

BUCKNELL BULLETIN

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR
BISON FOOTBALL ALUMNI, PARENTS & FRIENDS



MARCH 2017

LEWISBURG, PA 17837

A NOTE FROM BISON HEAD COACH JOE SUSAN

Dear Alumni, Parents & Friends of Bucknell Football,

I hope that you and your family are well. We are in spring practice prep and feel good about the young men who will make up the core of the 2017 Bucknell Football Team. The graduating seniors will be missed for all that they have done for our program. The time passes so quickly and they do graduate. The student athlete graduation rate at Bucknell is second to one. We will all work to change that.

We are fortunate to be able to announce the signing of the student athletes who are the High School Class of 2017, Bucknell Class of 2021. The young men who make up this class represent the best and the brightest. Their effort combined with assistance from their parents, teachers and coaches led them to this special place. We are excited about who they are as players. We are more excited about who they are as people.

Our spring practice begins on Friday, March 24th. We will have 15 practices and our Spring Game will be on Friday, April 21st at 6:00 p.m. in Christy Mathewson-Memorial Stadium. It will be great to get this team back on to the field.

I appreciate the support that we have received from our Parents, Alumni and Friends. Your generosity enables us to



recruit, train and care for the young men in our program. They achieve on and off the field. We will continue to challenge them to be the best that they can be in all areas of their lives.

My best to you.

Take care,

Joseph G. Susan Jr.
The Bob Odell Head Football Coach
Bucknell University



2017 BUD RANCK-TOM GADD MEMORIAL KICKOFF CLASSIC JULY 22

Bucknell alumni, parents and friends of Bison Football are invited to attend the Bud Ranck-Tom Gadd Memorial Kickoff Classic for a day of great golf, a chance to reunite with friends and teammates, and the opportunity to support the football program.

The Ranck-Gadd event is the program's biggest and most important fundraiser and the one time during the year when hundreds of former Bison players come together as one.

The event will be in its third year of a one-day format that debuted in 2015. It will take place on Saturday, July 22. Two rounds of golf will be available, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

Schedule of Events **SATURDAY, JULY 22**

8 a.m. - Bud Ranck Flight Shotgun
1 p.m. - Tom Gadd Flight Shotgun
6-7 p.m. - Registration/Reception
(Terrace Room)
7 p.m. - Dinner/Evening Program

Registration Information

The deadline for registration is FRIDAY, JULY 14, 2017 for tee time considerations. If you would like to register or have any questions please contact Kelly Pastuszek at 570-577-3067, or e-mail kelly.pastuszek@bucknell.edu.

Costs

Dinner: \$25
Golf Tournament: \$175
Golf Tournament and Dinner: \$200

For the complete Bud Ranck-Tom Gadd Golf Tournament brochure, visit the football page on BucknellBison.com this spring.

MEET THE BUCKNELL FOOTBALL CLASS OF 2021

Bucknell head football coach Joe Susan announced 20 new members to the Bison football program on National Signing Day. The 20 recruits are diverse geographically, hailing from eight different states and Germany.

While a number of states are represented in the class, Bucknell's traditional recruiting areas are well represented with five New Jersey natives and four players from Pennsylvania included in the group.

"I would like to welcome these talented student-athletes to the Bucknell Class of 2021," commented Susan, who will enter his eighth year on the Christy Mathewson-Memorial Stadium sideline this fall. "The effort of these players, their parents, teachers and coaches through the recruiting process has been thorough. It has been a privilege for our staff to be part of their experience, and we look forward to working with them as they develop in our program."

"We think the talented young men who make up this class will be positive additions to our team. We have addressed positional needs that are essential to our roster. We are also excited about who they are as individuals. They will be impacted by their experience at Bucknell and in our program, and we will encourage them to impact this university by their presence on campus."

There are seven offensive players joining the team in this class and 12 defensive players. Additionally, one kicker is part of the class. The most common positions recruited were safety, offensive line and defensive line, with four players at each of those positions. The class will be completed with a number of additional student-athletes in the near future.

Bucknell will graduate 18 seniors from the 2016 squad. Eleven of those seniors were regular starters for the Bison, who posted at least a .500 finish in Patriot League play for the third time in the last four years.

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/High School
P.J. Barr	OL	6-3	290	North Brunswick, N.J./St. Joseph
Brandon Benson	SAF	6-0	190	Triangle, Va./C.D. Hylton
Logan Bitikofer	QB	6-3	200	New Philadelphia, Ohio/New Philadelphia
Ryan Brida	SAF	6-0	205	West Chester, Pa./B. Reed Henderson
Eric Butler	CB	5-10	160	Altamonte Springs, Fla./Lake Brantley
Marquis Carter	RB	6-1	210	Rochester, N.Y./Pittsford Sutherland
Mike Colantuono	LS/DE	6-2	235	Warren, N.J./Immaculata
Joe Fex	SAF	5-10	180	Coppell, Texas/Coppell
Blais Herman	WR	6-3	195	Austin, Texas/St. Andrew's Episcopal Sch./Loomis Chaffee (Conn.)
Simon Krizak	OL	6-4	300	Stuttgart, Germany/Eschbach-Gymnasium/The Hill School (Pa.)
Roger Mellado	DL	6-1	230	Lorton, Va./Gonzaga College High School
Rick Mottram	LB	6-1	225	Cream Ridge, N.J./Allentown
Clay Myers	DT	6-1	275	Pittsburgh, Pa./Pittsburgh Central Catholic
Simeon Page	LB	6-0	225	Riverton, Utah/Riverton/Air Force Academy Prep
Justis Peppers	OL	6-4	310	King George, Va./King George
Connor Romango	CB	5-10	190	Fox Chapel, Pa./Fox Chapel
Ethan Torres	P/K	6-1	180	Great Falls, Va./Bishop O'Connell
Alex Twiford	TE	6-2	240	Sinking Spring, Pa./Wilson
Nnamdi Unachukwu	DE	6-6	235	Morganville, N.J./Marlboro
Gerrit Van Itallie	SAF	6-0	210	Mahwah, N.J./Saint Joseph Regional

P.J. Barr, OL, 6-3, 290, North Brunswick, N.J./St. Joseph

St. Joseph High School: Three-year football letterwinner ... three-time all-area selection ... two-time first-team all-conference ... team Underclassman of the Year as a sophomore ... team Offensive Lineman of the year as a junior and senior ... team captain as a junior and senior ... McCarthy Report Top 100 players in New Jersey ... 47 tackles, 16 tackles for loss and five sacks as a senior ... team finished 9-1 and won the GMC White Division as a senior. Personal: Paul John Barr ... born June 3, 1999 in New Brunswick, New Jersey ... son of David and Barbara ... has three younger siblings: David, Maggie and Liam ... father, David, played football at Hofstra University ... mother, Barbara, was a cheerleader for Hofstra University.

Brandon Benson, SAF, 6-0, 190, Triangle, Va./C.D. Hylton

C.D. Hylton High School: Three-year football letterwinner ... also earned two Academic Achievement letters ... First Team All-6A Conference safety as a senior ... named Honorable Mention all-conference as a junior ... team captain as a senior ... also served as holder on PATs ... totaled 76 tackles, six pass breakups, five tackles for loss and four interceptions his final two years playing both linebacker and safety. Personal: Brandon Benson ... born Nov. 3, 1998 in Rocky Mount, Virginia ... son of Al and Tanya Benson ... has two older sisters, Ashleigh and Alecia ... grew up in a military family and lived in three different states ... first person in family to compete in college athletics.

MEET THE BUCKNELL FOOTBALL CLASS OF 2021 cont.

Logan Bitikofer, QB, 6-3, 200, New Philadelphia, Ohio/New Philadelphia

New Philadelphia High School: Three-year football and two-year basketball letterwinner ... graduated with the most passing yards in school history ... First Team All-ECOL ... First Team All-Eastern District ... First Team All-Region ... Second Team All-Ohio ... named the Offensive Player of the Year in ECOL ... Offensive Player of the Year in Eastern District ... team captain as a senior ... team made four straight playoff appearances and earned one ECOL championship. Personal: Logan Matthew Bitikofer ... born Dec. 26, 1998 in Dover, Ohio ... son of Chad and Tricia Hicks and Matt Bitikofer ... has one younger brother Jaymis.

Ryan Brida, SAF, 6-0, 205, West Chester, Pa./B. Reed Henderson

B. Reed Henderson High School: Three-year football and one-year basketball letterwinner ... football team captain ... earned the school's James T. Smith Leadership Award ... First Team All-Ches-Mont linebacker and All-Ches-Mont Defensive Player of the Year ... DLN All-Area First Team linebacker ... Mini-Max Award winner ... totaled 137 tackles, 21 tackles for loss, three sacks and one interception as a senior. Personal: Ryan Nicholas Brida ... born March. 16, 1999 in Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania ... son of Ralph and Cheryl Brida ... has one older sister, Rachel.

Eric Butler, CB, 5-10, 160, Altamonte Springs, Fla./Lake Brantley

Lake Brantley High School: Member of football and weightlifting teams ... all-conference football player ... football team captain ... totaled 40 tackles, three interceptions and two forced fumbles ... helped team to second round of playoffs. Personal: Eric Windsor Butler ... born Dec. 31, 1998 in Kissimmee, Florida ... son of Angela Watts ... has three siblings: Breeana, Cierra and Erykah.

Marquis Carter, RB, 6-1, 210, Rochester, N.Y./Pittsford Sutherland

Pittsford Sutherland High School: Member of football and track and field teams ... named an All-Greater Rochester football player ... all-state selection ... ran for 763 yards and 11 touchdowns ... all-county selection in track ... also played youth tennis. Personal: Marquis LuVien Carter ... born Dec. 29, 1998 in Rochester, New York ... son of Maurice and Deirdre Carter ... has four older siblings: Maurice, Deirdre, Marissa and DeVan ... Deirdre was a member of the track and field team at the University at Buffalo ... DeVan played football at Rutgers.

Mike Colantuono, LS/DE, 6-2, 235, Warren, N.J./Immaculata

Immaculata High School: Three-year football letterwinner ... first-team all-conference defensive end and a second-team all-area defensive end ... named Special Teams Player of the Year as a sophomore ... totaled 62 taackles and 9.5 sacks as a senior ... helped team to three state semifinal appearances. Personal: Michael Tyler Colantuono ... born July 7, 1998 in Livingston, New Jersey ... son of Michael and Sarah Colantuono ... has three siblings: Frank, Matthew and Allison.

Joe Fex, SAF, 5-10, 180, Coppell, Texas/Coppell

Coppell High School: Four- year track and three-year football letterwinner ... two-time lacrosse letterwinner ... more than 3,000 career rushing yards ... two-year team captain ... three-time all-district selection ... Newcomer of the Year in district ... team was the Central Texas runner-up. Personal: Joseph Steven Fex ... born Aug. 27, 1998 in Houston, Texas ... son of Steven and Colleen Fex ... has three younger siblings: Jake, Jimmy and Katie ... father, Steven, played football at Oregon, Western Oregon and with the Edmonton Eskimos in the Canadian Football League ... mother, Colleen, played college basketball at Western Oregon ... uncle, Jimmy Mortensen, was a professional cyclist ... grandfather, Joe, was an Olympic hurdler.

Blais Herman, WR, 6-3, 195, Austin, Texas/St. Andrew's Episcopal School (Loomis Chaffee (Conn.))

St. Andrew's Episcopal School/ Loomis Chaffee: Attended St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Austin, Texas, for four years ... spent a post-grad year at Loomis Chaffee in Connecticut ... five-year football and baseball letterwinner ... two-year basketball letterwinner ... graduated as St. Andrew's all-time leader in receptions, receiving yards and touchdowns ... team captain as a junior and senior ... captain of baseball team as a senior ... varsity starter in football and baseball since freshman year ... junior and senior year lead central Texas in receiving yards and touchdowns for Class 4A and below ... first-team all-conference center fielder in baseball as a senior ... second-team all-league selection during year at Loomis Chaffee ... lead the NEPSAC in yards (856) and receptions (68). Personal: Blais Alan Herman ... born Oct. 17, 1997 in Austin, Texas ... son of Lynn Blais and Guy Herman ... has four older siblings: Russell, Margaret, Julia and Avery ... mother, Lynn, was an All-New England field hockey goalie and also played basketball at Wellesley.

Simon Krizak, OL, 6-4, 300, Stuttgart, Germany/Eschbach-Gymnasium (The Hill School (Pa.))

The Hill School: Played football during post-grad year at the Hill School ... graduated from Eschbach-Gymnasium in Germany

MEET THE BUCKNELL FOOTBALL CLASS OF 2021 cont.

in 2015 ... second-team all-league selection at The Hill School. Personal: Simon Krizak ... born Sept. 8, 1997 in Stuttgart, Germany ... son of Markus and Magdalena Krizak ... has one brother, Dominik ... came to the United States from Germany last year.

Roger Mellado, DL, 6-1, 230, Lorton, Va./Gonzaga College High School

Gonzaga College High School: Three-year football letterwinner ... First Team All-WCAC and All-DCSAA defensive lineman ... USA Today Second Team All-Defensive Lineman ... helped team to back-to-back DCSAA titles ... team posted an 8-3 record his senior year ... was also a two-year rugby letterwinner and a member of the wrestling team. Personal: Roger Ballantine Mellado ... born Jan. 21, 1999 in Washington, D.C. ... son of Andrea Mellado.

Rick Mottram, LB, 6-1, 225, Cream Ridge, N.J./Allentown

Allentown High School: Four-year football letterwinner ... two-year team captain ... three-time West Jersey Football League All-Colonial Division First Team ... three-time Trenton Times All-Area Football Team ... two-time All-Group 4 First Team ... first-team all-state selection ... two-time Trenton Times Defensive Player of the Year ... twice named the Trenton Times Athlete of the Week ... finished career with 435 career tackles, the most in school history ... 22 career touchdowns and three interceptions ... helped team to 2016 Central Jersey Group IV state title and three West Jersey Football League conference titles ... team was 10-2 his senior year and totaled 30 victories during his career ... also a member of the school's track & field team in 2014. Personal: Richard Lewis Mottram ... born Oct. 26, 1998 in Cream Ridge, New Jersey ... son of Dan and Christine ... has three siblings: Sarah, Jack and Michael.

Clay Myers, DT, 6-1, 275, Pittsburgh, Pa./Pittsburgh Central Catholic

Pittsburgh Central Catholic High School: Three-year football letterwinner ... second-team all-conference honor roll as a senior ... 13 tackles for loss and team's starting tight end ... team was section champions for all three of his years ... team won two WPIAL Champions and one PIAA title in his three years on varsity. Personal: Clay James Myers ... born Nov. 11, 1998 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania ... son of Heather and Jim ... has one younger brother, Jacob.

Simeon Page, LB, 6-0, 225, Riverton, Utah/Riverton (Air Force Academy Prep)

Riverton High School/Air Force Academy Prep: Graduated from Riverton High School in 2016 ... spent a post-grad semester at Air Force Academy Prep ... three-year football letterwinner at Riverton ... also earned four wrestling letters and one for track and field ... led state in tackles with 170 as a junior ... two-year team captain ... two-time first-team all-state ... honorable mention all-state as a sophomore ... named Defensive MVP of region as a junior ... placed in top five in state three times as a wrestler ... won state title as a senior ... helped 4x100 relay to a state title as a senior ... helped track team to a state title as a sophomore ... named Male Athlete of the Year as a senior at Riverton High School. Personal: Simeon Parker Page ... born Feb. 23, 1998 in Sandy, Utah ... son of Glen and Cori Page ... has a younger brother, Cooper, and a younger sister, Bailey.

Justis Peppers, OL, 6-4, 310, King George, Va./King George

King George High School: Member of football and track and field teams ... two-time all-area football player ... two-time second-team all-conference selection ... two-year offensive line captain ... team captain as a senior ... helped team to two consecutive playoff berths ... first-team all-conference track and field selection as a junior. Personal: Justis Young Peppers ... born March 16, 1999 in Woodbridge, Virginia ... son of Lamarr Peppers and Monica Brown ... has two siblings, Travis Degraphenried and Lamarr Peppers Jr. ... started performing community service with mother at the age of five and regularly volunteered at the local food bank, served as a water boy at charity runs and worked with Habitat for Humanity.

Conner Romango, SAF, 5-11, 190, Pittsburgh, Pa./Fox Chapel Area

Fox Chapel Area High School: Three-year football and one-year track letterwinner ... two-year starter on varsity football team ... totaled 118 tackles, four interceptions, five pass breakups, six touchdowns and 896 total yards ... earned all-section Honorable Mention. Personal: Conner William Romango ... born May 5, 1999 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania ... son of Kevin and Lisa ... has one older brother, Alexander, who played football at Bucknell from 2013 to 2016 ... father, Kevin, played football at Penn State.

Ethan Torres, P/K, 6-1, 180, Great Falls, Va./Bishop O'Connell

Bishop O'Connell High School: Three-year football and three-year track letterwinner ... football team captain and special teams MVP ... Ray Guy All-American ... First Team All-State selection ... First Team All-Washington Catholic Athletic Conference ... First Team All-Arlington County ... ranked as the No. 4 national combo kicker by Ray Guy Prokicker ... named a five-star punter by Kohl's Kicking ... ranked as the No. 13 overall punter in the Class of 2017 by Chris Sailer Kicking. Personal: Ethan Patrick Torres ... born June 10, 1999 in Livingston, New Jersey ... son of Jeff and Alison ... has two younger

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sisters, Sidney and Reese ... uncle, Ralph, played baseball at UC Santa Barbara ... cousin, Rick, played baseball at USC.

Alex Twiford, TE, 6-2, 240, Sinking Spring, Pa./Wilson

Wilson High School: Three-year football and baseball letterwinner ... three-time First Team Section 1 Lancaster-Lebanon tight end ... First Team Berks County selection as a senior ... team captain as Offensive MVP as a senior ... finished career with 76 receptions, 18 rushes, 1,030 total yards and 16 touchdowns ... helped team to four straight Section 1 Lancaster-Lebanon championships, stretching school's streak to nine consecutive titles ... team was a combined 48-6 during his career. Personal: Alexander James Twiford ... born Nov. 26, 1998 in Reading, Pennsylvania ... son of David Twiford and Susan Smolnik ... has an older brother, Tyler ... grandfather, Stanley Smolnik played football at Albright College.

Nnamdi Unachukwu, DE, 6-6, 235, Morganville, N.J./Marlboro

Marlboro High School: Named to NJSIAA Central Jersey Group V All-District Team ... 36 tackles, six sacks and one blocked field goal from defensive end position. Personal: Nnamdi O. Unachukwu ... born July 14, 1999 in Edison, New Jersey ... son of Dan and Ebele ... has three older siblings: Adaobi, Kenechi and Ijeoma ... Adaobi was a member of the track & field team at Michigan ... cousin, Ndichie, played football at Villanova ... first generation Nigerian-American ... hopes to pursue a career in physical therapy.

Gerrit Van Itallie, SAF, 6-0, 210, Mahwah, N.J./Saint Joseph Regional

Saint Joseph Regional: Three-year football letterwinner ... second-team all-county and all-league selection ... totaled 72 tackles and three touchdowns from safety position ... three-year starter ... team was ranked No. 1 in New Jersey and in the top 25 nationally while playing in one of the toughest leagues in the country ... also a member of the track and field team for one year ... played summer club baseball. Personal: Gerrit Van Itallie ... born Aug. 23, 1998 in Teaneck, New Jersey ... son of Edward and Cathy ... has two siblings, Jordan and Jack ... has played football since kindergarten ... never played on a team with a losing record ... passionate about fly fishing.

THE DAY OF GIVING IS COMING!

The chance for you to maximize your gift to Bucknell Football is coming soon! Stay tuned for more information on the BISON MARCH FOR EXCELLENCE ... a **24-hour day of giving to Bucknell Athletics from 12:00 noon on March 21 to 12 noon on March 22.**

Any gift to football during that time period will help the program potentially earn extra support in the MARCH FOR EXCELLENCE challenge. Go Bison!

2017 SPRING PRACTICE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, MARCH 24TH 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM	PRACTICE #1	CMMS
SATURDAY, MARCH 25TH 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM	PRACTICE #2	CMMS
SUNDAY, MARCH 26TH 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM	PRACTICE #3	CMMS
TUESDAY, MARCH 28TH 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM	PRACTICE #4	CMMS
THURSDAY, MARCH 30TH 6:00 AM – 8:00 AM	PRACTICE #5	CMMS
FRIDAY, MARCH 31ST 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM	PRACTICE #6	CMMS
SUNDAY, APRIL 2ND 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM	PRACTICE #7	CMMS
TUESDAY, APRIL 4TH 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM	PRACTICE #8	CMMS
THURSDAY, APRIL 6TH 6:00 AM – 8:00 AM	PRACTICE #9	CMMS
FRIDAY, APRIL 7TH 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM	PRACTICE #10	CMMS
SUNDAY, APRIL 9TH 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM	PRACTICE #11	CMMS
TUESDAY, APRIL 11TH 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM	PRACTICE #12	CMMS
THURSDAY, APRIL 13TH 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM	PRACTICE #13	CMMS
TUESDAY, APRIL 18TH 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM	PRACTICE #14	CMMS
FRIDAY, APRIL 21ST 6:00 PM – PRE-GAME BEGINS 7:00 PM – SPRING GAME PRACTICE #15		CMMS

TENTATIVE 2017 SCHEDULE

Sept. 2	MARIST	6:00 p.m.
Sept. 9	HOLY CROSS* ^	12:00 noon
Sept. 16	at William & Mary	TBA
Sept. 23	SACRED HEART &	6:00 p.m.
Sept. 30	MONMOUTH	6:00 p.m.
Oct. 14	at Cornell	TBA
Oct. 21	at Lafayette*	TBA
Oct. 28	at Colgate*	TBA
Nov. 4	LEHIGH* %	12:00 noon
Nov. 11	GEORGETOWN*	12:00 noon
Nov. 18	at Fordham*	TBA

Home games in **BOLD CAPS (times tentative)**

* Patriot League game

^ Football Alumni Weekend

& Family Weekend

% Homecoming Weekend

FOOTBALL ALUM RON BENJAMIN '67 RECEIVES ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

On Saturday, February 25 the Bucknell Alumni Achievement Awards were presented to Ron Benjamin '67 (football) and Daniela Faas '04 (swimming). These former Bison student-athletes have gone on to achieve tremendous professional success, and they were recognized and spoke before a roomful of current student-athletes representing the Bucknell Athletics Leadership Institute. They were honored again at halftime of the men's basketball team's victory over Navy later in the day.

The Bucknell Alumni Achievement Award is awarded annually to one male student-athlete alumnus and one female student-athlete alumna who have earned distinction in their professional careers. The award recognizes alumni for their leadership aptitude and contributions to their professions, while upholding the highest values of Bucknell Athletics. The recipients of this award represent the best of our alumni and become role models for current Bison student-athletes.

Born and raised in Northeastern Pennsylvania, Ron Benjamin played football at Bucknell. Ron graduated in 1967 with a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering and went on to receive a master's in business administration from Harvard University in 1969.

Ron's business career began in 1970 as the Chief Administrative Officer for the Community Blood Center, which is a non-profit that supplies blood to hospitals in metropolitan Kansas City. From 1972-76, Ron co-founded and owned his first business, BioTec, Inc. The business purchased human plasma from hospitals that were previously discarding the material and recycled it to the pharmaceutical industry for use in diagnostic test kits. Bio Tec was extremely successful and grew to become the largest shipper of salvage plasma in the U.S.

In 1976, Ron sold the business and became the Owner and CEO of One Hour Martinizing. Simultaneously, Ron and an investor group purchased an off-line ATM company called Electronic Funds Transfer Systems Inc. They reinvented the company to become an independent online electronic banking network supporting ATMs and point-of-sale devices. He successfully sold both businesses in 1983, and in 1984 he became the co-owner of I Can't Believe It's Yogurt in Kansas City, which opened seven retail yogurt stores in 30 months.

In 1985 Ron and a partner formed a full-service direct mail agency called the Resource and Development Group. As Co-Owner and CEO, Ron ran the company to assist nonprofit organizations with their fundraising efforts. The company grew from two employees to 125 employees and become one of the largest mailers for the Salvation Army. The company was recognized by INC Magazine in 1991 as one of the nation's fastest-growing companies.

In 1988 Ron and a partner acquired Robinson Potato Supply from the Robinson family, and two short years later he became co-owner and president of Dot Drug Stores, which was a chain of retail discount drug stores from Walmart. The chain was liquidated in 1992, as five of the largest stores were targeted for adjacent sales by Phar-Mor, Inc.

Ron's current position is co-owner and managing director of GreenEarth Cleaning LLC. The business aims to provide the dry cleaning industry with a patented and branded environmentally safe cleaning system through the licensing of its intellectual property. General Electric and Proctor and Gamble have both invested as minority shareholders and serve on the board.

In addition to his success as an entrepreneur, Ron continues to give back to his local community. He helped to form the Blue Valley Recreation Commission in 1985 in response to needs for playing fields for youth in the area. During his time as Chair of the Commission, Ron successfully negotiated the purchase of the 58-acre Millers Woods Sports Complex for \$4 million. Ron also coached AAU basketball for 13 years and served as the director of the Blue Valley Junior Athletic Association and President of its Basketball Club.

Ron also created Project Graduation at his oldest son's school, which is now an annual event to provide an alcohol and drug free graduation party for senior students. He was a founding member of both the Blue Valley Education Foundation and the City of Leawood Foundation. He is an original member of the Church of Nativity's building committee and founding member of the Men of Nativity. He is the Chairman of the Santa Marta Retirement Center, which he helped to develop, and he serves on the board for the Villa St. Francis Nursing Home and Midwest Bioethics Center. Ron also served on the initial steering committee for the Council of Growing Companies, and he served in the Divisional Headquarters for the Missouri/Kansas Division of the Salvation Army. Ron also continues to give back to Bucknell as a critical member of our Board of Trustees since 1995. He has chaired the compensation, audit, and finance committees on the board.



Ron Benjamin receives the 2017 Alumni Achievement Award from President John Brawman



Ron Benjamin and Director of Athletics & Recreation, John Hardt

BISON PLACE 46 ON PL ACADEMIC HONOR ROLL

The Bucknell football team smashed a program record by placing 46 student-athletes on the Patriot League Academic Honor Roll. That total represents about 54 percent of the team's roster, and it bettered the program's previous high-water mark of 35 set last season. In fact, this is the fourth year in a row that the football team has broken its own record for Honor Roll recipients.

The 46 honorees was also the most in the Patriot League this year. Georgetown was next with 33. To qualify for the Patriot League Academic Honor Roll, a student-athlete must achieve at least a 3.20 grade-point average during the semester in which his/her team competes.

Leading the way for the Bison this fall were senior quarterback Alexander Romango and sophomore punter/kicker Alex Pechin, who were two of the four league players to earn a perfect 4.0 GPA. Also making the list were junior wide-out Jack Horan and junior tight end Andrew Podbielski, who were named to the CoSIDA Academic All-District Team and the Academic All-Patriot League Team in the fall. In addition, senior offensive lineman Cary Hess was a semifinalist for the 2016 Campbell Trophy, awarded to the top scholar-athlete in college football.

In all, it was a strong semester academically for the Bison football team, which combined for a 3.23 team GPA. Following is a list of Bucknell's 46 Patriot League Academic Honor Roll members:

Tom Adams, Jr., International Relations
Mac Atkins, Jr., Interdepartmental (Philosophy)
Mike Balzofiore, Fr., Undeclared
Griff Barth, Sr., Economics
Bret Berg, Sr., Political Science
Justin Bethea, Fr., Undeclared
Thomas Bodolus, Sr., Accounting & Financial Management
Devlin Brennan, Sr., German
Alan Butler, So., Undeclared
Mike Caruso, Fr., Undeclared
Craig Cassidy, Jr., International Relations
John Chiarolanzio, Fr., Undeclared Management
Sam Chitty, Fr., Undeclared
Anthony DelRusso, Sr., Chemical Engineering
Trevor Fennimore, Jr., Economics
Jon Fox, Fr., Undeclared
Chad Freshnock, Fr., Undeclared
Troy Glenn, Sr., Economics
Connor Golden, Jr., Economics
Tommy Gorman, So., Undeclared
Cary Hess, Sr., Biology
Jack Horan, Jr., Accounting & Financial Management
Trey Johnson, Jr., Psychology
Colin Jonov, Jr., Economics
Alex Jordan, So., Undeclared
Kyle Kinner, Jr., Interdisciplinary (Economics & Mathematics)
Luke Liprando, Jr., Managing for Sustainability
Erik Lukner, Fr., Undeclared
Bryan Marine, So., Undeclared
Nathan Medrano, Sr., Economics
Jared Morse, Jr., Sociology
Robert Naylor, Sr., English/Creative Writing
Drew Newcomb, So., Undeclared
Dillon Paprota, Fr., Undeclared
Alex Pechin, So., Biomedical Engineering
Andrew Podbielski, Jr., Environmental Studies
Mark Pyles, Jr., Economics
Alexander Romango, Sr., Economics
Chuck Sanders, Fr., Undeclared Management
Ben Schumacher, Sr., Managing for Sustainability
R.J. Sheldon, Sr., Civil Engineering
Sam Trapuzzano, Fr., Undeclared Management
Steven Walier, Fr., Undeclared
C.J. Williams, Sr., Education
Josh Yoder, Fr., Undeclared
Nick Zarkoski, So., Undeclared

DAVENPORT TO PARTICIPATE IN NFL COMBINE

The NFL Scouting Combine will have a Bucknell flavor this year, as Bison offensive tackle Julie'n Davenport is one of the 300 or so pro prospects in Indy putting his skills on display.

Davenport, a consensus FCS All-American who played in the Senior Bowl last month, is projected to be taken in this year's NFL Draft. In fact, his bio on the NFL Combine page says that he is "the odds-on favorite to be the eighth offensive lineman from outside the FBS in the last ten drafts to be selected in the top 100 picks."

Prospects attending the combine will be measured in a number of skill areas: the 40-yard dash, bench press, vertical jump, broad jump, 3-cone drill and shuttle run.

They will also be interviewed by scouts, coaches and executives, who are trying to get a feel for each prospect's personality.

The NFL Combine runs through Monday, March 6, and much of it will be televised on the NFL Network and NFL.com. Live coverage begins Friday, and that is when the offensive line group (along with running backs and special teams players) take the field for the bulk of their drills.

The NFL Draft takes place from Apr. 27-29. Davenport is trying to become the eighth player from Bucknell to be taken in the draft, and the first since Sam Havrilak was taken by the Baltimore Colts in the eighth round in 1969.

At the Senior Bowl in January, Davenport's measured wing span of 87.5 inches was the longest of any player participating in the game, and it was one of the longest ever recorded at the event. Davenport also weighed in at 310 pounds, had 36-inch arms and 10.5-inch hands.

One of 13 players to be named All-Patriot League four times, Davenport was a member of the STATS FCS Walter Payton Award Watch List this past fall. He was a three-time First Team All-Patriot League selection after being named to the Second Team as a freshman in 2013.

The only member of Bucknell's senior class to start all 44 games over the last four years, Davenport was a two-year team captain who was a First Team STATS FCS Preseason All-America selection and was named to the Athlon Sports Preseason FCS All-America Team. He was a Second Team STATS FCS All-American following last season.

This year, Davenport earned All-America honors from STATS, Walter Camp Football Foundation, Associated Press and AFCA.





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Energy, passion, and togetherness have been the hallmarks of the Bucknell Football Program for many years. This has been true not only for the student-athletes on the field, but for the group of supporters who have helped our program each year. As most of you know, the University budget covers only a fraction of the operating expenses to run a competitive Division I football program. This year, we have been given a fundraising goal of \$500,000 to meet our program's budgetary needs. As of January 31 and thanks to the generous support of our donors, we have raised \$210,000. This money is spent in the

three main areas of student-athlete recruitment, purchasing equipment to help train our team members, and covering the travel, lodging, and food costs for our team's travel. As you know, student-athlete recruitment is a year-round and highly competitive and intensive process that is of essential importance in fielding successful teams. In addition, we feel it is important to be able to travel safely, stay in quality hotels, and feed our student-athletes appropriately when we travel.

Our program needs your financial support to continue in our quest for excellence. Your earmarked contribution for Bucknell Football to the Bison Club will help make this a reality. We hope we can count on 100% participation from everyone on our support team. Thanks in advance for your assistance! -- Coach Joe Susan

For more information on the Gridiron Club or to join, contact Todd Newcomb, Senior Associate Director of Athletics/
External Affairs and Bison Club, at 570-577-1771 or tnewcomb@bucknell.edu.

Methods of Giving

Check or Cash: This is the most common way to give. When writing a check, make it out to Bucknell University and in the memo section note "FOOTBALL"

By Credit Card: The university accepts most major credit cards. Monthly payment plans can be arranged.

Gifts of Stock/Securities: To arrange a stock transfer, call the Office of Development & Alumni Relations at 570-577-3200.

Pledges: You can set up a payment schedule when you make a pledge, and payment reminders will be sent to you.

Corporate matching gifts: Many corporations match their employees' charitable donations to nonprofit institutions. Check with your benefits department for matching gift information and to see if they will match gifts to athletics.

You can give on-line: www.BucknellBison.com.