570-577-3683

Bucknell World is printed on recycled paper and is recyclable.

Inside this issue



FEATURES

10 WHAT A RIDE IT WILL BE

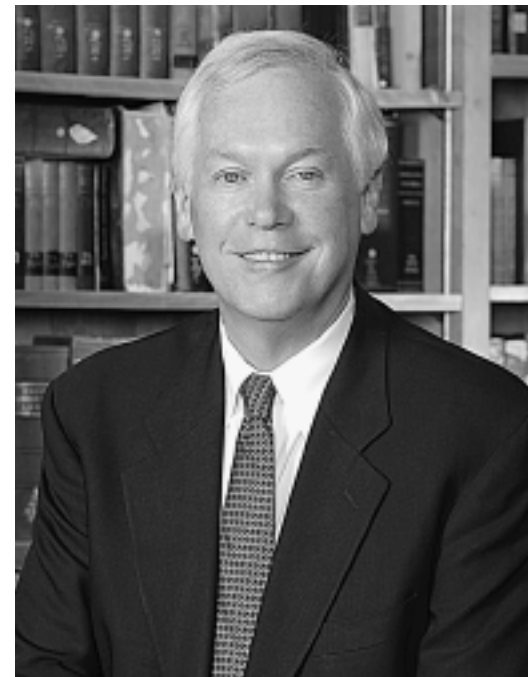
Right in line with the start of the academic year, Bucknell has a new president. With a background as a historian, Brian C. Mitchell promises to preserve tradition, start new ones, and take Bucknell to an even better place. — Gigi Marino

14 IN PRAISE OF RONALD REAGAN

Two alumni who worked closely with the former president share their personal remembrances of Ronald Reagan as a politician and an everyday man. — Ben Elliott '66 and Steve Skinner '62

16 DESTINATIONS — EXOTIC AND UNEXPECTED

This issue's book review explores tomes that deal with Eastern European Jewish and Italian immigrants, codebreaking during World War I, and a two-year sail in the Caribbean. — Claudia Ebeling



BRIAN C. MITCHELL

A new semester, a new president,
a new direction for Bucknell.

Page 10

DEPARTMENTS

2 Editor's Note

4 Letters

5 Bucknell Express

18 Backward Glance

World War II veterans and their families lived in houses with thin walls and small rooms, but many remember time spent in the Bucknell Village as the time of their lives.

20 Alumni Association

Washington, D.C., Alumni Club

21 Class Notes

Alumni Profiles: Alan Rosenberg '41, p. 22
Ben Elliott '66, p. 29 • Nicole Gull '00, p. 40

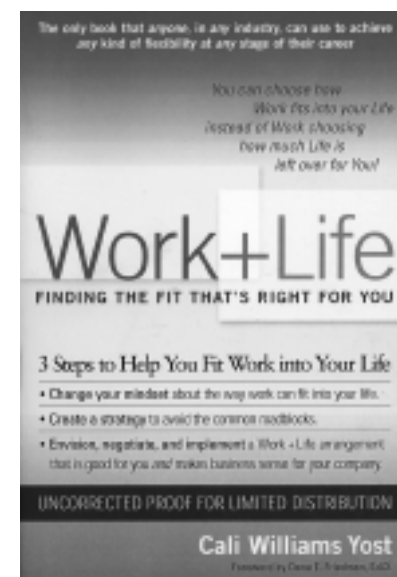
36 Flashback — 1980s

Luigi Fiji or Frank or Tom or Matt

44 World's End

Sportswriter and commentator Frank Deford looks at one of baseball's oddest couples — Christy Mathewson and John McGraw.

BUCKNELL



BOOKS BY ALUMNI AUTHORS

Bucknellians write about finding a balance in life, the good of grandparents, and Italian comedy.

Page 16



BUCKNELL VILLAGE

Residents reminisce about a new life in a post-war world.

Page 18

Editor's Note: We encourage letters to the editor related to issues discussed in *Bucknell World*, issues that relate to university news or policies, or that are of interest to a segment of our readership. Letters should be no longer than 300 words and may be edited for length, clarity, and civility. Letters can be mailed, faxed, or sent via email to bworld@bucknell.edu. The complete letters policy can be read at www.bucknell.edu/BucknellWorld.

EARLY ACTIVISTS

I APPRECIATED Paul Kandarian's article, "Beyond Desegregation." Unfortunately, Richard Wormser's '55 comments suggest that Bucknell students did not respond to the Civil Rights movement. Yet just a few years later (1960 or 1961), a group of students gathered at the octagonal home of Bruce Mitchell, artist in residence, to plan a march across the Susquehanna bridge in an effort to desegregate the Blue Note, a bar on the other side of the river. Even while participating, I recall being somewhat uncomfortable about my role in this overtly political act. In retrospect, however, I applaud its importance as an introduction to the exercise of First Amendment rights. For me, it became the first in a long series of local/global demonstrations, some of which I helped to organize, including those against the Vietnam War, the Contra War in Nicaragua, and more recently, the Iraq War. I am certainly grateful to Bruce Mitchell and thankful for Bucknell's open political climate, which continues to empower its students to speak out against the evils of societal prejudice and misguided foreign policy.

Janet M. Powers '61
Gettysburg, Pa.

**BUCKNELL
BEFORE BROWN**

“BEYOND Desegregation” [June 2004] offers an interesting survey of our country’s progress and lack of race relations over the 50 years since *Brown v. the Board of Education*. But it does not indicate that anything was going on at Bucknell in those days.

In fact, in 1954 the Bucknell NAACP chapter, which you mention in one brief phrase, had one of the largest memberships of any college campus in the nation. Vic and I served as president and secretary, respectively. Discharged from the Navy just before he entered college, Vic had arrived determined to avoid the exclusivity of fraternities. But he changed his mind when he encountered the Phi Lambda Theta, organized by WWII veterans and internationally interracial and non-sectarian. I resigned from my sorority when it became obvious that deep Southern roots would prevent the local chapter from ever violating its "Caucasian Christian" membership code.

However, this was a scary time. Senator Joe McCarthy, then in his heyday, had the NAACP on his list of subversive (read "Communist") organizations. Students were asked to join often replied, "I'll pay my dues, but don't put my name on your list. I might not be able to get a job when I graduate." We had a lot of members but not a lot of active participants. We did have the staunch support of several professors, including Drs. Cy Karraker, Manning Smith, and Jack Wheatcroft, as well as a few minority folks from the Lewisburg community.

Migrant labor conditions were barely on the radar. We made visits to a nearby farm, where dozens of men, women, and children had to live in an old barn. And we held every kind of fundraiser we could think of for the Betty Ann Quinn Scholarship Fund, founded to help minority students at Bucknell. Our goal: to add \$200 a year.

(Does the fund still exist?) We brought the Howard University Players and the Howard Choir to the campus. Over one memorable weekend, several of us attended a national NAACP convention in Washington, D.C., staying at Howard and cheering an address by then-president Dwight Eisenhower.

The high point of our Bucknell NAACP experience came on May 17, 1954, shortly before graduation. The unanimous *Brown v. the Board of Education* decision was announced on Vic's 23rd birthday. We'll never forget it. In our euphoria, we tried to believe racism would gradually disappear in America.

It didn't take long to realize that was a pipe dream. In your article, Hank Livas '60 says, "We've come a long way ... but there's still work to be done." That's for sure. But it's important to acknowledge that many people of good will were doing such work at Bucknell long before the monumental decision by the Supreme Court.

Victor '54 and Diane Slifer Scott '54
Asheville, N.C.

Editor's Note: The Betty Ann Quinn Scholarship Fund is still in existence, as are 450 other endowed scholarships. For a full list, go to www.bucknell.edu/Academics/Academic_Offices_Resources/Course_Catalog/Endowed_Scholarships.html.

“FAIR AND BALANCED”

I ENJOYED Richard Werther's '79 article in the June issue about Christopher Hitchens' Conservative Alumni lecture. It was especially interesting to read that "the common thread uniting this group was a desire for a more balanced discussion of political issues at the university." This implies that the Bucknell community's discussion of political issues is somehow unbalanced. I wonder if this conclusion is based on a statistically verifiable survey of campus opinion, or if it comes instead from the Conservative Alumni group's desire to promote a larger ideological agenda.

As an alumnus, I am separated from the daily exchange of ideas on Bucknell's campus. But I am also a viewer of our increasingly concentrated, profit-driven news media, where the opinions of anyone who is not white, male, and Republican are usually excluded from serious consideration. While I agree with the Conservative Alumni that our society's discussion of issues is often not "fair and balanced," to borrow one network's dubious motto, I doubt that we would agree on the nature of that imbalance.

I share Robert DeSouza's feeling that "this is a prime opportunity for open and factual debate." I suggest that we begin with an open and factual debate on the merits of giving huge tax cuts to a few wealthy individuals, while the safety nets of a living wage, health insurance, and Social Security are shredded for millions of hard-working Americans.

Steve Knight '72
New York, N.Y.

Richard Werther replies: The question of whether there is an ideological imbalance in discourse within the Bucknell Community is certainly one that can be debated. The members of the Bucknell University Conservatives Club and the alumni involved in the lecture strongly believe this is the

case. Such an imbalance is hard to quantify statistically. About the only statistical data I've seen had to do with the political affiliations of the faculty (overwhelmingly Democrat), though it should be recognized this would not necessarily transfer into unbalanced debate. I know the BUCC members could provide much in the way of anecdotal evidence, which spurred alumni like me into getting involved. Overall, I think if you asked most people whether college campuses tend to be hotbeds of liberal or conservative discourse, most people would say the former. Bucknell is no different in that regard.

SPEAKABLE

THIS IS IN RESPONSE to Michael Paladini's '77 essay "Unspeakable" [*"World's End,"* June 2004]. I was saddened to hear of the loss of his neighbors. The article was well written and interesting but unfortunately conveyed some inaccurate information about the causes of domestic homicide. The suggestion that the batterer "simply lost control" during a moment of "murderous rage" makes it sound as though domestic violence is a problem of anger management. This is a common and dangerous misunderstanding.

Those of us who work in the field (I have a doctorate in clinical psychology and have been working with batterers and sex offenders for the past 15 years) have been trying to clear up such misunderstandings so that we can more effectively hold batterers accountable for the harm they cause. Anger does not cause batterers to do anything. Rather, batterers use their anger as one tactic of control. So when we hear a batterer say, "I simply lost control," what we should hear is "I simply lost control of her and didn't like it, so I exerted control over her in order to get her back into line." When batterers kill, they often are literally enforcing the statement "If I can't have you, nobody can" and the phrase "until death do us part." Their actions are deliberate, purposeful, and well within their control.

Domestic violence is about the abuse of power to control an intimate partner, not about emotional dysregulation. Statements like "She provoked me," "My anger got the

best of me,” “I only hit her when I was drunk,” “It was a one-time event,” and “I don’t know what came over me” are just excuses that help batterers minimize responsibility for their actions and make the rest of us feel better by leading us to think that we have come up with explanations for their abuse.

For me, the best part of the article was the title "Unspeakable." For far too long, we have avoided speaking the truth about domestic violence since we have considered it to be a private family matter. But it is not a private matter; it is a major public health problem with millions of victims each year in the United States alone. Fortunately, we have begun to discuss this problem more openly. Let us continue these conversations until all of our homes become a place where we can go for safety, not a place from which we have to flee for safety. National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE.

Scott Hampton '78
Lee, N.H.

Michael Paladini replies: No doubt Plato and Mr. Hampton are both right. Yes, we should be held morally accountable for our actions. No quarrel there! Certainly domestic violence is about power, and the control of an intimate partner. But there is clearly an undeniable emotional component to such behavior, as Mr. Hampton readily admits.

Saying that anger is not the cause but rather the need to exert control just pushes the question back one step. I'd ask then, Why this desperate need to control the other person? Where does that come from? The answer to that question might be the batterer's insecurity. So where does that come from? And so on and on — a bottomless pit.

"I'll stand with Plato and Sophocles, Freud, and Shakespeare: We are driven by forces we only dimly perceive, if at all, and rarely understand. My main point was that, at bottom, human motivation is a profound mystery. Not that we should "think that we have come up with explanations," but that we are fundamentally inexplicable, a word I used more than once. We should take the abuser or murderer seriously when he says, "I don't know what came over me." He literally doesn't know. Neither do we."

Errata: In the March issue of Bucknell World, Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Shannon were wrongly identified as Christy Mathewson Jr. '27 and his bride, Margaret.



BUCKNELL Express

Welcome to *myBucknell*

BUCKNELL ALUMNI AND PARENTS OFTEN check the university's web pages to find information. Alums visit the alumni page to find news about their class reunions. They may go to the academics page to find news about their favorite professors or check the athletics page to look for sports schedules. Parents check the calendar page to see when finals are over and when spring break is scheduled.

Starting in October, Bucknell's new portal system, *myBucknell*, will make this process much simpler. Alumni and parents will be able to create their own *myBucknell* site, based on their personal interests.

Faculty, staff, and students began using *myBucknell* in August of this year.

"It's a way to avoid having a one-size-fits-all website," says Brian Hoyt '87, M'92, director of technology integration at Bucknell and head of the *myBucknell* project. "It's like viewing the dashboard on your car. The information is placed together in one spot for you to use."

Alumni can get updated campus news, locate directory information on other alumni, register for events, and change their email and home addresses. They also can add their own favorite news sources or other information from the Internet.

Parents will have access to schedules for finals, news about Parents Weekend and commencement, reminders

of financial aid deadlines, and other campus news. It also will be a place where the university can issue notices about emergencies on campus, such as possible floods or weather warnings.

"We're very excited about *myBucknell*," says Dave Flinchbaugh '82, director of alumni, parents, and volunteers. "It will be a great way for parents and alumni to have all the university information they use on a regular basis at their fingertips. Plus, it's a way for us to share campus news in a more timely fashion."

"The portal will give alumni and parents access to the information they want about Bucknell, when they want it," says Hoyt. "They can make the portal their own — whether they care about sports or academics or the arts, they can customize *myBucknell* to accommodate their own view of Bucknell."

Hoyt also sees *myBucknell* as a way to allow groups of alumni to communicate with each other.

"One of the cool tools in the portal system is the group studio," Hoyt says. "Groups of Bucknellians interested in the same things, such as a volunteer group or a Bucknell club, will have a place where they can send news updates, share information and photos, email other members, check out the bulletin board, and even have chat rooms. We think this will be a popular feature for alumni."

On campus, faculty, staff, and students are using *myBucknell* as a way to gather in one place the information they need for their courses, organizations, committees, and calendars as well as to gain quick access to forms and databases.

"The portal system allows us to separate the public face of Bucknell on the web with the internal operations of faculty, staff, and students," says Hoyt. "We'll be able to target our www.bucknell.edu website for our public audiences and use *myBucknell* for the day-to-day operations of the university."

Bucknell's website also underwent a transformation this summer. The new look complements student recruitment materials and other university publications to present a more unified graphic image for prospective students and their parents. Updates on the new website have been made easier through the introduction of a content management system over the past year.

"It's been an ambitious undertaking," says Kurt Thiede, vice president of enrollment management and communications. "We've been working on several projects concurrently — our new print and digital admissions materials, the redesign of our website, the conversion to content management, and the introduction of the new portal system."

"It was a little daunting at times, but with the staff's hard work under Brian Hoyt's leadership, we've taken a big step forward with our web presence and digital communications." — Sharon Poff



Alumni will be able to customize their own Bucknell pages when the portal system is launched in October.

Wrestling Restored; Women's Sports Elevated

MAY 7, 2004, WAS A DAY THAT BROUGHT great news to Bucknell grapplers, fans of Bucknell wrestling everywhere, and supporters of women's athletics. Nearly three years to the day after the announcement in 2001 that compliance with Title IX and NCAA rules would require Bucknell to end wrestling's varsity status, the university announced that the sport's varsity status would be restored and that women's sports would be bolstered as well.

Thanks to a \$5.6 million gift from Bill Graham '62, Philadelphia business executive and co-captain of the 1962 wrestling team, wrestling will return as a varsity sport, starting in 2005–06. The gift will also support women's crew as well as major improvements to other women's athletics programs.

"I'm really excited to support athletics at Bucknell," says Graham. "I learned a lot during my four years there, and I am happy to be able to help future generations experience all that Bucknell has to offer, both academically and athletically."

The announcement was made at a news conference in Philadelphia, in Graham's high-rise office building near City Hall, by Susan Crawford '69, chair of the Board of Trustees. "This is the latest step in a long line of efforts to work within the mandates of Title IX for the betterment of the institution and student-athletes alike," says Crawford. "Bill Graham's gift will provide for restoring wrestling as a varsity sport, growing the novice component of women's crew, and better supporting other women's sports."

Title IX is a federal statute that prohibits gender discrimination in education programs. One of its key measures for compliance in athletics is "proportionality," which holds that women must be represented among all varsity athletes to the same degree they are represented among all students at the school.

By 2001, the university had not been able to meet the proportionality goals outlined in its five-year compliance plan. So, after exploring other alternatives, the university made the extremely difficult decision to reclassify wrestling. Now, thanks to Graham's gift, the university is looking forward to getting the program back to varsity status.

"Reinstating the varsity program will provide our students the quality opportunities they deserve while



Susan Crawford, chair of the Board of Trustees, thanks Bill Graham for his generous gift.

complying with Title IX requirements," says John Hardt, Bucknell's director of athletics and recreation. "We hope that Bill Graham's leadership and financial support can serve as a model for other institutions."

Graham's gift is one of the largest private donations ever made to Bucknell and will support the wrestling program in perpetuity, Hardt says. Primarily through endowments, the gift will underwrite all aspects of the wrestling budget, while women's crew will get new assistant coaches and increased program support.

A new women's lacrosse and field hockey artificial turf field was constructed with an early installment of the gift, and an endowment for women's athletics as a whole has been established.

The wrestling team will regain varsity status in the winter of 2005–06; expansion of women's crew will be effective in the spring of 2006. With the restoration of wrestling to varsity status, Bucknell will field 27 varsity teams. — Alan Janesch

'RAY BUCKNELL

- Brett Wilkinson '98 competed in the men's quadruple sculls in the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens, Greece. He also represented the United States in the last two world championships, rowing in the men's double sculls. He is the second Bucknell rower to compete in the Olympics and among several alumni who have been on the United States National Team. For more on Brett Wilkinson, including his online journal, go to <http://bucknellcrew.org/crew>.

- Andrea Halpern, professor of psychology, has been chosen as one of two faculty members in the United States to be named a Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) Fellow for the year. Presented annually, the CUR Fellows award recognizes CUR members who have developed nationally respected research programs involving undergraduates. During her 22 years at Bucknell, Halpern has individually mentored more than 65 students.

- For the 11th time in the 14-year history of the Patriot League, and for the seventh straight year, Bucknell has claimed the league's Presidents' Cup, indicative of overall excellence across the league's 22 sports. Showing the remarkable consistency that has become one of the trademarks of the Bison program, Bucknell finished in the top half of the standings in 17 of 22 championship sports, including three championships, in 2003–04.



Stephanie Zetlemoyer

Breakiron Opens The Breakiron Engineering Building, the first new engineering building on campus since the original wing of the Dana Engineering Building opened in 1921, had official occupants in June when 16 faculty and two major laboratories moved from Dana into the new facility. The building was fully occupied by the end of July and was fully operational by the start of the academic year. A formal dedication is scheduled for Sept. 18. The new facility, consisting of 38,600 gross square feet on four floors plus basement, adjoins Dana Engineering. It offers seven flexible, state-of-the-art classrooms, eight laboratories, four student interaction spaces, three student project spaces, and new faculty and staff offices. The \$8 million building is named for trustee and lead donor Larry Breakiron '52 and his wife, Margit.

New Trustees Four Bucknell alumni and a Bucknell parent have been named to the Board of Trustees effective as of July 1.

They are Charles Berger '75, president and CEO, Nuance Communications Inc., Menlo Park, Calif.; Amanda Kessler '93, CEO/in-house counsel, Synergy Pharmacy Inc., Northumberland, Pa.; Paul Mejean P'03, P'06, managing director, Greenwich Technology Advisors, Old Greenwich, Conn.; Nancy Prial '80, chief investment officer and principal with Burrledge Group LLC, Chicago, Ill.; and Myles Sampson '67, president, Rimco Properties Inc., Pittsburgh, Pa.



Salman Rushdie to Speak Writer Salman Rushdie is the third recipient of the Janet Weis Fellow in Contemporary Letters award. He will accept the award and deliver

a lecture on Nov. 16 at the Weis Center for the Performing Arts. The award was created by a grant from the Degenstein Foundation in honor of Janet Weis and recognizes an individual who represents the very highest level of achievement in the craft of writing within the realms of fiction, nonfiction, or biography. Previous recipients have been Toni Morrison (2002) and John Updike (2003).

Born in Bombay, India, in 1947, Rushdie is one of the world's most respected writers. Parts of his allegorical novel *The Satanic Verses* (1988) were deemed sacrilegious by many Muslims, including Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini, who in 1989 issued a fatwa sentencing Rushdie to death. Violence occurred in some cities where the book was sold, and Rushdie went into hiding. From his seclusion, he wrote *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* (1990), a novelistic allegory against censorship; *East, West* (1995), a book of short stories; and *The Moor's Last Sigh* (1995), a novel that examines India's recent history through the life of a Jewish-Christian family. The fatwa was lifted in 1998.

Volunteers Rock As part of the I SERVE 2 campaign, a volunteer initiative implemented by the Office of the Deans of Students, students donated 35,536 community service hours, and \$101,365 was raised for local and national agencies and organizations in the last academic year.



Josh Bowerman

Where "Good Luck" John Stood "Good Luck" John Throssel was a long-time fixture on the Bucknell campus with his paper grocery bags and overcoat, standing outside Vaughan Lit, or on a street corner downtown, or sitting under a tree behind Rooke Chapel, greeting everyone with "Good Luck!" John had served as an organist at St. Paul's Church, but loved most of all spending time on campus talking with students. When he passed away last year on July 3, Nik Keramidas '04, pictured here, organized the creation of a memorial for him, asking members of his senior class, alumni, faculty, and staff to contribute. The result is a commemorative plaque that is now affixed to the Vaughan Literature Building in the place where Throssel often stood, wishing passersby the best.

A Good Year for Fundraising Charitable support for Bucknell reached a remarkable \$21.2 million during the 2003–04 fiscal year (July 1–June 30), as 15,627 alumni, parents, and friends contributed to the university. The Annual Fund — dollars used to meet current needs — rose from \$7.1 million to \$6.7 million, with unrestricted contributions registering \$3.7 million.

Class of 2003 Post-Graduate Report The Career Development Center recently released its post-graduate report for the Class of 2003, with 96 percent of the class responding (811 out of 849 alumni). Six months after graduating, the largest portion of graduates, 65 percent, are employed, and 24 percent are in graduate school (4 percent are in grad school and working). And of those employed, 62 percent are in the business sector, 15 percent in education, 7 percent in research and industry, 6 percent in nonprofits, 5 percent in government, and 5 percent unknown or other. Six percent were still seeking employment six months after graduation, and 1 percent were engaged in other activities.



Angie Myers

Hurray for Award Winners! Seated: Helen Rhinesmith Baker '44, Peggy Husch, who accepted for her husband, Donald Husch '54, Thomas Buzard '54, and William Wolfe '53. Standing: Robert Baker '44, Alumni Association President Scott Singer '87, President Brian Mitchell, and Awards Chairman Bob Chertkof '62. Recognized at Reunion 2004, Donald Husch, who passed away on May 8, and Robert and Helen Baker received the award for Outstanding Loyalty and Service to Bucknell. Thomas Buzard received the award for Service to Humanity. William Wolfe received the award for Achievement in a Chosen Profession.

Faculty Profile: MARGOT VIGEANT



Rakercd Studio

Bacterial Sleuth When most people look at a newly clean counter, they see just that. But not Margot Vigeant. This assistant professor of chemical engineering may not see the wee beasts flagellating merrily along, but she knows they are there.

"Basically, if you have any surface that is wet for any length of time, from a few minutes up to a few hours," she says, "it will be covered with bacteria."

Vigeant is an expert in bacterial adhesion. She studies the ubiquitous *E. coli*, which can be found

everywhere from the human colon to culinary tools (in unsanitary conditions). These bacteria have flagella, whiplike appendages that propel them through their microscopic worlds. She says that people tend not to study bacteria with flagella because the fact that these bacteria can swim can complicate the research, but their ability to do a St. Vitus'

dance through liquid environments is exactly what interests her.

"I'm trying to understand the fundamental properties of bacteria and the fluid they swim in," she says. "For instance, what happens when you add soap? Do they come off? Stay off? Come back?"

What she has found will not please obsessive-compulsives. Soap dispels the bacteria. "But if you rinse, they come back and stick," Vigeant says. "It's annoying." She's careful not to extrapolate her findings to bacteria on the hands — the experiments she's doing in the lab are conducted on glass. But she also points out that the ramifications could be important, especially in the medical community, where keeping items sterile is vital. "The idea is to find out specifically what's happening on a molecular basis." To do so, she has collaborated with colleagues to build a precise instrument — a total internal reflection aqueous fluorescent microscope.

"There aren't a lot of them in the world," she says. Students from the

physics department designed the fiber-optics for the light beam, mechanical engineers helped with the hardware, and chemical engineers completed the final alignment, allowing users to track bacterial movement within nanometers (other microscopes track within 500 nanometers). "It's really neat to work in a place where we can pull from different resources and build something like this," she says.

Vigeant, who has been at Bucknell for five years, involves students in every aspect of her work. She teaches majors and non-majors, believing that everyone should understand the implications for technology. In a class called Life, Engineering, and the Universe, her students have smashed phones, speakers, and MP3 players as well as argued copyright laws, privacy issues, and the social implications of cell phones. Students work on real projects, which they post online. In the last semester, the student website elicited calls from *C.S.I. Miami* and Schick. Says Vigeant, "It tells me that we're going in the right direction." — Gigi Marino

The Jewish Experience in Russia

IN MAY, A GROUP OF BUCKNELL students and staff, led by Rabbi Serena Fujita, traveled to Moscow and St. Petersburg to absorb Russian culture and to better understand the Jewish experience there — present and past. Last year, she organized a similar trip to Eastern Europe and hopes that the tensions in the Middle East settle down enough to someday organize a Bucknell trip to Israel.



Gene Spencer

The Russia group marveled at the brilliant onion-shaped domes of Moscow's St. Basil's Cathedral and attended ballets, including the famed Bolshoi. Several members of the group even enjoyed a serendipitous Shabbat dinner at an orthodox Jewish home. Fujita was dismayed, however, that some of the Russians they encountered were "closed" about the difficult conditions that exist today for practicing Jews.

"I think that people were not free to give honest answers," she says.

Alyssa Gross '05, a student trekker, says she had expected

to learn much more than she did about her Russian-Jewish ancestors, some of whom had died as a result of pogroms, the government-sanctioned persecution and killing of Jews, which occurred between 1881 and 1921. But she reveled in the kindness of an orthodox Jewish woman whom she, Fujita, and three other students met in a synagogue. In halting English, the woman invited the group to the home of a friend — the director of a Jewish school — for Shabbat, a dinner that is held after sundown every Friday night, the beginning of the Jewish Sabbath.

Fujita, whose ancestors are Russian, had grown up hearing about St. Basil's Cathedral. When she visited the 14th-century edifice, she was not disappointed.

"It was more beautiful than I had imagined. Its multicolored domes are like a Disney set," she says.

Stephen Shaefer '04 marveled at the "incredible detail" he found at Sergeyev Posad, a monastery near Moscow that is noted for its star-studded blue domes.

"It just blew me away," Shaefer says.

Beyond their appreciation of the ethereal beauty of urban Russian architecture and the history that both horrifies and fascinates mankind, Fujita hopes her fellow travelers realize how precious a gift our freedom is.

"We don't know how fortunate we are to live in a place where we can each practice our own faith beliefs openly. It is important for us not to take that for granted, and to make sure in our pursuit of social justice to advocate for the freedom of worship. It becomes our responsibility to learn about each other — our similarities and our differences." — Camille Belolan

St. Basil's Cathedral in Moscow.

Gay? Fine by Me at Bucknell

IN 25 MINUTES, 100 T-SHIRTS WERE GONE. In another 10 minutes, 50 more had vanished. By the time two hours had passed, nearly 300 “gay? fine by me” t-shirts had been claimed by students, faculty, and staff on the Bucknell campus. The shirts were the brainchild of a group of students at Duke University, reacting to an article in the 2003 *Princeton Review* that ranked Duke as the most “gay-unfriendly” school in the United States. The students became proactive, wanting to change the perception of homophobia on the Duke campus by convincing 450 people to wear a “gay? fine by me” t-shirt on a designated day.

The one-day event at Duke led to the formation of a nonprofit group (www.finebyme.org), run by Duke students,

which manufactures and sells the t-shirts. The “fine by me” initiative received national attention from the media and other universities. Bucknell is one of the first schools to join the project.

Fran McDaniel, director of the Office of LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered) Awareness learned about the “fine by me” project last year and decided to launch one at Bucknell. The office ordered 266 “gay? fine by me” shirts to be distributed to the campus last April 23 for Jeans Day, an annual event during which people show their support of LGBT issues by wearing jeans to work. “The response was overwhelming. I laughed and cried for a couple of days afterward,” says McDaniel.

“Our goal is to share our success with our alumni community by expanding the mailing list of alumni who are supportive of the LGBT effort on the Bucknell campus,” says McDaniel. “We want to actively involve alumni in our endeavors to create a safer and supportive climate for LGBT students and, we hope, establish communications to link them with students on campus.”

So far, 602 t-shirts are circulating around Bucknell’s campus. The office hopes to receive additional funds to purchase more shirts for National Coming Out Day in October. McDaniel has received many emails from Bucknell students praising the efforts of the project. One student wrote, “What is happening with the t-shirts is awesome. You are making such a difference.” — Dawn Wilson



Art Foxall

Any alumni or supporter of the Office of LGBT Awareness, FLAG &BT, and GALABI at Bucknell can email the office at lgbt@bucknell.edu, to be added to the mailing list. Plans are underway for Homecoming Weekend on Nov. 5-6. To share ideas for events for the weekend or, if supporters of GALABI want to attend, please contact the office. Also, alumni can donate to the Schlegel-Deibler Memorial Fund, which directly helps fund Office of LGBT Awareness programs.

Student Profile: HSIANG-LIN YANG '06

At Home Around the World Hsiang-Lin Yang '06 (pronounced Shang-Lin) is a study in contrasts. Ethnically Taiwanese, he was born in Saudi

Arabia. Although raised in Saudi Arabia, he attended high school in the United States. He learned English in school but is fluent in Mandarin and knows a smattering of Arabic.

Majoring in electrical engineering, Yang discovered a whole new world at Bucknell. He had attended St. Andrew's School, a small preparatory high school in Delaware, best known for serving as the set of the *Dead Poets' Society*. “I lived on an all-guys' floor throughout high school,” he says. “Then in my first year at Bucknell, I lived in the Arts College with only seven guys on the floor — a completely different dynamic.

My hall threw a huge birthday party for me my freshman year. That was one of the best experiences I've had in the States.”

Aside from the sense of community he found, Yang also enjoyed being around more international students. “At St. Andrew's, our minority population was very small.” In his first year, he joined the hip-hop dance group Jelani and Students for Asian Awareness at Bucknell (SAAB) and wrote a skit for the international Fremont Scholar program's final project. In his second year, he helped found an electronic game club.

During his sophomore year, he also worked as a resident assistant, which, he says, gave him a great deal of self-confidence. “At one of our meetings, Dean Midkiff gave me a new perspective on people. He said that we all worry too much about what others think of us, but in reality, most people are probably more concerned with themselves. I used to be nervous about

meeting new people, but he helped me realize that people don't judge me as much as I judge myself.”

This past summer, under the direction of Samantha Richerson, assistant professor of electrical engineering, he helped design four lab courses for the new biomedical engineering major.

He had spent only one month at home in Saudi Arabia and had experienced more tension than usual when Al-Qaeda attacked three American compounds in Khobar, killing 22 and injuring 25. “I was stunned,” he says. “For years, I have seen Saudi as my haven, even after 9/11 and the invasion of Iraq. I never thought terrorism would get so close to home.”

For Yang, returning to the lush greenness of central Pennsylvania after spending a boiling hot summer in Saudi Arabia has always been a nice change of weather and scenery, but this year it was a great relief. He says, “It's good to be back at Bucknell.” — Gigi Marino



Rakerc Studio

Brian Mitchell, Bucknell's 16th president,
pledges to take the university to new heights.

WHAT A RIDE IT WILL BE!

G I G I M A R I N O

BRIAN C. MITCHELL IS IMMEDIATELY AND IMMENSELY likable. With white hair and bright blue eyes, he has the look and demeanor of a distinguished statesman. He greets people with a firm handshake, listening carefully when someone talks. When he speaks, he does so with forethought and conviction, in a voice

resonant with New England undertones. With a background as an educator, historian, college president, author, executive administrator, and a bit of a legislative provocateur, he is as much perspicacious as he is personable. He has strong opinions — about private education, academics, and funding sources — but he stresses that he plans on spending the first six months on the job listening to people and learning about Bucknell's culture. Self-described as a “good Irish Catholic boy,” he says, quite simply, at the onset of his tenure, “We’re honored and really quite humbled to be here.”

More often than not, Mitchell speaks in the first-person plural. His wife, Maryjane, participated fully as the president's wife at Washington & Jefferson College (W&J), located in Washington, Pa., 30 miles southwest of Pittsburgh. This is where the Mitchells held their last post (he is the first president in Bucknell's history to be hired while a sitting university president). Together, during their six years at W&J, they regularly held dinners at the president's house for students and faculty, a tradition they plan to continue at Bucknell. “It's important to know how different groups feel about things,” Maryjane says. “And there's no better way to do that than by breaking bread together.” Both believe that the “president's house is Bucknell's house” and will live primarily on the second floor, keeping the entire first floor as public space.

**President Mitchell is not just the
right choice for the students but
also for the university as a whole.**

If fidelity can be held as a measure of success, then the Mitchell presidency bodes well for Bucknell. High school sweethearts, the Mitchells met at 16, married at 22, and have two grown sons, Jeffrey and Patrick. A master of the anecdote, Mitchell told the alumni board in May how intimidated he was at an early meeting with his future father-in-law, who had been a WWII boxing champion. For 35 years, Mitchell has taken to heart this advice from his father-in-law, now 87: “Be good and behave.”

The Life of the Mind The nationwide search for Bucknell's new president began last summer, culminating in campus visits for the final three candidates in February. Each candidate met with selected groups of students, faculty members, staff, and administrators, as well as in a forum that was open to all campus constituencies. One of the goals of the presidential search committee, led by Norm Garrity '63, was to open up the process and invite commentary from the campus community and alumni. The forums were well attended, and each of the candidates answered questions about scholarship, reducing the teaching load, the importance of athletics, alcohol issues, fraternities and sororities, town-gown relations, diversity, and the endowment.

John Siwicki '05, president of the Bucknell Student Government (BSG), says that he was impressed with Mitchell. “President Mitchell is not just the right choice for the students but also for the university as a whole. His combination of experience, attitude, and vision was impressive during the interview process. The Bucknell community will certainly benefit from his leadership. BSG looks forward to working with President Mitchell to take Bucknell to the next level in higher education.”

Mitchell, who is the immediate past chair of the Pennsylvania Selection Committee for Rhodes Scholarships, emphasizes his commitment to academics. "I clearly want to focus on academic rigor, the life of the mind," he says. "Academics will always be front and center. It's why we're here. It's why Bucknell exists. Every step we take as a university community should strengthen the academic program."

Mary Evelyn Tucker, professor of religion and one of Bucknell's most prominent scholars, says, "His perspective is a refreshing one, and many of us on the faculty would agree fully with what our new president has expressed. The challenge is how to keep our commitment to academic excellence central in a society that is shaped largely by consumer values and anti-intellectual role models. If Bucknell is going to build on its significant academic potential, it will need to balance not only its preprofessional and liberal arts orientation; a new and creative synthesis of these strengths will be required."

Issues Oriented When the announcement of Mitchell's presidential selection was made in March, Susan Crawford '69, chair of the Board of Trustees, said, "Brian Mitchell is uniquely qualified to be president at this point in Bucknell's history. He has a deep knowledge of the issues affecting private higher education, he has demonstrated leadership in working within and outside of the university community, he understands and appreciates the academic culture at institutions like Bucknell, and he is an effective fundraiser."

After getting his bachelor's degree from Merrimack College and his master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Rochester, Mitchell began his professional life as an academic. His specialty is 19th-century urban, ethnic, and labor history. In 1988, he published *The Paddy Camps: The Irish of Lowell, 1821-1861* (University of Illinois Press), of which the *Journal of American History* said, "Mitchell brings a fresh interpretation and insight to this study of ethnic impact on the evolution of that typical New England mill town." As a historian, he taught for several years at colleges and universities in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Virginia before moving to a job inside the Beltway as a program officer in the Division of State Programs of the National Endowment for the Humanities from 1985-91.

In 1991, the Mitchells moved to Harrisburg, where he became the president of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania (AICUP), then called the Council of Independent College and Universities of Pennsylvania. Almost immediately, he took up the cause and became a vocal advocate, as well as the subject of dozens of articles with titles like "Don't Forget Pennsylvania's Private Colleges and Universities" and "Liberal Arts Graduates Are Valuable in These Economic Times." A firm believer in private education, he says, "The smaller, more selective, and more student-focused schools have a level of personal interaction you can't find anywhere else. They set the pace for American education. You sense how intimate an institution like Bucknell is the minute you walk onto campus — it's palpable."



Gordon Wenzel/Impressions Studio

Mitchell's passion for private education included a legislative turn when Washington & Jefferson College was taken to court in 1993. The city of Washington was challenging the college's tax-exempt status, saying that if the college could offer so many scholarships, it should be able to pay property taxes. Don Francis, current president of AICUP, says, "Colleges and universities are property rich but not necessarily resource rich. Not only were colleges at risk, but other nonprofits like hospitals and nursing homes. Brian was absolutely the leader on this front."

Mitchell was instrumental in getting House Bill 55 of 1997, the Institutions of Purely Public Charity Act, unanimously passed in both the State House and the State Senate. This bill provides uniform standards for determining tax-exempt eligibility and has long-standing ramifications for all nonprofits, including state-related universities.

Francis also says that Mitchell transformed AICUP from a "sleepy 2-person organization to an 11-person, full-service operation," complete with its own lobbyist. He says, "Brian is a person who has a vision of what something can be and works very hard at making it become the place he thinks it should be. I have witnessed him realize his vision. He is a change agent."

The smaller, more selective, and more student-focused schools have a level of personal interaction you can't find anywhere else.

A Head for History For as much as Mitchell is known for being a bold initiator, he has a keen sense of and reverence for history and builds on traditions whenever possible. For instance, when he first became president of W&J, he launched a campus renovation, adding several new facilities. One of the people he consulted was Brent Glass, director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History and former director of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC). (The two had met and shared similar professional interests when Mitchell worked at the National Endowment for the Humanities, and Mitchell continues to serve on PHMC's board.)

Says Glass, "W&J has a very historic campus. But there's always been tension between the campus and the town over historic preservation. Early in his tenure, Brian called me in to meet with his staff to find ways to move forward with campus expansion and to develop the campus in ways consistent with the historical and architectural values in the school. I give him a lot of credit for recognizing that he needed to open a dialogue."

The friction between W&J and Washington's local community was far more extensive than just a disagreement over historical preservation. Last year, in an Associated Press article, Mitchell said that he made a courtesy visit to local officials, who screamed at him for 45 minutes straight, blaming the college "for everything that had gone wrong in the last 50 years." Mitchell was sympathetic, and this initial incendiary meeting launched the "Blueprint for Collaboration," a framework for developing ways that town and gown could work together to create a financially vibrant community. Four months after the plan was announced last year, public and private investors pledged millions for downtown renovations.

Although Lewisburg and Bucknell have a far less acrimonious relationship than do many other college towns with their local universities, most town-gown relationships have to deal with alcohol and noise issues. Mitchell says reaching out is a priority. "There should be more breadth and depth of community, more understanding between the university and the community. Many groups would benefit from a stronger relationship between the two," he says.

Glass believes that Mitchell will be a great asset for Bucknell. He says, "His real strength is his strong foundation as a historian, but he's also a skillful manager and administrator and a real leader in education in Pennsylvania and nationally. He has a unique blend of academic, administrative, and leadership skills. I admire him as a pragmatic problem solver."

Mitchell has his work cut out for him. During the past year, increasing numbers of alcohol-related incidents (trips to the emergency room, public drunkenness, etc.) caused the university to institute emergency alcohol

measures. A number of students complained that the measures were too harsh. Alumni, especially those who belonged to fraternities and sororities, were also upset that Delta Upsilon and the Tri Deltas were suspended and launched criticisms asserting that Bucknell was trying to get rid of fraternities and sororities.

Although Mitchell says that it is too soon for him to talk about how he plans to deal with the alcohol issue, he is certain that nothing will be done to eliminate the Greek system. "Fraternities and sororities are a part of the institutional fabric and history of the university," he says. "I have no intention to close them. They must grow and evolve to demonstrate that they are relevant and contribute to the Bucknell community."

Toward the Future Between the time Mitchell was hired in March and attended Reunion in June, he had already spoken with several people on campus and many alumni. In a short time, he focused in on one thorny problem: communication. "The need to communicate better is an important issue facing the administration and alumni," he says. He told the alumni board, "I make this pledge — I will keep you informed. I intend to be as accessible as possible."

Scott R. Singer '87, president of the Alumni Association, is particularly keen to improve communication with and from both alumni and students. He says, "It is imperative that we and the administration inform and clearly explain decisions that affect both alumni and students. We have formed a task force to address this issue and have already taken steps to ensure that this occurs. President Mitchell and I have discussed this on multiple occasions, and I am confident that we are entering into a new, exciting era at Bucknell."

Overall, Mitchell holds the university in high regard and plans to work hard to raise it to an even higher standard. When asked why he said yes to this job, he replied, "I was interested in Bucknell because it *is* Bucknell. It's large enough to offer anything a prospective student might need and small enough to nurture personal relationships. I want to make sure that there's a strong strategic direction it can follow. Bucknell has powerful ambitions, but it is not sufficiently resourced. It's got deep and broad goals, but you can't get there with \$400 million in the bank. Higher education is an increasingly competitive environment, and I want to make sure that I do everything to make certain that Bucknell remains among a handful of the strongest, most emulated, and most admired institutions in the United States."

His short list of goals includes strengthening the academic program, building a stronger sense of community, implementing strategies suggested by the Middle States evaluators this year, increasing the endowment, diversifying the student body, and creating a stronger identification between Bucknell and alumni around the world — and he began that list before he and Maryjane started packing.

"Bucknell is one of the best broad-based liberal arts institutions in the country," he says. "If it takes off in the way that it can and should — oh, what a ride that will be!" *W*

90 For more information, go to the president's page at www.bucknell.edu/Offices_Resources/Offices/President/index.html.

AN OPEN HOUSE

“EACH UNIVERSITY HAS ITS OWN UNIQUE WAY OF doing things,” says Maryjane Mitchell, who, like her husband, says it’s important to take the time to learn the particular culture of a new environment. But, given their predilection for small-town life — the ease of a Main-Street

kind of life, summer parades, winter carnivals in the park — Bucknell and the local Lewisburg community are a good fit for them. “Bucknell has the right feel for Brian and me,” she says. “People have been very friendly. There’s an engaged group of people on campus, and it’s a stimulating, interesting place.”

She is no stranger to life in rural Pennsylvania. The Mitchells lived in Camp Hill from 1991–98 when Brian was the president of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania. For the last six years, they lived in the president’s house on the campus of Washington & Jefferson College in Washington, Pa.

Maryjane says that being involved with the local community there was just as important as being involved with the campus community. She joined a book club in town, which, she says, “gave me a completely different perspective on the local issues.” Two of her favorite reads are *The Georgetown Ladies’ Social Club*, by David Heymann, and *At Weddings and Wakes*, by Alice McDermott, the latter being particularly meaningful since it chronicles an Irish Catholic family: “My family name is Murphy.”

Both Maryjane and Brian are the adventurous, outdoors type. They have a house on Deep Creek Lake in Maryland and received their boaters’ licenses last year. They also biked 35–50 miles a day on a cycling trip in Holland last summer. Maryjane played high school basketball and is an avid fan of the sport. She says that the early-morning exercisers will probably see them in the gym many mornings.

Her background is in nursing, with a master’s in management and education, and she has worked in geriatrics, intensive care, public health, and health and wellness; taught CPR classes for the Red Cross; and sat on the boards of the Washington Hospital, the United Way, and Washington Health Partners.

Don Francis, president of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania, has known the Mitchells for several years and says, “I don’t see Brian without Maryjane very often. They enjoy each other and have great affection for each other. He has sung her praises about fundraising.”



Gordon Wenzel/Impressions Studio

“Brian and I are very social people,” she says. “You learn more when you’re social. We’re especially interested in community relations. We plan on having an open house and connecting with the pulse of the community.” — GM

In the classical sense, Ronald Reagan's former
head speechwriter pens an encomium to him.

IN PRAISE OF RONALD REAGAN

BEN ELLIOTT '66, P'03

WHEN AMERICANS LINED STREETS AND STOOD through the night to say goodbye to Ronald Reagan, commentators called it a tribute to Reagan's words, wit, and sunny optimism. Yet the size of the crowds and outpouring of love conveyed a deeper message — that Reagan's words

were great, but his deeds were greater, that his presidency was not about personality, but about the power of faith and ideas to change lives and the course of history.

Ronald Reagan stood for freedom. Like the founders, he believed that freedom is an inalienable right from God, and that each generation must preserve and pass on the sacred fire of liberty to the next. For eight years, he held the torch high, until its bright flame shined across the earth.

Despite all his accomplishments, Reagan sought no glory for himself but always gave credit to others, starting with those he admired most, the American people. Mother Theresa said, after meeting the president, "In this man, greatness and simplicity are one." I believe she was right, and that history will record the Reagan years as astonishingly successful.

Let's recall. During the 1970s, Americans saw government discourage their labor, squander their earnings, and devalue their currency. Confused economists spoke in obscure terms about ghostly entities of macroeconomics. Confronted by galloping inflation, they preached an economic orthodoxy called the Phillips Curve, which held inflation could only come down if unemployment went up.

Reagan cut through the intellectual fog with a bold, practical plan that addressed the hopes and dreams of every citizen. He pledged to revive growth by rewarding every worker, saver, and investor. He vowed to stomp out inflation with sound money, sensible spending, and free trade.

Reaganomics, coined as a derisive term by critics, did what legions of eminent economists called impossible. It conquered inflation and unleashed an entrepreneurial boom: the longest, unbroken expansion since the founding of the republic; growth averaging 3.75 percent, well above the historic average; 20 million new jobs; a



Former ABC producer Steve Skinner '62 (on the left) spent 1980 on the road with Ronald Reagan. See sidebar on p. 15.

The torch is being passed. There is every reason to dream great dreams and to believe that our country's best days still lie ahead.

tripling in the stock market; the birth of the investor class; and the dawn of the Information Age. Americans responded by showering wealth upon charities, foundations, and institutions ... like Bucknell University.

Not surprisingly, the president delighted in saying, "I notice they don't call it Reaganomics anymore!"

Winning the Cold War The great American comeback was not reserved for rich, white males. Women started up new enterprises in record numbers. Black employment and new black businesses grew at the fastest rates in postwar history. Over half of all black males improved their incomes by over 50 percent, and the number of black families earning over \$50,000 a year nearly tripled.

Well, what about his monster deficits? Thanks to robust growth of the economy, tight limits on spending, and tax revenues actually growing faster in the low-tax 1980s, Reagan left the same budget gap that he inherited, roughly 2 1/2 percent of the economy. In between, he created the largest boom in American history and won the Cold War.

Reagan understood that stronger growth at home would translate into renewed strength overseas. Moreover, he had watched the United States sit passively as the Soviets established 10 new pro-Soviet regimes on three continents during the late 1970s. He said, "I have a different goal. It's we win, they lose."

Reagan moved quickly to strengthen U.S. alliances and rebuild our military, including strategic defense against nuclear attack. He stunned the Soviets by telling the truth about their "Evil Empire" and noting, "Communism works only in heaven, where they don't need it, and in hell, where they've already got it." He forged a partnership with Pope John Paul to support solidarity in Poland, and he promoted democracy and opposed communist insurgents in the Western Hemisphere, starting with the liberation of Grenada.

Despite fierce opposition, Reagan held strong. Mikhail Gorbachev learned to his chagrin, like so many others, that Ronald Reagan was a kindly old man with a spine of steel.

Today, this remarkable leader's legacy continues to grow. Russia and China, yesterday's adversaries, are racing to see which can privatize, deregulate, and lower tax rates fastest, to build free market economies for tomorrow. Liberated nations in Eastern Europe are embracing Reaganomics and challenging France's and Germany's attempts to dictate their policies.

My Year with Ronald Reagan

In June, I watched almost all the coverage about President Reagan. Those pictures had a special meaning for me, as many of the images were of events I had covered for ABC News in 1980. I was there with my camera crew when Governor Reagan announced his candidacy in November of '79, and I was there the night he was elected in November of '80. During that year, I spent more time with Ronald Reagan than I did with my own family, and he and Mrs. Reagan were unfailingly kind to my family and me.

Lots of famous folks, and I've known many, are not very accessible. Insecurity? Snobs? Egos? All of the above? Not with Mr. Reagan. When you had his attention, he looked right at you, not through you like so many preoccupied politicians. He had that gift, and it was a stunning experience if you got the full treatment. There was an aura, a kindness, a genuine humanity about Ronald Reagan.

After he died, those sad and powerful images repeated over and over. I felt disconnected from my home on Whidbey Island, Wash. My own way of mourning was to think about the once-in-a-lifetime-experience of covering a successful campaign and of knowing a president. The images piled up.

The frantic campaign schedule. The huge crowds. The motorcades. The wacky and overemotional Amway convention in Charlotte, where the crowd went nuts for Mr. Reagan. The Super Bowl coin flip in the White House in 1985 on the day he was sworn in for his second term. Producing ABC Sports coverage of the presidential box at the opening of the 1984 Olympics, which leads me to a story that captures the wit and humor Ronald Reagan.

After the ceremonies, I was instructed by a staffer to get on the last elevator down to the departing motorcade. The Reagans were already there with their lead Secret Service agent, Bobby DeProspero. As the elevator dropped, Ronald Reagan, never one to miss a good opportunity to have some fun, turned to his unmoving, chisel-faced bodyguard and said with a gleam in his eye, "Gee, Bobby, mine is ticking." — Steve Skinner '62

Steve Skinner had a 33-year career as a news, sports, and entertainment television producer, winning nine Emmies and the George Foster Peabody Award for programs and documentaries that he wrote, produced, and directed. Required to retire in 1998 because of a kidney transplant, he says his most memorable assignment was covering Ronald Reagan's presidential campaign of 1980.

At home, Reagan transformed the political landscape, even as he renewed our dedication to America's traditional values. Finally, he inspired a new generation to step forward and to infuse the country with new energy, vision, and intellectual capital.

The torch is being passed. There is every reason to dream great dreams and to believe that our country's best days still lie ahead. And, after all, why shouldn't we believe that? We are Americans. *W*

Ben Elliot is vice president of communications for the New York Stock Exchange and a Bucknell trustee. See p. 29 of this issue for an alumni profile of him. He was recently the subject of a Wall Street Journal article titled "The Ben Elliott Story," written by Peggy Noonan, who was also a speechwriter for President Reagan. To access Noonan's article, go to www.opinionjournal.com/columnists/pnoonan/?id=110005212.

**Irish aunts, codebreakers, and Canadians
traveling in the Caribbean are just a few
characters in this issue's book review.**

DESTINATIONS – EXOTIC AND UNEXPECTED

CLAUDIA EBELING

SOME YEARS AGO, POET PHILIP BRADY '77 OPENED the collection *Forged Correspondences* with the unforgettable “First Born,” beginning: “The day the four McCann girls were shown Brooklyn/and told that beneath their feet were rivers and tunnels,/another fleet of trains, a whole underground city —/that was the day they realized

they'd need me.” Those lines haunt his memoir *To Prove My Blood* (Ashland Poetry Press), the first of two books by alumni that explore the legacy of immigration.

Brady sets out to trace his Irish American roots rather late in the day. The 20th century is winding down, and only one of those McCann girls is left. Nonagenarian Aunt Mary is failing, and her care has come down to her nephew.

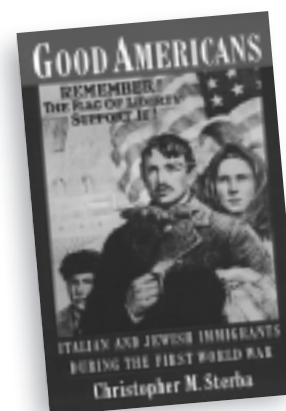
She is, however, a powerful muse, tendering provocative memories to rescue from perdition. The strands weave across Queens and Brooklyn, to Ireland, Africa, and far west of the Hudson River. They capture the working class, celebrity criminals, poets, coal miners, even figures from ancient myths.

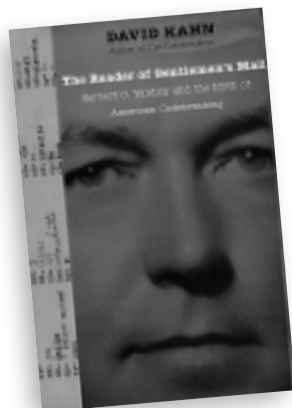
Brady is intrepid, becoming what those McCann girls needed most on that street corner in the 1920s: an interpreter for their brave new world, a repository for their stories, the person who sings their significance and that of their extended family. This is a virtuoso performance, the richer by the inclusion of three related poems, including “First Born.”

Historian Christopher Sterba '88 studies the transformation of immigrants from outcasts to empowered citizens in *Good Americans* (Oxford University Press).

Six million Eastern European Jews and Italians sailed to the United States between 1880 and 1914, only to find themselves isolated by bigotry and poverty. As World War I hovered, new immigrants became a commodity to recruit. Sterba follows the experiences of two communities, a Jewish enclave in Brooklyn and the Italians of New Haven as their fortunes changed.

The two groups followed contrasting paths to war, but both produced committed soldiers and, at home, relief workers and bond promoters. For the first time, they enjoyed respect and equality. That and identity solidified by fighting for America against former homelands mobilized them to defy the return to disenfranchisement in peacetime, propelling them into an enduring presence in civic life. Sterba lucidly integrates individual portraits with the sweep of events for a convincing reassessment of the era.





I Spy World War I also sparked the modern era of codebreaking and military intelligence. Instrumental in its development was Herbert O. Yardley, whose personality defined a controversial career. Though his achievements brought fame the government never ordered — he wrote a best-selling tell-all — his life had never been chronicled. David Kahn '54, a premiere expert on the subject of cryptology, is rectifying that

oversight with *The Reader of Gentleman's Mail* (Yale University Press).

After a brief introduction to cryptology, Kahn recounts how Yardley moved the practice from the monastic dark ages to team science during the war. It was a morally ambiguous time, during which national security trumped scruples about what constituted stealing and eavesdropping. The war over, Yardley carried on, surreptitiously bribing telegraph operators for material and using it to good effect during the disarmament conference. It was Secretary of State Henry Stimson who eventually put an end to it in 1927, decreeing, "Gentlemen do not read each other's mail."

A money-driven egoist, the unemployed Yardley then published *The American Black Chamber*, spilling wartime secrets. But Yardley's second act did not stem his eventual slide, despite later consulting, publishing, and business ventures. His is an entertainingly dramatic tale, reflecting the transit of methodology, ethics, and policy across the last century.

Choices Three new books recall John Lennon's aphorism, "Life is what happens when you're busy making other plans."

Perhaps no other demographic comprehends that irony better than contemporary grandparents, whose ranks are increasingly becoming caregivers for their children's children. As Elaine Denholtz '48 observes in her new book, *The Extra Parent* (iUniverse, Inc.), this phenomenon cuts across cultural and economic lines. She presents 10 case studies illustrating the pleasures and hard lessons won. It is not an easy road, but Denholtz concludes, "It could turn out to be one of the most satisfying experiences of your life."

Few deny that Americans are overworked. Even fewer haven't wished for more time for family,

volunteering, or personal pursuits. Cali Williams Yost '87, whose consulting career was inspired by this dilemma, investigates ways to buck it in *Work+Life: Finding the Fit That's Right For You* (Riverhead/Penguin), a book edited by Wendy Carlton '88.

In workbook fashion, Yost identifies key steps to successfully negotiating more personal time. The process begins with a vision, wrestles with the pitfalls of negative thinking, and ends with strategies for presenting a plan that dovetails with an employer's priorities.

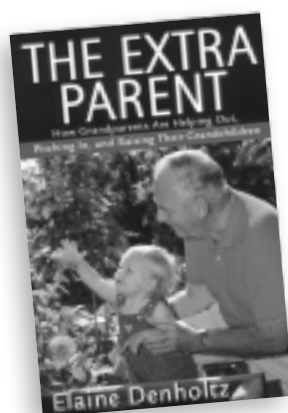
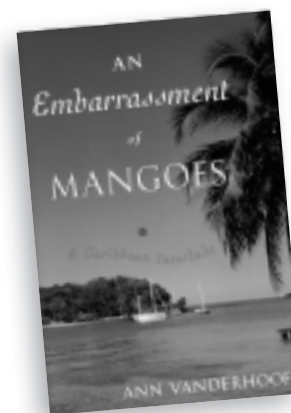
Yost emphasizes the value in looking to successful role models for clues, and another alumna's book fits the bill perfectly. Ann Vanderhoof '74 and her husband, Mark Stanley, left behind winter and deadlines for two years to sail the Caribbean. *An Embarrassment of Mangoes* (Doubleday) recreates their watery neighborhood, ports of call in 16 island nations, native cuisine, and memorable locals.

By the end of their adventure, they had a boat stuffed with books, rum, fish, and produce of the region. Vanderhoof kept a claptrap journal full of sketches and recipes for a small galley, all of which she lavishes on her travelogue. It is a clear-eyed guidebook, rendered in the sharp immediacy of the present tense, but the lasting impression is a dreamy watercolor of incomparable sunsets and lives lived on their own terms.

The Arts No edition of "Books" is complete without contributions from the artistic community. Hillary DePiano '02 revisits the classic commedia dell'arte in the play *The Love of Three Oranges* (Lulu Press, Inc.). Inspired by the work of 18th-century Venetian playwright Carlo Gozzi, DePiano originally added her own twists to the slapstick comedy at Bucknell.

The prolific Kaviraj George Dowden '57 has forwarded *Abundant Love* (Oracle), reprising works from *Great Love Desiderata* and *The Annie My Angel Poems*. Influenced by Walt Whitman, Dowden has fashioned a unique voice in contemporary poetry. *W*

Claudia Ebeling regularly reviews books for Bucknell World.



IT TOOK A VILLAGE

SAM ALCORN

FUELED BY MILITARY DISCHARGES, Bucknell's population surged at the end of World War II. In the fall of 1946, undergraduate enrollment was 1,967 and nearly 60 percent were veterans. Some were married; some had children.

The need for married student housing gave rise to Bucknell Village, an enclave of 16 buildings with 50 apartments for student veterans and their families. Located diagonally across Route 15 from the Christy Mathewson-Memorial Stadium, the village was built on part of the 170-acre George Barron Miller Farm, owned by the university since the 1920s. Total cost to the university was less than \$40,000.

One-time residents remember good living space, consisting of a living area, kitchen, two bedrooms, and a bath. Mostly, though, they remember a special camaraderie and good, albeit lean, times.

Veteran benefits paid education costs, but the vets and their families existed on government stipends of \$60 or so a month. Rent for village housing was based on a sliding scale that started at about \$15 a month.



Photos: University Archives

"There were 50 GI families there, all broke and all trying frantically to complete their education," says Robert Austin '48, MS'48. "Over the life of the village, many more than the original 50 families lived there. Many were there only a short time before they graduated. More than half the residences had children. Our eldest daughter was born there in 1947."

The former Marine of Wilmington, Del., could be called the village's first "mayor." When he came to Lewisburg after the war, he discovered that his former employer, Sordoni Construction Co. of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., had been contracted to build married student housing.

"I was able to give them 16 hours a week. I helped to survey and lay power and water lines and worked as a carpenter and general laborer — the whole nine yards. I was in on it from the beginning," says Austin, who lived in the village nearly two years.

"The village was Army barracks. Two were oversized, and in those we put five apartments each. In the standard, we put three apartments each," recalls Austin. "We were all broke. If it was three days to payday — and payday was \$60 a month in those days — and you were down to a can of beans and if someone next door didn't have any, you shared the can of beans."

Austin and other volunteers handled garbage disposal. "I had a 1928 Chrysler roadster. I took out the back seat, got the garbage from the neighbors, and drove it out to a public dump," he says. "We didn't have money to pay a garbage man."

Ed Witman '49 and his wife, Carolyn, of Greensboro, N.C., were also village residents, but not before a brief stint in a rooming house until campus housing became available.

"When we first went to Lewisburg, we had a room — one room — in a rooming house," says Carolyn, who taught music and art in Lewisburg schools while her husband worked on his degree. "When we got that apartment, I thought it was big. You entered the house through the kitchen. It was heated by a kerosene heater, and, believe me, in the winter there were days the only way you were warm was to sit in front of that heater. We had an end apartment and got the full force of the wind. They didn't have insulation."

In the summer, the reconstituted Army barracks were like steamy ovens.

"We used little fans and would sit outside until midnight, trying to keep a little bit cooler," says Carolyn.



Laura Mae '43 and Howard Lonergan '47 started their family with son Michael in the Bucknell Village. Above right, an unidentified woman prepares dinner.

"We'd have cookouts and get-togethers. There was a cornfield beside the apartments. Late at night, some of the fellows would sneak in and get corn. It wasn't very good. It was field corn."

Ed, an Air Force veteran, has his share of vivid memories of village life. "Several of us dammed up a small stream at the bottom of the village, and we ice skated on it," he says, recalling monthly rent of \$24.50. "It was a good life, really."

Residents hiked to town to buy groceries and then hired a taxi to ferry them home. Most used ice boxes to keep food fresh. Few had money to buy an electric refrigerator.

Cooking was an adventure. When too many turned on their stoves at the same time, the gas pressure dropped to a level that wouldn't sustain a pilot light.

Some recall contests to see who could eat the most sandwiches loaded with raw onions. Others recall doing laundry in a Handy Hot — one sheet at a time — and hanging the laundry in a spare bedroom so that it wouldn't freeze outside.

Joy Nubile '53 of Waldwick, N.J., and her husband, Walter Kennedy '55, lived in the village after the Korean War. "When he came back, we went to college so that he could finish his education. I worked for the school and ran the student bank," says Nubile. "I kept the records in a huge journal by hand."

For extra money, her husband, who died in 1988, cut grass in nearby Cowan for 75 cents an hour.

"We were poor GIs," says Nubile. "We lived for \$25 a month in the village. The walls were paper thin, and you could hear every argument in the next apartment."

Still, it was a "fun time living there. No one had any money, but we had the best time," says Nubile. "We shared



An unidentified couple moves into the Bucknell Village with mattress and springs in tow, ca. 1946. Below left, residents of the village bundle up for a group photo in January 1952.

food. We'd line the babies on the bed in folding carry bags or baskets and have a party in the living room or outside under the trees where we could watch the kids."

Like other village residents, Nubile remembers the winters as being bone-chilling cold. "We lined the floor with magazines, newspapers, and old rugs we got from our parents. You could see through the floors," she says. Among her most vivid recollections is seeing her apartment the first time. "When we walked in, our unit was filled with old paint cans that everyone had been using to paint the place. I remember walking in and breaking down into tears — this was my first home. It got better. When we left, we had a nice little place."

Residents, too, remember mailboxes — all 50 of them — in a neat row at the entrance, as well as the unique telecommunications network — one solitary telephone in a booth at the top of a nearby hill. The phone would ring until someone went to answer it. The person answering would then shout to the nearest apartment, and word would be relayed by mouth through the village until it reached the intended party, who would trudge out in all kinds of weather to take the call.

Despite some difficult living situations, all have fond memories of village living. "Everyone knew everyone. We were like a big family," says Austin. "We shared our triumphs and despairs. Many long friendships were established."

In the early 1960s, with fewer married students, half the units were razed. Those remaining were renovated, but by the early 1970s they, too, were gone, making room for Bucknell West. *W*

Sam Alcorn is a frequent contributor to Bucknell World.



CLUB CLOSE-UP: WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN BRINGING people together for years — in the Vaughan Literature Building, the Dana Engineering Building, the Bostwick Cafeteria, and the Gerhard Fieldhouse. But Bucknellians don't just meet on the Bucknell campus.

In Washington, D.C., Bucknell alumni are meeting in less conspicuous places, such as on rooftops. One of the university's most successful alumni clubs, the D.C. club sponsors 10–12 events a year, providing ample opportunity for alumni to meet one another. And although those involved with the organization speak highly of the events it hosts, they speak more highly of one another.

"We've been fortunate to have a number of great leaders and active board members over the years and have always worked to groom new ones," says Eric Allgaier '82, former D.C. club president. In fact, four of the club's former presidents have gone on to other positions of leadership at the university. Allgaier and Bill Krokowski '84 are on the Alumni Association Board of Directors, Katie Malague '94 is co-chair of the Council of Club Presidents, and Dave Flinchbaugh '82 is the director of the Office of Alumni, Parents, and Volunteers.

"Any organization is only as good as its people. I think that they've been successful because of the strong spirit of the folks who run the club," says Gary F. Heurich '79, who has provided food, beverages, space, and tours for alumni events at the Brewmaster's Castle (see sidebar).



Front row, left to right: Hudson Yost '00 on the far left and Vanessa Peet Yost '98 on the far right. Middle row: Dan Swartz '98, Heather Smith '97, Beth Allgaier '85 and Katie Malague '94. Back row: Brendan Smith '97, Dave Flinchbaugh '82, Eric Allgaier '82, and Stephen Staudigl '89.

It is hard to pinpoint exactly how many alumni in the D.C. area are active with the club, but the club makes an effort to reach out to different segments of the alumni population. Alumni have attended a tour of the National Zoo and a talk by retired university professor Doug Candland, family picnics, university athletics-related events, and the always-popular happy hours that Dick Tolbert '66 has hosted for 15 years. And many of these alumni congregate annually on the rooftops of D.C., overlooking the monuments and celebrating Bastille Day.

Malague says that the club serves as a reminder of why people choose to attend the university: "It is a special place that offers a rare bond. I, for one, am both proud of and grateful for my continued affection for Bucknell, which in large measure is attributable to the club's influence in my life as an alum." — Michelle Dombeck '05

If you're in the D.C. area and looking to reaffirm that bond with some of your fellow alumni, join them at the next picnic, happy hour, or networking night. Contact club co-presidents Stephen Staudigl at stephen.staudigl@ncpc.gov or Vanessa Peet at vpeet@american.edu for more information.



The Brewmaster and His Castle

"Whether you want to blame it on A.D.D., some deficiency left over from childhood, or just thriving on doing different things, I enjoy variety," Gary F. Heurich '79 says. But judging from what he has done after graduating from the university, you could probably blame it on his genes.

His grandfather, Christian Heurich, founded the Chr. Heurich Brewing Co. in Washington, D.C., in 1873; it soon grew to be the most successful brewing company in the D.C. area. His son, Christian Jr., ran the business until 1956, when competition and the need of the site for the Kennedy Center forced it to close its doors.

So, given the spirit of entrepreneurship that he probably inherited from his father and grandfather, it seems natural that Heurich would restart the brewing company, take responsibility for managing his grandfather's historic Washington, D.C., home, own several other businesses, and undertake environmental projects.

Heurich hasn't just inherited good business sense — he also knows the value of philanthropy. When the Historical Society of Washington, D.C., was selling the house that his grandfather had built in the 19th century and that his grandmother had donated to the society in 1956, he wanted to preserve this piece of D.C. and family history. He and his cousin established the Heurich House Foundation, which bought back the house in 2003, saving it from

being turned into a restaurant. The Brewmaster's Castle, as the house-turned-museum is called, is the most intact late-Victorian house in the country.

Lately, Heurich has been spending much of his time renovating and restoring the castle. "Why bother saving it if you're not going to share it with folks?" he says. He also generously shares with the D.C. alumni club, giving tours of the castle and donating Foggy Bottom beers from the Olde Heurich Brewing Company.

Heurich isn't concerned about his busy schedule. He's counting on inheriting the vitality of his grandfather, who managed the brewing company until he died at age 102 as the world's oldest brewer.

"I could never retire," Heurich says. "I'd be too bored. And my golf game just isn't that good." — M.D.

99 Want to learn more about the Olde Heurich Brewing Company or the Brewmaster's Castle? Log on to www.foggybottom.com and www.brewmasterscastle.com for more information.

World's End

MUGGSY AND MATTY

FRANK DEFORD

A CENTURY ON, JOHN MCGRAW AND Christy Mathewson are still with us, templates of two sustaining American sports archetypes. Muggsy: the earthly scuffer, an odd duck, unrepentant, but who — surprise! — is inspiring and brilliant. McGraw “could take kids out of coal mines and wheat fields,” Heywood Broun wrote, “and make them play ball with the look of eagles.”

Mathewson is easier to portray: the solid gentleman athlete, wise and spiritual, fair to a fault. A story, perhaps apocryphal, has Mathewson sliding home in a cloud of dust. “Were you safe, Matty?” the umpire asks.

“No, he got me.” Astounded, the catcher asks Mathewson how he could call himself out. “I am a church elder,” Matty replied.

Idolizing Mathewson was encouraged all the more because he was the first star to play in New York, center of American dreams. As much as any revered sports star, Mathewson walked a fine line, holding to his principles but never being a sanctimonious prig. While he was never guilty of “muckerism” (bad sportsmanship), it was not uncommon for a curse word to spill from his lips. He gambled, enjoyed liquor, and smoked. He even endorsed Tuxedo Tobacco, something not even Muggsy would do. “You’ll find cigarette stubs ... on the path to oblivion,” McGraw warned.

Mathewson, however, was neither afraid to take advantage of his fame nor a prisoner of it, though his was the best-known face in the country after those of three politicians: Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and William Jennings Bryan. “I owe everything I have to the fans when I’m out there on the mound,” Mathewson declared, “but I owe the fans nothing ... when I’m not pitching.” He would draw the shades on trains when they stopped, even though he knew admirers had come to the station just for a glimpse of him. But then he reneged on a promise to his mother never to play ball on the Sabbath when he decided that it was selfish, unfair to the working man whose long weekdays denied him a chance to see the national pastime (and its greatest hero) except on Sundays.

Then, too, as a friend confided, “Matty liked money.” He shilled for razors as well as tobacco. In 1910, when he made \$10,000 as baseball’s highest-paid player, he spent 17 weeks in the off-season working in a vaude-



Christy Mathewson is standing on the right, and John McGraw is seated on the left during a spring training trip in Cuba, ca. 1910.

ville show for \$1,000 a week. He starred in a one-reel film and lent his name as cowriter to a series of children’s books as well as to a comedy, *The Girl and the Pennant*, which had 20 performances on Broadway. Matty, however, drew the line at allowing a Manhattan “drinking and dancing place” to be called the Christy Mathewson. As a man who walked only 1 1/2 batters per nine innings, Big Six had as much control over his life as he did of his pitches.

Indeed, through the wondrous Series of ’05, Mathewson’s life was nearly without defect. He had grown up on a farm in Factoryville, in northeastern Pennsylvania, a picture-book place. The Mathewson house rested in a valley, yea, with a bubbling brook that provided flat stones for young Matty to hurl at squirrels and blackbirds.

He was the eldest, born on Aug. 12, 1880, to Scots whose forebears had crossed to Rhode Island not long after the *Mayflower*. Gilbert and Minerva Mathewson would have five more children, and although Cyril died in infancy, Christine, Henry, Jane, and Nicholas grew up as strong and healthy as their big brother. The boys were educated nearby at Keystone Academy, and then Christy — already a local legend pitching for the Factoryville Nine — went to Bucknell, in Lewisburg, where he put on his blue freshman beanie and set about becoming the biggest man on campus.

Besides being a baseball star, young Matty was as good a dropkicker as there was at a time when that specialty was crucial to football. Rubber Leg, he was called. He was also a terrific student. Moreover, he wrote poetry, sang in the Glee Club, acted in campus dramatics, and belonged to an honorary leadership society.

If no upbringing was more idyllic than Matty’s, none was more different from it than what little Johnny McGraw endured. If Matty was the effortlessly blessed American, Muggsy was the bootstrap boy. What they shared, though, was more important: Both made the most of what they were given, and as sport became popular, both became inspirations — different sides of the same American coin. *W*

Reprinted courtesy of Sports Illustrated: “Giants Among Men” by Frank Deford, Aug. 25, 2003. Copyright © 2003, Time Inc. All rights reserved. Sportswriter and commentator Deford is working on a book about John McGraw and Christy Mathewson, which will be published by Grove/Atlantic Books in 2005, marking the 100-year anniversary of what he calls the “greatest World’s Series ever.”