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Chartwells Higher Education chosen as new Bucknell Dining provider



RENDERING OF POSSIBLE CHANGES FOR THE BISON COURTESY OF CHARTWELLS HIGHER EDUCATION

Michael Taramina
News Editor

Bucknell announced this week that they have selected Chartwells Higher Education — a dining vendor that serves over 300 colleges and universities, employing more than 38,000 food service associates — to take on a 10-year contract to enhance the Dining Services program on campus.

Details of the contract are being finalized, with service expected to begin July 1, 2024. All hourly Dining Services staff employed by Parkhurst, the University’s current dining vendor, will have the option to retain their positions after the transition at the same hourly rate.

After engaging in a yearlong search process facilitated by an outside consultant, Envision Strategies, the Dining Steering

Committee recommended the contract with Chartwells, which met all of the requirements in Bucknell’s request for proposals. It was the top choice of students, faculty and staff according to surveys following onsite presentations and tastings from three potential dining providers last month, and was the steering committee’s first choice as well.

“Through their proposal and on-campus presentation, Chartwells demonstrated its ability to not only meet the diverse needs and wishes of our students, but also shared their creative vision for an engaged dining experience for the University,” says Lisa Keegan, Vice President for Student Enrollment, Engagement and Success and co-chair of the Dining Steering Committee.

“Dining is a critical part of the student experience. It’s

important to not only meet our students’ nutritional needs, but also to fully integrate dining into the residential educational experience,” Keegan adds. “Food is an essential part of learning and building community and we are excited by Chartwells’ ideas for teaching-kitchen opportunities, engaging with the Bucknell Farm and providing a culinary liaison who will work closely with students in our cultural clubs and organizations.”

Committee members said they were impressed by Chartwells’ many exciting ideas to reimagine Bucknell’s dining program and are confident in its ability to provide the campus community with top-quality, creative and nutritious meals as well as outstanding service and a commitment to sustainability.

Enhancing Dining Options Chartwells will partner with

Bucknell to enhance the student experience, supporting the growing diversity of the campus community by offering a wide variety of cuisines. Additionally, they will support initiatives that ensure access to these culinary options, which will help the University foster a more equitable dining structure.

As part of that structure, Chartwells will deliver a variety and diversity of quality offerings to engage in on-campus dining. That will include partnerships with local and regional restaurants to provide rotating offerings of diverse cuisines to be represented in residential, retail, academic and catering offerings. Whenever possible, it will use locally sourced food and follow sustainable practices. That includes creating a

STORY CONTINUES ON A2

Public Safety holds debrief following swatting incident

Kelsey Werkheiser
Print Managing Editor

Following the recent active shooter hoax on March 29th, Public Safety held a debrief on Thursday, April 11th in the Langone Center Forum. During this 50 minute talk, Chief Anthony Morgan unraveled the timeline of events on their end of the experience, explained why they made the decisions that they did and detailed safety measures going forward.

The presentation began with a breakdown of what happened and when it happened over the course of that tense hour. At 6:31pm, the Buffalo Valley Regional Police Department received a call on the unrecorded line, reporting someone on campus with an AR-15. This information was relayed to Union County 911, who then notified Public Safety. Communications Officer Miller then called back the number that had initially called Buffalo Valley.

Morgan went on to summarize the contents of the 26-second call. When the caller was asked their location, they said that they are hiding in a classroom, but do not know which building because “they are new.” After being asked their location once more, the sound of a slide racking could be heard, followed by two gunshots and then the caller disconnected.

Following this call, Public Safety issued the emergency alert to anyone signed up for the RAVE notification system, alerting them through call, text and email that there was an active shooter on campus.

In the chaos of the alert being issued, Public Safety was quickly inundated with around 200 calls from concerned students, parents, community members, etc. Public Safety established their command post at the downhill entrance of the ELC, while units worked towards clearing a variety of areas on and off campus, attempting to address any locations of concern that had been reported through calls. Local and state police were also called to the scene.

At 7:27pm, dispatch alerted all units that the original call was

from a landline in Virginia, and the “all clear” alert was issued through RAVE at 7:31pm. The call was dismissed as a swatting incident, the term used to refer to phone calls made to emergency services to incite terror within a community without any real danger present. Morgan explained that he sensed it was a swatting call from the start, but was not willing to take the risk of dismissing it as such in the event that there truly was a shooter present on campus and that lives would be at risk.

In addressing some of the concerns about Public Safety’s response to the incident, Chief Morgan acknowledged that some were resistant to being cleared from hiding locations such as the ELC. He explained that officers are trained under the ALICE response system, not dissimilar to the “run, hide, fight” model that many students are familiar with. As the officers progressed throughout the ELC, they cleared students from their hiding spots. Their thinking is that they don’t know where the shooter is, but they do know that they aren’t in the areas they’ve already cleared, making moving towards those cleared locations safer than a hiding location. Although, Morgan did address that the RAVE notification was not altered for the situation at hand and instructed recipients to take shelter, rather than instructing them to get off campus as should have been the case.

Similarly, there were concerns from those who were outside at the time of the lockdown, who could not take shelter once the card access buildings were locked down. This is done because there is a higher likelihood that the shooter is faculty or staff, in which case they would have card access to buildings. During a lockdown, only safety officials will have card access, including Buffalo Valley officers who have been provided with cards that only work in the event of an emergency. Morgan stated that those outside should prioritize getting off of campus, which is an instruction that will

be made more clear to the community moving forward.

Morgan spoke to some shortcomings in their response, such as that the loudspeaker portion of the alert system was not utilized. They were unsure if they would have time to do so, but acknowledged that in hindsight, it should have been used. This, in combination with RAVE operating on an opt-in basis, meant that some community members were not notified at the time the alert was sent out. Only 61.7% of students are signed up for the alert system, and Public Safety intends to move towards a mandatory model in the future.

Chief Morgan closed out the talk by providing safety resources available to campus community members. Public Safety offers self defense training, as well as active shooter response training. Response training can be scheduled— for example, by a group of staff that want training for their specific office location— through directly contacting Public Safety. Morgan also emphasized the resourcefulness of the BSafe app, which has a variety of safety information pertaining to active shooter responses, such as a preparedness handbook and building-specific plan of action videos.

Moving forward, Public Safety is looking into ways to expand the reach of the RAVE emergency system, such as through being able to broadcast alerts on campus technology like digital signage. They are also planning on adding an active shooter response presentation to training systems and new student orientation. The formation of a safety task force is currently in progress. Public Safety’s second annual active shooter drill training will be conducted on campus on August 14th and community members will be invited to participate as role-players.

As the incident is still under investigation, no questions were fielded at the conclusion of the presentation. Later on in the day, a feedback survey was sent out to all students, faculty, and staff, which will close on Friday, April 19th at 5pm.

Bucknell Cheerleading Squad competes at Nationals, places 6th



Lyndon Beier
Assistant News Editor

PHOTO COURTESY OF ASHLEY FRANKEL

Bucknell’s cheerleading squad is a longstanding pillar of the athletic community, but despite many years of hard work and dedication, the team was never given the opportunity to perform and compete at the National Cheerleading Association’s College Nationals competition. That all changed this year, when the 2023-24 team received a bid to compete during their annual summer training camp.

Consisting of seventeen elite athletes—including Bucky the Bison—the team has been training nonstop to both earn their bid and fight for their chance to win. Daily workouts, practices, lifting sessions and “content review” of routines and plans ensure that the cheerleaders are in shape and fully prepared to perform as a cohesive unit. Their commitment went above and beyond during Bucknell’s winter break as well. While non-athlete students returned to campus after Martin Luther King Jr. Day in January, the cheer team restarted their regular daily practices on campus shortly after New Years. Because their sport requires such collaboration

and precision, these athletes can’t let their game slip. Their “off season” barely stretches the month of June before they’re back on campus, preparing for the upcoming year.

This year, the team spent their early return to campus rehearsing for basketball season half-time and sideline performances, on top of their preparation for the Nationals competition. Coach Ashley Frankel is beyond proud of her team for making it to Nationals: “This is the first cheerleading squad in Bucknell’s history to ever compete at NCA College Nationals,” she explains. “Our category was extremely competitive, with less than a point separating each placement.” It’s a testament to her team’s ability that they were able to not only put themselves on the proverbial map, but also place 6th overall, with a score of 89.2 out of 100.

NCA College Nationals are a two-day program, with teams competing consecutively over that period. Bucknell’s team fell into the Spirit Rally Division 1 category,

STORY CONTINUES ON A2

breaking the bubble

Michael Taromina
News Editor

DOMESTIC

Divisions with the Republican Party Congressmen and Senators were put on full display this week as another historic speaker vacancy and Senate impeachment might become reality. On the House side, Congressman Marjorie Taylor Greene put a resolution to the floor prompting a vote of no confidence for Speaker Mike Johnson. This comes after Johnson negged on Republican priorities and attempting to pass foreign aid for Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan. Johnson has said he would not resign and many powerful House Republicans have expressed disdain for a vacancy vote, though Greene claims she has support on her side. On the Senate floor, this week's articles of impeachment for Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas were delivered and senators were sworn in as jurors. This marks the second time a Cabinet level official has been impeached by the House and tried in the Senate. Many Republican senators support the impeachment, but various ones, particularly Senator Mitt Romney, claim there are no impeachment grounds and this is a policy dispute. This is happening all while Republicans are trying to navigate their priorities and positions as they try to expand the House, win back the Senate and move-in a Republican to the White House next year.

History was made this week as the first trial of former US President Donald Trump began its jury selection. Trump was indicted last summer on 34 counts of felony charges by the District Attorney of Manhattan on accounts that he broke campaign finance laws to pay hush money to porn star Stormy Daniels to cover an affair. On Monday, 200 people were summoned to appear in front of Judge Juan Merchan to see if they would be selected. Only 7 made it, including a salesman, an oncology nurse, an IT consultant, a teacher and a software engineer. The slim number is likely due to potential political bias people may show that may hinder their impartiality. Additionally, a potential list of witnesses were revealed to the public, including members of Trump's family and legal team. Trump is facing a gag order he calls "unconstitutional" and must appear at all times to the trial. The Republican nominee for President in 2024 is hoping to turn this legal peril into a political boost against his opponents, claiming the justice system is rigged against him.

INTERNATIONAL

According to an exit poll cited by state and other media outlets, Croatia's governing conservatives emerged victorious in a fiercely contested parliamentary election on Wednesday, although they fell short of securing a majority to govern independently. The election featured a showdown between the incumbent conservative Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ), headed by Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic, and a coalition of centrist and left-leaning parties, informally spearheaded by populist President Zoran Milanovic and his Social Democratic Party (SDP). The non-affiliated Ipsos polling agency reported that the HDZ secured 59 out of the 151 parliamentary seats, while the SDP attained 43 seats. The election took place amidst Croatia's domestic challenges, including grappling with the highest inflation rate in the eurozone, a scarcity of labor, illegal migration and allegations of pervasive corruption, despite being a member of the European Union and NATO.

On Saturday, a significant aerial assault targeted Israel, with multiple Iranian missiles striking Israeli territory, signifying a perilous escalation in the region that raises the specter of lethal confrontations between Israel and Iran. The assault severely injured a 10-year-old girl, but otherwise caused no casualties. Around 31 individuals received medical attention for anxiety or injuries sustained while heading to a secure location during the sounding of sirens. Iran's U.N. Mission issued a statement attributing Iran's military response to Israel's assault on an Iranian diplomatic facility in Syria, likely referring to the bombing of an Iranian consular building in Damascus on April 1, which resulted in the deaths of two generals and five officers from the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps. President Joe Biden reported having a conversation with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu overnight, reiterating the United States' commitment to Israel's security. He commended Israel's capability to repel attacks, signaling a warning to those who threaten the security of the Jewish state.

CHEER COMPETES AT NCAS

CONTINUED FROM A1



CHARLOTTE OLIN / THE BUCKNELLIAN

competing against other Division 1 programs for the singular cheerleading trophy of the season. In the words of Coach Frankel, "Other athletic teams have games or matches weekly, and multiple chances to 'win,' [but] cheerleaders train an entire year for one weekend, and have one chance."

Frankel joined the program in 2017, and has definitely felt the "long journey" that the team has endured to get where they are. "[Our] program has grown into a nationally recognized team," she says, "[...] and I am so excited to see where they take it next year!"

Team Captain and passionate cheerleader Ally Riuli '24 describes her time on the team as "an incredible experience." She feels "so lucky" to have been able to "develop a relationship with each and every one of [her teammates]" over the course of her time at Bucknell. Riuli understands just now much her team "deserve[s] to be here," celebrating their success. "We cheer on every other team throughout their season, so now it's our turn to be recognized, and show everyone how hard we work," she says.

Nationals itself was "filled with all the emotions you can imagine" for Riuli. "Happiness, excitement, anger, [and] frustration" do not even begin to cover it—the experience was once-in-a-lifetime. "The team was beyond grateful to be there, and be a part of the first team in Bucknell history to compete."

CHARTWELLS

CONTINUED FROM A1

working partnership with the Bucknell Farm.

Chartwells will provide nutritious vegan/vegetarian options, honor nine major food allergens, and work with campus chaplains to address kosher and halal needs on campus. It will also partner with University leadership to improve food security on campus, designing meals/options and dining hours that support the needs of all students. "Chartwells' Bucknell-specific approach on food insecurity and plans to be a collaborative vendor with campus partners seems hopeful in taking the first steps to tackle student demands and needs," says Gabby Diaz '25, a student representative on the Dining Steering Committee.

Chartwells leadership will work with Bucknell's active student clubs and organizations

to assist in the development of diverse and authentic resident, retail, academic and catered menu options that best represent the cultural, ethnic and religious diversity on campus.

"I'm excited to become a part of the Bucknell community and share the joy I have for food and building connections around shared tables," says Prince Guye Johnson, Resident District Manager of Chartwells Higher Education. "We look forward to speaking with students and creating a customized dining experience that speaks to students' preferences and cultivates relationships with local farms and partners."

Bucknell's current meal plan structure will continue for the time being, but Chartwells will partner with the University to reimagine meal plans by the second year of the contract.

The Bucknellian is in touch with representatives from Chartwells and will have direct responses from them available in the version of this article on the website.

CHECK BUCKNELLIAN.NET FOR UPDATES!

Director of First Year Experience speaks at BSG Congress

Lyndon Beier
Assistant News Editor

- Bucknell's Director of First Year Experience, Adrienne Jensen-Doray, spoke to the assembled Congress about her plans to change and improve the entire onboarding process for first year students during orientation, as well as to partner with different organizations on campus to continue updating general first year experience.
- Jensen-Doray also spoke about the three pillars her office looks at when evaluating the orientation experience: academics, community and tradition.
- BSG is working on revitalizing external committees within their organization to be more organized.
- CFO Gerty Hisler '24 reported

on her meeting with EIE to finalize the details of a new cultural dinner funding initiative.

- The Academic Committee is hosting "Rev Up Your Resume" on Friday, April 19th.
- Sustainability Committee passed several resolutions regarding Earth Week plans and programming.
- Class of 2024 voted to fund a plaque in memoriam to Christian Samay.
- BSG Congress passed resolutions to fund a Makerspace Bottle Cap event for Earth Week, food and the movie for the Lorax event on the 23rd and additional BSG office items, including a rug.
- Only one Congress left in the semester!

DIY
Bath Bombs

Create your own bath bombs!
April 20
5:00-9:00 Pm

7th Street Studio & MakerSpace

Op-Ed Policy

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Letters to the editor must be received by noon on the Tuesday before publication. Letters may not be longer than 600 words and the Editorial Board of The Bucknellian reserves the right to deny or edit any letter to the editor. Letters must contain the writer's name and phone number (used for verification purposes and not to be printed). Mail letters to The Bucknellian Subscriptions, Bucknell University, Box C-3952, Lewisburg, Pa. 17837 or e-mail letters to bucknellian@bucknell.edu.

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THE BUCKNELLIAN

C-3952 Bucknell University
Lewisburg, PA. 17837
bucknellian@bucknell.edu

Editor-in-Chief
Dora Kreitzer '25

Print Managing Editor
Kelsey Werkheiser '25

Print Presentation Director
Hayley Leopold '26

News Editors
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Lyndon Beier '27

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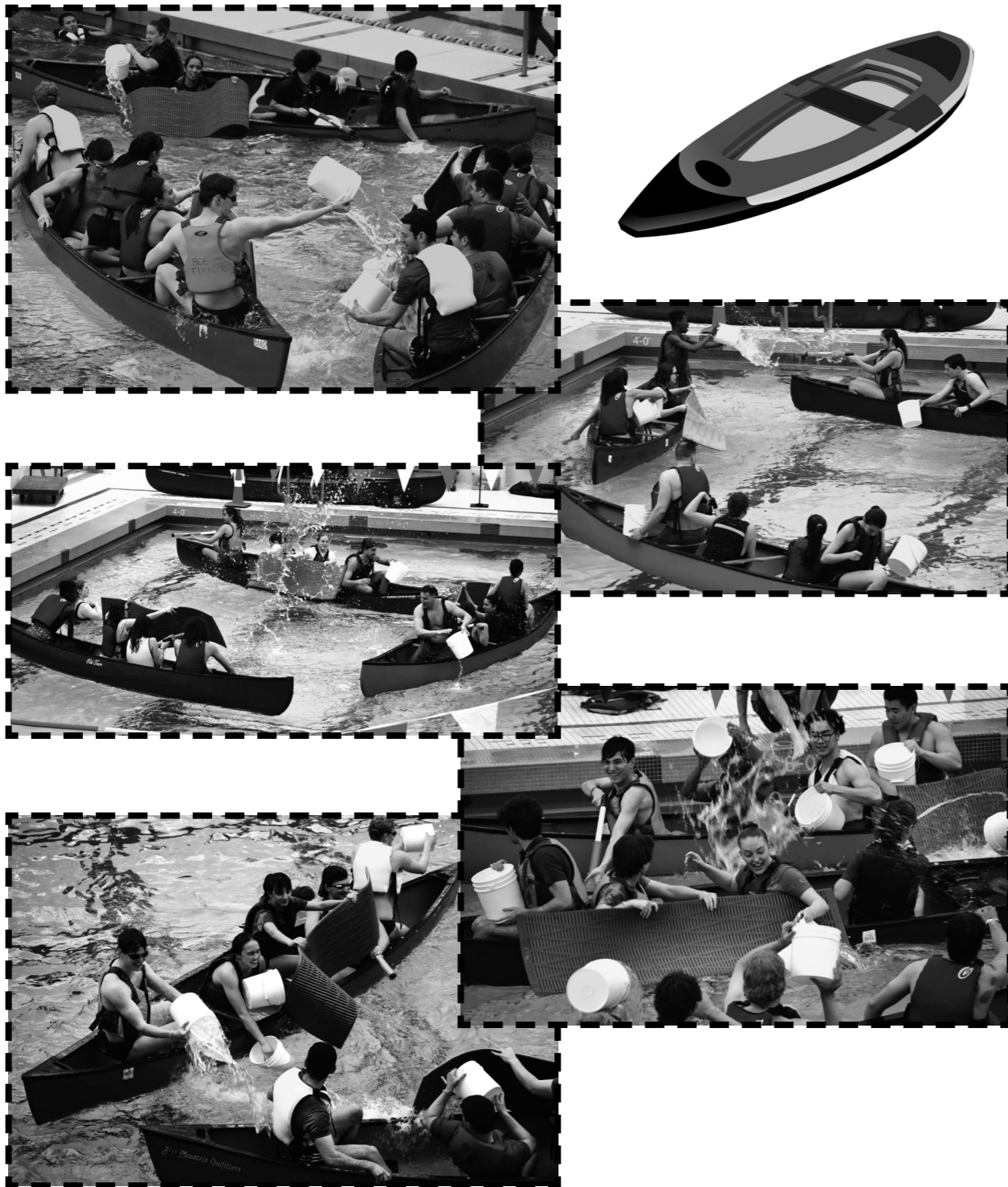
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Photo Story: "You sunk my battleship!"



SIENNA WILLIAMS, PHOTOGRAPHY CO-EDITOR / THE BUCKNELLIAN

Bucknell to alter summer undergraduate research funding

Michael Taramina
News Editor

For students across Bucknell who engage in research over the summer months, they may see a slight change in how the finances are dealt with this year.

A new law is being interpreted in a strict lens indicating that a summer stipend given to an undergraduate in roles such as fellowships, internships or similar positions should be considered a scholarship. Consequently, it would be subtracted from the student's financial aid for the following academic year. As a result, Bucknell has been trying to figure out a new arrangement for summer work to avoid summer research placing an undue financial burden on students.

According to Tom Cassidy, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, "our aim is to modify summer payments for students to guarantee they are not put at a disadvantage."

This year, undergraduates engaged in research projects will be employed as casual workers. Payment to these students will occur biweekly, aligning with the student payroll schedule.

There are differences in how students conduct research, such as in a lab with an experiment or with a professor reading scholarly articles. Students will meet with the faculty who facilitate student summer research to ensure that they are aware of how much they are getting paid for their specific program or the completion of their tasks.

According to Cassidy, "Our objective is to ensure that summer researchers receive their initial paycheck prior to commencing their research activities."

One question that may arise is whether this alteration applies to everyone. The answer is no. Undergraduates engaging in non-research-related summer roles will be hired as hourly employees.

Summer housing will be conducted similarly to previous years. Summer researchers will still be eligible for housing credits which are subject to taxes being withheld from the undergraduate researcher's pay.

Those who have not been employed on campus will have to complete the I-9 as part of their onboarding process in order to receive their first paycheck and be paid in the future.

Additionally, for the grants, gifts and other project funds that are used to support an undergraduate researcher, such as those funded by the government, the Office of Sponsored Projects has changed the payment type that impacts the overall budget. If gift or project funds are used to support an undergraduate researcher, those funds will incur a required 6.8% that will go towards Social Security and Medicare taxes.

Students who need to travel during the summer as part of their research, such as attending conferences or going on an excursion, will still need to obtain academic approval if the stay is overnight.

For students who have questions or concerns, and specifically research students staying at Bucknell this summer who want to know more about how their schedule will coincide with how much they are getting paid, it is advised you reach out to Tom Cassidy or visit <https://www.bucknell.edu/academics/undergraduate-research-opportunities>.

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The American illusion of choice

Luke Catalanello
Contributing Writer

Imagine you're in a race with 100 other runners, but 98 of them – including yourself – have their legs tied; would you consider that fair? Of course not. This is a situation that is far too applicable to the state of modern American political parties. For over a century, only two parties have dominated American politics – the Democratic Party and the Republican Party. Locating them on the political spectrum, the Democrats are on the left and the Republicans are on the right; while there is merit to the claim that the two parties are ideologically different, the same cannot be said about them on the functional level. What do I mean by this? Let me explain.

There is no doubt that the Republicans and Democrats have different views on issues like abortion, immigration and the Second Amendment. However, the two political entities support very similar policies to maintain their overwhelming power in Congress: they both exploit the media to shift public opinion and remain relevant in the headlines; they both accept billions of dollars from corporations and private lobbyists to fund campaigns and aid their aristocratic allies; and they both support a winner-take-all system of voting to curtail the success of alternative parties in Congress.

By consolidating power, the two parties have narrowed themselves as the only viable options to govern the nation. The Democrats and Republicans are two preselected choices which create an illusion of ultimate democracy.

This peculiar dynamic in government feels more like a diarchy than a flourishing democracy. Moreover, it is essential to note that Americans are not satisfied with the current two party system. As a simple litmus test of American satisfaction with the current two party system, take the example of the candidates put up by the Democrats and Republicans for the upcoming presidential election; a 2024 Reuters poll on voter satisfaction found that 67% of Americans said that they are “tired of seeing the same candidates in presidential elections and want someone new.”

If people are so tired of old and familiar politicians put up by the same old and familiar parties, then why can't they just vote new people and parties into power? To answer that question we have to look at the diarchy's undying love of the 'Single Member Plurality (SMP) Voting System' which is technical jargon for a winner-take-all system. The SMP system works by disregarding other votes in an election and simply focusing on the majority. An example of the SMP system in action can be seen in these mock results for a congressional seat election: The results read: 51% to the Republican Party, 20% to the Libertarian Party, 20% to the Democratic Party and 9% to the Green Party. Because the Republican candidate got 51% of the vote, only one Republican will be sent to Congress to represent everyone, leaving the other 49% voiceless.

The SMP system is in contrast to the 'Proportional Representation' system where

each party would gain a number of representatives in Congress according to their percentage won in the election; an eat what you hunt style voting system. By failing to win the majority of the votes, political groups become marginalized and ignored. And in places where Republican and Democratic political machines are cemented into power, the overwhelming power of the SMP system is insurmountable by alternative political parties. A Proportional Representation system combats this.

The diarchy of Republicans and Democrats leads to a complacent government, a complacency rooted in the reliability of remaining in power. If there is no third party to threaten the political seesaw of swapping Republicans for Democrats – and vice versa – the two parties will simply continue to maintain the status quo. To reform the United States government, American constituents should take a lesson from European Parliaments and begin to examine the implications of proportional representation into the US government. The more perspectives a government can have the better; more well-rounded policies will emerge from understanding their impacts on different communities, people and industries.

Using the SMP system to tarnish the representativeness of a republic is nothing short of a nightmarish irony, one which is detrimental to the progression of American democracy. I believe it is crucial for constituents to explore and vote for other candidates to begin to shake the pillars of power on which the diarchy reigns.

Letter to the Editor: No toxic chemical plant

Dear Editor,

We are writing to urgently bring attention to a pressing issue facing our community: the proposed construction of a chemical recycling plant on the floodplain of the Susquehanna River in Point Township. The facility, proposed by the company Encina, poses a threat to both public health and our environment and demands immediate action from students and citizens.

The proposed facility would receive an appalling 100 trucks of plastic arriving daily, leading to increased traffic congestion, noise pollution, and light pollution in our community. Chemicals such as benzene, toluene, xylene, and propylene that will be produced at the proposed Encina facility are linked to numerous health concerns, including cancers, liver and kidney damage, birth defects, nervous system issues, and respiratory issues.

Furthermore, the proximity of the plant to the Susquehanna River poses an imminent risk of chemical and microplastic pollution. The Susquehanna River floods frequently and when this occurs, hazardous chemicals and plastics could be washed into the river and Susquehanna River Basin, threatening the surrounding ecosystems.

Encina's proposed technology is unproven, leaving the community with no guarantee of its safety or efficacy. Equally troubling is

Encina's failure to ensure that jobs created by the facility will go to local job-seekers, leaving our community without the economic benefits promised by its proponents. Similar projects have hired local community members for construction but not offered sustained economic benefits to the area. The proposed Encina facility also threatens the entire recreational economy of the Susquehanna River Valley.

In light of these concerns, Save Our Susquehanna, a local environmental organization concerned about the proposed toxic chemical plant, is organizing an event to raise awareness and support. On Wednesday, April 24th, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM at the Campus Theatre, they will be hosting a talk by Jess Conard from Beyond Plastics on the environmental and health risks posed by chemical recycling facilities. Jess Conard directly experienced the East-Palestine, Ohio disaster. She will discuss her first hand experience with toxic chemical disasters and the risks of the proposed chemical recycling facility for the Susquehanna River Valley.

We need you to join us and lend your voice to the fight against this reckless proposal. Together, we can protect our community, our environment, and our future.

Sincerely,
Concerned Students: Danny Meuser, Ella Van Benschoten, Molly Jorden and Brendan Arnold

Minecraft: A diamond in gaming history

Ryan Firko
Staff Writer

Over the years, there have been hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of different video games. There have been several great ones, ranging from first person shooters (FPS), sports, racing, open world sandbox games and several others. However, there have been far fewer games that have been able to transcend all genres, ages, consoles and demographics. With over 300 million copies sold, Minecraft sits comfortably as the second best selling video game (only Tetris outsells it, but I personally wouldn't count it), and is one of the greatest games ever made. I understand, although it has certainly become a meme, there are only a handful of games that retain their charm even after extended periods of not playing. However, games like this can only evoke this reaction if they have one key thing - timelessness.

To ensure a game stands the test of time, several key components come into play. Firstly, graphics play a crucial role. Games like Doom or Half-Life were groundbreaking in their time, but as computing power has surged over the decades, graphics have evolved significantly. While some games aimed for realism upon release, they now appear dated due to advancements in graphics technology. However, exceptions exist, such as the original Mario games, which maintain their appeal regardless of graphics. Minecraft distinguishes itself in this regard. Its graphics are relatively simple, comprised of cubes with distinct textures. This simplicity avoids comparison to real-life models, unlike other games. Consequently, Minecraft's graphics remain timeless, unaffected by aging. Moreover, players can enhance

their experience with hundreds of downloadable modifications, such as Ray-Tracing or lifelike leaf simulations, ensuring continued interest and realism.

Secondly, let's consider the music. I've previously delved into my thoughts on the Minecraft soundtrack when discussing suitable study music. The gentle piano notes and soft strings found within the soundtrack never fail to soothe me. There hasn't been a moment where these melodies haven't calmed me down. This contributes significantly to the game's timelessness. Unlike FPS games, where soundtracks typically accompany title sequences or menu navigation, or upbeat tracks in games like Mario Kart that match the fast-paced gameplay, Minecraft's soundtrack offers a unique experience. While I admit to occasionally skipping certain songs, the overall vibe of the soundtrack is exceptional and unlikely to become dated. Moreover, the soundtrack doesn't play at specific moments during the game, but rather shuffles randomly (albeit with some criteria for song selection, albeit limited). This unpredictability keeps players engaged, ensuring no song ever grows tiresome. Simply put, listen to the soundtrack and see if you disagree with its timeless appeal.

Finally, let's consider the community aspect, which I believe is another key factor in making Minecraft one of the best timeless games. “But Ryan, isn't it mostly just young kids goofing around these days?” Yes, it's true that many players are kids. However, there's also a significant adult player base, especially among those who grew up with the game and still find joy in playing it. Unlike other

games where fast reaction times are crucial, Minecraft's gameplay accommodates players of all ages, increasing community diversity. And let's not forget multiplayer. I remember playing the Pocket Edition on my Kindle Fire back in 4th grade, building vast worlds with my sister or friends. The multiplayer experience extended to playing at friends' houses, collaborating on shared worlds. This was just the beginning. With hundreds of servers available, players can join random strangers or friends for a good time. Mods enhance the experience further, allowing players to communicate in-game, even when thousands of miles apart. Moreover, the supportive community offers help, building ideas and competitions, constantly refreshing the game's appeal. These factors contribute to Minecraft's timelessness, as the community continues to grow with new players joining every day, ensuring its longevity.

As I've mentioned, there are many other great games out there, and some may even be considered better than Minecraft overall (though I personally disagree). However, when it comes to timelessness, no game surpasses Minecraft. With graphics that never seem to age and a largely supportive and inclusive community, it possesses all the qualities of a timeless game. I haven't even touched upon the creative aspects of the game, which allow players to express themselves, relieve stress and enhance problem-solving skills. Timelessness isn't about escaping the passage of time or artificially striving for it; it's about creating moments that naturally resonate eternally. And that's precisely what Minecraft achieves.

CORE PRESENTS

BISON SOUND

APRIL 19

SOJKA LAWN ♦ 5:00-9:00PM

FOOD TRUCKS

Pulled Pork ♦ Stuffed Pretzels ♦ Grilled Cheese
French Fries ♦ Shaved Ice ♦ Mini Donuts ♦ Orangeade
AND MORE! ♦ Vegan and gluten-free options available.

ACTIVITIES

Giveaways ♦ Axe Throwing ♦ Therapy Dogs
Lawn Games ♦ Beer Garden (21+)

PERFORMERS

Mayday ♦ The Priorities ♦ Dudes
2 Cents ♦ Bent

SOUTH ASIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Holi

FESTIVAL OF COLORS!

ALL ARE WELCOME!
BRING A FRIEND!

THIS SATURDAY
2PM
ACADEMIC QUAD

Why go to a liberal arts college if you're going to hate on the Humanities?

Kayla Howie
Staff Writer

The value of a liberal arts education derives not from the tangible information you acquire, which you are likely to forget within five years or even sooner, but rather from the cultivation of critical thinking skills fostered by exposure to a diverse array of disciplines. Bucknell students can communicate with people across sectors, divisions and boundaries in a workplace because they've had an introduction to science and math while also having an introduction to the humanities. While many students view classes outside of their major as pointless requirements for the Common Core Curriculum (CCC) and nothing more, they help much more than you might think.

Even if students find value in the humanities, oftentimes they equate it to a GPA boost. The real impacts of humanities classes can take much longer to come to fruition and can be much

more subconscious. Philosophy classes teach much more than the inner workings of Aristotle's mind: they teach how to consider big questions and work through them meticulously. Languages strengthen connections in your brain used for communication while building new ones. Music and visual arts teach us a new way to view the world around us. All of this comes together to create a liberal arts education where we know how to think holistically and not just like a robot only trained to spit out one answer.

Knowing how to think holistically makes Bucknell students and other liberal arts college students more flexible in the workforce and life. We can pivot and take on new responsibilities because we know how to do more than just one thing. It's our humanities classes that teach us how to think broadly and see different sides of the same

situation. They give us a deeper global perspective on every decision we make. It is exactly these qualities that land Bucknell students jobs and bring us success. We might not realize it as we read our third book of the week in English or memorize hundreds of dates for history, but these are the classes that will mold our minds the most from our time at Bucknell. These are the classes that will have the longest-lasting impact from our education.

So next time you hear someone making fun of the humanities, joking about future job security or complaining about the CCC (even if that someone is you), remember the value of the humanities. Remember that these skills we are learning will make all the difference. Whether we can recall a single article we read or any fact we heard, we will all be changed for the better because of the humanities.

When did gaming get so expensive?

Malika Ali
Opinions Writer



EVELYN PIERCE, GRAPHICS MANAGER / THE BUCKNELLIAN

From the exhilarating lights and sounds of the arcade to the cozy comforts of my GameCube, to the sweat-inducing matches of Wii Sports to the adrenaline-fueled marathons of Black Ops 2 Zombies on my Xbox 360, and now to the fun with friends that satisfy me on my PlayStation, our generation has truly witnessed the evolution of video games and consoles in a unique light. But you know what ticks me off as someone who's doing their absolute best to ball on a budget while attending this insanely expensive institution? The ever-increasing costs of video games.

Sure, I understand that prices rise with inflation, but the exponential growth in gaming costs feels disproportionate. In the UK for example, the average amount spent on a single video game increased by 6.7 percent last year. Physical copies now cost around £36.47 (around \$43 USD), while digital downloads average £15.19 (around \$18 USD). And with the newest and most popular titles hitting \$70, it's no wonder that many gamers, myself included, are left feeling annoyed.

It's important to acknowledge the significant effort and financial investment that goes into the development of video games. Teams of talented individuals pour countless hours into crafting immersive worlds, fine-tuning gameplay mechanics and pushing the boundaries of technology. However, despite this considerable investment, it often feels as though the benefits of their hard work are not fully passed on to the consumer. Instead, it seems that publishers prioritize maximizing profits, even at the expense of player satisfaction.

While it's understandable that companies need to turn a

profit to sustain themselves, there's a growing sense among gamers that they're being shortchanged. The disconnect between the resources poured into game development and the final product's pricing and quality is a source of frustration for many players. I recognize the value of supporting the gaming industry and its creative endeavors, but it's disheartening when that support feels one-sided, with little consideration for the consumer's experience.

The average price for the newest and most popular games, such as Legend of Zelda, FIFA, COD MW2, God of War and Horizon Forbidden West, all hover around a staggering \$70. It's mind-boggling, frankly. As a student, time to just sit down and relax is already scarce, leaving me with little opportunity to enjoy gaming. This combined with the prices leaves me gravitating towards random solo adventure games or the competitive thrill of Rocket League (I'm determined to be one of those people who are actually good at it). Even indie games, which I view as a budget-friendly alternative, aren't immune to the industry's profit-driven tactics. Daily login rewards, loot boxes and DLC micro-purchases permeate the gaming landscape, extracting more and more from players with each transaction. The recent actions taken by China to ban certain monetization tactics in games, including those previously listed, speak volumes about the industry's priorities.

It's disheartening to admit, but despite the immense effort poured into game development, the end result often feels like a bad deal for the consumer. The excessive prices rarely align with

the quality of the product, especially when considering franchises like Call of Duty, FIFA and NBA 2K. Each new iteration promises gameplay improvements, yet they ultimately offer little beyond superficial changes. The recent price fluctuations, such as the PS5 costing around \$800 for a while before dropping back down, only adds to the frustration.

Take, for example, the decline of the Battlefield franchise. Once a formidable rival to Call of Duty, Battlefield's downfall can be attributed to rushed releases and unfinished products. FIFA, too, has fallen victim to its own success, churning out annual releases that offer little innovation while ignoring community feedback.

Yearly games like NBA 2K22, 2K23, and 2K24 feel more like updates than substantial installments, yet they continue to command full-price purchases.

"Video games are becoming an increasingly expensive hobby, and what you're essentially getting is all these repetitive expensive games that are straight up exploiting you," observed Farhaj Shahid '26.

As much as I hate to sound like one of those people who's stuck in the past, I have a nostalgic longing for the days when video games felt fresh and innovative. Nowadays, it seems like we're stuck in a cycle of regurgitated content, with prices skyrocketing for products that often fail to deliver on their promises. I hope that in the future, game developers can find a balance between quality and affordability, allowing gamers to once again experience the excitement and satisfaction of a well-crafted gaming experience without breaking the bank.

Icks or Licks: Ice cream takes

Esther Zhao
Arts & Culture Co-Editor

Ice cream is an incredible treat. Cold, but sweet, creamy and delicious, there have been many takes and spins on this classic and beloved dessert. However, in my humble opinion, there have been some haters with bad opinions and unneeded spin-offs that have taken this wonderful frozen treat a tad too far. In order to clear the air and deliver the scoop, I would like to introduce to you, the icks and licks of ice cream.

1. Ick: Sprinkles

I know this is quite the controversy. However, if I were to ask you what sprinkles taste like, you'd have a hard time venturing beyond an adjective like "sweet." Sure, they're colorful, but for what reason do you need to subject yourself to a waxy, pigmented, artificially-dyed creation simply because they have color? If you need color, might I suggest going to a museum and looking at something more tasteful, like a Kandinsky or Van Gogh.

2. Lick: Mint Ice Cream

I stand proudly by the fact that I love a good minty refreshing taste to my ice cream. To all the haters who say that mint chocolate chip ice cream tastes like toothpaste, what's wrong with toothpaste? Do you brush your teeth? Additionally, I would like to add that there's no need for that judgemental stare or snarky remark every time someone orders a mint chocolate chip ice cream. It's a delightful flavor, the mintiness cuts through the

cream and the small chocolate chunks add a nice bite. While I do hope to change your opinion, part of me hopes that those who hate it will stay far away from it so such a lovely flavor can be for those who cherish it.

3. Ick: Teaberry

Now, I know you may be asking yourself, "Esther, if you like mint, why don't you like Teaberry?" Flavors like mint chocolate chip are subtle and refreshing, they do not make you choke or cough like teaberry. If you are unsure of what teaberry is, I implore you to stay far away from it. It's a deceptively pretty light pink color, with "berry" and "tea" in its name, you would think it would be fruity or at least tea-like, but instead, you are met with a medicinal-like taste of spicy wintergreen flavoring.

4. Lick: Vanilla

Before you say that vanilla is boring, know that there is a reason as to why vanilla has persisted in its popularity and why any ice cream shop is incomplete without it. It's simple, sure, but that is also why it is a classic. Simply because of its lack of drama, it is able to accompany any topping and match any syrup: strawberry, caramel or chocolate.

At the end of the day, ice cream is ice cream, and even if you're settling for teaberry (when there are far more superior flavors), the only person I will truly judge are those who refuse ice cream.

An ode to Chai

Malika Ali
Opinions Editor

Chai, a fragrant blend of tea, spices and milk, is more than just a beverage to the South Asian community. It's a cultural staple and an integral part of daily life in many South Asian societies and diaspora. Its origins trace back centuries, intertwining with the region's rich history and reflecting the resilience of its people.

During the era of colonization, chai took on new significance as a symbol of resistance against foreign rule. British colonizers introduced tea cultivation in India, but locals quickly adapted the imported beverage to suit their own tastes. Spices like cardamom, cinnamon and ginger were added to black tea, creating a distinct flavor profile that remains synonymous with chai to this day. Despite its colonial origins, chai became a source of cultural pride.

Yet, as chai found its way into Western markets, its essence has often been diluted and commodified. The introduction of iced chai in cafes across America and Europe reflects a Westernized interpretation of this beloved beverage. For those accustomed to the robust flavors of authentic chai, these watered-down versions fall short of expectations. The disappointment I feel when sipping iced chai stems from its stark deviation from the robust flavors of authentic chai. Unlike the rich and bold brews I grew up with, Westernized versions often taste watery and lack the depth of flavor found by traditional brewing methods.

The delicate balance of spices and tea is lost, replaced by a bland concoction that fails to evoke the warmth and comfort of genuine chai. It's as if the essence of chai has been taken away altogether, leaving behind a weak imitation that pales in comparison to the real thing.

Not everyone agrees though. Farhaj Shahid '26, states "I'd like to give voice to the very small percentage of the South Asian community that actually likes iced chai. It's very refreshing". He goes on to say, "I see so many elders describing their love for chai as 'I just love it when it burns me, it tastes so good with my tastebuds.' I can't help but ask, 'What taste buds are left?' I also disagree with the part where they call it chai tea. What in the world is tea tea?"

I agree with the latter part of his statement. For the love of God, if you want to drink an iced chai, go ahead, but please stop calling it "chai tea." It's the same deal with "naan bread", which literally means "bread bread".

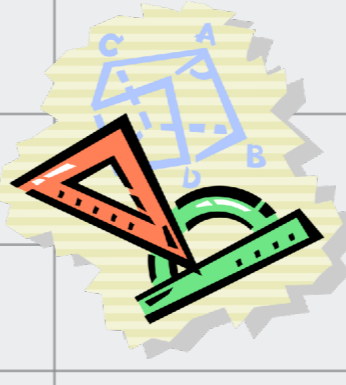
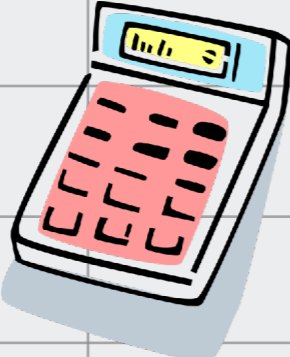
To truly appreciate chai in all its glory, one must embrace its authenticity and complexity. Real chai is brewed with robust black tea, simmered with milk—not just water—and infused with a blend of spices. I've stood in the Library Café line enough times to see that many really do enjoy Americanized Iced Chai, and that's totally valid. I would just strongly encourage you to also consider trying a genuine cup of warm Chai.

Interested in writing,
taking photos, drawing
or doing layout for
The Bucknellian?

Email
bucknlln@bucknell.edu
for more information

Bucknellian Spotlight: Professor Jimmy Chen

Charlotte Casey
Contributing Writer



Professor Jimmy Chen is a respected and accomplished associate professor in the Analytics and Operations Management department at Bucknell. He began his career here in 2014, received tenure in 2021 and continues teaching here today utilizing his expertise in Supply Chain Management for a variety of classes within the Freeman College of Management. This week, The Bucknellian had the pleasure of speaking with Chen, learning about his academic and professional path and his experience at Bucknell.

Chen is originally from Taiwan, where he completed his undergraduate education at the National Taiwan University with a major in Naval Architecture and Ocean Engineering. Although he knew he wanted to pursue something engineering related, when he had the opportunity to delve into management courses in his junior and senior year at the university, he was excited by the real world applications of his math and science driven background.

This led Chen to SUNY Buffalo, where he received his MBA in Supply Chain Management and Finance. While he didn't particularly love the cold, he shared that he thoroughly enjoyed the food, people and culture in the United States. This desire to continue his career in the U.S. motivated Chen to continue his education further at Penn State University where he earned a PhD in Supply Chain and Information Systems and had his first experiences in teaching.

Chen shared that although he did not always know that teaching was the career that he was going to pursue, when he had the opportunity to teach during his PhD program, he realized how much he enjoyed it. He noted his love for interacting with and getting an instantaneous response from students.

After completing the PhD program, when applying and deciding on universities to teach at as a full-time professor, Chen was mindful of finding an environment in which teaching is the first priority. He shares, "I didn't want to go to a university where I would teach only to do research. I wanted to be somewhere where I do research in order to teach. At Bucknell, research is highly valued, but we strive to get better and better and achieve excellence in teaching."

Chen enjoys the symbiotic relationship and balance at Bucknell in which he can prioritize teaching "bright, curious and intelligent students," while continually receiving support to carry out his research in the Supply Chain Management field.

Chen also spent a few years in a corporate role and shares how this has influenced his experience as a professor.

"If you had told me that I would have ended up being a professor, I would not have expected it, but life led me to it," Chen said.

He says, "Here, people really hold you accountable and want to evaluate you, assess you and support you to see that you are always becoming a better teacher. This is something that I find challenging but also very meaningful". He went on to explain that peer support and this focus on continuous growth and learning is shared across the Bucknell faculty.

"The Teaching and Learning Center, specifically Geoff Schneider, Brian Gockley and Sue Ellen Henry, offers weekly agendas that provide workshops and learning sessions and so many interesting ways to engage with students."

In terms of the research that Chen conducts, much of it has been in the realm of the retail and consumer goods industry. "A lot of my research has been looking at the professional relationship between the major retailers and their suppliers in terms of improving their performance. Methodologically it is about business analytics and how to use the data to extract insights, using computer simulation and mathematical modeling to build models that can inform the decision-making." Chen collaborates directly with managers at major retailers and vendors such as Target, Walmart and Weis, among others, to gather data to determine what can be learned from it.

"I always love working with these companies because the business is changing so fast. This is what makes business management so interesting is that things keep changing and evolving organically," Chen said. "It is exciting to get a real sense of what businesses are doing and to find new ways to do things."

Chen also shared that he enjoys every class that he teaches, but he is particularly enjoying a class that he has just begun teaching, Tableau Data Visualization. "Tableau is a relatively new technology in the world of data visualization and nowadays people have access to a ton of data and Tableau allows them a way to absorb it. What I like about this class is that it stands at the intersection of science, in the numbers, art, in creating visually appealing graphs and ethics, in terms of telling the truth instead of manipulating the data to alter peoples' perceptions."

Chen has also utilized his expertise in data analysis in volunteering as an advisor to the Green Dragon Foundation, a local organization that raises funds to improve the education experience for students in Lewisburg schools. In this role, he has been able to leverage his skillset to help the foundation analyze their data sets within their donor base to develop a strategy to optimize their fundraising efforts.

When asked about what advice he has to offer to students throughout their four years at Bucknell, Chen shared, "College is a period of time when you deserve to enjoy yourself and have fun, but you also need to make sure to be committed to what you're doing and be responsible for yourself and what you hope to do when you leave Bucknell."

Although a career as a professor is not what Chen always expected, he contributes greatly to the Bucknell community and is appreciated by both students and faculty. "I am really genuinely happy and so grateful to get to work with Bucknell students. If there was only one thing keeping me here, it would be the kind, polite and mature students I get to work with everyday."

sports

B1 — April 19, 2024

Women's Tennis wins final regular season game

Ingrid Houtkooper
Sports Co-Editor

Despite giving up the doubles point to Loyola this past weekend, Women's Tennis was able to clinch four out of six singles games to secure the match and win their final regular season game.

Heading into the weekend, Mirra Manolov '26 emphasized the confidence the team had and the work they had put in.

"The team felt really great going into the weekend. We have such a strong team camaraderie and everyone is so excited to be out there which makes the experience going into it so much fun," Manolov said. "We have been practicing a good amount. We do a lot of drills that help us out with a particular team that we are playing that weekend and making sure we implement the strategies that we need to."

Starting with the doubles matches, Loyola grabbed the number two match 6-0, and took the number three match 6-4, stealing the doubles point to put them up 1-0 heading into singles play.

In the number one singles match, Whitney King '25 grabbed the first singles point for the Orange and Blue, swiftly winning 6-0, 6-2 to put the Bison on the board. Next up in the number three singles match,

Abby Platt '26 followed King's lead, with a 6-2, 6-3 win to put the Bison up 2-1.

In the number two singles match, the Bison fell to Loyola, tying up the game 2-2. Tori Allen '27 was able to steal the lead back with a 6-3, 6-4 win on court five. However, that lead did not last long as the Greyhounds secured a 6-4, 7-6 (4) win on court four, setting a stressful scene for Manolov on court six.

With the game tied at 3-3, there was a lot resting on Manolov's shoulders, and she was able to perform successfully under pressure.

"I definitely felt the pressure once I was aware that the overall score was 3-3 and my match was the deciding factor," said Manolov. "I took a lot of deep breaths and tried to play smart but aggressive tennis. The energy was really high and that helped with my mindset throughout the match."

Despite losing the first set, Manolov came back to 6-3 in the second set and 6-4 in the third, winning her match and the game for the Bison.

Next up, Women's Tennis takes on #2 seeded Navy in Annapolis for the Patriot League Championship quarterfinals.

Men's Lacrosse takes down Le Moyne at home



Hugh Straine
Sports Co-Editor

LAUREN MEDEIROS, PHOTOGRAPHY CO-EDITOR / THE BUCKNELLIAN

This past Saturday, Men's Lacrosse took a 7-5 victory over Le Moyne at home, with goalie Jaz Zanelli '26 as a standout player, putting on a career-best performance of 18 saves.

It was a stormy afternoon in Lewisburg in a game that only saw five goals scored between the two squads in the first 38 minutes of action before the Bison freshman took over.

Connor Davis '25 got the scoring started for Bucknell with back-to-back goals, then Sean Berrigan '27 put one past the goalie later in the first quarter to give the Orange and Blue a 3-0 lead. Scoring halted for a while

after this goal, as Bucknell wasn't able to put one in the net until the 6:31 mark of the third quarter, and during that span Le Moyne scored twice to make the contest 3-2.

But, these goals sparked a 3-0 run for the Bison over the rest of the third quarter, bringing their advantage to 6-2. Zanelli was key on defense for Bucknell, notching 11 of his 18 saves over the final two quarters of the game.

Yet another scoring drought hit both teams in the fourth quarter, and the game featured no goals until Peter Grandolfo '27 zipped one home to give

Bucknell their biggest lead of the afternoon.

"I thought we started off pretty strong," Davis said. "My two goals in the beginning of the game wouldn't have been possible without some great passes from my teammates. It was a tough game for our offense, but we eventually found the back of the net in the second half when it mattered to win the game." Le Moyne scored twice in the final two minutes of the game, but Bucknell was able to squeeze out the win and improve to 4-8 on the season.

Bucknell next takes on Army next at home this Friday at 7:30 p.m.

Upcoming Events

Women's Golf

- Patriot League Championship 4/19-4/20

Women's Tennis

- @ Navy 4/19 3:15pm

Men's Lacrosse

- vs Army 4/19 7:30pm

Track & Field

- Bucknell Team Classic 4/20 10:30am

Softball

- @ Boston 4/20 12pm

Baseball

- @ West Point 4/20 12pm

Women's Lacrosse

- vs Army 4/20 1pm

Men's Tennis

- vs Lehigh 4/20 1pm

Baseball wins series against Lehigh 2-1

Hugh Straine
Sports Co-Editor

Bucknell Baseball hosted Lehigh this weekend for an in-conference three-game slate across Saturday and Sunday. The Bison ended the series with a 2-1 record against their Patriot League foe.

Tyler O'Neill '25 was on the mound for Bucknell in the first game on Saturday and pitched a complete game while striking out seven. O'Neill has now gone at least six innings and allowed three or fewer runs in each of his last five starts.

It was a defensive battle during the first game of the series, where Grant Voytovich '24 and Billy Kender '25 both made sensational catches on separate occasions to keep Lehigh scoreless with runners on base.

In the bottom of the third, the Bison got on the board 1-0 after Jacob Corson '24 drove in Brady Karp '25 with an infield single.

After the game remained tied 1-1 up until the sixth inning. The Orange and Blue finally got a run after a few consecutive balks by Lehigh pitchers drove in the go-ahead run to give Bucknell a 2-1 advantage. After giving up a leadoff single in the bottom of the seventh, O'Neill secured three straight outs to give the Bison the win.

The low-scoring affairs continued in game two on Saturday, as Jake Schultz '27 allowed a single run in the first, but nothing else for the remainder of the game. Schultz pitched five innings, striking out five and allowing an unearned run on three hits.

Lehigh scored in the top of the first to go up 1-0, but the lead didn't last long as Michael Trommer '26 drove Kender in with an RBI single.

The game remained tied until the eighth inning, in which

Lehigh reeled a two-run double that ended the game as Bucknell couldn't score in the bottom of the eighth. Lehigh got the victory 3-1.

On Sunday, the two teams had one more matchup, one where Bucknell was dominant the entire way. Bucknell scored five runs in the first to kick things off. The first five Bison to come up to bat reached base, and the team tallied three straight doubles from Voytovich, Corson and Trommer. Nic Adamo '24 then hit a sacrifice fly to make it 5-0 after one.

Lehigh got on the board in the third inning from a Bucknell error that scored two, but it didn't matter much. The Bison had another five-run inning after three in the second to go up 13-2 after three innings. The Orange and Blue then scored five more runs over the final four innings to send Lehigh packing with a final score of 18-8.

"I think the biggest thing was the intensity and focus preparing for this weekend, we knew it was going to be a huge weekend for us and we needed to be ready for it," Trommer said. "Also, the offense hasn't been getting the production we know we're capable of and we knew it was just a matter of time before our offense came through."

This was the season-high in runs for Bucknell, and it came on sixteen hits, nine hits off extra bases. Trommer had three doubles of his own and Corson and Chris Morabito '27 both hit homers of over 400 feet.

Bucknell now sits at 15-20 for the season and 7-11 in conference play, and takes on Army next for a triple-header Saturday and Sunday on the road.



LIANNE GARRAHAN / THE BUCKNELLIAN

Men's Tennis goes 1-1 on the road

Ingrid Houtkooper
Sports Co-Editor

Bucknell Men's Tennis went 1-1 this weekend, starting with a strong win over Drexel, despite being down 3-1.

The match began with Drexel quickly taking the doubles point, winning two of the three doubles matches, putting the Bison down 1-0. The Bison were able to pull a doubles win in the No. 2 match, Oscar Bain Moreno de Vega '26 and Adam Stavrakas '26 won 6-4.

In the singles, Stavrakas was able to secure a 6-0, 6-1 win at the No. 2 spot, but the Drexel Dragons were able to grab the No. 4 and 6 matches, putting them up 3-1 heading into the final three games.

Despite the pressure, all three remaining Bison were able to secure a win.

At the No. 5 spot, Tim Zelikovsky '24 grabbed a 7-5, 6-2 decision, which was his eighth straight singles win. In the first spot, Amar Tahirovic '26 took a 6-4, 7-5 win, and finally, in the No. 3 spot, Bain won a second set tiebreaker.

Following their win, the Bison headed to Annapolis to take on Navy. After their match against Drexel, the team felt confident they could perform against the Midshipmen. However, they fell short, losing 5-2.

"Beating Drexel was a good segue into playing Navy. We wanted the doubles point in both Drexel and Navy, but we also knew that our singles were strong enough to win the match," Zelikovsky said.

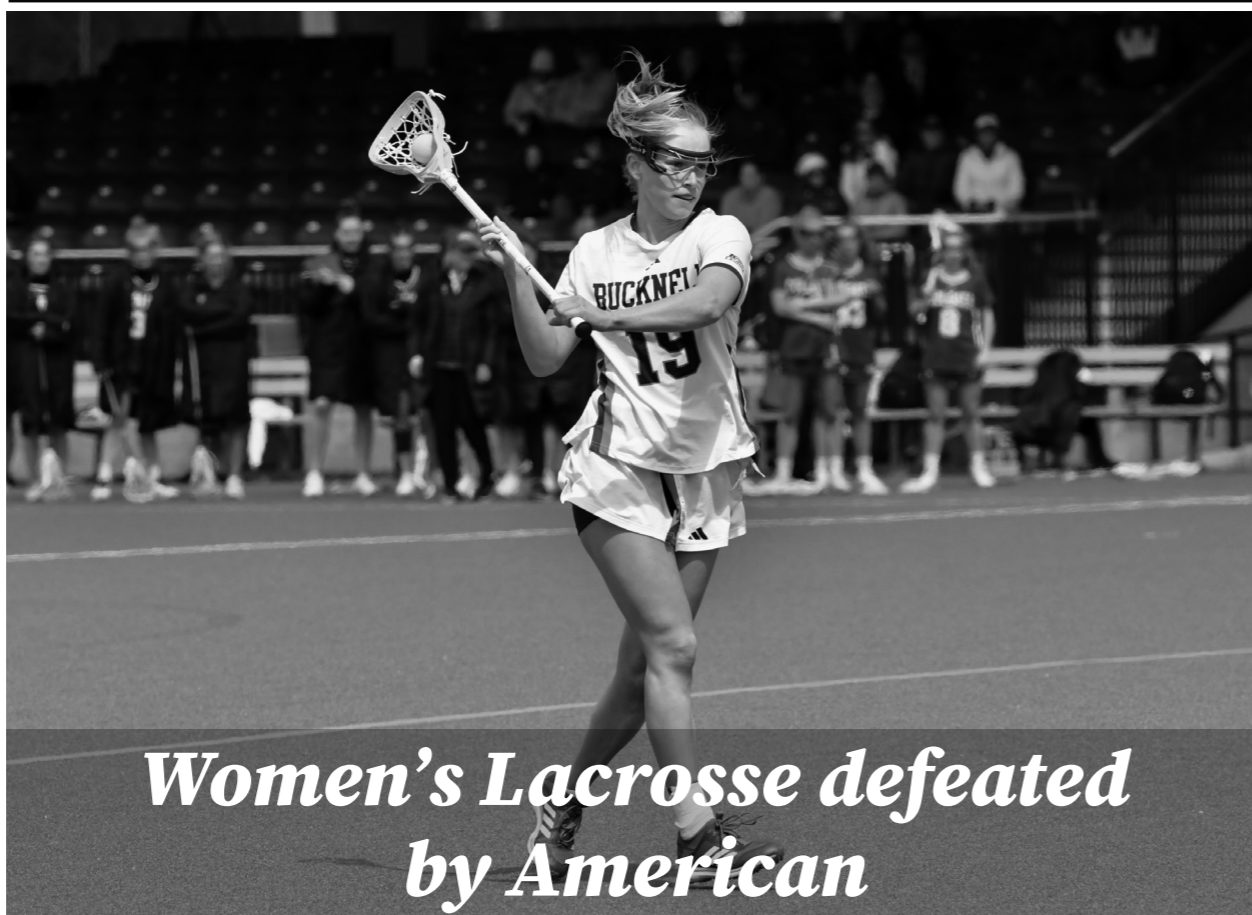
Navy secured the doubles point by winning all three doubles matches.

As for the singles, Tahirovic won 7-6, 1-6, 6-4 at the No. 1 singles position, and Liam Kilmer '27 won 6-3, 6-4 at the No. 4 spot, earning the Orange and Blue two points.

The rest of the singles matches were lost to Navy, though Stavrakas and Zelikovsky held on long enough to go to three sets.

"[Tahirovic] and [Kilmer] gave us each a singles point against Navy, and I was only a point away from winning my singles match. We were right there with them, and they know it too. We will be putting in as much work and practice as possible to ensure that we're ready to beat Navy in the upcoming Patriot League tournament," Zelikovsky said.

Bucknell competes this Saturday against Lehigh at 1 p.m. and against Lafayette Sunday at 1 p.m., both at home.



Women's Lacrosse defeated by American

Lauren Medeiros
Senior Writer

LAUREN MEDEIROS, PHOTOGRAPHY CO-EDITOR / THE BUCKNELLIAN

Over the weekend, Bucknell Women's Lacrosse traveled to Washington, D.C. to face off against American University. Despite a close score, Bucknell fell short 12-9.

Early on in the game, the two squads went back and forth in scoring. Both teams went on separate 3-0 runs, which allowed the Bison to come out to an 8-4 lead with 5:43 in the first half. However, with 2:45 left in the second quarter, the Eagles scored, kicking off their scoring streak which lasted deep into the fourth quarter.

In the third quarter, American scored six unanswered goals,

outshot the Bison 11-5 and led 4-2 in draw controls.

However, in the fourth quarter, the momentum shifted. Bucknell had the bulk of the opportunities in the fourth leading 7-3 in shots. Unfortunately, only two shots were on target. After a 32-minute scoring drought for the Bison, Caroline Sheridan '26 put away a much-needed goal cutting American's lead to 11-9. Bucknell was able to take three more shots, but all went wide, and American added one more insurance goal with 14 seconds left to play.

During the game, Taylor Kopan '24 earned her second

consecutive hat trick, while five other Bison players found the back of the net.

Megan Krestinski '26 led all players with five points on four assists and one goal, Braeden Siverson '27 scored two goals and tallied a team-high three caused turnovers and Katie Browne '26 scored and led the team with three draw controls.

In goal, Colleen Kazanjian '25 totaled nine saves.

Bucknell is now 2-4 in the Patriot League and will return home on Saturday, April 20th to host Army at 1 p.m.

Track and Field has strong showing at Bison Outdoor Classic

Hugh Straine
Sports Co-Editor

Bucknell Track and Field hosted the Bison Outdoor Classic meet last weekend, and it lasted from April 12-14.

On day one for the men, Michael Chernova '27 and Miguel Megrete '24 competed in the decathlon. Chernova finished in ninth place with 2965 points with a third-place finish in the high jump with a leap of 5-5 ¼ and a fifth-place finish in the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.50. Negrete placed eleventh, with eleventh-place finishes in the high jump (5-6 ½), 100-meter dash (11.81), and 400-meter dash (56.70).

On day two, the men grabbed one win and several more top-ten placements.

Bernard Kemp '27 won the long jump with a jump of 24-1 ½ and Jeffrey Cianfrocca '26 placed fifth in the high jump at 6-6.

Braden Stryker '25 won sixth place in the discus throw with a heave of 167-11, the 7th best throw in Bucknell history. Jack Higgins '27 also made the history books for Bucknell with a time of 14:20.15, getting him 10th on the Bucknell all-time list for the 5000-meter run.

Wade Shomper '26 was awarded sixth in the shot put with a toss of 54-9 ½. Then, Carter Boullard '27 finished 7th in the unseeded 1500-meter run with a time of 3:59.57.

The men excelled on the final day with several more top-ten finishes.

The Bison 4x100 meter relay of Amani Brown '27, Preston Lubeski '27, Brian Scotto '25 and Brandon Foust '25 finished seventh with a time of 42.01. Ethan Wolford-Tuffy '24 climbed to 7th in the Bucknell record books in the 400-meter dash with a time of 48.07. Aiden Tacker '26 finished 10th later in the day in the hammer throw with a heave of 177-4.

The women for Bucknell started off the meet by selecting two athletes, Abby Eisold '24 and Allison Flaherty '26, for the heptathlon. The blue heptathlon and orange heptathlon were the only women's events held on the first day. Four events were hosted on the first day, and three on the second day. Both Eisold and Flaherty competed in the blue heptathlon.

Eisold, who holds fifth in the Bucknell history books for the event, sat at third place after the first day with 2917 points. She placed second in the high jump, third in the 100-meter hurdles and shot put, and fourth in the 200-meter dash.

Flaherty sat in tenth place after the first day with 2289 points. Flaherty finished ninth in the high jump, 100-meter hurdles, and shot put, and placed tenth in the 200-meter dash.

On the second day of competition, Bucknell continued their strong performances.

Finishing up the heptathlon, Eisold won bronze with 4688 points, ranking her third in Bucknell history, while Flaherty earned ninth with 3630 points.

Sharp '27 continued her successful outdoor season with victories in discus and shot put. Her discus throw of 156-3 earned her fourth-best in Bucknell history.

In other field events, Christine Ajao '25 earned sixth in the shot put and eighth in Bison history, while Abby Kates '24 finished seventh in the high jump.

For runners, Meghan Rentner '25 finished seventh in the 3000-meter steeplechase, Abby Paczewski '24 placed 17th in the 5000-meter run, Caryn Rippey '26 earned 24th in the 1500-meter run and Meghan Smith '24 clinched 28th in the 10,000 meter run.

In unseeded events, Maizy Aikey '27 placed fifth in the 10,000-meter run, Alexa Andron '27 earned 22nd in the 800-meter run and Madeline Barber '26 placed 52nd in the 5000-meter run.

On the third, and final day of competition, the throwing team added two more wins and a facility record. Additionally, the Classic was cut short of several events due to lightning.

Evelyn Bliss '27 dominated the javelin throw winning gold and beating the West Fields facility record with a 170-10 foot toss. Furthermore, for the throwers, Madison McGloin '24 won first in the hammer throw and moved up to fifth all-time in Bison history.

In other field events, Kaia Slaw '24 clinched 27th in the triple jump, while in the pole vault, Elizabeth Bryant '26 registered a 12-1 ½ clearance, tying her for sixth all-time in Bucknell history.

For runners, Meghan Quinn '24 added another top-ten spot to her career by finishing third in the 400-meter dash and third in Bucknell history. Furthermore, Bella Johns '27 finished eighth in the mile, Ella Derstine '25 took 23rd in the 400-meter hurdles, Anna Posh '25 slotted 27th in the 800-meter run, Grubb earned 30th in the 100-meter hurdles, Amanda Agambire '26 finished 52nd in the 200-meter dash, and Lila Gaughan '24 placing 57th in the 100-meter dash.

The 4x100-meter relay team also had a banner day. The quartet of Agambire, Quinn, Gaughan and Karen Hull '24 finished fourth overall and second in the Bucknell history books.

After a great weekend of competition, the Bison will remain in Lewisburg, PA next weekend for the annual Bucknell Team Challenge.



AIDEN TACKER / THE BUCKNELLIAN

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Jaz Zanelli '26

Profile

Sport

Lacrosse

Hometown

North Caldwell, N.J.

High School

Seton Hall Prep

Position

Goalie



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BUCKNELL ATHLETIC DEPT.

Hugh Straine
Sports Co-Editor

Jaz Zanelli '26, goalie for Men's Lacrosse, has been named Bison of the Week after a stellar performance against Le Moyne at home this weekend, propelling his team to a 7-5 victory. This is Zanelli's first time receiving this honor.

Zanelli played amazing defense against Le Moyne, racking up a career-high 18 saves and allowing just two goals through the first three quarters of the contest. Le Moyne was scoreless from the 12:13 mark in the second quarter to the last second of the third thanks to Zanelli. They also didn't score at all through the first 13 minutes of the game.

Zanelli made 11 of his 18 saves in the second half, where his Bison built on a 3-2 halftime lead to make it

a 7-3 advantage, putting Le Moyne out of reach.

This performance was four saves better than Zanelli's previous career best of 14, which he notched three times during his freshman campaign. This was also the least goals allowed to this Le Moyne team all season. Zanelli now sits one save away from 200 in his career.

Zanelli and the rest of the Men's Lacrosse team take on Army next at home this Friday at 7:30 p.m.

Season Highs

- Shots Faced: 38

- Saves: 18

- Goals Allowed: 15

- Minutes: 60



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beyond the bison

sports news across the nation

John Calipari leaves Kentucky

Hugh Straine
Sports Co-Editor

Last week, legendary University of Kentucky basketball coach John Calipari shocked the world of college basketball when he left the Wildcats program to take over at the University of Arkansas. Calipari is the winningest active head coach in college basketball with 855 career wins, with 410 of those wins at the helm in Lexington over a 15-year span.

Inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2015, Calipari will go down as one of the best coaches in the history of

college basketball. Across his fifteen seasons at Kentucky, Calipari did nothing but excel.

In his first season with the Wildcats in 2009-10, the team posted a 35-3 record and made it to the Elite 8 in the NCAA Tournament, with five of his players from this squad being selected in the first round of the 2010 NBA Draft. In his next season, Calipari went to the Final Four before being knocked out by that year's eventual national champion, UConn. Then in 2012, Calipari went further and won the

2012 national championship with Kentucky.

Over the next four seasons, Kentucky made four straight NCAA Tournament appearances while making the Sweet 16 three times and the Elite 8 twice. Calipari was dominating the world of college basketball.

But after COVID shut down the sport, he was never quite the same. Kentucky did not reach the NCAA Tournament in 2021 and Calipari had his first losing season in Lexington. After that, the Wildcats have suffered brutal

losses in the tournaments the team has qualified for.

Over his last four seasons, Calipari tallied an 80-45 record. In 2022, as a 2-seed, Kentucky was knocked out in the first round by 15-seed St. Peter's, an astronomical upset. In 2023, Kentucky made it to the tournament as a 6-seed but would lose to 3-seed Kansas State in the Round of 32. Then in 2024, Kentucky was again sent home in dramatic fashion as the 3-seed Wildcats lost to 14-seed Oakland in the first round. This would be Calipari's last game as the Wildcats' coach.

Over his last four seasons, there was speculation if Coach Cal would leave for another job, and we finally saw it here.

What was not expected though was that he would take an opening at an in-conference rival that is Arkansas. With most current Arkansas players hitting the transfer portal after the hire of Calipari, he sits with only one player on the roster.

It's a fresh start for Calipari in Fayetteville and we'll see if he can rebound his legendary career there.

Men's Golf competes at Highland Meadows Intercollegiate tournament

Ingrid Houtkeeper
Sports Co-Editor

Men's Golf made its first appearance this week at Bowling Green's tournament at Highland Meadows Golf Club among many other strong teams. This was the Bison's final event before the Patriot League Championship, which will be hosted by Lehigh.

After the first day of the tournament, the Bison were in ninth place, despite posting a strong start. They secured a 6-over-par 290 in the first round and then scored a 301 in round two.

Andres Barraza '26 was a standout athlete, earning the Patriot League Golfer of the Week Award. On the first day of the invitational, Barraza started strong with a 3-under 68 and then scored a 73 in the afternoon round. Following those two rounds he was tied for 14th place at 1-under 141.

In the third round, Barraza posted a 69 to finish with a 3-under-par 210 over the entire tournament. In both his first and third rounds he made five birdies, and in the second round, he had

three. Barraza is one of five players to finish at 3-under and one of 17 to finish under par this week.

In addition to Barraza, the Bison also had strong showings from James Robbins '26 who shot 74-74, James Key '26 who shot 73-76, Alex Creaman '27 who shot 75-78 and Lyman Brackett '26 who shot 76-78.

Despite Barraza's successful weekend, the Bison placed in ninth place among eleven teams, with Minnesota coming in first place and Miami University coming in second.

Softball goes 1-2 over three game weekend vs Colgate

Lauren Medeiros
Senior Writer

Last week, Bucknell Softball traveled to Hamilton, NY to compete in a three-game series versus Colgate, winning one game and losing two.

The first game was on Sunday, April 14th, when Bucknell was defeated 9-3. Madison Roukey '25 was the starting pitcher for Bucknell and immediately ran into trouble, giving up two runs.

In the third inning, the Bison struck back with hits from Sarah Zimmerman '27, Haley Speicher '26, MaKenzie Hilling '25 and Savannah Jones '25. Jones came up clutch with a huge double to left field to score Speicher and Hilling to gain a 3-2 advantage.

The Bison lead didn't last as Colgate took advantage of their at-bats. By the fifth inning, Colgate had a substantial lead and Hunter Vestal '24 replaced Roukey in the circle. Then, to start the sixth, Mea Consentino '26 came in to pitch. Bucknell tried to rally in the final inning, but could not generate any offense. Bucknell ended the game with a 6-run deficit.

On Monday, April 15th, the teams competed in a double-header. Bucknell lost the first game 8-5 and won the second game 9-1.

Game one of the day started off promising for Bucknell as they led 1-0 after the first inning. Jones started in the

circle and pitched two scoreless innings. The third inning is where Jones and Vestal ran into trouble, letting up a combined seven runs.

In the fifth inning, Bucknell added a few more runs. However, at the bottom of the sixth inning, Colgate added an insurance run to take an 8-3 advantage. The Bison were able to add two more runs before the game concluded.

Game two was completely different from the rest of the series. Bucknell came out with a big first inning, scoring eight runs. The inning started with four straight singles as Speicher, Hilling, Smith and Brooke Popella '27 all got on base safely.

In this game, the Bison made Roukey their starting pitcher. For the first four innings, she commanded Colgate, only allowing two hits. In the third inning, Bucknell added another run taking a 9-0 advantage. Colgate scored their only run of the game in the fifth inning.

This win ended the Bison's six-game losing streak and gave head coach Sarah Caffrey her 50th career win at Bucknell. This ties Courtney Foster for the sixth most in program history.

Bucknell will remain on the road to play reigning Patriot League Champion Boston University on April 20-21.

Women's Golf places eighth in Navy Spring Invitational

Ingrid Houtkeeper
Sports Co-Editor

Bucknell Women's Golf participated in the Navy Spring Invitational this past weekend and faced tough conditions including cool, windy weather.

On the first day, the Bison placed towards the back of the pack, heading into Sunday with a score of 353 in ninth place. Penn had a score of 310 to lead the event, with an eight-shot lead over Navy, followed by Quinnipiac and Columbia tied at third with 322. Behind the

Bison were La Salle and Wagner.

The average score for the day was 85.7, and the Bison had several players near that range. Nicole Yun '27 etched an 85, Cristina Canales '24 and Kelsey Yi '24 both shot 89s and Paige Richter '26 tallied a 90.

The Orange and Blue posted a much better score on Sunday, bringing it down to 319, placing them in eighth place to finish the tournament. Penn won the tournament, scoring a 612 total.

The Bison were able to lower their score with some impressive showings, including a score of 77 by Richter. She was only 2-over par through 17 holes, but ended on a triple-bogey on the ninth. Following Richter, Yi posted a 78, and Yun and Tara Thomas '25 shot 82s.

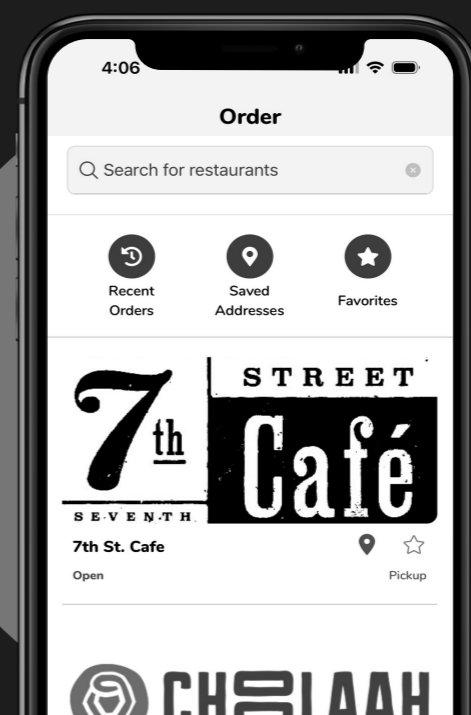
Women's Golf finishes out their season this weekend when they compete in the Patriot League Championships at home.

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Meta's Political Content Filter and the impact on civic discourse



Malika Ali
Opinions Editor

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Meta's recent implementation of a feature to filter political content on its platforms, Instagram and Threads, has sparked considerable debate about its implications. This move, introduced in March, automatically limits the visibility of political content in users' feeds, with an option to disable it available in settings. While Meta frames this action as a response to concerns about misinformation and political polarization, its potential impact on informed discourse and civic engagement raises significant concerns.

Filtering political content marks a departure from the principles of free expression and open dialogue fundamental to democratic societies. By selectively censoring certain topics or viewpoints, Meta risks shielding users from diverse perspectives and critical discussions. This not only muffles the exchange of ideas but also undermines the public's ability to make informed decisions about societal issues.

As many individuals prepare to exercise their right to vote, especially for the first time, it is essential that they have access to varying perspectives on important political issues. Meta's move threatens to impede this access and hinder the public's ability to make informed decisions about matters affecting their lives and communities.

Hiding political content sets a troubling precedent for the future of online discourse. By controlling the narratives shaping online discourse, Meta holds considerable influence over the information landscape. It raises many questions about bias and transparency in digital spaces. Not to mention, the concentration of power in the

hands of a private corporation with their own interests has already sparked concerns about potential abuse and manipulation of online discourse in previous years.

Think about social media's increasing role in shaping public opinion and political engagement. Many individuals, especially younger generations, rely on social media as a primary source of news and information. Any measures that restrict access to political content risks hindering efforts to foster informed civic engagement.

Limiting visibility to political content only to those who actively follow such accounts can exacerbate existing divisions and stand in the way of exposure to diverse perspectives. When individuals are only exposed to content that aligns with their existing beliefs and preferences, it fosters ideological polarization. By restricting access to political content, especially to those who may not actively seek out diverse viewpoints, Meta is perpetuating a cycle of division and close-mindedness. In a healthy democratic society, it's crucial for individuals to engage with a variety of perspectives and challenge their own beliefs. Limiting exposure to political content undermines this essential aspect of informed discourse.

Ultimately, Meta's decision to filter political content represents a concerning violation of democratic principles and poses a threat to informed discourse. To safeguard the integrity of online spaces and promote secure civic engagement, platforms like Meta must prioritize transparency, accountability and the free exchange of ideas.

BACSA hosts annual BACSA Bash



Aaron Chin
Arts & Culture Editor

SIENNA WILLIAMS, PHOTOGRAPHY CO-EDITOR / THE BUCKNELLIAN

Last Saturday, April 13th, BACSA (Bucknell's African and Caribbean Student Association) hosted their annual BACSA Bash event. The event, hosted in Larison Dining, served as a celebration of African and Caribbean culture. The mission of BACSA is to "promote diversity and to foster a deeper understanding of African and Caribbean values at Bucknell." As an event, BACSA Bash definitely served this mission.

As someone who knows the hard work and dedication that goes into signature events like this, I can safely say that BACSA Bash was a big success! Reflecting on the event, I really enjoyed how the event was run. At these events, you typically watch a block of performances, eat and then watch the second half of performances. During BACSA Bash, the performances and food were intermixed, with a few minutes of eating followed by a few minutes of performances. This allowed for a more social atmosphere, which I think really benefited the evening. Since the event included various tables around the venue that had information about and food from

several different African and Caribbean countries, this structure allowed people to sample the food and learn about the countries throughout the evening. Overall, this structure was really immersive, as it did not let you break from the purpose of the event at any point.

The performances were also fantastic. Performances included MENAA (Middle Eastern and North African Association), Ethiopian Dance, Gumbo Dance, poetry, Afrofusion Dance and Thee Bisonettes. Notably, this was the first time that MENAA has performed at the event, and it was amazing to see! MENAA's performance included different celebratory dances from Middle Eastern and North African countries such as Kochari, Raqs Sharqi and Dabke. Kochari is a traditional folk dance from Armenia and has been performed for over a thousand years. Originating as a war dance that symbolizes victory, Kochari is now performed during holidays, festivals and various family ceremonies. Raqs Sharqi is a classical Egyptian belly dance performed by all ages and genders. Dabke ("to

stomp the feet") is a folk dance native to Palestine, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria that is performed at weddings and other celebrations. Overall, I congratulate MENAA on an amazing first performance and look forward to more performances at future events.

As for the other performances, they were all very enjoyable as well. As someone who has little to no dancing experience, watching the various dance groups was really amazing to see. There is something so inspiring and joyful about watching people celebrate their culture through dance. To see the sheer hard work, determination and pride in someone's culture makes me appreciate the fact that we live in a world where everyone's culture is different, and that's what makes everyone unique and beautiful. The spoken word poetry also compliments this, as poetry can also be a beautiful expression of life, experience, someone's past. All in all, BACSA Bash, with its great performances, food and celebration of different countries and cultures, was a night filled with enjoyment and celebration.

Decorate your room to see what first-year dorm you are!

<p>First, pick a color scheme:</p> <p>A: Gray B: Blue C: Pink D: Yellow</p>	<p>What kind of lighting do you have?</p> <p>A: Desk Lamp B: Just the ceiling light C: Fairy Lights D: LED</p>	<p>What kind of plant do you have in your dorm?</p> <p>A: Flowers B: Cactus C: Succulent D: Fake plant</p>
<p>What type of seating do you have in your room?</p> <p>A: Saucer Chair B: Floor Cushions C: Bean Bag D: Futon</p>	<p>What kind of stuffed animal is on your bed?</p> <p>A: Dog B: Teddy Bear C: Bison D: Squishmallow</p>	<p>What additional item is in your room?</p> <p>A: Rug B: X-box C: TV D: Chair</p>
<p>What is hanging on your wall?</p> <p>A: Pictures from home B: Vines C: Nothing D: Tapestry/ Flag</p>	<p>What banned item are you hiding in your room?</p> <p>A: Candle B: Airfryer C: Pet D: Toaster</p>	<p>Mostly As: McDonnell Mostly Bs: Smith Mostly Cs: Vedder Mostly Ds: Swartz</p>

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Why Arts and Culture is the best

Esther Zhao & Aaron Chin
Arts & Culture Editors

Last week, our wonderful Opinions Editor wrote an article titled “Welcome to the best section of the Bucknellian.” While the article is convincing, we here at Arts and Culture could not sit here and not throw our hat into the ring.

Aaron: As someone with a deep passion for the arts on campus, the opportunity to write for Arts and Culture has been nothing short of gratifying, and although Arts and Culture is a new section, I can safely say that we are, indeed, the best section in the Bucknellian. Since I’m heavily involved in the arts scene on campus through the Creative Writing and Literary Studies department, getting the chance to highlight the arts scene on campus through Arts and Culture has been something that I take great pride in. Since Bucknell has so many arts and cultural events, who wouldn’t want to show them off?

Furthermore, while everyone has opinions, everyone also has a culture. No matter where you come from or what your background is, everyone has a story worth sharing with the world. Arts and Culture gives people a chance to tell their stories through reflection pieces. Through these reflection pieces, you can also share your thoughts on current arts and

culture trends and your opinions on them. For example, one of my favorite articles was our “How Are You Doing?” article, which covered Elmo’s “How are you doing?” tweet from a few months ago. Co-writing that article was really rewarding for me since it gave me the chance to talk about an important topic to me (mental health) while tying it to the wide scope of media and culture.

Esther: What I love most about Arts and Culture is that it encompasses everything. In life, we turn to elements of arts and culture as an outlet to express and comfort ourselves in the highs and lows. The concrete nature of certain disciplines like the STEM field is great and very needed, but there’s something about art forms like song and poetry that can help us grasp our feelings in times of grief or heartache. Moreover, culture extends far beyond art; for instance, food, a very important element of culture, can often bring great comfort and help us cherish life with our loved ones. In gathering over a table of food, we transcend language and can connect with those different from us. Whether it be through the tradition of eating ice cream through a bad breakup, or baking grandmother’s chocolate

chip cookie recipe to preserve her memory, elements of culture are ingrained into our lives and help us pull through the ups and downs of life.

As the other editor for this section, I’ve thoroughly enjoyed the range of topics I’ve been able to write about, from the Public Domain & Mickey Mouse to how food has connected me to my heritage. Through writing about arts and culture, I’ve been able to find connection and commonality with others in the passions and identities we share or can learn from one and another about. In the midst of a world that craves black and white meaning, but a life that contains a lot of gray area, I love that we can express both the agony and elation of life through elements of arts and culture.

While we love all the sections in the Bucknellian, in our totally unbiased opinion, Arts and Culture is simply the best. Furthermore, Arts and Culture is a blend of several different columns as well. We have a little bit of news since we cover events on campus and a little bit of opinions through our reviews and reflections. So, if you want to join the Bucknellian and are not sure where to start, Arts and Culture is a great place!

Reflections on ‘Tangled’ and the need for diverse representation

Esther Zhao & Malika Ali

Esther: This past week, after talking about it for weeks and weeks with a good friend, I finally watched “Tangled” for the first time. Tangled is truly a treasure in animation history and I can see why the 2010 Disney film is a classic and a favorite among many of my friends. The charming protagonists have distinct personalities that fight off the typical ‘dainty princess’ and ‘knight in shining armor’ tropes, and the musical elements don’t feel suddenly sprung onto the viewer.

The snarkiness of Flynn Rider

Flynn Rider is undeniably a refreshing male lead in the string of Disney princess movies. His character goes beyond his outward appearance with his snarky jokes and cocky attitude. He starts the movie with only a hope to steal the crown as a thief and make lots of money, but as the movie progresses, he learns that he is liked for himself, Eugene Fitzherbert, not only for Flynn Rider, the childhood hero he aspires to be. He makes for an unlikely hero himself, having his own character development, with both the male and female leads having an emotional growth themselves.

The layered emotional manipulation of Mother Gothel

In creating a layered villain arc, Disney did a good job with creating a villain such as Mother Gothel, that the audience knows is very clearly evil and malicious, but Rapunzel doesn’t. Thus, my friend and I kept commenting about how emotionally manipulative Mother Gothel is (and the years of therapy that Rapunzel would need) as I was waiting on the edge of my seat for Rapunzel, wincing every time she called Mother Gothel, “mother,” and for her to finally realize who were her real parents.

All in all, with the beautiful animations (especially that of the lantern scene) and the fleshed-out characters and storyline, “Tangled” was a joy to watch for the first time.

Malika: Recently, TikTok was filled with controversy surrounding Avantika Vandana, known for her role in the “Mean Girls” remake, amid rumors of her possible casting as Rapunzel in a “Tangled” remake. Despite the rumors lacking concrete confirmation and turning out to just be a fan casting, a wave of criticism came forth. Many have insisted Rapunzel should only

be portrayed by a light-skinned blonde woman. I even saw one creator on the platform crying about it.

Many fans have also come to her defense, including “Never Have I Ever” star Maitreyi Ramakrishnan, another rising female actor of South Asian descent. She voiced her support for Avantika on X, stating “And they finally woke up to realize it was all just rumors and the sources never existed. ... And to the racists, y’all still need a hobby (for real)”. Unfortunately, similar uproars have occurred when women of color were cast in iconic roles, such as Halle Bailey, a Black woman, as Ariel in The 2023 “The Little Mermaid” remake and Rachel Zegler, a Colombian-American, as Snow White in the 2025 remake.

From a personal perspective, the idea of diverse representation in these timeless roles is incredibly exciting. Growing up, South Asian representation was minimal, often reduced to stereotypical characters that reinforced racist stereotypes. Take Ravi from ‘Jessie’ and Chirag Gupta the ‘Diary of a Wimpy Kid’ series, for example. Karan Brar literally had to take voice acting lessons because he doesn’t actually have an accent. Yet, in recent years, there has finally been a noticeable shift towards more uplifting portrayals in shows like “Never Have I Ever”, “Ms. Marvel”, and even the Indian Spiderman feature in the last installment of the series. It truly signals progress in media representation.

The criticism directed at Avantika on social media is perplexing, especially considering that her rumored casting is based solely on speculation. Even if she were to be cast, her South Asian background would offer a unique and fitting perspective to the character of Rapunzel. South Asians are known for their hair secrets, and even their crazy familial dynamics as well. Additionally, given the historical lack of diversity in Disney princess films, the backlash seems unwarranted.

And on top of that, this type of media has witnessed a recurrence of identical characters and a lack of diversity. It’s time to move past traditional casting expectations and embrace a more inclusive vision of storytelling. Reacting with tears and filling a 19-year old actor’s social media with hateful comments, despite the fact that the majority of famous Disney princess films have constantly featured or cast white women, seems irrational. Maybe it’s time we move past this fixation.

Stadler Center hosts annual student reading

Aaron Chin
Arts & Culture Editor

This past Thursday, I attended the annual student reading hosted by the Stadler Center at Bucknell Hall. The reading consisted of students who won two of the prestigious literary awards on campus: The Cadigan Prize for Younger Writers as well as the Julia Fonville Smithson Memorial Prize. The Cadigan Prize is judged by two recent contributors to West Branch, and the Smithson Prize is given to students whose dedication to sharing and making literature carries the spirit of Julia Smithson, a class of ’76 English major who died in an automobile accident at the age of 23.

Personally, I find this event to be one of my favorites every year. As a writer, it’s always so inspiring to hear other students’ amazing work. The readers included Cadigan Prize winners Matthew Paddock ’24, Kim Hernandez ’27, Lyndon Beier ’27 and Rebecca Heintzelman ’24, and Smithson Prize winners Amber Cutler ’24 and Natasha Rawls ’25. While every single reader was great, I was particularly inspired by Heintzelman’s

poetry. Heintzelman wrote a series of poems from the voice of Teddy Roosevelt. As someone who does not write poetry, I found this particularly intriguing. As writers, it is often beneficial to write outside of ourselves and I think that writing from the point of view of a former President.

I think that this event is one of the most important ways that we promote the literary community on campus. As someone who is involved in the literary community through the Creative Writing Club and Confetti Head, Bucknell’s student-run literary magazine, I have always had a passion and drive to help foster a vibrant literary community on campus. For me, the annual student reading also fits into that agenda. I regularly attend Stadler Center events and I saw a good number of new faces at the annual student reading. I think this is due to the fact that we not only have a supportive literary community on campus, but just a supportive community in general. A good amount of students attended the event

to support their peers. I think this support is invaluable since it lets the students that are reading know that people want to hear their stories, hear their voice. As someone who takes great pride in Bucknell’s literary community, it was gratifying to see so many students in attendance supporting their fellow creative minds.

I also found listening to each student’s stories insightful in other respects. Several of the readers wrote about very personal experiences and subject matters. For instance, Matthew Paddock wrote about his experiences visiting his family’s farm; Beier wrote personal poems about their experiences growing up. Currently, I am working on a novel that draws upon my own cultural experiences, so it was inspiring and insightful to see these students tell their own stories with such rawness and vulnerability. Furthermore, since the Cadigan Prize is a contest, I am inspired to submit my work next year since a little friendly competition never hurt anyone!

Photo Story: The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

CHARLOTTE OLIN / THE BUCKNELLIAN



HOW WELL CAN BUCKNELL SPELL? THEATRE & DANCE SPRING MUSICAL

Kelsey Werkheiser
Print Managing Editor

This past weekend, the Bucknell Theatre & Dance Department put on their biennial musical, this year's production being "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" by Rachel Sheinkin.

The musical has a nonchalant beginning, as members of the cast are already "setting up" the spelling bee when audience members arrive. The real action begins with a flashback to when Rona Lisa Perretti (Becca Lipsky '25) was the winner of the spelling bee, with the opening musical number transitioning us to the present where she currently serves as the moderator. As the show continues, we are introduced to the other cast members, particularly this year's contestants.

A slew of "kids" enter to register for the bee: Chip Tolentino (Bryson Fuhrer '27), Logainne Schwartzandgrubeni (Gabriella Cappelloni '27), Leaf Coneybear (Libby Hoffman '24), William Barfée (Ryan Hill '24), Marcy Park (Harper Dick '25), Olive Ostrovsky (Julia Piccolino '27), Arya Bennett (Defne Gumus '27), Camille Campo (Jaela Rivera '27), Jimmy Darius Eichenbaum (Zoe Fleury '27) and Roman Noomerale (Matthew Alexander '26). The audience is quickly able to feel out most of the competitors' quirks, which also impact how they spell.

Rona introduces official word announcer Vice Principal Douglas Panch (Adam Walker '26) and comfort counselor Mitch Mahoney (Paige Gilmartin '26). Additionally, a handful of volunteer pre-appointed audience members are called up to participate in the spelling bee, to which their only challenge is not scripted lines, but spelling their given word correctly.

The spelling bee takes off, and as each contestant is called to the microphone, Rona reads off a fun fact about them that allows the audience to become even more familiar with the character. We learn that Leaf, though placing third in her school spelling bee, earned her spot through the absence of the first and second winners. She is regarded as "dumb" by her sizable family, but enters a state of trance while spelling that has allowed her to progress this far.

"The cast in this show made the rehearsal process incredibly special and exciting each and every day," said Hoffman. "I was really nervous at the beginning of this process because I had never performed solo in a musical before, but from the very first rehearsal, I felt nothing but support and encouragement from each member of both the cast and the production team."

"While the people involved were inevitably my favorite part of this process, I also enjoyed returning to childhood through the exploration of my character in the world of Spelling Bee," explained Hoffman. "It was so fun to step into the shoes of someone who views everything around them with wonder, and I feel as though my time playing Leaf showed me a new perspective on how to face real world challenges."

William's special spelling skill involves his "magic foot," in which his Oxford-clad right foot spells out the letters on the ground as he announces them. We learn early on that Olive's parents are not only not in attendance, but generally absent from her life as her father has a busy work schedule and her mother is away on a "spiritual journey." Impacted by her subsequent insecurities, she is a shy speller that tends to cover her mouth and speaks softly when spelling.

Logainne quickly establishes her enthusiasm for spelling, her competitive nature later explained by a flashback to the intense sports-like training given by her two dads. Marcy, presented as new to the area, efficiently spells out her given words with poise. The two act as foils of each other, with Logainne's competitive nature leaving her saddened after a misspelling, whereas Marcy purposely misspells one of her words to break free of the pressures and stereotyping as a do-it-all student.

Chip's excitable personality keeps him on his toes during the bee, but unfortunately he finds himself a little too excited when daydreaming about one of Leaf's sisters. Initially reluctant to take his turn, then awkwardly backing himself up to the microphone, Chip throws away his chances of winning as he misspells his word.

"This production was a fantastic first experience with a musical at Bucknell," said Fuhrer. "I would say that my favorite part was getting to work with everyone in the cast, especially getting to know the upperclassmen I hadn't worked with before. I also really loved the emphasis on the show's characters, and how the spelling bee was a backdrop to the characters' journeys throughout the show."

"The first week of rehearsal was very intimidating for me," continued Fuhrer. "I didn't know how the process was going to work, and there were a lot of people who were more experienced than me in the cast. These fears eventually faded because of how accepting and open everyone was, and by closing night, I can say for sure that the people in the cast and crew became like a family to me."

Mitch Mahoney's role as a comfort counselor comes as a result of parole volunteer obligations, leaving her to be the least enthusiastic on the spelling bee stage. Mitch's hard-shelled exterior clashes with the participants, who feel that their loss is the end of the world, whereas Mitch wants to tell them that it's hardly a tragedy in comparison to life's many obstacles. In a surprising departure from character, Mitch debuts her own energetic musical number as she comforts Jimmy after their loss.

As the contestants slowly trickle away, including our brave audience participants, we are left with Olive and William anxiously competing for the trophy. The two have seemingly become friends, straying from William's harsh and spelling-focused nature and Olive's timidness. In the back of their minds, they're debating if they want this victory or if they would rather relinquish it to a new friend. In the end, Olive misspells a word, giving William the win that he had been "robbed of" the year prior.

"My favorite part of working with this production was the welcoming environment, character work, and the atmosphere of play," said Piccolino. "We were encouraged to avoid caricatures and instead fully immerse and humanize our roles. The musical is constructed so that most characters stay in the audience's eye for the majority of the show, so nailing their mannerisms, habits, and behavior in a social environment is crucial. We were encouraged to explore our characters down to what socks they prefer to wear or what they consider a happy memory. Eventually, their habits became second nature, and stepping into a character was like becoming a new person."

The musical is closed out by each cast member participating in a looking-forward-type ending, announcing what they end up doing or plan to do in the coming years.

"My favorite part of this process was working with the cast and student crew," said Director and Choreographer Dustyn Martincich. "Everyone was incredibly collaborative, insightful, and generous in sharing themselves and inspiration with me and each other. The process was playful, open-minded, and ultimately celebrated the individual characters that came to form the community of the Spelling Bee."

"This was one of the most joyful creative processes in my time at Bucknell because of who was in the room," expressed Martincich. "Folks really showed up for each other, staying committed to the process and each other. The Swing cast (Abby Campion '27, Alex Schajer '27 and Lizzie Hopper '27) should get a special shout out as well as the cast members who worked as understudy roles."

