

4-1-2012

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Recommended Citation

Pirmann, Carrie M. and McQuiston, Kathleen, "Making a Difference Beyond the Workplace" (2012). *The Next Page*. Paper 9.
http://digitalcommons.bucknell.edu/tnp_journ/9

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MAKING A DIFFERENCE BEYOND THE WORKPLACE

by Kathleen McQuiston, Assistant Director for Research Services, and Carrie Pirmann, Social Sciences Librarian

The Library and IT Staff are passionate about their contributions to the University. Whether they are helping faculty, staff or students use their computer or teaching people how to find and evaluate information sources, they all have a strong desire to reach out to help others. Many carry that passion into their personal lives as well. Here are some examples of Library and IT staff who are helping others in meaningful ways.

Param Bedi, Vice President for Library and IT, along with English professor Paula Buck, retired Biology professor Sally Nyquist, and other members of the Bucknell community, support the Jackfruit Project, an AID (Association for Indian Development) Lewisburg project which supports the Snehibhavan Home for Girls in Kerala, India. The Jackfruit Project provides the residents with shelter, food, and access to education and extracurricular activities. The AID Lewisburg chapter regularly holds fundraisers in support of the Jackfruit project and other endeavors. Param says the most rewarding aspect of being involved with AID Lewisburg is the sheer ability to make a difference in people's lives. "With the Jackfruit Project, we can support the entire orphanage for \$1000 per month and give the girls many opportunities they otherwise would not have."

Todd Fogle, Senior Technology Support Specialist, is involved with ABATE (Alliance of Bikers Aimed Towards Education), a statewide motorcyclist education and rights organization. As a motorcycle enthusiast, Todd was happy to translate a favorite recreational activity into something that helps other people. "I think it's always rewarding to see any positive difference that you can make in some one's life." In addition to working with the statewide ABATE organization, Todd is a member of the Jack's Mountain Riders chapter, which raises money for The Blue Butterfly Fund, Hunts for Healing, and the McClure Veterans Swimming Pool. They also provide situational help to local families and organizations in need.

Library and IT Senior Technology Support Specialist, **Rob Guissanie**, serves as a volunteer assistant coach for Bucknell's women's track and cross country teams. He previously coached at Penns Valley Area High School, and joined the Bucknell squad when he began working here ten years ago. While his main focus is to help team members to become better athletes, he often find himself using running as a tool to help them become better people. "If I can get the athletes to believe in themselves, they build their self-esteem. As a result they become happier, more confident people who make sound, responsible decisions." In turn, Rob believes that the student-athletes have impacted his life as well. "They teach me as much, if not more, than I teach them. The added benefit is we all stay very fit in the process with our common passion for running!"

Instructional Services Librarian **Nancy Frazier's** love of singing led her to join the Heart of Pennsylvania Women's Barbershop Chorus. Nancy says that her involvement with the Heart of Pennsylvania has led her to "appreciate the historical roots that this form of singing had in the late 19th and early 20th century in American barbershops and on street corners. It's also fun to meet and sing with people from all walks of life." The Heart of Pennsylvania Chorus performs at various nursing homes, churches, town festivals and events, and other venues. For Nancy, an exciting aspect of singing is connecting with the audience members. "Most of the songs we sing are songs known and loved by older audiences. It's very rewarding to sing at nursing homes because audience members often join in and sing along to familiar songs."



LINKS FOR ORGANIZATIONS

AID Lewisburg: <http://lewisburg.aidindia.org/>

ABATE Jack's Mountain Riders Chapter: <https://sites.google.com/site/jacksmountainabate/home>

Heart of Pennsylvania Chorus: <http://www.heartofpa.org>

Bucknell Women's Track and Field Team: <http://www.bucknellbison.com/sports/w-track/buck-w-track-body.html>