WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR BUCKNELL'S CLASS OF 2026

We asked the Bucknell community to share their words of advice and encouragement for the Class of 2026. In true Bucknellian fashion, they answered our call with inspiring messages.

Bucknell UNIVERSITY

Quotes may have been shortened and/or adjusted for grammar/punctuation.

WELCOME

A FEW WORDS FROM CHRISTINE ZAPOTOCZKY KELLEHER ’91, PRESIDENT, BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS.


'RAY BUCKNELL
OPPORTUNITIES
NEW PEOPLE
MOMENTS
ADVANTAGE
CONGRATULATIONS
BUCKNELL
NEW IDEAS
CLASSMATES
CAMPUS
FUN
COMMUNITY
FIRST DAY
BISON
FAMILY
COLLEGE EXPERIENCE
NEW THINGS
LEWISBURG



“Take things one day at a time. Try to get to know the people on your hall and then try to get to know the people beyond your hall. Get to know your professors … go to office hours, even if you don’t really have a question. Be open to new experiences.”

— Allyson J. ’01

“Take classes outside of your comfort zone or in topics that interest you but aren’t necessarily required for your major. Bucknell has so many different classes to offer and the well rounded education you get will serve you well in the future.”

—Elizabeth D. ’07

“Complete your general requirements early on so that you can take fun electives as an upperclassman!”

—Manning M. ’21

“Connect with your professors as soon as you can at the beginning of each semester. It can be during their office hours, over a cup of coffee or a casual quad sit. My professors will forever be the most incredible mentors to me.”

—Kelly C. ’21



JEFF CROSS ’82

“Professors are more and more under pressure to not challenge their students to be uncomfortable or deal with controversial concepts. Don’t let them coddle you! You and your family are paying a lot of money to learn more than information. You are paying for and deserve to be challenged and pushed, sometimes uncomfortably, to learn through the debate of ideas and learn to persevere and develop emotional intelligence and neutral and open listening skills. These, in my view, are the keys to success and contentment as life unfolds. You are a leader of our future. I am proud of what you have accomplished and excited to know that people like you will help us design a future that is just and meaningful for all. Congratulations on this new adventure!”

—Paul C. ’77

"Take at least one class in something completely unrelated to your anticipated major or college. You never know where it will lead!"

—Christine K. '91

"Don't be afraid to pick up a second major or minor while you're there. If you love a class, ask the professor or the registrar how you can study more and formalize your interest with a minor in the department."

—Jill C. '90



"Pay attention! You will need this later!"

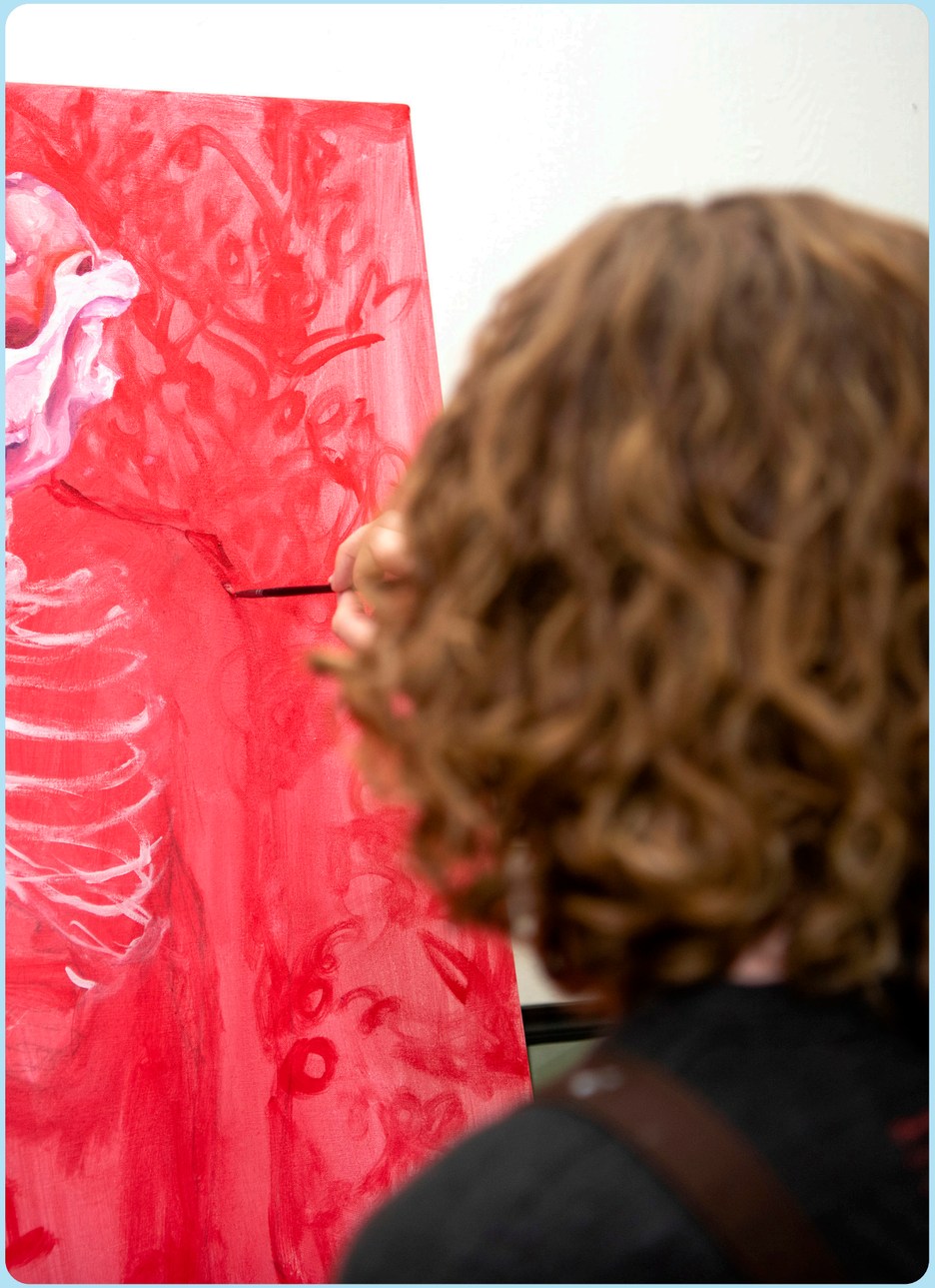
—Malik M. '91

“Through the help of a faculty advisor, learn how to manage your time. Keep an open mind as to new experiences.”

—Henry F. ’75

“There is nothing in your four years at Bucknell for which the foundation won’t be laid. Learn from professors and classmates who will teach you how to hone your skills but not what to think.”

—Michael A. ’75



“Of the many things that make Bucknell special is its dedication to the undergraduate education. Bucknell has no Ph.D. programs and its graduate programs are minimal. Rather, Bucknell focuses on the undergraduate education. For this reason, take advantage of the access to our outstanding faculty. If you have a question or need advice on anything — from homework, to a research project, to career advice — go to your professors. Stop at their office (whether at office hours or otherwise), call, email, text, etc.

Because of Bucknell’s focus on the undergraduate education, your access to faculty is unparalleled. While Bucknell’s faculty does outstanding research (and there are tremendous research opportunities), consider Bucknell’s focus on undergraduate education, where no classes or labs are taught by TA’s or assistants. You will have a full professor at all of your classes. This means that all of our faculty love to teach, or they wouldn’t be at Bucknell. Take full advantage. ’ray!”

—Kyle M. ’04

"There is a whole version of yourself who you haven't even met yet, waiting to be revealed over the next four years. Be open minded, try new things, build relationships with peers and professors, find a balance between work and play and don't be afraid to ask for help."

—Andrea B. '96

"Branch out beyond your roommate and your dorm hallway … get to know many different people from many different places and areas of the world."

—John D. '00

"Try something new. Meet different people. Don't forget your roots, but reach for the sky."

—Mark O. '06



“You are beginning a four-year trek that will take you many places you haven’t been. Some will hone an expertise in those four years; some will explore unknown intellectual terrain. Never stop exploring. Never stop learning how to imagine beyond your current limitations.”

— Larry G. ’72

“Welcome and enjoy the time to learn, interact with teachers and meet new people. But also try to escape the Bucknell bubble and remain connected with the outer world.”

—Janet L. ’73

"Be present. Jump into your college experience with both feet and allow yourself to be transformed by the people, places and opportunities all around you!"

—Christin C. '11

"Use this time to explore your interests, seek out what brings you joy, be yourself, take some classes just because they sound fun (ones outside of your major), work hard but not so hard that you aren't able to enjoy other aspects of your college experience, study abroad!"

—Rachel P. '09

"Be open to new experiences, be your own person, be kind and don't take anything for granted."

—Samantha K. '22

"Keep an open mind; learn all you can from the experts around you; take advantage of where you are."

—Mary R. '67

“Take advantage of the opportunities given to you. Enjoy your time in college, you will never have this time again. Join clubs, play sports and take classes outside of your comfort zone. As an orthopaedic surgeon for the U.S. Army, was a dance class relevant to my future? Absolutely not. Did I enjoy the class and make friends? YES! Have fun and congratulations on going to one of the best schools in the country!”

—Darshan S. ’12

“Enjoy your whole experience and don’t be afraid to step outside of your comfort zone, make new friends and try new things. Don’t stress the small stuff — everything is a learning experience, both successes and failures will shape your future. You will make lifelong friends and memories. Bucknell will come to feel like home for many years ahead, so make yourself comfortable and enjoy!”

—Kimberlee D. ’00



“Step away from the crowd and go off the beaten path. Try something new and different just for the heck of it. Learn to fail and pick yourself back up. Chase experiences, not grades!”

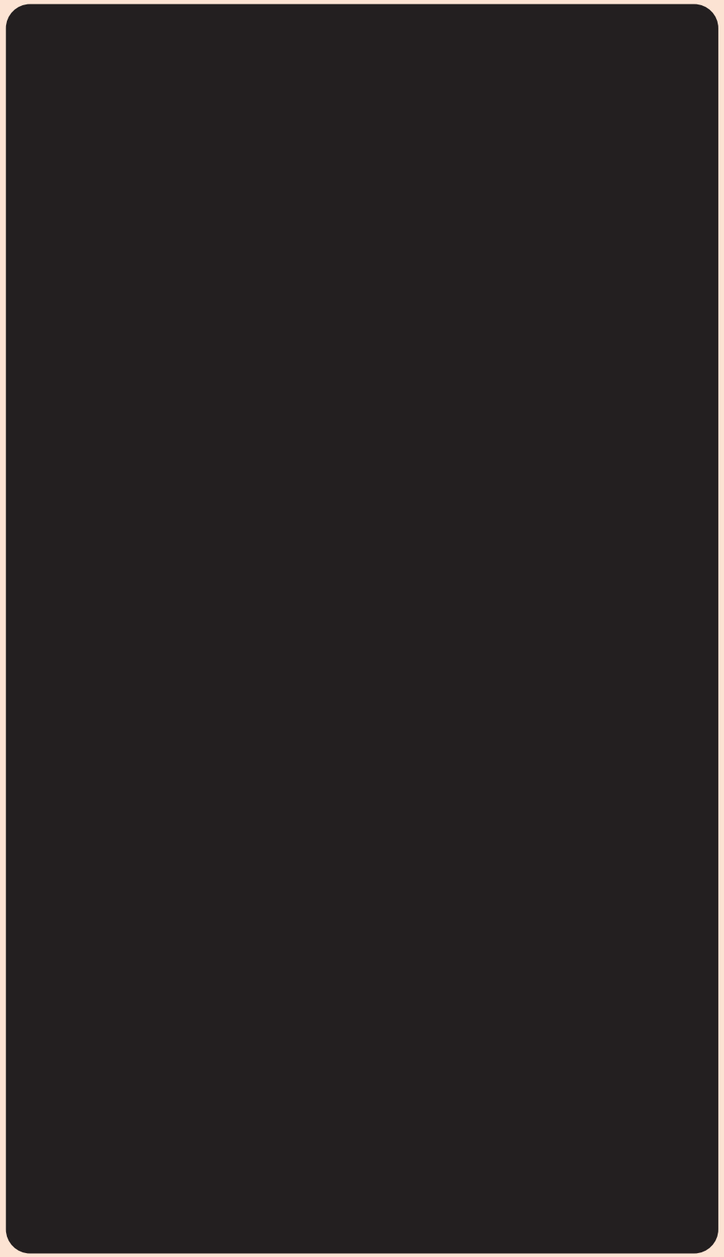
—Tad K. ’91

“Take advantage of as many opportunities and experiences that you can and cultivate relationships with your professors and peers.”

—Patrick C. ’94

“Be open, take risks, do not be afraid to walk alone.”

—Mako F. ’83



BRAD BROWN ’11

“Work hard. Think of being courteous to others — especially those you dislike — as a long-term investment. Make friends outside of your immediate social circles. Seek and observe the quieter parts of campus.”

—James S. ’18

“Don’t limit yourself. Be open to new possibilities and experiences.”

—Bob S. ’69

"Immerse yourself in the Bucknell experience right from the start. Make it a habit and Bucknell will reward you for the rest of your life."

—Bill V. '75

"Let yourself try new things and explore ideas. Don't focus only on grades!"

—Karen N. '86

"Get involved. Find your passion and the courage to try the activities offered on campus."

—Michelle N. '87

"Explore and find out who you are and what you want to do with your life!"

—Sharon M. R. '74

"Take time to get to know people different from yourself."

—Patricia M. '82

"I am so excited for you as you embark on these exciting and impactful four years! Take advantage of this time to explore and find your true passions. Don't be afraid to try something new. Challenge always comes with growth, but remember to give yourself grace."

—Megan G. '19

"Take advantage of coursework outside your major and being outside your comfort zone."

—Don W. '94

"Try a diverse range of activities, go out of your comfort zone!"

—Jocelyn B. 94 M'98

"Don't be afraid to step outside your comfort zone! The next four years grant you the perfect opportunity to fail forward, grow and learn through adversity. Stay curious and push boundaries!"

—Kaitlyn F. '21

"Say "yes" to as many things as you can. Now is the time to get out of your comfort zone and have new experiences. As comforting as it may feel to stay curled up in your dorm, make sure you spend time meeting new people and trying new things!"

—Meredith R. '13

"Keep yourself open to all experiences. Step outside of your box."

—Liz F. '92

"Be brave and try new things. Bucknell represents a new chapter of your life and you get to choose and create your own adventures!"

—Kim M. '98

"I would give anything to be back in your shoes! Take a moment to be present and let it all sink in — the excitement, nervousness and optimism. Be open to meeting everyone and know it can take time to find your people. Most of all, have FUN! The greatest thing I took away from Bucknell is the lifelong friendships and connection."

—Meaghan Q. '11



"Take every opportunity to be with your friends! These are the people who will be your family for life!"

—Grace F. '17



“Be yourself, follow your interests, hang out with friends and hang out with your friends some more!”

—Brooke M. ’90

“Get to know your freshman hall really well — they may be your lifelong friends!”

—Lena E. ’94

“Connect, connect, connect! I stayed friends with the people I met on day one.”

—Tracy L. ’95

“Never pass up spending time with your friends.”

—Liam M. ’21

“Be open to meeting wonderful new friends and learning so many different points of view!”

—Gail T. ’64



MATT BONELLI ’07

“Enjoy the close bonds you will make from the first day and know that there are so many people rooting for your success!”

—Nancy F. B. ’86

"Enjoy your time. Be kind. You deserve to be here. Get to know people. Because more than 30 years from now, some of the people you meet now will still be your friends!"

—Diane P. '91

"You will meet some of your best friends at Bucknell. Be open, talk to new people who are different than you, be yourself."

—Erin S. '03

"Introduce yourself to as many of your classmates as you can and enjoy the experience."

—Vince C. '56



“Enjoy the moment(s), but realize that, together, many of the little things that you do at Bucknell can have a profound effect upon your future ... very profound. But you may not understand their importance for years, or decades.”

—Keith D. ’83

“Make the most of the next four years! There will be no other time in your life like it. Meet as many new people and learn as much as you can, in and out of the classroom!”

—Jenny S. ’92

“Enjoy it all — Bucknell has so much to offer. And the friends you will meet will be your friends for a lifetime! Welcome to this great community! ’ray Bucknell!”

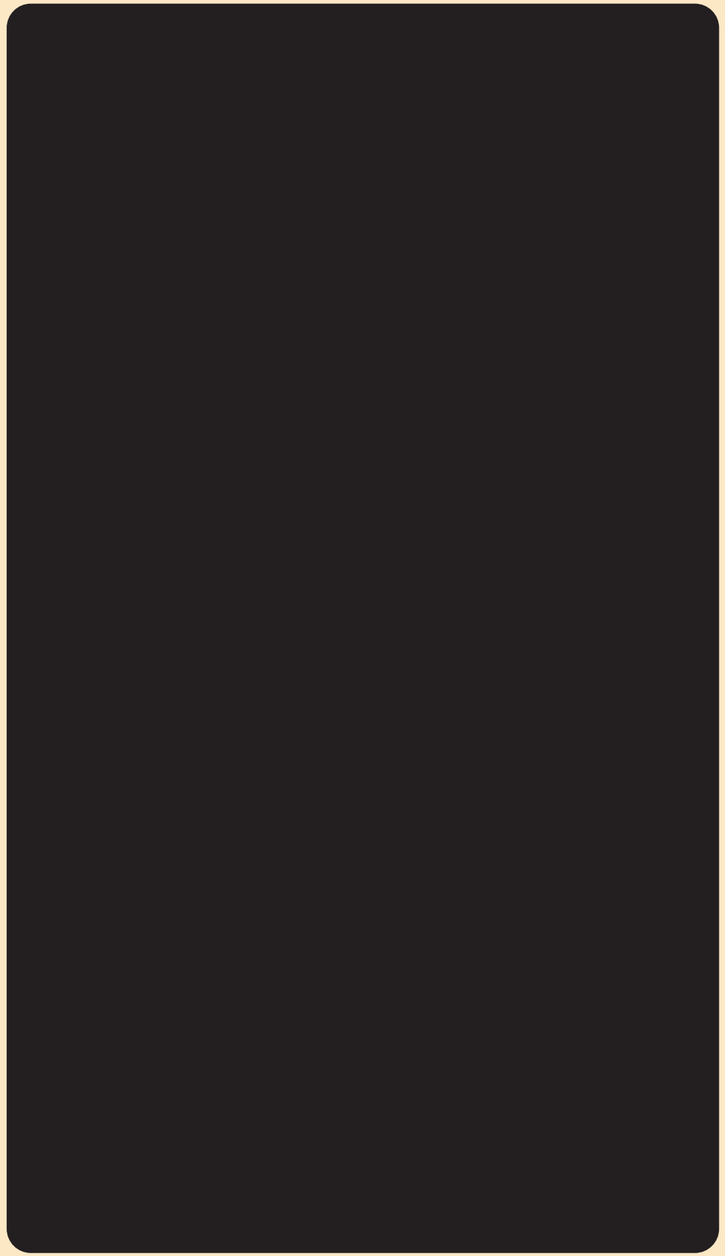
—Patricia P. ’82

“Treasure your precious time and learning opportunities to develop intellectually, emotionally and socially at Bucknell. One day you may look back with a regret or two, so make every day on campus count.”

—Jay D. L. ’73

“Work hard. Play hard. Be the difference! Welcome to an incredible community of Bucknellians from the past, present and future who are here to support you not only for the next 4 years, but for a lifetime. ’ray Bucknell!”

—Debra R. ’94



EMILY CONNERS ’14

“Be open to making new friends and attending the campus organized “get to know you” events. Sometimes you meet your future best friend when you least expect it. Also, know that your professors are at this University because they love teaching and want to support you in any way possible. Make time to get to know them.”

—Cindy M. ’92



“Go to all of the things and meet all of the people! Experience all that you can!”

—Lynn E. ’87

“Soak it all in and don’t be afraid to put yourself out there and try new things!”

—Stephanie Z. S. ’84

“Give yourself time to adjust to college life. There are so many new opportunities to try out at Bucknell, but it can be overwhelming if you let it. Take your studies seriously and get some good grades under your belt — that’s what you’re there for — but enjoy the wonderful experiences that are available at Bucknell.”

—Susan E. ’72

“Live in the moment and meet as many people as possible! Get involved — whether through clubs, jobs on campus, volunteering, or other activities on campus.”

—Laura C. ’12



LAUREN YEE ’10

“Soak in every moment. These four years go by in a blink but they are also the most memorable. While it can be overwhelming at first being away from home, give yourself time to adjust. Enjoy each day — both the joys and the challenges.”

— Maura M. ’21

"Realize that your time at Bucknell will likely be one of the most exhilarating and meaningful personal growth experiences of your life, so make the most of it! Also it's fine to focus on academics but a huge part of that growth experience occurs outside classrooms, e.g. at fraternities, sororities, sports activities and extracurricular activities including volunteering for community service."

—David L. '70

"Enjoy the experiences; journal names, dates, feelings, impressions, etc."

—Dan F. '68

"Introduce yourself to as many of your classmates as you can and enjoy the experience."

—Vince C. '56





"Enjoy your time at Bucknell, it will fly by. Take advantage of all the opportunities that present themselves. Don't be afraid to ask for help when you need it."

—Nancy G. '70

"Your college years and college friends will stay with you for life. Engage with students, professors and staff. It's a terrific investment."

—Alan S. '72

"Achieve balance via 60% academics, 20% clubs and 20% social."

—Jason C. '93

"Reach out. Extend yourself. Expand your horizons. Be open to notions beyond your present scope of experience. Reach beyond while maintaining a keen disciplined focus on the crucial academics. Explore the myriad arts, athletics and avocations. They are rounding. Participate. There will likely be challenges in your journey. Learn, sustain, balance, persevere, reflect, achieve, celebrate."

—Scott G. '73

"Work hard, try to enjoy the learning process, but also revel in the beauty of the campus and Lewisburg itself."

—Karen V. E. '70

"It is ok to sit back and take it all in at your own pace. There are a lot of go-getters and immensely social people at Bucknell. You will find your place. It is ok to take it at your own pace."

—Devon S. '93

“Your Bucknell experience will be many things; from learning, to socializing, to taking personal responsibility and forming the foundation for your adult life. You’re paying a lot for this experience, so make the most of it. Be active socially and engaged in the classroom. Keep an open mind and do not succumb to what many feel is wrong with academia today; the shielding of new ideas which may challenge your current worldview. Realize and accept that you do not have all the answers (far from it) and you will become a much better person four years from now. Avoid seeking safety and comfort and challenge your mind. Try and see the world and what is happening from many different perspectives. I promise you, this is how you will get the most out of your time at Bucknell. Now go off and enjoy yourself!”

—Steve T. ’01

WHAT DOES A FIRST-YEAR STUDENT HAVE TO LOOK FORWARD TO AS A LIFELONG BUCKNELLIAN?

Endless possibilities! | ERIN M. ’01

You’ll always have a unique experience in common with all Bucknellians. Bucknell is an excellent university that is small and located in far proximity from any major city. That creates a safe environment for students to get a great education and make close friends. And that bonds us for life. | FRANK R. ’01

Opportunities, lifelong friendships, new experiences. | BARBARA M. ’72

For the rest of your life, we are in your corner, rooting for you as you move forward. You are on the brink of new relationships which will sustain you, personally and professionally, for the rest of your life. | NICOLE T. ’04

Always having somewhere beautiful to return to, no matter how far away you travel or stray.

KATE H. ’15

Priceless friendships, copious professional opportunities and guidance through every stage of life.
HEATHER S. ’20

You will have so many ways to give back to a school that will shape you into the person you’ll become. 18 years later that first year class included the father of my children, my very best friends for life, my bridesmaids and groomsmen and aunts and uncles to my children. My commitment to social justice, my career and the best years of my life are all due to Bucknell. Enjoy this amazingly special first year! | JENNIFER M. C. ’04

Connections wherever the world may take you. | KAITLYN S. ’19

Stick it out! It’s hard to be away from home — your family, your friends — but it’s an incredibly important step in becoming independent as you start to establish who you are as an individual. You’ll be sad for a while, but you’ll get through it. And it will be worth it! | ANDREA F. ’92

Honest questioning, debate, respect for other opinions, possible career paths, a beautiful campus, friends, sports, concerts and artists galore. | WILLIAM D. ’74

Membership in a lifelong family. | SCOTT B. ’74

Not only will you receive a first-class, well-rounded and enriching education that will benefit you all your life, but you will make lifelong friends and create very special memories. | JEN L. ’15

Memories of time spent on the most beautiful college campus in the most special town. | JOHN K. ’16

You will remember this time as one of the best in your life if you keep trying to learn new ways of viewing your fellow human beings. | ROBERT S. ’63

Welcoming and helping faculty. Friendly community. Fun on/off campus activities. Great place to get involved in clubs, study abroad, etc. An excellent place to grow and develop yourself academically, professionally, personally. | KATIE P. ’22

A faculty member who probably will change your life. | ROBERT M. ’67

No matter how much you or the University changes, you will always have a place to belong. | STEVE A. ’74

Friendships that endure. An inspired love of lifelong learning. A shared experience that creates strong bonds. | PATTY T. ’78

A bond that grows stronger with each passing year.

BARBARA K. ’63

The opportunity for an ongoing relationship with an institution that evolves as you do throughout your life. Family, comfort, sanctuary. | FRANK P. ’82

An instant connection to all Bucknellians of all ages! | SKYE G. ’87

If you are lucky, you’ll make friends that are still part of your life 40 years later. And you’ll have memories that feel as clear as when they took place. You’ll feel like Lewisburg is always your home and that Bucknell will always welcome you back. And it will feel as if you never left. | SUSAN B. ’83

Enduring connections, enriching memories and a prestigious university reputation. | BAUER E. ’85

Lifelong friends! Alumni events in your area to meet up with other Bucknellians. People stopping you when you are in Bucknell gear to ask your connection to the school. | SUZ S. ’85

The whole world is out there, go do what you love. | JOHN R. ’82

A family of alumni second to none. | TRISHA S. ’96

A never-ending network of fellow Bucknellians that you can always call upon.

NANCY W. ’76

Memorable people and places; becoming part of the legacy.
VEDA W. ’72

Connections with colleagues and friends and a college experience that you can always be proud of! Enjoy every minute. | CAROLYN M. ’74

You’ve made the best choice possible to attend Bucknell! Drink it in … savor the new friendships, listen intently to lectures, and live the Bucknell life you’ve chosen. Explore, take risks, and live! | JASON P. ’96

Ongoing pride in the institution you selected and lifelong ties (if you make the effort) with those who made this journey with you — professors and fellow classmates. | SUSAN S. ’68

Saying “I graduated from Bucknell” will open doors and raise eyebrows for the rest of your life. | MATTHEW E. ’70

Becoming part of a family. As the years pass, you will meet alums in different places and will always have a common ground. |ALAN F. ’71

Great lifelong friendships. Networking with Bucknellians can be invaluable to you. | EDDIE M. ’73

Get over the finish line and Bucknell will be the key to opening the doors in your life yet to come! Go Bison! | KIM O. ’69

Lifelong friendships that run very deep! | GARY G. ’76

Forever wearing clothes that are orange and blue; knowing the difference between a bison and buffalo (and resenting those that don’t!); making friends with whom you can strike up a conversation as though 45 years had not passed. ’ray Bucknell! | AUDREY H. ’77

A place to call home, always. | PAT F. ’80

Being part of a community that starts with your current classmates and extends to other Bison that graduated before you and who will graduate after you. | SCOTT O. ’93

Bucknell is a family that grows stronger over time. ’ray Bucknell! | KIMBERLY W. W. ’93

You will receive a solid education that you will always be proud of! | PATRICIA C. ’91

A lifetime love of learning, a lifetime of Bucknell friends and a network of alumni unsurpassed by any other. | KATHLEEN S. ’80

An incredible network of diverse people who make a positive difference in our world.

RICK O. ’82

A deep sense of connection and belonging to the people and the place.
DAVE S. ’92

A sense of community that you rarely find anywhere else. It’s a lifetime achievement award! | KEVIN S. ’88

Friendship and a common unifying experience. | NICHOLAS W. ’89

You’ll learn so many things, meet so many people and gain the tools you’ll need to be successful post-Bucknell (even though it won’t often seem that way at the time). More than anything, you’ll start to learn who you really are and what makes you tick. There is much, much more to learn on that front once you leave the hallowed Bucknell halls, but your four years at Bucknell will give you an incredibly solid foundation that most will only appreciate with many years of hindsight. | RANDALL W. ’89

Lifelong friends and wonderful memories. | ALICE W. ’96

Knowing that when you meet a fellow Bucknellian they will always be down to earth and often are the hardest working person in the room. | SARAH G. ’94

Meaningful, life-changing relationships with some special folks. | MARK C. ’74

Excellent education with small class sizes, the ability to make lasting connections and the ability to grow and to change throughout your time at Bucknell! | LISA N. ’96

Alumni everywhere in the world to support you.
| JENNIFER G. ’97

The friends you make during this time will be with you forever if you hold onto them. ENJOY the time that you have together and support each other through it all. After Bucknell, we continue to take our friendships seriously and our alumni network is strong and supportive. You are a Bison for life! | ELISABETH S. ’98

An incredible education and network. | CHRISTINE L. ’99

The feeling of comradery that one experiences when out in public places and seeing someone wearing a Bucknell-emblazoned piece of apparel, or when they call out to you if you are sporting Bucknell apparel. It is an experience that connects us. | BEAMER P. ’99

The amount of doors that will open and friendships that last are unimaginable.
KRISTEN S. ’98

DESCRIBE YOUR BUCKNELL EXPERIENCE IN FIVE WORDS OR LESS



Fantastic four years.
JASON L. ’94

Launched me into life.
TONY M. ’93

Positive, powerful, life-changing experience.
KATHY M. ’87

My happy place!
COLLEEN L. ’88

Learned how to learn.
KAREN S. ’87

Fun, challenging & too short.
TIM B. ’89



ANNIE GUARINO ’08

DESCRIBE YOUR BUCKNELL EXPERIENCE IN FIVE WORDS OR LESS



Great foundation for life. Rewarding & fun. DOUG B. ’87

Exciting beginning of an independent life! JANET V. ’81

Learned much about myself & life! ERIC A. ’82

Awesome, phenomenal, uplifting, challenging, rewarding. MARY R. ’81

Shaped my future. BEV S. ’82

Springboard to a great life. TOM K. ’78

Eye- and brain-opening. MICHAEL K. ’74

Lifelong friends. Continued learning. JIM R. ’65

The time of my life! RUDOLPH P. ’73

Most memorable learning: outside classrooms. SANDRA M. ’71

DESCRIBE YOUR BUCKNELL EXPERIENCE IN FIVE WORDS OR LESS



Diversity is the best teacher! CAROL B. ’63

Excitement, new experiences, friendships. MAURICE M. ’53

I learned I could succeed. BOB S. ’61

Challenging, fun, irreplaceable four years. LEAH M. ’22

Transformational in opening my perspectives. MORGAN T. ’23

A challenge to become your best. PAT M. ’22

Quality education in wonderful setting. JOHN F. ’77

All I could ask for! KIM O. ’69

Full of self-improvement & learning. BRIAN G. ’22

Home. ALEXIS F. ’22

Engaging, heartwarming, opportunistic & fun. DANA P. ’22

DESCRIBE YOUR BUCKNELL EXPERIENCE IN FIVE WORDS OR LESS



Rife with research & opportunity. JARED N. ’22

An enriching & enlightening experience. AUSTIN B. ’22

I miss Bucknell already. ADIT K. ’22

Transformative, fulfilling & growth-oriented. AMISHA C. ’22

I met my best friends. DREW F. ’22

Helped shaped me into who I want to be. ALEXIS P. ’22

My best decision ever. CARA O. ’22

Enlightening & impactful. ZACH H. ’22

Fulfilling, exciting & exploration. RENEE S. ’22

DESCRIBE YOUR BUCKNELL EXPERIENCE IN FIVE WORDS OR LESS



No mistakes, just happy accidents. ALBERT T. ’22

Supportive community that encourages growth! GENEVIEVE B. ’22

One for the books. MAYA B. ’22

Amazing, educational, eye opening, home. TORIE T. ’22

Best choice I made. ANDREW F. ’22

Incredibly transforming & enriching. MACY B. ’22

Another home away from home. FAITH R. ’22

Full of driven friendly people. PATRICK H. ’22

Full of love & growth! SEAN B. ’22

DESCRIBE YOUR BUCKNELL EXPERIENCE IN FIVE WORDS OR LESS



Collaborative, guiding, tight-knit, community, network. SAM M. ’22

Lifelong friendships & memories. RENNE V. ’22

Intellectually, psychologically & mentally stimulating. RID H. ’22

Hands-on learning. CARLY B. ’22

Too short. NORA B. ’22

Challenging, rewarding, full of memories. BRIDGET T. ’22

Great friends, great professors. NICK M. ’22

Incredible place with amazing people! LIZA H. ’22

Four years of fulfilling challenges. RACHEL A. ’22

DESCRIBE YOUR BUCKNELL EXPERIENCE IN FIVE WORDS OR LESS



Amazing, challenging, life-changing, eye-opening. STACEY M. ’09

Found my people. MANDY H. ’07

The best place on earth. CLAIRE M. ’22

A new definition of home. ANNIE G. ’08

Preparation for life’s journey ahead. DAVID M. ’73

Intellectual, fun, full of community. KATIE M. ’03

Great education, exceptional connections. KENDY A. ’06

Made memorable by great people. RICK C. ’00

Filled with joy and opportunity. MATT B. ’07

Rich, profound, agape, deep friendships. JONATHAN D. ’11



ADVICE THROUGH THE DECADES
1950s

1950s
1960s
1970s
1980s
1990s
2000s
2010s
2020s

You are about to embark on the best four years of your life. Although we were about half the size of the present day student body, I believe I was given the best four years of an education to prepare me for "the real world". It was a wonderful experience. —JOAN H. '56

The biggest thing and the most lasting impression that I want to share with you are the wonderful friendships you will make during your four years. There are seven very special women that I have known since I arrived at BU in 1954 and we are still getting together, sharing each other's joys and sadnesses over these past 68 years. I hope you will make long lasting friends so that in 68 years from your graduation (2090!) you will still be sharing your joys and sadnesses with those very special friends you will certainly make at Bucknell! —JANET B. '58



ADVICE THROUGH THE DECADES
1950s

1950s
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1970s
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1990s
2000s
2010s
2020s

Enjoy. Be happy. —VINCENT M. ’54

Do not be afraid … we have all been there. Just remember you are there to learn and study and not to party. —CAROLE H. ’57

1. As early as you can, decide on your goal and career purpose.
2. Give priority to your academic studies — be competitive.
3. Take advantage of the many activities the Bucknell community offers you to broaden your experience and perspective.
4. Finally, develop friendships with other Bucknell students through fraternities, sororities and other organizations — many will be friends for life. —JOHN J. ’58



ADVICE THROUGH THE DECADES
1960s

1950s
1960s
1970s
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1990s
2000s
2010s
2020s

Be prepared for life's opportunities and make sure you take advantage of them. You'll never know when they will appear and you can start that preparation during your next four years at Bucknell! 'ray Bucknell! —LARRY S. '64

Enjoy your time at Bucknell. It goes by much too quickly. —MIKE T. '63

Give 100% every day, follow the rules, be nice to everybody. Sixty years ago I arrived at Bucknell from Markham, Illinois and I was concerned if I could keep up with all the prep school students from the East. Bucknell was a great place to learn and grow. I applied the principles that I learned from Sunday School, my parents and my high school teachers: show up every day and give 100%, learn the rules and follow them and be nice to everybody. I am very happy to still work full time and this verse captures my motivation: "whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not men". Colossians 3:23 —THOMAS D. '66



ADVICE THROUGH THE DECADES
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A good school for all. Study hard and play hard. —STEVE M. ’62

Do everything with intentionality. Take it all in. Enjoy and have fun. But remember the reason you are here is to get the best possible education you can get which will start you on the road to success for the rest of your life. —MIKE D. ’64

Relax! I was uneasy, coming from a small high school in Ohio. I found a warm and welcoming environment. —LINDA G. ’69

This is a great opportunity — don’t squander it. Find a professor active in research on something you care about and ask if you can join in as an assistant. —JIM S. 66 M’68



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Don’t be surprised or intimidated by the fact that everyone at Bucknell is as smart as you are! —JACQUELINE P. ’65

Enjoy your precious time at Bucknell. It will help prepare you to shape the entire rest of your life and possibly the world around you. —ROGER H. ’69

You are worthy or you wouldn’t be here. Try to relax and just say hi. —RICHARD K. ’69



ADVICE THROUGH THE DECADES
1970s

1. Be yourself. To thine own self be true.
2. Learn like you are going to teach. Become an “expert” in everything you study.
3. Study in 15 minute time blocks.
4. Don’t be afraid to ask for help. It is a sign of strength, not weakness.
5. Communication is key. Know your audience.
6. Be the leader when possible. All great leaders are also great followers … first.
7. Always take Saturday night off. Everyone needs a safety valve.
8. Have a good support system in place.
9. Follow your passion. If you love what you do, you will never work a day in your life.
10. Relationships are critical. They are like plants. Water the root to enjoy the fruit.
11. Failure is just success waiting to happen. Perseverance is crucial to success.
12. You never get a second chance to make a first impression.
13. A good reputation works for you even when you are not working. (I created that one)
14. God gave us 2 ears but only 1 mouth. You learn more by listening than talking.

—CHARLES R. ’72



ADVICE THROUGH THE DECADES
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After more than 50 years since graduation, my four years at Bucknell remain the best four years of my life! —ERNIE E. ’70

Study hard and play some too. —BARBARA M. ’76

Always remember, you are very fortunate to be at Bucknell; make the most of it. The opportunities provided to you are incredible and the choices you make are critically important for the rest of your life. Have fun, work hard and most of all, always respect your fellow students and professors as the lessons you learn will pay dividends many times over. —WILLIAM W. ’70

Seize this opportunity to organize your life and develop good time management skills. —GENE L. ’71



ADVICE THROUGH THE DECADES
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Get out of your comfort zone, explore new classes, meet and debate professors, push yourself harder than you thought possible and enjoy making friends from all over the country and many other nations. —JEFF C. ’82

Find your passion and begin to carve out a unique path for your education and identity in the Bucknell community. —MARCIE B. ’81

Remember that inclusivity means accepting that not everyone agrees with or likes you. It doesn’t mean silencing people you don’t agree with or like.
—SARA D. ’89

Consider that practically all your classmates feel the same as you. Same struggles. Same apprehensions. —HARRY M. ’84



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Cherish the beauty of Bucknell! —GERALD A. ’87

Work hard, do well and make sure you enjoy the experience! —MARC R. ’86

Throw off your high school persona and be who you want to be. Don’t be intimidated. You belong. Trust yourself. Free time is precious. Spend it on people you like and do things you’re good at. Learn how to say ’no’. Saying ’yes’ to requests in order to ’be nice’ sometimes means you have to say ’no’ to something that’s important to you. Took me too many years to learn that. Have a ball.

—TAMERA W. D. ’80

Be open to ideas that you don’t agree with. Listen, don’t censor. —JOHN B. ’86



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Stick it out! It's hard to be away from home — your family, your friends — but it's an incredibly important step in becoming independent as you start to establish who you are as an individual. You'll be sad for a while, but you'll get through it. And it will be worth it! —ANDREA F. '92

Be your true self and confident from day one, you'll be embraced by your new community! —KRISTIN M. '93

Be open to needless possibility because you never know where it might lead. —KIMBERLY W. W. '93



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Appreciate every moment! —DEBBIE W. ’99

The first days can be overwhelming but trust that you will find your people and your place at Bucknell. It will end up being four of the best years of your life.
—EMILY A. ’99

Explore classes and opportunities outside of your comfort zone. —PATRICIA M. ’90

Be kind to everyone! You are all on an adventure of a lifetime together. Also, find a study abroad program — it will enrich your college experience and grow your world view! Good luck! —ADELE H. ’97



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Four years goes fast. Don't wait until tomorrow to do something you can today. Learn from and listen to people who grew up in a different environment. You have more in common than you think. Collaborate with others to complete your work. If you try to go at it alone, you will make yourself miserable. As much as you may hate it, take a presentation skills/public speaking class. It will serve you well in the future. —JEFF D. '90

Enjoy your first-year dorm experience, get to know all that Bucknell has to offer in terms of clubs, organizations, etc. and have your phone ready to take pictures of the prettiest fall scenery you'll ever see! —KATHLEEN H. '92

You are in good hands! —NEERAJ G. '94



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Be who you want to be. This is your chance to be yourself. Maybe your hometown, previous school, friends or parents started to define and shape you. That is fine, for the younger you. Now you have the chance to create your own path and be the "you" you always envisioned. —EDWARD W. '96

Take a deep breath and look around. You got this. —TREY S. '09

Take advantage of all the resources that Bucknell offers, whether that be an extracurricular club in a topic that you are unfamiliar with, or a concert at the Weis Center, or a visit to the Multi-Cultural Center. The resources are plentiful and can help to shape your collegiate years. —YANI L. P. '93



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Do work and make friends. The rest usually takes care of itself. —DAVID E. ’00

Make friends with everyone, go to every event, get your work done early so you can have fun! —KATIE W. ’08

Get to know the people on your hall as soon as possible. And look for all the free dinners that the different clubs and organizations offer. —MATT B. ’05

Sometime during orientation just sit out on the academic quad, alone or with your hallmates, during the sunset or late at night and truly realize, “This is my college experience, it’s happening now.” (You’ll cherish that memory for the rest of your life.) And then go make the most of every day at Bucknell! —JARED S. ’06



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Make memories, build lasting friendships and have fun. —PAT F. ’19

Listen to the new folks you meet. Share with the new folks you meet without fear of judgement. If you don’t fit the mold, change the mold! —SHERRY O. ’10

The only advice I have is to stay true to yourself no matter what. It’s easy to assimilate and to try to be like everyone else because you want to fit in. What is hard is staying true to who you are and who you want to be. Do this and you’ll have very few regrets from your Bucknell experience. —ELLA T. J. ’17

Enjoy every moment. —LAUREN Y. ’10



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Look to enrich yourself via your experiences. Do your work purposefully and with an open mind and the rest will take care of itself. —LOUIE L. ’15

Be open to new experiences! —CARRINE G. ’19

Take classes in so many different subjects! You may be surprised at what you love. —CAITLIN C. ’13

Fun is that much more fun when all your work is done. Power through it and enjoy the peace of mind. —BLAKE S. ’19



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Get out of your comfort zone. —KATHRYN M. ’14

Try a bit of everything! —JACK P. ’19

Take advantage of any opportunity that speaks to you; your fellow Bucknellians will help you grow. —DANIEL W. ’10

Be open minded and take broad classes. You will gain new perspectives and be well-rounded as a person. This can also help you discover interests that may help you choose a major! —ARIELLE C. ’15



ADVICE THROUGH THE DECADES
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Connect with your professors as soon as you can at the beginning of each semester. It can be during their office hours, over a cup of coffee or a casual quad sit. My professors will forever be the most incredible mentors to me. —KELLY C. ’21

Be open to having honest and intellectual conversations with international students. —MORGAN T. ’23

Write down memories! Journal and reflect often, especially when there’s so much to digest. Reading through memories may not seem beneficial now but it will be in the future. —PAT C. ’21

Be willing to make friends everywhere you go — you never know who you’ll meet! Don’t limit yourself to one group of people. Befriend classmates, coworkers, anyone! Bring a blanket for quad sitting! —KAT B. ’22