Double Take Project: Using Applied Theatre For Campus Climate Change

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DOUBLE TAKE PROJECT: USING APPLIED THEATRE FOR CAMPUS CLIMATE CHANGE

by

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A Proposal Submitted to the Honors Council
For Honors in Department/Program

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I. INTRODUCTION
ABSTRACT:

Despite research gathered in the Campus Climate Report, I believe that it underrepresented the student experience of the social scene. The document primarily served as an identification tool for four major problems on campus: binge drinking, sexual assault, diversity, and disengagement in the classroom. Double Take Project also identifies similar issues however, this project uses theatrical techniques to gather the anecdotal reality of the student perspective. Double Take Project expands beyond the Campus Climate Report to inspire dialogue in a variety of student-to-student interactions and, more importantly, the project seeks action and solution plans.

The social scene dominates our culture and its many issues result in concern for the safety, self-identity, and development of Bucknell students into thriving adults. Double Take Project is rooted in the belief that theatre is a palpable tool for social change. Over the course of many events, Double Take Project has utilized facets of theatre to provide opportunities to voice discontent, widen perception of normalcy on campus, and inspire confidence to act on personal beliefs.

The Double Take Project uses many Applied Theatre methods to impact the social scene. For example, I conducted 36 student interviews and transformed the stories into a one-woman show, *Rage Behind Curtains*, which I performed at multiple venues across campus. I also used interviews to create a radio show airing one story per day. I conducted ten workshops with student groups, Fraternities and Sororities, and in the classroom utilizing Augusto Boal’s Theatre of the Oppressed (TO) techniques. I also
created a “social scene confessional” where I stood outside the Elaine Langone Center with a sign that read, “Tell me a story about the social scene” from a wide variety of Bucknell students. Finally, I have assembled a Forum Theatre Company based on Augusto Boal’s method of the spect-actor, utilizing participants as both actors and spectators in the theatre piece. All of the names indicated in this paper have been altered to protect the identity of the participants.

While planning events and conducting various theatrical experiences, I learned that there are a series of internal and external issues contributing to our social environment. Internally, students are conflicted with personal beliefs while battling outward social pressure. Whether they are on the outskirts or center of the social scene determines their response to this conflict. For example, I have discovered that students on the borders of the social culture respond with criticism because they feel excluded, whereas the student’s centrally involved critique the culture in private and while their persona appears to not want change. Externally, there are many structural issues that contribute to the current social climate such as without Fraternity meal plans, Cafeteria space is not sufficient to feed all of the students, exclusive party culture, and gendered housing. Through meetings with Deans and staff, I have learned there are also problems between administration and students, resulting in resentment and blame.

Although addressing structural issues would instigate immediate change, in my opinion, internal student conflicts are the primary cause for the current negative social atmosphere. I believe that pressure to conform is rooted in lack of personal identity. Because students simply do not know themselves, they form strong social groups that
become the definition of themselves. Without confident self-awareness, large and powerful groups coerce students to accept social norms resulting in the individual’s outward distaste for change, yet internal discomfort.

THE PROBLEM [s]:

Upon my entrance into college, I began to identify issues at Bucknell as a mere personal quest to observe the reality of my surroundings. I have not conducted any formal research in my past three years; rather, I have gathered a plethora of personal experiences to help me identify six major issues.

1. Greek life dominates all social interaction shaping relationships, status, lifestyle, and experience.
2. High-level binge drinking, blacking out, and general excess define parties at Bucknell.
3. Lack of engagement in the classroom; no connections between academics and social life.
4. Inequality between men and women.
5. High level of sexual assault and students’ “blind eyes” to the seriousness, high frequency, and occurrence of these events.
6. Minority students of race, sexual preference, and Independents are excluded from the social environment.

After identifying these topics for myself throughout my experience, the Campus Climate Report was released and outlined seven almost identical problems. The report confirmed my own observations through statistical evidence and data. In response to the Report and my own observations, I developed Double Take Project to provide anecdotal research to the topics identified, examining the student perspective from actual experience instead of numerical data.
Following inward reflection and study of the Campus Climate Report, I realized we both overlooked the lack of human connection and friendship between Bucknell students. I believe that the absence of “true” relationships is the root of all of the problems identified by the Campus Climate Report and my personal experiences.

**MY HYPOTHESIS:**

I believe that theatre can directly better the connection, communication, and development of students in our social scene at Bucknell University. Theatre primarily functions as a form of expression that intends to connect humans through the ancient art of storytelling. Sharing personal experiences reveals pressing issues in a shared environment, creates a community of understanding, exposes multiple perspectives, and challenges the speaker to express repressed feelings. I believe theatre is the perfect solution to solving and exposing minimal student-to-student connection, simply because it requires basic communication: sharing and listening or giving and receiving. If we increase interaction, honesty, friendship, and ultimately a community between students, the secrecy and animosity behind the issues identified will dissipate. I am also convinced that exposing similar voices and experiences through storytelling will increase connection because students will realize, they are not alone.

If my intention is to use theatre to express all of the various components of the student voice and create a community, it is essential to not limit the project to one issue. Although advised to do the opposite, I decided that a cross examination of all of the cultural problems would illuminate the source, discover which issue was most pressing,
and allow all student voices to be exposed regardless if the story fit the specific concern. An acceptance of all experiences is crucial in the development of a community because our current social state is exclusive, secretive, and compartmentalized; thus, if Double Take Project intends to unite all Bucknell students, everyone must be heard equally.
II. METHODOLOGY
There are many forms of Theatre that have been developed all over the world to directly increase expression, communication, and social change in their communities. Applied Theatre is an umbrella term for various techniques that use theatre to tackle issues with, for, and by communities. Philip Taylor describes,

The theatre is applied because it is taken out from the conventional mainstream theatre house into various settings in communities where many members have no real experience in theatre form. The theatre becomes a medium for action, for reflection but, most important, for transformation -- a theatre in which new modes of being can be encountered and new possibilities for humankind can be imagined (Prentki, 14).

Taylor emphasizes one of the most important qualities of Applied Theatre: anyone can participate. Applied Theatre is designed for communities with little to no theatrical experience and focuses on the idea of using theatre as a vehicle for social change. There are many different ways in which Applied Theatre is developed and used to impact change in communities. In order to spark change at Bucknell, I have studied eight branches of Applied Theatre and intend to modify, experiment, and weave my own goals and specific Bucknell issues into these methods. There are two major techniques examined: Theatre of the Oppressed and Agit-Prop Theatre. I am also interested in four artists that singlehandedly developed their own format for social change: Anna Deavere Smith, Guillermo Gomez Pena, Marina Abramović, and Spalding Gray. Finally, there are two writing techniques that are not considered Applied Theatre, but have theatrical elements which inspired my work: journaling and the book assembled by Jay Allison and Dan Gediman, This I Believe.

APPLIED THEATRE TECHNIQUES:

1. THEATRE OF THE OPPRESSED

Augusto Boal (1931-2009) grew up in Rio de Janeiro and began to develop his Theatre of the Oppressed techniques in the 1960’s in Brazil. Boal was an actor, playwright, director, political prisoner and activist, legislator, author, educator, and theorist. He worked as the Artistic Director for the Arena Theatre in Sao Paulo and later in 1970’s because of the threatening cultural empowerment of his work, Boal was imprisoned, tortured, and ultimately exiled by the Brazilian government. Many years after his exile, Boal was elected into the City Council of Rio de Janeiro and while in power, Boal used his theatre techniques to write new legislation with the help of the local citizens. In his lifetime Boal used theatre to create social change; however, his most prominent achievement was the development of his technique, Theatre of the Oppressed. Boal created his method by using theatre games and workshops with a variety of age groups and economic differences in many locations all over the world, such as Europe, Africa, India, Asia, North America, and Brazil. His objective was to empower a small group of locals with knowledge to continue workshops in order to change their own communities.²

What is Theatre of the Oppressed?

Theatre of the Oppressed (TO) is composed of five major techniques: Image Theatre, Forum Theatre, Invisible Theatre, Rainbow of Desire, and Legislative Theatre. These techniques vary in approach and significance, yet they all have the same goal in mind: utilize facets of theatre to create actual change within a community. Augusto Boal visualizes these techniques in the formation of a tree.³ (Appendix A) The roots of the tree are made up of sounds, images, and words because the base of TO involves the senses that make us active and responsive humans. The trunk of the tree is built of Games, Image Theatre, and Forum Theatre because these techniques develop directly out of images and the senses. The methodologies used in Forum Theatre, Image Theatre, and TO Games influence the branches of the tree; Legislative Theatre, Invisible Theatre, Rainbow of Desire, Newspaper Theatre, and Direct Action. The seeds and flowers beneath the tree represent the function of TO: germinate philosophy and methodology in order to sprout change. Later, Boal would add a bird to the top of the tree that would symbolize cyclical passage of his techniques. Also, the tree is an organic, natural element, which reflects Boal’s belief that all humans possess the innate capacity for theatre and social change.

Influences of Theatre of the Oppressed: Bertolt Brecht and Paulo Freire

Brecht

Bertolt Brecht was born in Germany in 1898. He was a poet, director, theatre dramaturge, and philosopher. According to Brecht, popular theatre has a “Dramatic Form” whereas he referred to his own form of theatre as “Epic Theatre”.\(^4\) (Appendix B) Brecht believes mainstream theatre, or the dramatic form is composed of multiple components that all function to paralyze the audience into an empathetic state and deter them from judgment or taking action. Empathy is an emotional relationship between the character and the audience in which the spectators lose power and become subject to the will of the play. This results in an emotional reaction, which Brecht refers to as an “emotional orgy” (Theatre of the Oppressed 103). He says when the audience endures through the character’s feelings, emotional identification occurs, resulting in a feeling of completion; i.e., the audience already battled and achieved success through the protagonist, thus they are not moved to action following the performance. Although Brecht despises the popular theatre “emotional orgy,” he also says empathy can be used in a different positive way when paired with knowledge.

Before a dark room from which a scream is heard, a child becomes frightened: Brecht is against any attempts to move the spectator with scenes of this type. But if Einstein discovers that E=mc\(^2\)...what an extraordinary emotion! Brecht is totally in favor of this type of emotion. Learning is an emotional experience, and there is no reason to avoid such emotions. But at the same time, ignorance causes emotions, and one must oppose emotions of this kind! (Theatre of the Oppressed 103)

Emotion through knowledge and deterrence from ignorance is what drives the audience into empowerment and action. However, emotion is not Brecht’s enemy, rather he emphasizes emotion because of knowledge, in order to trigger action.\(^5\) For example, Boal references a play written by Brecht called *Mother Courage and Her Children*, when he states,

> How can one fail to be moved when Mother Courage loses her sons, one by one, in the war? Inevitably, the spectator is moved to tears. But the emotion caused by ignorance must be avoided: let no one weep over the “fate” that took Mother Courage’s sons from her! Let one cry rather with anger against war and against the commerce of war, because it is this commerce that takes away the sons of Mother Courage (*Theatre of the Oppressed* 103).

By encouraging the audience to be angry at the war rather than the emotion of death, the audience is empowered to take actions steps with their anger to make actual change, instead of enduring a cathartic, cleansing emotional experience.

In Brecht’s Epic Theatre, the audience is made to think through reason instead of emotion. Brecht uses various techniques to get the spectators in the present moment. For example, Brecht debunks the magic of theatre through alienation such as stagehands, lights, and equipment are made visible. He prevents the audience from slipping into emotional catharsis by reminding them that they are watching a play, not living in a fantasy life. Similarly, Brecht also believes in alienation between the character and actor in order to remind the audience of roleplaying.

> At no moment must he go so far as to be wholly transformed into the character played. The verdict: ‘he didn’t act Lear, he was Lear’ would be an annihilating

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blow to him. He has just to show the character, or rather he has to do more than just get into it; this does not mean that if he is playing passionate parts he must himself remain cold. It is only that his feelings must not be at bottom be those of the character, so that the audience’s may not at bottom be those of the character either. The audience must have complete freedom here (Brecht and Willet, 193).

This distinction between actor and character is an important tool to jar the audience out of a hypnotic, passive state. Often in Brechtian plays, actors will change into their costumes on stage or snap into and out of character to show the audience that they are people playing roles; all of the tactics culminate to inspire action\(^6\).

Finally, Brecht believed that theatre should be for all of the people regardless of class, economic status, or education. Brecht believed that bourgeois theatre was a depiction of the ideal or peaceful world which

\[\ldots\] Always aim at smoothing over contradictions, as creating false harmony, at idealization. Conditions are reported as if they could not be otherwise; characters as individuals, incapable by definition of being divided, cast in one block, manifesting themselves in the most various situations, likewise for that matter existing without any situation at all…None of this is like reality, so a realistic theatre must give it up (Brecht and Willet, 277).

In popular bourgeois theatre in his era, Brecht argues that there is little shocking material; everything is a smooth transition in which peace is sustained. He argues that there are jerks and unpredictable bumps in real life. Thus in his Epic Theatre, Brecht emphasizes an unresolved ending. This is a critical component to motivate audiences to take action with problems presented in the plays. If the ending is complete, the audience will feel

resolved; if the ending is incomplete, the audience will move to find a solution to the
problem.  

Freire

Paulo Freire was born in 1921 and was a famous Brazilian pedagogical theorist
and teacher. Through research between teacher and student relationships in the education
system, Freire realized that the structure is similar to a narrative. In school, there is a
teacher who transmits knowledge to her students. This is also found in plays, which a
subject is transferred to a group of listeners, the audience. Freire developed a theory
called the Banking Model of Education. He uses the analogy of a bank to describe the
relationship between teacher and student; teachers deposit information while students are
the depositaries,

Successful teaching here is measured by retrieval of the deposit at exam time,
thereby leaving the student’s accounts (i.e., their minds) empty” (Mitchell and
Freitag, 992).

Freire believes this philosophy mimics society: someone knows everything and the other
person knows nothing. He believes that this is the root of hierarchy and oppression
because

Projecting an absolute ignorance onto others, a characteristic of the ideology of
oppression, negates education and knowledge as process of inquiry. The teacher
presents himself to his students as their necessary opposite; by considering their
ignorance absolute, he justifies his own existence (Freire, 72).

7 Bertolt Brecht, and John Willett. Brecht on Theatre; the Development of an Aesthetic. (New York: Hill
and Wang, 1964), 179-180, 201, 277.
He proposes a model for change in which the roles of teacher and student are interchangeable and a dialogue ensues between both parties using personal experience to “both question, both learn, and both share in the creation of meaning” (Agnew, 62). Boal utilizes Freire’s theory through identifying and disbanding all hierarchy and oppression in his process.

**Philosophy of Theatre of the Oppressed**

I have synthesized ten major components to understanding the theory behind TO.

1. Fight oppression in every form. The main function of Theatre of the Oppressed is to utilize the expressive nature of theatre to give those that are denied a voice, a place to speak. “Liberation, emancipation: it is by fighting oppression in whatever form it appears that we will help to humanize humanity. We are democrats” (*Ethics of the Oppressed*, 5).

2. Human beings are creators and inherently artists. TO and Boal begin with the assumption and definition that theatre is the “capacity for humans to observe themselves in action” (*Games for Actors and Non-actors*, 11).

3. Theatre should be accessible to everyone. In the contemporary theatre world, the word “theatre” is often associated with Broadway, musical theatre, and $150 tickets. Boal’s definition of theatre is separate from our current perception of commercial theatre: if theatre is innate in all humans, than anyone can participate and anyone can perform. Broadway is expensive, composed of professionals, and
thus only available to a small elite group. The separation of theatre from the masses is depriving our entire culture of expression. Boal said, “When individuals don’t express themselves emotionally for long periods of time they get sick; communities are the same,” (Schutzman and Cohen-Cruz, 35) and his idea of artistic accessibility results in community healing. Boal believed in this idea so much so that he was inspired by Jean Vilar who said, “Theatre should be as available as gas and electric,” meaning theatre should be as accessible, cheap, and common as fueling your home or car. We need to associate theatre with cultural expression on all economic, racial, and gendered levels in order to utilize theatre for its true purpose: allow humanity to observe themselves and take action in making change.

4. “To act.” In Boal’s definition, the function of theatre is to act. He references the verb “to act” as a double meaning. In theatrical terms, we all assume acting means performing; however, Boal challenges us to think of “act” as action. His techniques strive to simulate debate and conflict in the form of true action.9

5. “Rehearsal for Reality.” His work encourages participants to explore their real issues in a theatrical setting, which will prepare them to develop strategies and practice those instances before testing them in the real world.10

6. The act of theatre is an act of transformation. Once a participant crosses the line between audience member and actor a transformation is made. Boal says,

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“Transforming images of reality according to our desires and dreams is in itself a transformative act” ("Democratic Process and the Theatre of the Oppressed," 4). There is a legend that Boal’s technique Forum Theatre was born when a woman in the audience shouted that the wife character on stage was “Dominated by her husband, [and instead] needed to have ‘a very clear’ discussion with him” (Paterson, 37). The woman in the audience was so upset that she got on stage and beat the husband actor with a broom until he stopped abusing his wife. At that moment the gap between audience and actor was broken and the birth of Forum Theatre originated.

7. Passive vs. Active audience member. From the enraged audience member’s intervention, Boal originated the idea of a “spect-actor.” This term combines spectator and actor into one word, meaning that the audience no longer attends the theatre in a passive role expecting to sit in their seats and watch a play, rather they are active participants that move to the stage to act out an idea for social change.11

8. To liberate, not to preach. Spectactors are encouraged to share personal stories and make personal connections throughout workshops and performances. Boal believes in the ancient power of storytelling because individual stories empower participants on an expansive, community level. Jan Cohen-Cruz agrees because storytelling,

Draws on the authority of experience; everyone is an expert on his or her own life. It follows from the authority of experience that there are multiple

views on what constitutes reality. As bell hooks writes, experience ‘affords a privileged critical location from which to speak’ without denying others the same. This suggests how personal stories can be great levelers, diffusing hierarchy (Cohen-Cruz, 104).

Eliminating hierarchy in workshops is necessary when dealing with oppression. Storytelling often highlights personal experiences, but can express cultural standpoints as well. In certain social justice plays about racism or AIDS, the structure is a like a lecture in a classroom performed visually. In these plays, actors are preaching a strict agenda or meaning. Boal’s roots are in democracy and disbanding hierarchy so he does not believe in preaching one message, rather expressing multiple perspectives to illuminate larger issues. Marie Claire Picher agrees, “The learners are the subject and not the object of the process,” (“What is Theatre of the Oppressed?” 3) she describes participants at the center of the story and its action rather than being lectured at with moral intentions or themes. In a TO workshop where the participants are subjects, the goal is not to reveal one universal solution to a problem, instead highlight many choices and options through the art of storytelling from multiple perspectives.

9. Purposeful blur of fiction vs. reality in order to encourage actual change. Theatre naturally meshes the line between fiction and reality by utilizing real language and real life situations in plays, yet the action of the play does not happen in real time. TO utilizes this to its advantage because often participants lose themselves in the action and can no longer distinguish the stage from reality. For example, in one of Boal’s techniques, Invisible Theatre, a real scene is rehearsed with a
group of actors and then performed in a public place such as a mall or subway train. The public is unaware that a theatre piece is taking place because the scene is so true to life that they perceive it to be an everyday conversation. The purpose of this is to provoke the public to react naturally rather than how they would say they would describe their behavior in a workshop environment. Invisible Theatre bridges the gap between theatre and life in a way that those who witness the event are unclear what is “real.”

10. One of Boal’s major influences, Bertolt Brecht, believed that catharsis keeps audience members in a passive, empathetic role. He argued that Aristotelian theatre is comparative to a monologue situation in which the audience sits in the theatre and is spoken to. He relates this to the Aristotelian form of the play in which there is a tragic hero who has a tragic flaw, also known as “hamartia” which prevents him from achieving his main objective in the play. The hero may be punished or destroyed because of that flaw and then gains trust and repentance from the audience through catharsis, emotional cleansing. The spectators are coerced into an empathetic journey through the hero character due to their own pity and fear of moral judgment or punishment. Catharsis results in a passive audience member leaving the theatre feeling emotional and unmotivated to take action. Both Boal and Brecht avoid catharsis and empathy in their work so that the audience is left with a fire in their bellies to make change. Boal avoids

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catharsis through the role of the spectactor who “Retains the ability to think and to act, taking control of and becoming the protagonist of his or her own drama” (Agnew, 60).

**Function of Games**

When I refer to “games,” I am discussing Boal’s theatrical activities that utilize the body as a tool for play and expression. In his book, Boal says that the body has a “muscular mask,” (*The Aesthetics of the Oppressed*, 5) our body is socially constructed to move a certain way so that it will not be judged or mocked by others. Boal says we are sometimes made aware of how our social behavior is constructed by society to keep us docile, but often we are not made aware of our physical limitations by society. Games are “sensory dialogues” (*The Aesthetics of the Oppressed*, 5) with the body to break down our physical and social constructions that force us to move or express with our bodies in a way that we are unaccustomed. Games utilize not only the body but also the five senses in order to wake up the participant to a full human sensory state.

Structurally, the games have rules and a procedure to follow which mimics the rules and regulations of society. However, Boal says, “They also require creative freedom, so that the Game, or life, is not transformed into servile obedience. Without rules, there is no game, without freedom there is no life” (*The Aesthetics of the Oppressed*, 4). Playing the games themselves are an action step towards learning the rules of society while practicing liberation and change within those limitations.
TECHNIQUES

There are five major techniques in Theatre of the Oppressed, each with different functions. Image Theatre, Forum Theatre, and Invisible Theatre are all used to combat external oppressive forces; whereas Rainbow Of Desire/Cop in the Head explores internal repression. Legislative Theatre uses theatricality to create laws for and by the community.

1. Image Theatre:

Image Theatre was derived from the basic principle that “a picture speaks 1,000 words.” The technique is composed of a series of games and activities that utilize the physical body, rather than the voice to express oppression. The participants switch roles between “sculptor” and “sculpture/clay/model”. The most basic method of Image Theatre is when a sculptor molds other participants in the room, like clay, to illustrate her own personal story, experience, or emotion. The roles of sculptor and sculpture switch between all of the participants so everyone is given an equal opportunity to share.\(^\text{14}\)

There are three basic ways in which a sculptor can mold a participant into a sculpture. For all of these methods, the sculptor can be as specific as she wants indicating subtle facial expressions or the slightest hand gesture.

1. **Molding:** The sculptor actually touches participant and slowly moves his or her body into the exact position desired.
2. **Mirroring:** The sculptor mirrors with her own body exactly how she wants the sculpture to look and the participant mirrors her perfectly.

3. **Puppeteer**: The sculptor pretends tiny strings are attached to the participant like a puppet and slowly moves those strings to put the sculpture in place.

Molding techniques utilize the power of the body instead of language because Boal believes that words limit our breadth of expression. For example, the influence of language on human development is explored in Peter Handke’s play, *Kaspar*. The piece was based on a true story of a German boy who grew up in complete isolation and thus unable to speak. Handke constructs the play in a similar fashion; Kaspar begins with no ability to communicate and then through teachings on an overhead speaker, he gains the knowledge of language. The voice in the speaker is symbolic for society constructing his means of expression. Boal would agree with Handke saying,

> We must not forget that words are only vehicles which convey meanings, emotions, memories, ideas…which are not necessarily the same for everyone: *the word spoken is never the word heard*. Words are like trucks: they carry the loads you put on them. Words do not exist in nature, they did not come into being like trees: they have been invented by people (*Games for Actors and Non-actors* 174).

Both Boal and Handke express that words are a societal invention that limits us; however, Handke presents this argument through *Kaspar*, whereas Boal takes action by using the body as a more universal tool for communication. By focusing on the body as the sole form of expression, Image Theatre allows those from diverse backgrounds, education, and economic class to communicate freely.

Another perspective on the phrase, “a picture speaks 1,000 words,” is that there are many ways one image can be perceived. While the sculptor molds his image, all of the participants that are not sculpted observe his work. At first, they are not aware of the story or emotion intended by the speaker and apply their own assumptions and personal
stories to the image. For example, in a workshop with TOPLAB in New York City, I played a game called *Complete the Image*, which challenged the participants to view the same image from multiple viewpoints. The game goes as follows:

A. Image Theatre Game: *Complete the Image.* ("Democratic Process and the Theatre of the Oppressed” 9)

1. Two spectators silently shake hands and then freeze. The participants watching are instructed to shout out what they see, memories, events, or stories this image evokes.
2. Without speaking, one of the spectators in the handshake leaves the image and sits with the group, while the other spectator freezes. Again, the participants free-associate what they see or think.
3. When a participant has the impulse they join the frozen spectator and place themselves in the image in a new position. The participants respond again.
4. The spectator who is still frozen in the handshake position leaves, while the participants respond one more time with what they see in the new solo image.
5. The game continues back and forth in this fashion. To modify, the large group can be broken up into smaller units or an added time constraint will force the spectators to move quickly, without planning a projected meaning for their image.

While playing this game at TOPLAB, a man in my group, Jacob, put himself into a sculpture where he had his hand outstretched as if he was going to shake someone else’s hand, but no one was there. The participants expressed many different interpretations, but one woman said this reminded her of a time when she felt like she was reaching out for help financially but no one was there to support her. Another woman disagreed; Jacob’s face reminded her of the theme entitlement, so she thought the image depicted a man expecting to be served by the society around him. I had the impulse to enter the image and for no reason, I kneeled in front of Jacob with my forehead cupped by the palm of his hand. The group burst in discussion about the variety of perceptions on the same image.
One man said it reminded him of taking Holy Communion when he was a child, while another woman thought it was an abusive relationship between Father and daughter. Boal would say that this process of interpreting images acts as a mirror of the self.

Based on the *multiple mirror of the gaze of others*—a number of people looking at the same image, and offering their feelings, what is evoked for them, what their imaginations throw up around that image. This multiple reflection will reveal to that person who made the image its hidden aspects. It is up to the protagonist (the builder of the image) to understand and feel whatever she wants to or is able to take from this process (*Games for Actors and Non-actors* 175).

This experience taught me that although this image may mean one specific thing to me, to the group, it might mean something completely different. This exercise highlights Boal’s philosophy that there is no universal truth, rather TO strives to uncover multiple perspectives to the same problem. Another variation of *Complete the Image* can be utilized based on specific issues in the workshop, such as the entire exercise can be themed as gender violence or addiction. Boal used this variation with the theme “family” in multiple countries around the world to recognize cultural differences based on variations in the images.

B. Image Theatre Game: *Image of the Word*

(*Games for Actors and Non-actors* 181)

1. The participants choose a theme that is a shared and relevant to the entire group, for example, family.
2. Without speaking, a volunteer uses the bodies of the participants as clay and sculpts a single image that encompasses the collective opinion on the subject.
3. When the image is completed, the group decides if they agree with the depiction of the theme and if it applies to them.
4. If another participant has another idea or modification to the image, they do so.
5. This continues until the group decides on an image they all can agree upon.
Boal used this exercise with groups of people in Sweden, Italy, the United States, Germany, Mexico, and Egypt. He also conducted multiple workshops in each country and discovered that the image of family was similar in the same country and differed in the workshops in other countries. For example, the image of a Swedish family was a table in the middle of the room with two or three people around it but facing away from each other. In the corner of the image, a woman sat with her back turned to everyone in the room. In Italy, the image of family was centered around a table again, except this time, men were seated playing cards. A woman was also in the corner except this time hugging her daughter as if she was an infant in need of protection. Boal conducted workshops across the United States and each time was confronted with the same image of family: a man seated in the center of the room with women surrounding him. All of them are chewing gum and their heads are tilted towards him as if taking a family portrait. All of these images say something different about each of the countries, their definition of family, and their societal structures. The next step in Image Theatre is taking the image and dynamising it to develop an argument and path for social change. Dynamisation is a word created by Boal to describe the next part of Image Theatre, putting the image through a transition or movement. The function of dynamising is to dive deeper into the meaning of the image and significance for the sculptor.

C. Image Theatre Game: Dynamisation of Image of the Word
   (Games for Actors and Non-Actors 185)

1. After the group decides on a collective image of the theme, the next step is to ask a volunteer to sculpt an ideal model of the image. An ideal model is a

new sculpture with the oppression disbanded and everyone in a state of equality.

2. Each participant is allowed a chance to sculpt his or her ideal model of the theme.

3. The group begins with the “real” image and in slow motion moves to the “ideal model” and moves back and forth between the two.

4. The group returns to the “real” image created on the theme. Then when the facilitator claps, everyone in the image is allowed to make one movement that will increase oppression (if she is playing oppressor) or free herself (if she is playing oppressed). The Joker claps his hands a few times so multiple liberation strategies are tested.

5. The game ends after all of the possibilities have been visually examined and conflict has been resolved positively or negatively.

The Dynamisation of Image of the Word delves into the ideal of a situation forcing participants to not solely dwell their oppressions in society but what they would prefer instead. Creating a visual image out of these thoughts, allows the spectator to experiment with the experience of positive change would look and feel. Then, the clapping allows spectators to quickly create solutions to their visual oppressions without overthinking or complicated discussion.

Image Theatre is the part of the tree trunk, or core of TO because it encompasses the idea that communication with the body results in greater equality of expression, than through articulation and language. This idea is threaded through all of Boal’s varying techniques.

Image Theatre in the World: Rio de Janeiro

Douglas L. Paterson in his article, “A Role to Play for Theatre of the Oppressed” describes an instance of Image Theatre at the 7th International Festival of the Theatre of the Oppressed in late July 1993. The festival was composed of TO troupes, scholars, and
various groups from around the world that congregate to perform, conduct workshops, and hold lectures. During the event, a tragedy overwhelmed the conference when eight homeless children were killed only a few feet away from the workshop center. At the time, there were more than 200,000 children that lived in the streets of Rio de Janeiro and local merchants earn $10 for every child murdered. Boal suggested taking a day of the festival to respond to the murders using Image Theatre. He invited the participants to split into groups and make images based on how they felt or relevant personal experiences. Everyone created powerful images and then literally brought them into the street. One image was made up of the five stages of a child’s lifetime that mirrored the lives of the children murdered. The first part of the image was birth, another distraught parents who were unable to care for their children properly, the child getting kicked out of the house, stealing from tourists to make a living, and then getting shot. Another group created an image of children in garbage bags shot at by brooms (that symbolized guns) and then swept down the street. The public gathered in the streets to watch and reflect on the murders. Image Theatre was used to help not only participants process their emotions, but the community to heal and problem solve.

2. Forum Theatre:

A Forum Theatre project typically originates within a community with specific issues. A few community members or actors from a TO troupe will create a piece, also known as “Model” based off of a particular problem that directly effects the community.”
(Patterson, 38). The piece can last anywhere from 15-60 minutes depending on the needs of the group. The model is rehearsed in great detail and performed in an extremely public location to allow maximum attendance. At first, the piece is performed with no interruptions like a traditional play. Then a facilitator, also known as the “Joker” explains the rules of the forum. He/she explains that the piece will be performed again except this time spectators are encouraged to engage in the action. Anytime a spectator wants to intervene, they must yell, “Stop!” The spectator gets up from his seat and stands on stage. He replaces the actor and demonstrates a suggested solution to the problem posed in the scene. The interventions continue until the oppression is beat with a viable solution or plan for the future. Boal believes that a Forum piece is never completed because, “The objective of Theatre of the Oppressed is not to close a cycle, to generate catharsis, or to bring an end to a process in development. On the contrary, its objective is to encourage autonomous activity, to set a process in motion” (Games for Actors and Non-actors 275).

**Goal of Forum Theatre:**

The overall goal of a Forum Theatre piece is to provoke the spectators to intervene and transform from passive to active members of society. Because the piece is an actual problem within the community, the forum functions as a safe place in which the community can develop a real action plan to solving issues.  

10 Basic Rules of the Forum Game:

This structure can vary depending on the community and event.

1. The audience is warmed up with a game, for example, *The Good Day Game.* The activity begins with the task; participants must find someone and shake hands. They share a story about themselves or something they want to share with the other person. The pair cannot let go from the handshake until both partners find another person to shake hands with and begin a new conversation. The role of the warm up is very important to a forum event because it prepares the audience for interaction while simultaneously developing a sense of community within the first few moments.  

2. The model is performed first as if it was a typical piece of theatre.

3. The spectators are asked if they agree with the solutions posed by the protagonist, they will most likely say no. Then, audience is told the play will be performed again and it will have the same outcome as it did before, unless the spectators intervene to change the ending.

4. The Joker explains that if they have a potential solution to try on the model, they must shout “Stop!” and the actors will freeze. The spectator enters the stage and says where she would like to start the scene from and then the intervention begins.

5. The actor who was replaced does not disappear; she must stay off stage in case her fellow actors need any help.

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6. Once the spectator begins the intervention, all other actors must increase or intensify their oppression. The goal is to encourage the spectator to come up with true to life solutions and thus must be faced with true to life rejection and oppression. It is not meant to be easy for the spectator to beat the oppression because this game must help the spectator train for the real world.

7. If the spectator gives up, the actor returns to her role and the game continues. However, if a spectator intervenes with a solution that breaks the oppression, all actors must give in.

8. The Joker and audience watch for “magic solutions”. When the audience or Joker think that a solution posed is fantastical or unrealistic, they yell “Magic!” The intervention stops and the audience decides if the solution is magical or not (Boal, “Games for Actors and Non-actors xxvii). For example, a magical solution would be if the spectator decides to win the lottery and is now a wealthy man “solving” his issue of poverty. This is unrealistic and another solution must be explored.

9. It is helpful if someone challenges the Joker because it shows to the audience that even the rules of the game (or society) can be changed based on what they want their world/game to look like.

10. The forum is “over” when a solution is posed or plan of action begins to develop.\(^\text{18}\)

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\(^{18}\) Augusto Boal. *Games for Actors and Non-actors*. (New York: Routledge, 2002), 244-245.
Structure of Forum Model:

Boal highlights a specific structure of the Forum model that is required in order to get the spectators to intervene however, he created these structures in the 1970’s and since then, theatre companies and communities have altered the structure of the model depending on the needs of the community and issues at hand.

Boal outlines, the Forum model must clearly emphasize the protagonist and antagonist characters. The protagonist is the person who is suffering the oppression and the antagonist is the person causing the oppression. Marc Rich in his article, “The interACT model” discusses the importance of empathy for the protagonist. Although Boal is clearly against the seductive power of empathy to an audience, Rich argues that in order for the spectator to intervene for the protagonist, they must empathize with her. Rich creates forum models for college students dealing with rape. He quotes Schewe who says,

The idea behind [empathy] interventions is that students who understand the horrible experiences of rape would never inflict that type of pain on anyone and would be more likely to help and believe a person who reports that he or she has been raped (518).

In this case, the hope is that if students can intervene in the place of the protagonist, perhaps they will be more likely to understand this person’s perspective and gain the tools to help the situation if this were to occur in their lives.

Another structural component to a Forum piece is that the protagonist must directly face the oppression inflicted by the antagonist in the model. The form of oppression or problems examined in the Forum model can stem from larger issues such
as class or racism, but it is important that the antagonist is a physical person such as a Father, boss, or principal inflicting an actual oppression.

The solutions posed by the protagonist in the model must contain at least one “error” so that the spectators have a reason to intervene. For example, I participated in a workshop at TOPLAB in which we created a Forum model about oppression in the workplace during Black Friday. One employee told his employer in advance that he could not work overtime because he had a test on Friday. Although notified early, the boss refused to respect the employee and made him work overtime. The employee quietly accepted his orders and continued to work. Although the actor wanted to say something back to his boss, that would be a potential solution for a spectator to propose, so we decided to keep the employee silent. His social “error” of silence allows potential opportunities for spectators to intervene.

Costumes and props are important to establish identity of each character. Costumes that are easily removed are beneficial so that when the spectator intervenes and becomes the protagonist, thy have a costume to complete the transformation.

Finally, the model concludes with an incomplete ending. In order to provoke the audience, a culmination of oppression must occur. For example, the protagonist could be raped, killed, or fired from his job. Not all of the Forum pieces have to end with such a disturbance, but it is essential that there are high stakes in the situation so that the audience will feel an insatiable need to change the outcome.  

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The Role of the Joker:

The primary role of the Joker is to explain the rules of the Forum game and to provoke questions, poke holes in arguments, and not to seek universal truths. Adrian Jackson in his introduction to “Games for Actors and Non-actors” describes the “Joker” as, “the Joker in a pack of cards, and has no link with the idea of playing jokes. The Joker figure is, in various different contexts and combinations, the director, referee, facilitator…the person who acts as intermediary between audience and performers” (xxvi). It is important to note that the Joker is not attached to either the performers or audience. He is equivalent to the “wild card” in a deck of cards, floating between all of the suits.

Boal outlines a few basic rules for the Joker, for example, the Joker must avoid manipulating the audience, relay doubts back to the audience in the form of questions, and withhold personal opinions. More importantly, the Joker cannot make a decision by himself; he must always ask the audience. If the audience decides they do not like the way the Joker is facilitating, they can replace him. Similarly, the Joker must watch for “magic” solutions but not decide they are magic without inquiring of the audience. The Joker is an integral component to the Forum because he keeps the rules of the game in check as well as moves the audience into asking questions rather than affirmations. Universal truths must be avoided because they result in a sense of completion and finality, rather than a need for action.

Games to Help Develop Forum Model:

A. Forum Theatre Game: Tableaux (TOPLAB)

1. The actors create three tableaus (images) in consecutive order of the entire Forum model.
2. They present the images to the group.
3. Then they present the images again, this time moving slow motion from one image to the next.
4. Next the participants form the original images again. From each individual image they make a new one based off of each character’s desires.
5. Make each image come to life with one repetitive movement, sound, or phrase expressing the desire.

The goal of tableaus is to help participants discover the arc of the Forum model and develop the structure of the model without getting trapped in words and discussions.

Bringing to life, also known as “dynamising” the images helps discover how the piece will move from one point to the next.

B. Forum Theatre Game: Interrogation
   (Games for Actors and Non-actors 227-228)

1. Each actor has a turn to sit in front of the entire group and remains in character.
2. The other actors interrogate the character about what they think about other characters, events in the play, circumstance, etc.
3. Variation: The same thing except conducted while the model is being performed. The scene freezes and the character must respond to the interrogation questions.
4. Variation: Another interrogation from fellow actors, except this time the scene does not stop; the character must respond to the questions while continuing to perform in the scene.

I played this game in a workshop with Gas & Electric Arts in Philadelphia. It was beneficial in helping the character develop in a non-artificial way; the actor and character grew in knowledge with one another. It also helped the actor to prepare for interventions
with spectators who would challenge their behavior and reactions. This game allows the actor to know her character well; she is able to react authentically to the spectator’s intervention.

**Forum Theatre in the World: interACT Model**

At California State University, Associate Professor of Performance Studies and Communication Studies Marc D. Rich developed a Forum Theatre model with a group of students for their University on the topic of rape. The interACT performance troupe was created in 2000 in response to high sexual assault rates at the college. The original piece they created on sexual assault became famous and tours multiple colleges today.

Their Forum model begins with three college men returning from a bar on campus full of excitement. KJ is the main character in this scene enters with his best friend JaCarri, who is extremely insulting and rude. The men hilariously demonstrate the dance moves they performed in the bar. This scene is a loud, humorous, and a hyper-masculine depiction of college men. JaCarri pries KJ about his girlfriend Jessica and calls her a slut for going out without her boyfriend. The insults continue to the point where KJ is completely defeated and silent. Their third friend, Jordan, attempts to speak up against JaCarri, but is intimidated and instead stays quiet. Jessica enters the apartment and KJ grabs her aggressively and throws her outside. Later on, it is made clear that KJ “forced himself” on his girlfriend as a result of his conversation with JaCarri. The model progresses from here, but Rich analyzes multiple elements of this opening scene as
essential for college audience participation. He says that the use of humor and pop culture references was key in gaining the trust of the men in the audience,

Our opening scene is a strategic way to get college males to laugh at themselves, and we are able to introduce the topic of sexual assault without triggering a defensive response. While it is true that not all men act in such problematic ways, most audience members can identify with the three characters, and enjoy seeing hyper-masculinity portrayed (Rich, 515).

I agree with Rich that believe that using humor is important for this group of spectators because college males are accustomed to lectures about “how not to behave” and already feel attacked when entering a discussion about sexual assault, thus humor is unexpected, relatable, and inviting.

Rich altered the Boalian Forum method by inserting a Rainbow of Desire technique into the Forum event. After the first scene, the Joker explains internal oppression and invites audience members to explore how Jessica, the girlfriend, might be feeling. The audience identifies ten or twelve internal voices in her head, also known as “residual antagonists” that are harmful to Jessica. Spectators are then invited to come onstage and become those voices. Each spectator/voice creates a frozen image that epitomizes the voice in her head. Rich explains that one frozen spectator pointed at Jessica and said, “This is all your fault!” Once all of the spectators have images, they arrange themselves in a Constellation of Images around Jessica. The one who is the loudest voice in her head is closest to her and the one who is the softest is farthest away. This game contrasts the humorous first scene and allows the audience to dive deeper into the consciousness of the survivor. interACT felt this game was necessary to develop an empathetic relationship with the protagonist in order to boost the confidence of the
audience so that they would intervene later in the event.\textsuperscript{21} This is an example of how the Forum Theatre technique was modified in order to fit a specific audience and their issues.

\textbf{3. Invisible Theatre:}

Invisible Theatre is a short skit that is rehearsed and scripted by actors and performed in a public place instead of in a theatre. The technique is “invisible” because the purpose is for the scene to be so true to life that citizens are unaware of that a performance is taking place.\textsuperscript{22}

\textbf{Goal of Invisible Theatre:}

Similar to Forum Theatre, the goal of Invisible Theatre technique is to utilize provocative dialogue to inspire action from the public. Gray says, “The performance is invisible because, if the audience was aware of it as theatre, they would simply take the passive position of the spectators” (135). The technique also demands equality because of the indistinguishable nature between the audience and the performers. Because the performance is in the public, “Actors and audience meet on the same level of dialogue and power. There is no antagonistic relationship between the auditorium and stage, rather the two are superposed” (\textit{The Aesthesis of the Oppressed} 6).

\textsuperscript{21} Marc D Rich. "The InterACT Model: Considering Rape Prevention from a Performance Activism and Social Justice Perspective." \textit{(Feminism and Psychology} 20 (2010), 511-528.
Ingredients in an Invisible Theatre Piece:

1. Must have scripted text. Actors can improvise, but the root of the scene must be planned.
2. The subject must be very important social issue to the spectators and instigate a genuine concern or care.
3. Actors play roles as if they were in a typical theatre piece.
4. Actors must live the roles; they must be real people.
5. Clearly decide the type of spectator the scene is meant to provoke.
6. Location is extremely important. What is the correlation between desired subject and location? For example, if a troupe would like to create an Invisible Theatre piece about marital abuse where would the best location be? How would this scene provoke spectators in a high school instead of a subway or bar?

Invisible Theatre in the World: Operation Mallfinger

A troupe in Baton Rouge, Louisiana created an Invisible Theatre piece that took place in the Cortana Shopping mall, winter of 1991. The group focused on consumerism, over consumption, and popular culture as their subject. They created a 45-minute performance as “under cover” secret agents that had various mission tasks to complete in the mall. For example, they traded off items, listened to tape recorders, sent messages, and snuck around the mall like spies. The piece ended when an agent was “busted” and escorted out of the mall. They chose a popular form of consumer entertainment, the spy thriller, to take place amidst the stores, advertisements, and institutions that convince us to purchase such spy oriented goods.

The troupe had planted friends who acted as “observers” around the mall to notice how people were reacting to the performance. Many shoppers stared, questioned each

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other, and some even followed the agents. They were never questioned by the mall police or stopped by anyone in their spy tasks. I believe there were no spectator interventions because this piece strays from Boal’s philosophy. In order to provoke the public, the situation must be true to life. I think that the spy gear and creeping around the mall created the sense of a performance. The spectators watched passively because this instance was truly performative and out of the ordinary.  

Another example of Invisible Theatre was a piece performed in Paris inside of a subway car. The group focused on sexual harassment in public transportation. The actors were strategically placed at various subway stops along the route; they entered and exited the trains depending on the script. One male actor boarded the train and sat next to another female actress. After a bit, he nudged his leg against hers. She immediately explained that she was not comfortable and he said that it was an accident. A few more moments pass and he touched her again. This back and forth dialogue continues until he puts his hand on her knee. She protests again with more aggression and no one in the car defends her or speaks up. With no response from the fellow subway goers, the actress got up and moves to a different section of the subway car. It was not considered a “failure” because the piece did not provoke the spectators, rather it revealed the frequency of public bystander behavior. This scene challenged the spectators more directly than Operation Mallfinger because the actor and citizen become synonymous due to the normalcy in dialogue, circumstance, and character.

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4. *Rainbow of Desire:*

Rainbow of Desire is the term used to describe Boal’s introspective techniques that focus on internal oppression within an individual. Similar to the principles of storytelling, Rainbow of Desire is effective because individual experiences are shared and then related to the experiences of the group. Often, community connections are then established, which reflects a perspective on a wider social structure. Although Rainbow of Desire can be used for community building, it is most frequently associated with therapy because of its’ primary focus on the individual.26

**Purpose of Rainbow of Desire:**

The image of a rainbow epitomizes a central principle of the technique because a rainbow is one unit made up of varying colors, reminiscent of the fluctuating wills and desires of an individual. This introspective technique has two tasks: enlighten the storyteller of her interior desires and include the other participants to help her achieve this realization. To accomplish these goals, Rainbow of Desire utilizes a combination of improvisation and Image Theatre to provide insight for the protagonist; i.e., the person who shared the story with the group. Boal says that the activities allow the protagonist to see herself not as a univocal being, like her physical image reflected in a physical mirror, but as a multiple being, her image reflected by the prism which is the other participants. The protagonist’s passions appear here in all their colours-invisible to the naked eye-in the same motion as when the white light of the sun, passing through rain, mutates into a rainbow in which we

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see all the colours the white light concealed (The Rainbow of Desire: The Boal Method of Theatre and Therapy 150).

Through group interaction and teamwork, invisible desires are made visible to the protagonist and ideally result in internal healing.

**Rainbow of Desire Method**

1. **Preparation:** The technique is easily modified and should be altered depending on the group. Participants are first warmed up with various playful games and then asked to share a story. One person reveals a story with as much detail as possible.

2. **Improvisation:** The storyteller then becomes the protagonist and plays herself. She casts fellow group members as real people in her story. For example, one participant may play her mother, another her best friend. She directs them with character qualities and relationships and when she is satisfied, they improvise a precise version of her story.

3. **The Rainbow:** The Joker asks the protagonist to create images of her desires and emotions to illustrate how she feels in the story that was shared. First, the protagonist uses her own body to create images. Participants mimic her sculptures if they agree or personally identify with them. The protagonist perfects and modifies the images of the group and then, the Joker asks if the participants if they have suggestions for new images that they felt were.

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present in her story. Next, the group creates images with their own bodies and
the protagonist either accepts or rejects them by saying, “I am like that” or
“This is not really how I felt at the time.”

4. Brief Monologues: The Joker asks the images to line up along one side of the
room. He instructs the protagonist to stand in front of each image and deliver
a short monologue which begins with the phrase, “I am like that because…”
or “That is not the way I would like to be, but I relate to it because…” or “I
would like to be much more like that, because…” This exercise helps the
protagonist discover herself through constant connection with her personal
thoughts and emotions. It also aids the participants to better live and
understand their roles in the next improvisations.

5. Part Takes Over the Whole: The antagonist in the original improvisation
enters the stage. In whatever order the protagonist desires, she sends the
images to confront the antagonist. Each image has one minute to address the
antagonist as if he/she was his own protagonist.

6. The Whole Rainbow: The protagonist places the antagonist in the middle of
the room. She creates a constellation of images around the antagonist and
must use all of the images created. She can arrange the participants in their
frozen sculptures in relation to her desires by deciding the impact of each
image. For example, perhaps there is a participant in a fearful stance; the
protagonist may place him directly in front of the antagonist because in the
scene, the protagonist feels completely helpless. Next, she may put another
bold looking sculpture directly behind the fearful one to show her desire to fight back. The protagonist determines the location of the images according to her own desires and scale of importance.

7. Constellation Improvisation: Once all of the images are set, the protagonist places herself into the constellation. The scene begins again with all of the images in place, except this time, the original improvisation begins as if all of the images are a part of the protagonist and together they confront the antagonist.

8. Will vs. Desire: After the improvisation, the protagonist speaks with each image individually. She only can use two phrases, “I would like to be more like that because…” or “I would rather be less like that because…” this allows the protagonist to modify the intensity of the desires according to what she wants; does she want to magnify or minimize a desire to achieve a specific goal with the antagonist?

9. Protagonist Takes the Place of the Antagonist: Protagonist stands in the place of the antagonist in order to see her rainbow of images from the Antagonist’s point of view. The scene begins again as if nothing has changed.

10. The Agora of Desires: Each image discusses with other images in the scene. The sculptures argue, create alliances, or take action. However, they must not lose sight of the antagonist and their objective in the scene. Next, the images must find the most opposing sculpture in the constellation and instigate a
battle with them. The protagonist observes the entire interaction in order gain more insight into the conflicts within her.

11. Reimprovisation: The images leave the scene and the original story is reimprovised. The Joker encourages the protagonist to make her desires prevail, which may or may not alter the original ending of the scene.

12. Variation: There are many games and improvisations that occur after the Constellation Improvisation. For example, the protagonist can create two constellations: one how she perceives herself and the other, how she would ideally like to behave.

13. Discussion: Following the scene, everyone discusses his or her observations and feelings. The Joker facilitates the conversation so that the participants do not search for a universal conclusion and respect the experience of the protagonist.

Rainbow of Desire is a very personal and emotional journey for both the protagonist and participants involved because of the intense exploration of desires and action, or lack of action.

A variation of Rainbow of Desire is a technique called “Cop in the Head.” This technique is another introspective approach, but rather than focusing on the desires of the protagonist, Cop in the Head examines how the wills of others influence the desires of the protagonist. The “cops” in our head are the “police” that influence our decisions. A cop cannot be an abstraction such as “family” or “religion,” rather a cop must be a real person
such as my mother or Pastor Johnson. Cop in the Head improvisational format is almost identical to Rainbow of Desire; however, the protagonist creates images of the cops that influence her, rather than her emotions following the improvisation.28

**Rainbow of Desire in the World: NYU**

Boal conducted a workshop at NYU in the winter of 1989 where he worked with Linda as a protagonist. She told a story about her job at a hotel. At the end of the month, she approached her manager for her paycheck and was in a rush because her train home was leaving in thirty minutes. Instead of giving Linda her paycheck, the manager did not stop talking and then made a sexual “proposition” to her. Linda missed her train and after a few days received her money. Linda made seven images: 1) Linda pressed the manager to hurry so she would not miss her train. 2) Timid Linda does not know how to deal with money or communicate her desire for her paycheck. 3) Linda is scared by the manager and his power 4) A tough Linda who wants to work at the hotel next year so deals with the situation in a practical manner. 5) Patient Linda who allows the manager to ramble. 6) Linda on the brink of explosion; she is so angry she nearly yells at him. 7) Linda as a seducer; she seduces her boss because she enjoys her sexual power. Boal notes that, “We all thought that the...seductress Linda would not be of much use to her if she really wanted to get her cheque and go” (The Rainbow of Desire: The Boal Method of Theatre and Therapy, 165). However, they were surprised when in her constellation Linda placed

the seductress directly in front of the manager. Boal encouraged her to make adjustments and she altered the other images, but never the seductress. Boal then asked her to switch roles with the antagonist in order to see his perspective. She was shocked, “I see that I really am beautiful…” (The Rainbow of Desire: The Boal Method of Theatre and Therapy, 166). In the moment, it did not matter that she missed her train, despised her manager, or that she was angry with him for flirting; instead Linda realized her pleasure in her beauty and, for her, that moment made all the difference.²⁹

5. Legislative Theatre:

Legislative Theatre combines Forum Theatre and Image Theatre to communicate with the community to write new laws. Augusto Boal developed this technique when he was elected to the City Council of Rio de Janeiro in the 1990’s. In an interview with Richard Schechner, Richard shared a letter Boal wrote to him in 1997. Boal said while serving on the City Council that he,

Formed 19 permanent theatre groups of ‘organized oppressed’; we had promulgated 13 laws that came directly from those groups, from their dialogue with their own communities and with the population in the streets; we had made, in 13 cases, desire became law!

All thirteen laws were passed during Boal’s term of four years. In addition to spreading TO to the community and creating new legislature, when Boal had to vote for certain laws to be passed, he would turn to the people. For example, Boal went into schools, businesses, offices, and community centers to gather as many opinions on the law as

possible. He held public meetings and workshops to discuss the issues so that he could fully represent the community in his decision. He also wrote letters to the people saying, “Boal has to vote on this or that question, what’s your opinion? Explain your position” (Schechner, 81). As a City Council Leader, Boal merged his theatrical training with political power to make actual change on behalf of the public.

**Purpose of Legislative Theatre:**

The function of Legislative Theatre is to use theatrical techniques with the community to make direct action in the formation of laws. These techniques interpret the needs of the people to develop a plan for change to send legislators for approval.\(^3\)\(^0\)

**Structure of Legislative Theatre:**

The structure of Legislative Theatre varies drastically depending on the community and their specific issues. Forum Theatre workshops are primarily used to develop a law written by the people, but Image Theatre and Rainbow of Desire techniques can be used as well.

**Legislative Theatre in the World: From Rio to Munich**

Boal was invited to Munich, Germany in 1997 by The Paulo Freire Society to conduct a workshop. There were 35 participants and together the group created five

scenes about oppression. One skit explored the issue of mail-order brides because at the time, locals were struggling with German men ordering wives from Thailand, Romania, or Brazil off of the Internet. All of the scenes were workshopped in a Forum Theatre style and ideally, spread all over the country. Unfortunately, due to time constraints, this Forum event only occurred at the City Hall in Munich. After the performance and many interventions from the public and legislators, the participants read their Project of Law. Project of Law is Boal’s term for a proposal for change, written by the workshop group. Following the event, many community members approached Boal and shared their hope. One old woman said,

It was very important for me: you have shown that this is possible. And it had never crossed my mind to imagine that people, common people, people like us, could get together, make theatre about our own problems, discuss them on stage, and then sit down and propose a new law…I agree with you: we have to make our desire become law (Schechner, Chatterjee, Boal 87).

The Project of Law was collected and reviewed for consideration by the legislatures of the City Hall of Munich. 31

2. AGIT-PROP THEATRE

Agit-prop Theatre is one of the earlier forms of social justice art that developed in Russia following the Revolution in 1917 as a response to naturalistic theatre that struggled to reveal internal and class struggles. The phrase combines two words agitatin

and propaganda, which at the time described the distribution of ideas to the public. Many artistic forms of propaganda developed after the Revolution such as posters, graphics, street processionals, and road decorations. “In these often new forms of mass agitational art, there was always a live and direct echo of the events of the Revolution itself” (Cohen-Cruz, 16). Cohen-Cruz describes agit-prop theatre as “a militant form of art intended to emotionally and ideologically mobilize its audience to take particular action vis-à-vis an urgent social situation” (13). Agit-prop theatre primarily focused on the gaps between the social classes and was rooted in politics, socialism, and demanding solutions for change.

**Components of Agit-Prop Theatre:**

1. Military influence and undertones in style, energy, and form.
2. Aesthetically portable and reflect the culture of the public. There must be recognizable characters, costumes, props, location, and music with which the audience relates to and is familiar with.
3. Must focus on a specific issue, not broad idea of “revolution”.
4. Performers believed that they have a solution to the problem and were prepared to enact the strategy that they thrust upon their audience.
5. Members of performance were members of the community, factories, and local businesses.

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6. Historically, agit-prop pieces were class oriented; the protagonist was part of the working class and the solution was typically socialism.

7. The stage is the street, factory, city hall, or workplace so as to reach as many people as possible, “in a word, the propertyless class is developing the ‘property’-less theatre.” (Drain, 108)

8. Role of performer is contradictory, “this acting is Brechtian: the activist plays the part with a detached self-awareness, often commenting on the role. On the other hand, it is akin to the kind of avant-garde acting that seeks to erase the boundary between performer and role” (Drain, 47)

Agit-prop Theatre strived to make the audience and performers feel united all shared the same struggles and concerns, which resulted in a community and sensation of empowerment. 33

SOCIAL CHANGE ARTISTS

1. ANNA DEAVERE SMITH

Anna Deavere Smith was born in 1950 and is a famous actress, playwright, and professor. Smith is known for various roles in television shows and movies, but her real passion and impact is Theatre for Social Change. She created a new form of theatre similar to both journalism and documentary film. Her process began in 1991 with an incident in Crown Heights Brooklyn. A car, driven by a Jewish man, veered off of the

road and killed an African American child. A few hours later, a male Jewish student was surrounded by a group of African American men and stabbed to death. Anna Deavere Smith responded to the riots in Crown Heights by interviewing both local Jewish and African American residents. Smith transformed hours of interviews into a one woman show composed of 29 monologues. She performed her piece, *Fires in the Mirror*, at various theatrical venues with props, costumes, and furniture similar to the individual she interviewed. Smith literally transformed herself into the character through tone of voice, speech patterns, accent, and physicality. In *Fires in the Mirror*, Smith played both Jewish and African Americans such as a Jewish Human Rights Representative, Reverend Al Sharpton, and various men and women from the community.  

### Purpose of Interviews:

Anna Deavere Smith does not speak; instead she listens to the community. She interviews a wide variety of people in the same place and includes contradicting arguments and belief systems in her piece so her audience gains cultural awareness. Also, by playing many characters, Smith increases her insight into the lives of others, “placing myself in other people’s words, as in playing myself in other people’s shoes, has given me the opportunity to get below the surface—to get ‘real’ ” (Smith, 12). Although Smith does not search for specific answers or solutions from interviewees, she does seek to expose and understand underlying issues in the culture. Her grandfather once told her,  

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If you say a word often enough it becomes you’—I borrow people for a moment, by borrowing their words. I borrow them for a moment to understand something about them, and to understand something about us. By ‘us’ I mean humans” (Smith, 294).

Her interviews function as an honest insight into the human being and how culture shapes their experience.

**Role of Words:**

Smith focuses on the words of the individuals as her source of character and culture. She transcribes the words of her interviewees as accurately as possible, while also noting their physical traits and habits to include in her own body in performance. In her book, *Talk to Me*, Smith says,

> To me, the most important doorway into the soul of a person is her or his words, or any other external communication device. I’m a student of words. The theatre gave me Shakespeare, Molière, Adrienne Kennedy, Sam Shepard. Life would give me other kinds of characters, nestled in the speakings and misspeakings of the people I met in all walks of life. I supposed that words could also be the doorway into the soul of a culture (12).

When she begins a project, Smith says she is not searching for anything in particular, in fact, she comes only with questions and a desire to absorb the culture. Before setting off on her journey to explore the relationship between the presidency and the press, Smith said,

> I set out across America, on a search for American character. My search was specifically to find America in its language. I interview people and communities about the events of our time, in the hope that I will be able to absorb America (12).
For Smith, words are the essential entrance into culture; through gathering as many words and perspectives as possible, she depicts an entire culture in a two hour performance.

**Interview Form in the World: Tectonic Theatre Project**

Smith’s form of interviews as theatrical script has influenced many artists around the world. One company, the Tectonic Theatre Project, utilized Smith’s idea of interviewing in a small town called Laramie, Wyoming. The group was deeply moved by the death of Matthew Shepard, who was a teenage boy that was beaten, hung on a fence, and left to die because he was gay. The troupe travelled to Laramie and conducted hundreds of interviews with those who knew Matthew and were affected by his death. Each company member was assigned to a few interviewees and transcribed, took physicality notes, and performed the interviews for the entire company. Then, they decided together the portion of the interview that appeared in the final piece.\(^{35}\) The company differed from Anna Deavere Smith because in addition to emphasis on the words, they developed powerful imagery to bring the text to life. The final product called, *The Laramie Project*, has been seen by over 30 million people around the country and is one of the most performed plays in America.\(^{36}\)

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2. GUILLERMO GOMEZ-PENA

Guillermo was born in 1955 and raised in Mexico City. He arrived in America in 1978. He is most famous for his performance art as well as art installations, poetry, theatrical pieces, journalism, and cultural theory. Guillermo examines cross-cultural issues such as immigration. I am particularly inspired by Guillermo’s piece called “The Temple of Confessions.” In October 1994, artist Guillermo and his partner in the project, Roberto Sifuentes, set up a confessional tucked away on the third floor of the Detroit Institute of the Arts. The men arrived hours before the museum opened and dressed as “new-age shaman and cyber-cholo”—posing as artists (Gomez-Pena, 6). Guillermo wore all tourist souvenirs and tribal artifacts of an “authentic” Mexican from the American perspective. The room, reminiscent of a church or temple, was covered in pre-Columbian, colonial, and contemporary images of Mexican and Mexican-American culture and stereotypes. The room also contained two altars, The Chapel of Desires, the Chapel of Fears, and other objects such as a chicken hanging from a noose. Ideally, museumgoers would walk around the room and confess their thoughts to Guillermo and Roberto. The men performed various rituals while sitting on a toilet seat or a red throne. 37

Purpose of Temple of Confessions

The piece commands the audience to think about their relationship between Mexican history and religion, while providing a space to confess related fears, desires,

and thoughts to the men, Santos (saints). Temple of Confessions also functions to question the museum’s role in exhibiting artifacts from other countries in stereotypical or insulting ways.

The act of confessing is relieving, open ended, and unpredictable. Philip Brookman defines a confession as “the acknowledgement of feeling, an admission of guilt or sin, a statement of religious belief, or the confidential story of experience” (Gomez-Pena, 6). Confessing is, in a way, speaking to a mirror that the Santos reflects back to the participants. By articulating cultural misunderstanding or fear of Mexicans, acknowledges its presence in our society. The artists reflect back that same ignorance through tacky costumes and stereotypical Mexican language and behavior. Guillermo confirms, “Temple of Confessions is more about America’s cultural projections, and its inability to deal with cultural otherness than about the Latino ‘other’” (Gomez-Pena, 23).

**Temple of Confessions: Examples**

Guillermo said that there was a wide range of responses gathered at the exhibit, for example, while confessing at the Chapel of Fear, some participants cried, appeared guilty or shameful, and even some expressed intense sexual desire. He described that

Many of these confessions are directed toward us. People invite us to engage in hard-core sexual fantasies or express their desire to hurt us, or even to kill us. Since our job as artists is not to analyze or moralize but merely to open a Pandora’s box and let loose the colonial demons, we never express our approval or disapproval to the confessor (Gomez-Pena, 23).
In his book *Temple of Confessions: Mexican Beasts and Living Santos*, Guillermo copied hand written confessions as well as verbal confessions at the Chapels. (Appendix C)

**Temple of Confessions in the World: “Good Luck John”**

For many years, up until his death in 2003, John Throssel stood outside of the Vaughan Literature Building at Bucknell University. Through rain or shine, he remained fixed, surrounded by grocery bags, newspapers, and a jacket and wished everyone who passed by “Good Luck!” (Appendix D) He used this phrase so much that he was given the nickname, “Good Luck John.” He was an organist at St. Paul’s Church in downtown Lewisburg, but spent most of his time on campus listening and talking with students. Good Luck John became a “long-time fixture” (Bowerman, 7) on Bucknell’s campus resulting in an informal confessional on campus. Perhaps without even knowing it, Good Luck John’s presence relieved students and faculty from stress and anxiety, simply by knowing that he was always there. This created a sense of reliability and security on campus at all times. One student said from a *Bucknell World* article in January 2004,

> What is most important about John, then and now, are the first-rate principles he stood for and tried to instill in others. There was no self-centered absorption with this man. He always put others first. He was an omnipresent pillar of strength one could always count on (Cannell, 4).

Despite all of the love and attention that Good Luck John gave to the University, there are hardly any records of him. On February 3, 2003 the University Governance Faculty Meeting briefly mentions him, “Campus habitué John Throssel (“Good Luck John”) will hereafter reside at the Kramm Nursing Home” (Halpern, 2). It seems that the memory and
impact of this kind hearted, good listener would soon disappear, however, some students gathered together for a memorial after his death and, “The result is a commemorative plaque that is now affixed to the Vaughan Literature Building in the place where Throssel often stood, wishing passersby the best” (Bowerman, 7). Through the act of sharing, Throssel created an unintentional confessional that functioned as a confidential, relaxed, and constant presence necessary for community and personal development.

3. MARINA ABRAMOVIĆ

Marina Abramović was born November 30, 1946 and began her career as a performance artist in the 1970’s. She is well known for her performance art, in which she uses her body as her medium while testing the limit of herself and the audience. Her philosophy is simple, “I’m not interested in doing anything I’m not afraid of” (Belcove, 8). I find this ideology inspiring because she constantly pushes herself as both an artist and individual.

Marina arrived at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City from March 14 to March 31, 2010 every day from the moment the museum opened until the moment it closed to perform her piece, The Artist is Present. She sat in a wooden chair in front of a table with another wooden chair across from her. Marina wore a long red gown with sleeves and a turtleneck and sat in the chair all day, not stopping to eat or use the restroom. The museumgoers waited in line and when it was their turn, they simply sat with her in silence for as long as they felt necessary. Marina never spoke. In the

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following weeks, Marina removed the table because she felt that the energy transfer between her and the audience member was blocked by the piece of furniture. Audience reactions varied depending on the individual: some people laughed in hysteria while others were curious or angry. The most surprising reaction was the mass amount of tears from a majority of the audience members. The Artist is Present slowly gained the reputation of making anyone cry, attracting even more New Yorkers. Marina explains the tears in an interview.

What is very new about this performance is that we always perceive the audience as a group, but a group consists of many individuals. In this piece I deal with individuals of that group and it’s just a one-to-one relationship. So, when you enter the square of light and you sit on that chair, you’re an individual, and as an individual you are kind of isolated. And you’re in a very interesting situation because you’re observed by the group (the people waiting to sit), you’re observed by me, and you’re observing me—so it’s like triple observation. But then, very soon while you’re having this gaze and looking at me, you start having this invert and you start looking at yourself. So I am just a trigger, I am just a mirror and actually they become aware of their own life, of their own vulnerability, of their own pain, of everything—and that brings the crying. [They are] really crying about their own self, and that is an extremely emotional moment (Stigh, 2010).

I agree with Marina, that while sitting with her, the audience becomes an individual, a human. This idea is basic; however, I feel this piece reflects complicated isolation and lack of human connection in modern society. We rarely sit in chairs and remain silent with one another. I believe audience members cry because they are not used to another person so present or alive with them in a single moment. The act of generous listening is rare, so when a selfless connection is made between two people, tears are a natural response.

4. SPALDING GRAY

Spalding Gray was born in Rhode Island, June 1941. He began his career as an actor in New York City, but slowly veered away from traditional theatre to develop his own method of performance. In his most famous piece, Swimming to Cambodia, Gray created one-man show in which he played himself as a character and told stories about his life. He used this theatrical form in many other one-man performances. Gray sat on a wooden chair tucked behind a wooden table with a microphone, notebook, glass of water, and cup of tea. Despite minimal props, movement, and recalling of personal memories, Gray was enthralling and entertaining. Over time he developed a cynical and ironic approach to observing himself in his works, he once said,

You have to live a life to tell a life. I prefer to just tell it.’ Part of me means that and part of it is a joke. I mean, telling it gives me so much more control, and also heightens it. I work like a collage artist. I put together everything that works for me, that makes my life feel uplifted; a good story rather than just a good life (Schenecher, 165).

Gray plays himself as a character and tells slightly exaggerated stories to create an entertaining performance, while making his life appear more interesting.

In developing a performance like Swimming to Cambodia, Gray went through three major stages. The first step was to decide story topics. He was very sensitive to the audience and how his themes affected them, “an audience is more of a resonator than sitting in a room dealing with just a wall and yourself” (Schenecher, 165). The sympathetic relationship between Gray and the spectators led to the second stage, in which Gray casted the audience into a responsive, active role in his performance. In order
for the relationship between audience and Gray to evolve, he believed he must be in the present moment. As a result, he never made a definite script of his stories because the act of recounting the memories placed him in the existing moment, “so much so that the audience thinks I’m saying it for the first time. Because they experience me in the act of corralling and remembering. I am doing public memory, and that’s a very active and present thing. It’s not memorized” (Schenecher, 166). A direct result of unscripted text was his incredible improvisation skills, “it’s like bushwhacking—I hack my way up the hill each night until eventually I make a clear path for myself” (Schenecher, 166).

Gray developed a form with which he told personal stories through constant self-observation, resulting in an honest, understanding, and entertaining relationship with the audience.40

APPLIED THEATRE WRITING TECHNIQUES:

1. THIS I BELIEVE

This I Believe is a book assembled by Jay Allison and Dan Gediman in which 80 short essays are shared, all responding to the question: “This I believe…” The concept originated in the 1950’s by Edward R. Murrow as a radio show where citizens anonymously responded to the question and their answers were shared on the air. Editor Jay Allison and his team decided after almost fifty years to restart the project, but through a book, because they felt our country needed a venue to express itself. Allison comments,

“We find ourself in conflict over moral standards, patriotism, family, and issues of race and faith. Yet amid the most pervasive information delivery systems in history, there is little place for the encouragement of quiet listening to the beliefs of others without rebuttal or criticism” (Allison, 2-3). The essays are titled and labeled with the name and short biography of the writer. Because anonymity of the writers is not protected and their beliefs are openly cast out to the world, Allison says,

There is a risk in what they did. They wrote of their most closely held convictions and then spoke them on the radio to an audience of millions in a media climate that tends toward sound bites, potshots, and spin. To make such an earnest, exposed statement is itself an act of bravery (1).

Although the stories have helped many readers towards their own self-discovery, I think that expressing one’s belief system is an act of bravery and therapy for the individual.

There are a few guidelines to submitting an essay: tell a story, be brief, describe your belief in a sentence or two, and be positive and personal. The pieces differ in content, gender, age, and subject. For example, one story suggests “be cool to the pizza dude; it’s good luck,” (Allison, 7) whereas others describe the influence of role models, random acts of kindness, or religious experiences that led them to their current belief system. This I Believe provides a space for the American public to express the deepest parts of themselves in five hundred words or less resulting in a cultural collage of American beliefs.
2. JOURNALING

Personal journal writing is not a form of theatre; however, both journaling and theatre arts share one commonality: expression. Journal writing utilizes personal reflection to strengthen the relationship between the writer and him/herself. There are many forms of journal writing, but I am interested in a “working journal.” This term describes a journal that is not merely a place to record feelings and emotions, rather work through feelings to gain deeper insight into the self. Smith affirms the definition of a working journal in his article “Keeping a Learning Journal” by quoting Mary Louise Holly.

It is a reconstruction of experience and, like the diary, has both objective and subjective dimensions, but unlike diaries, the writer is (or becomes) aware of the difference. The journal as a ‘service book’ is implicitly a book that someone returns to. It serves purposes beyond recording events and pouring out thoughts and feelings...Like the diary, the journal is a place to ‘let it all out’. But the journal is also a place for making sense of what is out…the journal is a working document. (2).

If a journal is used as a reflective tool, the self will grow and develop in unexpected ways.

Benefits of Journal Writing:

1. The act of writing something in ink on a piece of lined paper creates a solid record of a lifetime of experiences.

2. Strengthens general writing ability through constant practice of grammatical rules and vocabulary.
3. Releases stress by cleansing anxiety or trauma out of the mind and into the book.  

4. Self-observation through reflection to past entries. Once the thoughts are written down, the idea is now ‘outside’ of the writer encouraging, “almost come to look at them [self] as strangers—‘Did I really think that?’ ‘How does this fit with that?’ …Our words may become more concrete…and this way we can look at them in another light” (4).

5. Once thoughts are recorded and observed, personal goals develop. Specific dreams and aspirations not only create a sense of purpose, but pathway to achieving a higher sense of self.

6. Written goals create a sense of accountability to produce action. In his article, “The Benefits of Writing a Personal Journal,” Myrko agrees, “In this way you can literally lead yourself. This kind of self-leadership is a great way to push yourself where you want to go. Someone really cares, and that someone is you” (3).

7. Developing what Smith describes as “connoisseurship.” For him, journaling allows us not merely to look at ourselves, but see ourselves.

To do this we have to develop the ability to name and appreciate the different dimensions of situations and experiences, and the way they relate one to another. We have to be able to draw upon, and make use of, a wide array of information. We also have to be able to place our experiences and understandings in a wider context, and connect them

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Mark Smith. 'Keeping a learning journal', *the encyclopaedia of informal education*, www.infed.org/research/keeping_a_journal.htm.
with our values and commitments. It is into this context that writing
and keeping journals comes (9).

A sense of appreciation and realization of the self develops out of connoisseurship
or as avid writer Jennifer Moon said, “I think that it has enabled me to feel deeper and
more established as a person, more in control and more trusting of life” (Smith, 1).
Journal writing is a process that deeply influences self-development in ordinary people all
over the world. Journaling is used to strengthen the connection between many disciples,
such as therapy or academics, with personal growth.
II. RESEARCH: WORKSHOPS
Originally, I thought workshops for this project would be used to develop a large-scale theatre piece; however, once I conducted my first event, I realized that these workshops sparked a transformative experience. I organized a series of two open workshops for the entire student body: the first at the start of fall semester, and the second following the release of the Campus Climate Report. I then conducted four workshops with different student groups on campus: InterVarsity, Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, This is Me, Peer Educators. Each event focused on the social scene yet was tailored specifically to the needs of the organization. I also arranged two workshops for professors to enhance their class curriculum. The events varied in size, space, intention, and experience, all of which informed my perspective regarding our social culture.

**Double Take Project Open Workshop #1:**

I began fall semester 2011 with determination and intensity. I had one goal in mind: find a group of people to help me change the Bucknell social scene. Within the first few days back on campus, I invited all students to an open workshop intending on forming a student coalition. I struggled to describe the workshop because if it were depicted as theatrical, the event would attract the usual theatre majors, while I was searching for the most diverse group of Bucknellians possible. Yet, it was important to hint the theatrical nature in the advertisement so students would be prepared to move, think visually, and respond physically. I heard many rumors and talk regarding elimination of Greek life, which sparked my sense of building resentment towards the
Campus Climate Report. It was essential to the survival of Double Take Project that I made clear I would not scold alcohol or partying. Rather, I intended to depict the project as a way in which students could freely express both love and hatred for Bucknell.

Especially in the first few weeks, I needed to gain student trust so that they would have the confidence to share their stories with me. I used various forms of communication to inform the campus such as flyers (Appendix E), email, Facebook, and Message Center. I sent a total of 22 emails to professors that I had spoken with during the spring semester. I asked the faculty to forward the email to their students as well as extracurricular groups.

I hoped to encompass all of my goals and excitement in my first blurb to campus:

If you could share one secret about the Bucknell social scene, what would it be? Is your weekend goal to black out? Are your friends just drinking buddies? Then you must be a typical college student. Or maybe just a typical college student at Bucknell? The Double Take Project is an exploration of the lives of students here at Bucknell using various experimental performance techniques known as 'Applied' and 'Devised' theatre. The Double Take Project will take a second look at a "typical weekend" at Bucknell through the student perspective to discover if binge drinking, lost clothing, and feeling alone in a crowded basement are all just a part of the college experience - or something more. Absolutely no experience necessary, just a desire to listen and hear Bucknell students.
When: Sat Sept 3rd
Where: Tustin Studio Theatre
Time: 1 pm
Questions? Email doubletakebucknell@gmail.com

I felt that this statement was provocative because it asked students to question normalcy at Bucknell. Writing this blurb helped me understand a central goal of the workshop: create a safe space for students to question and express their fears, experiences, and enthusiasm. I also wanted the workshop to inspire positivity regarding the Double Take Project and unravel the gossip in anticipation of the Campus Climate Report. I had high
expectations that the first workshop would attract a group of students ready, passionate, and willing to form an Applied Theatre troupe prepared for battle and exploration of the social scene.

I organized the workshop in three different ways. First, I prepared myself by organizing activities based on Theatre of the Oppressed techniques and games I had learned from my summer training. Next, I prepared the participants by creating an “Audition Sheet” to complete once they arrived in the theatre space. At the time, I thought that if students enjoyed the workshop they would be willing to join Double Take Project and the year would continue as a team effort. Although the workshop was not a theatrical audition, the Audition Sheet was used to ask participants to express their strengths, weaknesses in a collaborative situation, opinions about Bucknell, explain their interest in the campus climate. (Appendix F) The sheet also included a schedule section so once the troupe was formed we arrange a common meeting period. Finally, I prepared the space. I hung five blank posters on the walls reading: What do you wish was different about the Bucknell social scene? What assumptions to Bucknell students make about other Bucknell students? What do you love about the social scene? What is change? What are challenges to making change at Bucknell? Then I cleared the stage of all props, furniture, and debris so we would have a clean working environment. Me, the space, and the students were ready to go; it was just a matter of their arrival.

I was horribly nervous before the workshop started because I was afraid no one would attend. In fact, my biggest fear was that only a few theatre majors would proudly waltz through the door and I would have to adjust my workshop outline to accommodate
a small group of my friends. My anxiety was proven superfluous when thirteen participants entered the room. There were two fraternity men, three freshmen women, two international students, one independent, three sorority women, and two theatre students. I happily placed the Audition forms in their hands and they returned my excitement with pure terror. I described my thoughts in this moment in my journal,

I think the workshop sheets were way too intimidating for people who have never done theatre. They thought this was going to be a huge commitment that they had to stick with. (September 4, 2011)

Unfortunately, this damaged the dynamic of the group because anxiety increased and students felt as if they were at an audition. After their frantic questions, I decided to permanently eliminate Audition Sheets from my project. I realized that in a workshop, students are expecting a one-hour duration and no additional commitment. I remembered that my blurb released to the campus did not mention forming a troupe or group. I was disappointed in myself for not clarifying my intention and I was disappointed in my peers for not showing long-term interest. However, I was pleasantly surprised by the fraternity men and sorority attendance and continued to have high hopes for non-P4P (Plan for Prominence) Greek participation at workshops in the future. My assumptions were altered yet again when the fraternity men boasted that they were here because they had to participate for a class assignment.

After the participants filled out the sheet, I tried to eliminate stress by asking students to say their name and fill in the blank: “Today I want to fall into____”. I thought this phrase would humorously encourage an open mind without diving into intimidating physical exercises. I was surprised how nervous the group appeared so I began the
exercise. I said, “Today I want to fall into a vat of chocolate.” From then on, they all copied my response with a type of food they wanted to plunge into. I was surprised at the rate of conformity because I expected answers like “love” or “good grades” and I quickly realized I should limit the amount of times I demonstrate to avoid shaping the exercise for participants. Then to learn their names and why they were there, I proposed “Name Gesture.” For this game, everyone stands in a circle and then someone enters in the center. This person says their name and creates one symbolic gesture to describe why they attended the workshop, the rest of the group copies the gesture back to the individual. After a few rounds, the mood lightened and laughter increased. The group seemed fairly comfortable with one another so I decided to move deeper into the exercises.

I challenged the participants with an activity called “Affinities” in which everyone stands scattered in the middle of the room. I pointed to various objects and made a controversial statement; for example, I looked at a chair and said, “If this is the beating heart of the Bucknell social scene stand/put yourself in physical sculpture in relation to the chair based on how you relate to the social heart of Bucknell.” The group would then alter their positions and bodies based on their personal response to my question. I was surprised at how far apart people stood from each other, indicating a large difference of opinion. I was thrilled when participants began to ask each other questions such as, “Why did you stand there?” or “What made you leave the room?” Most of the time, these questions exploded into powerful dialogue, but my favorite part of this game was that participants were free to express their perspectives without requiring a verbal
explanation. One affinity prompted a fascinating response, “If this chair is all the expectations you had before attending Bucknell, stand in relationship to where you are now.” The group interpreted this phrase as the closer you were to the chair, the closer your expectations matched your current experience. The farther away from the chair described the greater the difference between your expectations of college and reality. All of the freshmen circled around the chair and cheerfully explained that Bucknell was exactly as they imagined. As expected, the freshmen found a community, difficult classes, and lots of friends. I was surprised to see seniors and upperclassmen farthest away from the freshmen and chair. They explained that they too thought Bucknell was going to be a community but over time recognized lack of diversity, minimal student engagement in academics, and Greek life dominated social culture. The hopeful eyes of the freshmen opposed the jaded, contracted body language of the upperclassmen. One senior left the room explaining how she arrived at Bucknell anticipating a diverse, welcoming environment where she could make friends with everyone and, thus far, she has experienced just the opposite. The divide between upperclassmen and underclassmen indicates to me that as years pass, the idealistic, familial image of Bucknell presented at orientation drastically deteriorates over time.

This discussion about expectations led to a fascinating debate between the men and women in the room. The women insisted that the fraternity men hold all the power in the social scene because the girls flock to their parties. One fraternity male sincerely explained how he has listened to this argument many times, but he also has never had the chance to express that he feels trapped by his fraternity. He explained his lack of contact
with male freshmen friends that are now in different fraternities. Furthermore, he described his envy of women on campus by saying, “Girls choose what party they’re going to go to each night, guys choose what party they’re going to sophomore year.” He explained that he was jealous of how women were free to choose their lifestyle versus his feeling trapped in a house. The conversation expanded when, 

Rachel asked, isn’t it your choice? There are a ton of other events to go to on campus, but they’re not considered ‘cool’. Brad said, ‘that is totally true but I love my brothers too, I love just hanging out with them and I get caught up with them. It does suck that we can’t go into each other’s houses.’ The affinities led us to a chatty place, which was good and needed, but it was time for a change of pace. I noticed a lot of the dialogue was double sided. Each person felt both things within them —hatred and love, anger and patience. People disagreed and agreed with themselves. This is not a black and white issue that’s for damn sure. (September 4, 2011)

After this fruitful discussion, I felt it was necessary to move and turn to the questions (“Topic Trees”) written on the posters on the wall. Each poster was paired with a color-coded post-it and the students answered the questions with personal stories in mind. Then, I chose one post-it and asked the group to think about a personal connection to that topic and to sculpt themselves into an image. Boal’s idea of Image Theatre that I was trying here is similar to the Name Gesture game that I used earlier in the workshop. The image functions as a way to inspire bodily creativity and expression without words. Once each person sculpted themselves, they “locomoted” around the room in silence, meaning that they must hold the general gist of the image and move to a new space linking up with another sculpture to form a brand new composition. The transformation of the student sculptures from one single image to a group image was beneficial in demonstrating the variety in meanings. The exercise expanded when the large group was broken up into
smaller segments and chose one post-it that spoke to their shared personal commonality. Next, each person used their teammates as clay to sculpt the experience of their personal story with the post-it. Finally, the sculptor would put herself last in the image as the protagonist. Once each person had a chance to make their experience into an image, they performed them in succession for the entire group. After each group performed we discussed observations. Some students referenced personal connections to specific images, while others noted bodily vocabulary. At this time, the sculptor would share his/her story only if they desired to do so. After all the groups had performed we analyzed the images and noticed an important pattern,

Most of the group images were three against one or two against two with always one person alienated from the group. The workshop group talked about how on the surface this drastic image of exclusion does not happen at Bucknell, but the image captured an internal struggle everyone identified with. Brad talked about how in his frat he feels like similarly in a crowded basement and how he feels alone in this struggle as a man. He explained that the men in his organization do not discuss these feelings of isolation; instead they pretend to forget these experiences. Amanda countered his argument by explaining how she felt exclusion equally occurs between girls, but women more frequently discuss these feelings resulting in acknowledgement, recognition, and often termination of these feelings. (September 4, 2011)

I was surprised that the frat brothers had some of the most powerful images in the group. My assumptions of minimal fraternity creativity limited my expectations upon the men in the room. Boal says that everyone is capable of theatre and creation because it is innate within us, however my own initial judgments blocked my beliefs in his concept. Therefore, when one of the fraternity brothers, Justin created a fascinating sculpture of chairs, I was blown away at my own emotional reaction. I felt ignorant for expecting less from the men then from the women. Justin took four pairs of chairs and arranged them in
a semi-circle and from one of the pairs he knocked down a single chair. Likewise, the group was struck by this image of pairs with one fallen partner and decided to work with this image in the following game. I asked the group what was the most powerful chair in this arrangement. Everyone reached consensus that the chair next to the fallen one had the most visual focus and influence. I asked them to step into the sculpture in relationship to their individual status in the power struggle between the sets of chairs. I purposefully gave ambiguous directions to see how individuals in the group would interpret the exercise. I thought about identifying the chairs with Bucknell but then decided it was best to let the participants have the freedom of analysis. Most of the group positioned themselves in the chair across from the power seat or on the floor, almost submitting to the hierarchy of the powerful chair. One man placed himself in the center of the circle, cross-legged with his eyes closed. When another participant inquired about his choice, he described that he was forced to be in the middle of this hierarchical structure at Bucknell, but to protect himself and his beliefs he kept his eyes closed to avoid involvement. I then asked the group, “Place yourselves where you want to be” and the opposite movements occurred. A large majority of the participants situated themselves directly in the powerful seat or in a sculpture that showed them combating the powerful seat. Then the entire group recreated the image they made for where they are in the present and then moved together in slow motion to their new image, where they want to be. The group motion reminded me of the sweeping tide flowing away from the chair to describe where you are and inward towards the power chair to where you want to be.

Seeing the whole group together moving back and forth was fascinating! It really
shows me how scary it is to confront problems head on. Even if we ideally want
the courage to fight our oppressors or social constructions, in reality we are
staring at our goals from a distance. I had this epiphany through observing these
images and I think the group made similar discoveries. (September 4, 2011)

Again I asked the group to step in one at a time, but this time standing in the most
powerful position in the configuration from their perspective. The images were very
different from one another. One woman knelt to pick up the fallen chair, while another
gripped the most powerful chair from behind as if to strangle it. The varying gestures
inspired a debate about what is more powerful: top hierarchy seat or helping up the fallen.
One of the participants related the conversation to the social scene. She said that at first
she thought the most powerful position was the chair, which for her symbolized the
fraternity men, but now she sees that perhaps the most impactful position would be all
Greek members standing apart from the power seat to view their role from a new
perspective. She thought that a new outlook was essential for full realization of the power
the Greeks hold within the social system.

After this workshop, I was beaming with pride. My fear of minimal attendance
was proven unreasonable and the resulting variety of individuals was a revolutionary
atmosphere because students typically remain in similar social circles. One major
realization following the workshop was that I did not need to create an elaborate
theatrical piece in order to make change; the workshop itself was just as effective. I was
filled with hope as I invited everyone to the next workshop because I had faith this
success would bring the participants back for more. I also learned through that all
expectations and stereotypes I had regarding students, attendance, social groups, and
Applied Theatre itself were wrong. Part of my discovery in releasing my expectations helped me to fully experience the present moment and whole-heartedly listen to my peers.

**Double Take Project Open Workshop #2:**

In studying Augusto Boal and Forum Theatre, I have learned the power of dialogue instead of monologue, meaning there is more strength in communication and discussion rather than individualistic statements. My belief in this idea has developed solely out of Applied Theatre research, however, at the Campus Climate Open Forum this concept became a reality for me. The Forum was structured as a student and faculty response to the report by using two microphones placed in the aisles of the audience. Everyone was given a chance to speak his or her mind in the form of a monologue. Dialogue did not occur between those that spoke, rather it was one statement after the next without discussion. It was difficult to listen because the conversation consisted of defensive responses to one or two points made in the report, instead of developing solutions to the issues identified. As the line to speak grew and time ran out, many students were left unheard. I thought it was evident that my peers desperately needed a place to vent, express, and in a positive environment brainstorm for the future. In response to the Forum, I organized a workshop similar to my previous open event. I did not email the extensive list as I did in the first event because I thought the fiery response from the report itself would solicit attendance. My blurb to campus aligned with this
assumption,

Double Take Project: Student Workshop on Campus Climate Report
Saturday September 17th
4-6 pm
Walls Lounge
Let's not let the Forum discussions be the end of student conversation on the Campus Climate Report. Do you have something left to say? Come gather this weekend with fellow students at Double Take Project's second workshop of the semester discussing the recent Campus Climate Report! Using another form of discussion called Applied Theatre, we hope to engage students in a more interactive environment to help brainstorm for change. All opinions are welcome. Students only please.

I was surprised that with all the Campus Climate hype and discussion, only ten students participated in the workshop: one independent male, four sorority girls, two freshmen, and three independent women. Despite the success of the previous workshop, only two of the women decided to return to the second event. This time, instead of audition sheets I asked the participants to write their names and one reaction to the Forum events or report.

Here are a few examples of their responses:

At Bucknell, amazing fun people are never more than a few doors down. Just crossing the hall can bring the best experiences.

I feel like your sorority or fraternity is one of the first descriptors used to describe someone ‘you may know’. Ex: ‘Do you know Jane, she’s in Pi Phi.

For this workshop, I organized a similar structure to the previous event because I was pleased with the previous dialogue, however, this workshop instantly felt different. Part of me knew that these students were very angry, but I did not expect the blockage of personal expression that ensued. For example, we did an Image Theatre game where we chose House Party as a common experience between all of us. Each group member made an image of their perception of House Party and cast herself as the protagonist in the
image. The images were very archetypal, such as students drinking in the corner, a group violently dancing, and other students standing and competitively drinking. These sculptures were not their personal stories that happened on House Party rather stereotypes of the weekend. The images did not dive into feelings of potential isolation or joy that the sculptors verbally described that they had felt in the moment. Once each sculptor completed their configuration, I asked them to make a new image of their ideal version of House Party weekend. These ideal images were even more unrealistic because students were depicted reading books together and cheerfully studying. I was hoping that an ideal image of house party would still contain some elements of realism, such as not eliminating drinking entirely, but perhaps limit the excess. I did not utilize this exercise to make the participants feel as if alcohol was the enemy, rather I wanted to use this as a tool to both identify and brainstorm realistic alternatives to our current perceptions of House Party. I felt that this exercise was deeply misinterpreted because of my lack of emphasis on personal connection to the image. For the participants, I think this exercise forced them to perpetuate stereotypes they were battling in discussion at the Forum, rather than personally connecting to the material and developing solutions to change their own reality.

At this point it was clear that students, including myself, felt angry and frustrated. The images were not taking us to a poignant place of discussion or strategy in how to make change. One of the women who attended my previous workshop expressed how she had fun sculpting, but did not see how images would change the campus climate. She asked, “How are you going to affect this place?” I took this statement very personally and
shyly responded that I was not sure. After ending the workshop I felt a deep sadness and a pang of isolation. Her comment made me feel responsible in changing the campus environment. I wished she had said, “How are we going to change the campus climate?” I understand now that her feelings of helplessness were directed towards me as her student leader representing campus social change. However, I was disappointed that she almost expected change to happen for her rather than with her. I believe she is not alone and that many students have a similar expectation from events and discussions. I propose that professors and administration do too much for us, which results in the student attitude that change will happen for us or to us. One example is that the administration, not the student body, set up the first open forum to provoke dialogue while the President initiated the entire report. Students created their own second forum, which was wonderful, but since then, the faculty and staff have initiated a majority of events regarding the Campus Climate. I was surprised by the lack of student support in this workshop and I suppose one reason is because students are unaccustomed to attending events that are not required or initiated by their fellow peers.

Another observation that has sprouted from the hopeless attitude of the participants was that the workshop barely lasted for one hour before they all left the room. Not only was it rude, but it also was hard to feel like we as a group were making change because the workshop was only a one-time event that disappeared into a memory. I am convinced if I could attain a long-term commitment from a group of students, then the sensation of student social change would run deeper.
Double Take Project Workshop with “This Is Me”:

Another student, Ana Aguilera Silva invited me to create a workshop for her project, This is Me. Ana was working on a piece about the diversity of the development of the self. She and a group of student’s generated personal stories describing a moment that defined your life or who you are in one monologue. She asked me to work with her actors and writers to increase comfort, communication, and inspiration. Because of my struggles in the previous workshop, I outlined six clear personal goals.

1. Increase confidence in the way I speak.
2. Assert myself as a leader without being oppressive to the group. Also, take time for myself to explain and express what I want to convey.
3. Sense of ease and make sure to breathe deeply.
4. Work on Jokering by asking questions of the participants, rather than swaying them with my opinion.
5. Do not let Ana make me feel oppressed or less than.
6. Take notes and actively listen.

Since Ana organized this workshop, I was surprised when only five students, including Ana, attended. I wrote,

The workshop was small. Five people. Ashley (ADPi), Amber (Essential), Josh (InterVarsity), Ana, and Ryan (LGBT). Isn’t it fascinating how I label the participants to remember them for myself, based on their social groups on campus? (September 25, 2011)

I thought this journal entry was particularly interesting because I could identify with students based on the label of their social group. This reminded me of a comment from the Campus Climate Workshop when a participant wrote at Bucknell your social group is the first piece of knowledge gained to determine your identity on campus. I was thrilled by the diverse backgrounds between the five participants, yet I felt instant fear because in
my planning, I had a larger group in mind. I felt disrespected by Ana because she was responsible for attendance, but did not enforce the event as a requirement. However, once we began to move, the size of the group did not matter. I was particularly surprised by the response to the Chair Power game; the participants created a horizontal line formation of chairs facing the audience. At the center of the line, there was a stack of chairs. I was reminded of the first workshop when I asked, “Where are you in this chair power struggle?” and then, “Where do you want to be?” because in both workshops an identical ebb and flow movement occurred. I noticed that the concept of your current power status was farther away from where you want to be, which was often closer to the main hierarchical chair. Suddenly, a few of the participants appeared to feel guilty about their own gap between where they are and where they want to be. We discussed how they desired to be confrontational with the people whom make them feel oppressed, yet in reality they transform into bystanders who merely watch their oppressors continue to dominate. When asked where are you now, Ryan was the only individual who placed himself in the center most powerful seat. The room erupted into discussion and one participant asked him why he thought he was currently in the most powerful position. He explained that he interpreted the chair sculpture to represent Bucknell. For him, the center chair was enlightenment and in his words, “The one enlightened person amongst a group of idiots.” I was surprised by this interpretation and realized that Ryan was the first workshop participant to express this perspective. Up until this point, I personally viewed the top seat as what I describe as the “cool” people on campus. I am defining “cool” for myself as students that perpetuate the party culture and stereotypes associated with it. I
related to Ryan in that I have also felt like an outsider to the culture, but his perspective varied in that he felt powerful in the outskirts, whereas I felt helpless and isolated. I loved his idea, but I wondered if that the oppressed person sitting in the high seat among the “idiots” perpetuated the cycle of oppression by still fighting for extreme status. In this moment, it was clear to me how easily an oppressed individual could become an oppressor; perhaps high/low or “cool”/“uncool” status must be entirely eliminated in order for the community to feel empowered.

I gained confidence in myself as a facilitator in this workshop because the small group of people still had a meaningful experience. I also learned that the workshops do not have to be themed specifically to the social scene, but it is beneficial to establish a narrow topic idea because it was difficult to conduct a workshop based on a vague idea of the self. More importantly, the workshop gave a gift of new perspective to the entire group through visual imagery and the sharing of opinions.

**Double Take Workshop: InterVarsity**

I met Katelyn at the first Double Take Project open workshop. After the event, she emailed me and asked if we could meet to conduct another workshop for her Christian fellowship organization, InterVarsity. She described her level of comfort and personal connections made in the first workshop and expressed her shock in people she never met before. She felt the activities encouraged a unique fearlessness through sharing deep emotions and stories. Then she explained how the leadership team in InterVarsity
desperately craved honesty, but the relationships felt untrustworthy and forced. She wanted to focus the workshop away from God and instead draw attention to the human perspective and the experience as Bucknellians. Together we came up with a workshop structure based on elements from the first workshop and new exercises specifically to increase trust. We scheduled the workshop to take place on Sunday, October 30\textsuperscript{th} from 7 to 8:30 pm. I was thrilled to have an extra half hour to further explore because the hour-long workshops felt incredibly incomplete.

The group was made up of at least ten or twelve students, mostly women. We warmed up with exercises similar to the first workshop, “Today____ makes me smile and_____ makes me think.” I noticed that the group could not stop giggling. I thought this was interesting because I assumed that they were comfortable with each other because of their participation in InterVarsity, so I was surprised by their nervous laughter. The next game was Name Gesture and I established that the gesture should express how you feel about Bucknell today. This exercise was wonderful to observe because it was difficult to listen to each other when they felt vulnerable in the center of the circle. For example, the group repeated Tara’s name and gesture back to her and she rushed out of the center of the circle instead of truly seeing her own portrayed by others. I think this game is valuable because it encourages non-verbal communication and a reminder of listening and giving skills. The people on the outside of the circle are giving back what they receive from the person that is vulnerable inside; it is a beautiful method to begin to share. After this exercise, I realized the concern of each participant because of the constant laughter and fear of the inner circle. We went into the hallway and took a deep
breath together. Then we imagined our inner critics or the people in our heads that are
telling us that we are not good enough or stupid. Once they all silently visualized those
voices or individuals, I asked them to leave these people at the door; they are not
welcome in our space. We took another three deep breaths together sending away the
negative voices within us. This exercise resonated with the group because from that
moment on they seemed grounded, focused, and open.

The next exercise was Affinities and although Katelyn asked to keep the
workshop catered towards personal connections, I asked a few questions regarding the
social scene. It was clear by the lack of enthusiasm that the group did not want to discuss
the social climate; rather, they had a different need. I noticed that there was not a lot of
disagreement or conflict in the group as was the first and second Double Take Project
workshops. This was fully recognized when I asked, “If this is a community you
associate yourself with, stand in relation to how close you actually feel towards this
community.” All of the participants rushed to the chair, implying that they love their
InterVarsity community and part of their identity is comprised of this group’s values. I
was surprised because Katelyn depicted in our meeting that InterVarsity was struggling
with honesty and vulnerability. Then, it dawned on me, conducting workshops with only
one organization rather than a mixture of students’ results in group pressure so that
individuals may be afraid to express an alternate opinion from their club. I elaborated,

It felt a little bit like they were not completely honest because the whole group
was at the chair. I realize now that they probably associate themselves with this
group so they did not want to say in that they did not associate with
InterVarsity… downside to doing this work with just one group in the room.
There wasn’t too much conflict in general because they were all agreeing with
each other. However, when it got super personal it wasn’t something you can necessarily make a judgment on. It felt like there wasn’t much conflict because they were pretty much on the same page. But something that was interesting was there is definitely a lot of inner conflict, a lot of sadness too though. Despite all of that happy nervous laughter that was definitely a shell for the whole group in general. (October 30, 2011)

The group responded strongly to the question, “If this fake tree (there was a fake plant in the room) is ultimate harmony with yourself, stand in relationship with how close you are to that harmony?” Everyone except for one person placed themselves facing and reaching towards the tree.

One girl was in a running stance like she wanted to run and chase after it. That surprised me. So I asked a question, which I felt like maybe I shouldn’t have asked because the group agreed that harmony with yourself is something you can actually grab, get at, and one day wake up and suddenly know who you are. That is how they were all talking about it; this is a slight generalization but that is how it felt. I asked, “Everyone seems to be reaching for this one thing, do you ever think you are going to find it?” One guy said yeah I probably only know a couple people who have grasped the tree trunk, who know themselves and they are well over 50. The girl who was in the running stance changed her answer. Her first response to why she was running was she wanted to get it, she was gonna go after it. But once I asked the question, she changed her answer. She said she realizes she is going to be running this race for a long time, she is never going to get off this track. (October 30, 2011)

I found this response slightly sad because most of the group was reaching to self-awareness as if it had an endpoint, a single moment when complete self-identity was achieved. The group acknowledged that they knew it would take a while to acquire personal harmony; however, I felt they viewed self discovery as a culmination rather than an ever changing flow of self. I thought this was an interesting majority belief shared with one another.

Next we focused on the topic trees with similar questions to the first workshop. I
added another poster that read, “What assumptions do you make about Bucknell students?” and “What assumptions do Bucknell students make about you?” The responses were interesting because the latter question sparked more conversation regarding judgment of others and sin, whereas the other questions about the social culture prompted general answers such as rich students and intelligent faculty. The group decided to make images of personal stories in which each participant chose a post-it. One imagistic depiction of entitlement was composed of a girl joyously lifting her arms looking up. The protagonist stood on one side of a curtain looking confused and at the floor. There were two other women in the image near the confused protagonist looking away from her with their hands covering their faces as if to prevent themselves from truly seeing her dismay. The protagonist later shared her story explaining freshmen year she was in her dorm room on the phone with her mother. A girl in a piercing voice down the hall screamed and cried that the dress she ordered online did not match her expectations. In her room the protagonist felt isolated and confused as to why she was at a school where women were so concerned with outward appearance. This story was the only Bucknell oriented story and it opened up the conversation into deeper personal relationships and familial issues. I noticed after this point the images constructed were directly related to parental relationships and masks.

Following the image exercise, we discussed the experience of the workshop. One woman revealed that this for her was a lesson in expectation. She had no preconceived idea of what the workshop would entail and as a result she felt she could fully live in the present and find the joy in the unknown. She hoped to relate this knowledge to her own
religious leadership by altering the structure of her meetings to keep the material exciting, shake up expectations, and willingness to share. I found it difficult to gauge the success of internal discovery from the participants because the personal nature of the workshop. They outwardly expressed that for the first time they were able to acknowledge the masks that hide themselves, so it was hard for me to judge their internal development. I sensed a similar frustration to the second workshop; there was an attitude a helpless attitude such as, “What is this one workshop going to do? How are we going to help Bucknell?”

Another woman shared that the workshop was beneficial to her because she was able to see her peers in a new way. She continued to explain that she had no idea that her friends had such varying perceptions on self-discovery, family, or the masks we wear. To this woman, the sense of social action did not matter, rather her discovery was simply learning more about the group.

In the weeks following, I received multiple emails from one woman who attended the workshop that confirmed internal action. She said

I was in the theater workshop with InterVarsity about a week ago and tonight for our freshmen small group my co-leader and I adapted some of the activities and it was awesome! Engaging the group in something so unexpected and pushing them outside of their comfort zone prompted them to be so much more honest and reach faster conclusions about their community than sitting around talking had in previous weeks. So I just wanted to say thanks for spurring on all the creativity.

A few weeks later I received another email from the same woman describing her own Theatre of the Oppressed inspired workshop. The function of Theatre of the Oppressed is to spread knowledge and techniques for the people to use for themselves. I was proud to learn that I empowered InterVarsity to make their own change. She described her
workshop as follows,

We started off in the same way as the IV workshop, I asked them what they felt about this time (we had simply told them the next hour was a surprise which made them nervous) then we gathered in a circle with every person coming into the center and saying their name along with a motion that described their past week. We usually go around and talk about a high and a low of each of their weeks to get to know each other-- it's a group of usually 12 freshmen and 2 leaders, actually the week we used the theater workshop we had 18 freshmen, so our record high. So that was a fun way to get the same information while pushing them out of their comfort zone. Then for the rest of the time (we had some debriefing and discussion planned but with 20 people total we ran out of time) we used objects as various themes and had them pose/stand in proximity to the objects in regards to how they reacted. The list we used in this order was:
1. expectations about Bucknell
   -this year so far how much you've felt challenged:
2. academically
3. socially
4. spiritually
5. how you feel about assumptions people make about you
6. how much you feel forced to put a mask on
7. how well you know yourself
8. your relationship with sin
9. the closeness you feel to God
10. how you feel connected to this community (our small group/InterVarsity in general)

Some cool things were:
- (#3) socially as freshmen even those who claimed they weren't challenged ended up realizing they've been challenged and upperclassmen advice is important
- (#9) no one wanted to get too close. it was like a force field of no one wanting to claim they're any closer to God than anyone else. so everyone stood in one huge cluster, with a couple outliers hanging around the back. as we talked, they began to step further and further away realizing that they aren't as close as they want to be or could be
- (#10) hugely beneficial for the small group. no one wanted to see someone sitting in the fetal position on complete opposite side of the room from the chair that symbolized closeness, but there were those people. so they talked to each other about how they can help bring those people in and reach outside of their circle of friends they were standing in. here we are a couple weeks later and no ones done anything serious to start really closing in on those people, BUT they've talked to them a lot more and are looking to my co-leader and I for advice (after all leaders do tend to go first). Also, our small group this past week following the workshop
was what the Bible has to say about drinking and when it was over we couldn't stop them from sharing stories with each other and their honesty was impressive! -(#5) one of the freshmen who is a "Pastor's kid" admitted he's lived his life trying to fit that mold and now he wants to figure out what that means for himself. He never opens up so that was huge. The priceless moment was after he spoke he realized what he had shared and kind of froze with an expression of uh-oh did I just admit that? Then looked relieved as he realized no one was judging him and people wanted to talk with him further about that :) 

I was very pleased to read this response. Not only did she utilize games that she had played, but she also created a safe space in which students could express themselves without fear. However, I was surprised to read about the high level of conformity that was instilled in this group. For example, no one wanted to admit they were closer to God than anyone else, thus they all clumped together. I find it interesting that even in this group there are standards that the majority must follow. In this case no one wanted to be “too good” or too connected to God so that they would appear self-centered and not humble. This viewpoint is different from the social conformity issues on campus I have studied because typically students are proud of their sexual exploits, drunken stories, and alcohol consumption. Although both drastically vary in moral pressure, I believe the root of the issue is exactly the same; both groups persuade their members to make choices based on the majority standard of behavior.

Double Take Project Class Workshops: In the Classroom

I was welcomed to the Organizing for Justice and Social Change Capstone class by Professor Hiller in the Management Department. When I went to the classroom, I was surprised by my identification of students based off of my knowledge of their fraternity
or sorority. I expanded in my journal,

I was intimidated by the class. It was segregated by two Pi Phi’s in one corner, two Kappa’s in another, two less cool boys (DU?), three cooler boys (I think Sigma Chi), and two quiet girls. Weird. I was definitely intimidated by the Kappa’s and the Pi Phi’s and the boys. I have not done this work with anyone in a quote on quote “high social standing. (October 19, 2011)

Reflecting on this entry, I am surprised by my own harsh preconceptions based on Greek letters. Up to this point, I only “preached to the choir” or met with students on the outskirts of Bucknell; this class was completely different. I had many fears because I thought I would be disrespected or mocked. I nervously explained my project and they seemed very interested, but cautious. I decided to take the class in the hallway and do a few Affinities with them. Professor Hiller participated as well, which was fascinating because her presence limited the honesty of students. I think they portrayed innocent versions of themselves, which was disappointing. Through this experience, I quickly learned that professors and administration drastically change the response of students. I compared their response to the way students represent themselves to their parents; they appear thoughtful, responsible, and polite. After Affinities, I noticed a distinct shift in behavior once I started performing the interviews. I chose stories that were a blend of positive and negative experiences. I think the students were surprised from the grittiness and honesty, especially in contrast with their closed, respectful behavior in the Affinities game. The students and Professor Hiller begged for more stories, so I continued to read more and more pieces. I explained that at first I focused on my friends to interview and slowly branched out with their suggestions, but wanted to interview more fraternity and sorority members. I suggested another way to gather interviews would be to organize a
group of students and train them as conductors to interview their own friends. One of the girls from a highly popular sorority looked at me dead in the eyes and disagreed. She said that some girls may not be able to say all that they really wanted to say to their friends; they may be afraid of judgment. I was shocked. I felt as if this woman was telling me the classic anecdote of “I have this friend…” replacing the word “friend” with herself to avoid potential embarrassment. To me, she was really saying, “I could not be as honest with my friends as I could with you, I think you need to keep interviewing.” Many other students quickly agreed. I left the class with her eyes ingrained in my mind. I felt as if she was trapped in her own social status, silently begging me to free her so she could speak from her heart. I realized in this moment that even the prettiest men and women on this campus have something they are hiding; something they cannot share with their “friends”.

Later in the semester I was invited to Professor Ponnuwsami’s Feminism and Theatre class. I prepared a small discussion about Applied Theatre and Double Take Project as well as a short workshop and collection of stories to read. However, once I got into class there were student presentations that took longer than expected. I only had about thirty minutes of time and, for some reason, I decided to start talking about my project instead of proceeding into a workshop. I regret this choice because the students asked so many questions that I barely had time to do anything else. I later wrote,

I felt actually kind of uncomfortable. I was having trouble really explaining myself. It was kind of frustrating because I feel I did not make much of a difference. I was not eloquent; I just kind of mushed all my ideas together.

Despite my own negativity, the group was fascinated by a particular story with a drunken,
crying freshmen boy at a frat house. Professor Ponnuswami was unnerved that this young man had lost confidence because he was not allowed into parties. The students did not seem at all surprised by this story or moved by the sadness of his tears. I then thought that perhaps the students are jaded to the horror stories in our culture so they do not react. Whereas, the professor was deeply bothered by this story because it is the first time she was hearing such events. Although I left feeling negative about myself that we did not get a chance to do a workshop, Professor Ponnuswami and Professor Hiller’s deep emotional response to the project and to the stories inspired my thoughts. I realize that faculty have little knowledge of their own students’ social experiences. I recognized this dichotomy simply by looking at the classroom; the professor’s face was stricken with astonishment while the students remained still and stone cold.

Double Take Workshop: P4P—Sigma Phi Epsilon

This workshop was the most shocking and revelatory experience in this project thus far. I will describe it uncensored in order to honestly depict the reality of Bucknell fraternity culture from my experience.

The process of making this event possible was in itself a fascinating example of red tape and gender roles on campus. All semester I have attempted to work with the Greek office to develop a new concept of P4P (Plan for Prominence) with the fraternities and sororities. I met with Kevin Foster to propose a new definition of P4P events away from expensive speakers hired by the University to educate our Greek population, in
exactly one hour, about sexual assault or binge drinking. I proposed a student-to-student form of P4P in which peers discuss solutions to their problems without the structure of a lecture or Weis center seat. I suggested leading a series of Applied Theatre workshops to foster dialogue. The idea was not rejected and instead I was strung along to believe that one day it might become a reality. The semester quickly flew by and no word from the Greek office. One random day, my friend as well as Sigma Phi Epsilon President, begged me to conduct a workshop with his fraternity for their last P4P requirement. I said I would love to, but I was not approved by the Greek Office and did not want to promise a workshop without the guarantee of credit. The next day he met with Kevin and emailed me saying the workshop had suddenly been approved. I find it suspicious, insulting, and ironic that my idea was forgotten all semester and instantly approved when a male president re-proposed it. In response, I swallowed my anger and was thankful for the opportunity.

I was the most nervous I have been all semester the night of the P4P workshop. The fraternity president and myself arranged that the event would be held in the basement of the fraternity house and the entire sophomore pledge class was required to attend. I was frantic because I did not know a single sophomore male. Another Sigma Phi Epsilon senior friend offered to participate in the workshop in case the sophomores would behave poorly. I entered the basement as the only woman and my heart was pounding when I saw the thirty young men gathered for the workshop. Ironically, the event was held in the basement, the same place where all of their large parties take place; I was in their territory. I had prepared my opening speech in advance where I planned to assert myself
by expressing my respect for their organization to avoid a defensive response. I then
decided to describe that I was not here to scold or blame, but intended to honestly discuss
the social scene. The workshop took an instant turn for the unexpected when my senior
friend introduced me to the group. He said,

Hey everyone, this is Tina. I know what you’re thinking, she’s really hot. You can
think about it, but just so you know, she has a boyfriend and he is a Sig Ep
alum…so you can think about it, but nothing’s gonna happen.

I was mortified. In fact, I was speechless. The young men stared at me and laughed. I
honestly think my friend thought that was how he would gain their respect,
acknowledging my looks, making me into an object, and then proceeding into the
workshop. I was in no way prepared for this introduction and struggled with a response. I
decided quickly to pretend nothing happened, but inside I was screaming. I felt nullified
to this group as a sexual piece of meat denied all of my worth as an educated woman with
something important to offer. Although I was burning inside, I moved into an exercise
and tried to forget.

I began with a few silly warm up questions and then dove into the social scene. I
instantly relied on my favorite, provocative exercise, Affinities. I asked, “If this corner is
the beating heart of the social scene, where are you?” The men looked at me and did not
move. They began to speak with each other about what exactly I meant by the question,
decided as a group that I meant the closer you are to the beating heart of the social scene,
the more you are involved. I tried to silence them so they would judge for themselves
what the question meant, however they continued to talk and moved together. The best
way I can describe this image is a group of penguins clumped together slowly moving so
that no one is left behind. The men cheered, “Sig Ep is the beating heart of the social scene!” One man strayed from the group and everyone quickly whipped around to question him, “Why are you over there?” He jokingly explained that he is currently on social probation so he is temporarily excluded from the beating heart. They all laughed in agreement at his witty comment. The following Affinities followed the same pattern: I would ask a question, encourage complete silence, they would discuss their interpretation of the phrase, and move like a group of penguins to a specific location as one. This went on and on for the next seven Affinity questions. I was shocked at the high level of conformity and groupthink. I hoped there was more that they all wanted to express, but the pressure of their brothers and nervousness of the exercise prevented them from standing apart from the group.

I decided to move on to the Chair Power Game where I asked them each to organize the chairs in a formation where one chair was the most powerful. After a few different arrangements, the group chose one with all of the chairs knocked down and one remaining upright. I then proceeded to ask, “If this is Bucknell, where are you now?” Again, similar to Affinities, the room exploded into conversation and the men decided that the question implied the Bucknell social scene. For a while it was silent, no one wanted to come forward. This continued until the senior who introduced me stepped into the circle, put his foot on the chair (resembling Captain Morgan) and announced that his fraternity is the most powerful in the social scene because they have the most involved, passionate, and party loving men on campus. As he left the circle, he was applauded and another man quietly came forward. He spent time adjusting his position a few feet away
from the powerful chair. After he was satisfied, he planted his feet and looked up at me. If he felt comfortable, I asked him to explain his position, he replied, “Well I live in Smith and I’m about this far away from Yellow Wood, so…” For context, “Yellow Wood” is their downtown fraternity house. I slipped and these words spilled out of my mouth full of shock and judgment, “Are you saying you think Yellow Wood is the most powerful place on this campus?” He looked at me surprised that I questioned him and said, “Of course!” and again received applause from his brothers. Another male stepped in and similar to the first image, smacked his foot on the power chair with a proud stance and said, “I live in Yellow Wood,” trumping the man before him and further winning over the crowd of brothers.

The atmosphere naturally shifted when a brother boldly explained his emotions regarding his freshmen male friends. He told a story in which his closest friends were split up into different fraternities at rush. He went to a sorority date party and was excited to meet up with his old friends who were at the party. He was having a good time with his buddies until the upper classmen in multiple fraternities split them up saying, “You only talk to your brothers.” Once this story was shared, it was as if the entire room changed and brother after brother vented about their old friendships. I decided that the story telling was important for these men who seemed desperately constricted to group think, so for a while I allowed them to share their experiences with one another. However, after some time I noticed the growing frustration due to lack of solution to the identified issue. I decided to boldly pose a question, “What would it be like if you had a party without women?” The room up roared into, “No pussy?” “Are you kidding me?” “Not possible”
and many similar exclamations. Then one of the brothers shouted something along the lines of, “What if we had a party with another fraternity?” Again, the room broke out into conversation with brothers sharing horror stories of various fraternity members fighting at mixed sorority and fraternity events. Another brother paused the conversation and proposed an idea, “If the upperclassmen are the ones who do not want us to talk to the other members of the fraternity, what if we have our own party with the sophomores of another fraternity?” The group got silent as they all thought about this possibility. They discussed if they want change, it would have to come from the underclassmen because the seniors are used to tradition and a certain pattern of fraternity life. They started to plan a beer pong tournament in which their fraternity sophomore pledge class and another fraternity sophomore pledge class would be together. They decided to anonymously match up the brothers so that both fraternities would compete in playful competition. I quietly listened as they literally planned when and where this event would take place. Before I knew it, a vague party was scheduled and the workshop was over, the men thanked me and I left the house.

This workshop was quite a rollercoaster ride, flinging me through a variety of up and down emotions. I left feeling confident that I had helped them spark change because I created an environment where I could help them express their insecurities in friendship and the fraternity system of separation. I left them with a tangible plan for change that has never been done by two fraternities on campus. However, I also left them with a party plan; not a plan to treat women better or minimize social pressures. I felt extremely guilty for helping them plan a party, yet in its own way, the concept of this beer pong
tournament was a brand new idea for them. I need to remind myself that change is slow, and for them this is a huge step. I also saw outrageous social pressure men on this campus put upon each other. The way the men constantly made choices together and affected each other was sad and debilitating to development of an individual. I know that the single opinions of the men were revealed later on in the workshop when they felt less threatened and “cool” to be vulnerable; however, watching the initial groupthink approach to these exercises was very difficult for me. I now recognize the high level with which men are forced to conform their ideas, choices, and beliefs to that of their fraternity. I was both devastated and joyous, all in one short hour.

Double Take Workshop: Peer Educators

The Women’s Resource Center invited me back early to campus from Winter Break to conduct a workshop with Peer Educators. This new program is composed of ten students trained to conduct lectures on sexual assault and related issues to student groups, eight of which are seniors. I love the idea of the program but I feared it would not continue after graduation. In my journal I wrote,

I wonder if underclassmen are afraid to admit that they are uncomfortable with Bucknell? Do they want to keep pretending everything is ok? Maybe seniors are ready to face their experience head on and make change. (January 14, 2012)

In this workshop I witnessed the enthusiasm of the seniors to openly explore their college experience. I thought that they were most willing to learn how to get a group of students to be open and willing to share. The most poignant exercise of the workshop for me was
the “Fainting Game.” In the activity, each person is secretly given a number and told to remember it. Then everyone is instructed to rapidly walk around the room. The facilitator shouts out numbers slowly and when a number is called that corresponds with the participants, he must make a sound and fall to the floor. The responsibility of the other members is to catch him and not let their peer hit the ground. The one requirement of the game is that when your number is called you must truly let yourself fall and trust that the group for protection. We played this exercise for a very long time and the group laughed, giggled, and was also very focused. Afterwards we discussed the exercise with two simple questions: What skills did you use to complete this exercise? How does this exercise relate to your work? The students expressed how in order to complete the task they needed to prepare to while also maintaining outward focus to get ready to catch. They described sensations of awareness, observation, listening, and a state of readiness. Then they applied these skills to their work as Peer Educators by relating the exercise to Bucknell. They said, “Imagine if Bucknell was a place where everyone was watching out to catch you if you fell? What would have to change from where we are now to get to that?” The group fearlessly discussed how relieving it felt to have a support system watching and ready to catch them in hard times. I felt very special to be a part of such an important metaphorical and relevant conversation with my peers.

We did another exercise called “Complete the Image.” Two people start to shake hands and then freeze; the group shouts out what they notice and what they see. Without speaking, one person from the handshake leaves the image while the other partner remains frozen. Again, the participants describe what they see. Someone new from the
group enters the image and places himself or herself in a brand new position in relation to the original partner in the frozen handshake. The group again, describes their observations. The game continues to tag people in and out altering perceptions and images every few minutes. The participants realized that the images work in such a way that everyone notices or interprets something completely different. One of the women related this to a party when two people are dancing. She said someone might see a potential assault, while someone else laughs at her silly drunken roommate. We discussed how students arrive at conclusions and assumptions based off of personal perceptions that vary drastically depending on the individual.

Next the group picked a theme and sculpted mini groups based on personal stories related to the topic: excessive behavior. Each image was then shown and discussed with the large group. We asked each other, “Is this image realistic? If not, how would you change it?” Then the Peer Educators would take turns re-sculpting the images depending on their perceptions of reality. One specific image sparked a lengthy debate, the sculptor created an image of two women on their knees with their backs to the audience and their heads tilted backward chugging a beer. A man was positioned facing the audience between the two women with his hands triumphantly above his head cheering them on. I thought the image created a fun and playfully competitive atmosphere. To my surprise, the group thought that this image was unrealistic. One man re-sculpted the image to his perception of reality; he stood both of the girls up and faced them sideways to the audience so they were viewed in profile, still chugging their drinks. Next he placed the man facing the women with his finger and arm pointed downward nearly touching their
faces. The new sculptor transformed his face of delight to intensity and cruelty. The group agreed that this scene was much more realistic to Bucknell binge drinking culture. They said the first image appeared too lighthearted, when in reality chugging is forced upon partygoers as an act of domination. I was shocked by this transformation and did not anticipate the vicious chugging culture at Bucknell.

Based on our discussion, the large group returned to their smaller groups and decided to tell one true story inspired by the topic. They made three new images with a beginning, middle, and end to convey the experience. Once all of the images were performed and discussed, the workshop was over. If we had more time, the set of three images would develop into miniature Forum theatre. I was absolutely thrilled with this workshop because I felt that they were physically applying the material they learned from the lecture training style as Peer Educators. I also hope that the workshop provided games they can utilize in their own presentations. Amongst this joy, I had a scary pang of doubt; a majority of the students in the room are already student leaders on campus.

I guess I just feel like even Bucknell student leaders who claim they want to make a difference… are playing the system. They want it to appear as if they are making an impact so that their organization looks better while still engaging in all the bullshit they are trying to ‘stop’.

There was no specific cause for this epiphany so I simply tried to remove it from my mind and relish in the success of the workshop. I wanted to be able to trust the genuine enthusiasm from the student leaders and Peer Educator cause; yet, this uncertainty left me unsatisfied.
III. RESEARCH: INTERVIEWS
Facts:

Interviews were a vital component to Double Take Project because they gathered a variety of student perspectives to develop a cultural representation of the Bucknell social scene. My main goal was to listen to my peers and reflect their experiences back to our campus. I interviewed 30 students with the five additional interviews collected by my peers, totaling 35 interviews for fall semester. I interviewed seven senior men, seven senior women, five junior men, and nine junior women. In the sophomore class, I only interviewed one man and two women. Finally, I interviewed one freshmen man and three women. (Appendix G)

I did not plan the number of interviews I wanted to conduct, nor did I target students based on gender, class year, or other identifiers. Instead, I focused on one interview from each organization on campus. Another strategy of mine was to allow the natural course of student recommendations to lead me from one conversation to the next.

I noticed that underclassmen were less willing to interview than upperclassmen. Through this observation, I realized an interesting pattern in the Bucknell social cycle that may contribute to minimal underclassmen interviews. Freshmen year the class is excited, vulnerable, and ready to mingle. They quickly accept that freshmen men cannot party and women are used as currency to ensure their entrance into the social scene. I believe freshmen want to rapidly assimilate to the culture, therefore they accept these social “rules” as the norm. Because of their desire for inclusion, freshmen are more likely to ignore the flaws in the social scene and convince themselves that it is fun because
upperclassmen appear happy and cool. Sophomore year everyone rushes into fraternities and quickly consumed by the social scene. Finally, they are included and now associate their identity with their affiliation, thus unlikely to criticize their social experience. Then by junior year, they may be ready to reflect and question, especially after returning from abroad, where their Greek or club identity vanished. However, some students are still unwilling to speak junior year because of the powerful influence of their organization. Finally, by senior year most of the class is looking for jobs and thinking about the future, thus the present social ties have less significance. Another reason seniors are more likely to interview is because they have more social experiences to share. I have found seniors most willing to discuss, critique, and even bash the social scene, whereas years before they admit that they were silent. I think this trajectory outlines why so many seniors were more likely to accept interview invitations and share disturbing stories, whereas underclassmen were more protective over the social culture and its secrets.

*Question Development:*

I had three priorities in constructing the interview process: learn about the Bucknell social culture through story telling, ask questions that would inspire stories rather than brief answers, and balance my inquiries to encourage both positive and negative responses. The first step in the interview process was to brainstorm an enormous list of all the questions I thought were interesting or always wanted to ask students. Next,
I combined, reworded, and eliminated questions based off of my goals. My original questions were:

- Describe a time when you were at a party when you were at a party where something happened that made you upset?
- Tell me a story of a great night at Bucknell.
- Tell me a time when you felt uncomfortable at a party and why?
- What do you think about the drinking scene on campus? Do you like it? Does it need to change? Why?
- What were your first impressions for your first party at Bucknell?
- What does the phrase “work hard, play hard” mean? Tell me a time when you have done this.
- Do men and women have roles at Bucknell? What are they? What is your role at Bucknell?
- Tell me a time when you have felt pressured to do something you did not want to. Tell me about a time when you or someone you know conformed at Bucknell. What is it like being a man/woman at Bucknell?
- What is Bucknell social culture to you?
- Tell me a story of true friendship at Bucknell.
- Tell me a time when you felt oppressed at Bucknell.
- What is a secret about the Bucknell social culture that no one talks about?
- Do you ever feel alone at Bucknell?
- What is the secret/way in which you get a hookup for the night?
- What is the formula for fitting in at Bucknell?
- Tell me your best and worst nights at Bucknell?
- If you could change anything about Bucknell, what would it be?
- If you were a tour guide what would you honestly tell prospective students about the social scene at Bucknell?
- What were your expectations of college prior arrival? How does it compare to now?

After review, I altered many questions because they did not include other issues such as diversity, academics, and student initiative. I also felt that several of the questions exhibited my personal judgment, which would limit the variety of answers from the students. I realized that if the question were vague, the plethora of responses would
increase. From this list, I chose eight questions that I thought were the most balanced, open ended, and covered a range of topics:

1. The first party I went to I saw…
2. What do you have to do to fit in at Bucknell?
3. Tell me a secret about Bucknell culture that no one talks about?
4. Tell me a story that made you proud to be a Bucknellian? Tell me a story that made you embarrassed to be a Bucknellian?
5. What is it like to be a man at Bucknell? A woman?
6. Have you ever felt alone at Bucknell? Tell me about a time when you felt this way.
7. One night I was surprised by…
8. If you could shout out to all Bucknell and all of the students would hear you—what would you say?

I was pleased with the ambiguity of these questions because they the participant to share as little or as much as he desired, without pressure. I then realized that I would be interviewing strangers and if I was going to perform them as characters, it was necessary to include personal questions. Internal questions also gained the trust of the interviewee, while preparing them up for deeper dialogue.

1. The first time I walked on Bucknell’s campus I…
2. What is your most important challenge at Bucknell?
3. What is most meaningful to you about Bucknell or your experience at Bucknell?

In order to ease the interviewee into story telling and trust, I added these questions to the beginning of the previous eight. I tested the questions first on my friends and then modified them depending on the success of storytelling. After a few trials, the questions and order with which they progressed, worked well for each interview so I kept the same framework.
It is also important to note that I created the interview questions before the Campus Climate Report was released. I purposely did not include the words Greek life, fraternity, or sorority because I did not want these organizations to feel targeted. Instead, I chose words such as “party” or “memorable night” so the interviewee could discuss the Greek system at their own accord. My choice to eliminate the Greek vocabulary worked serendipitously with the hostility from the Campus Climate Report, ensuring that the students would not feel obliged to take sides with or against the Greek system in my questions.

*Making the Consent Form:*

In order to interview, I had to make a proper consent form. I spoke with Psychology Professor, Bill Flack for advice. He suggested material such as details on anonymity protection, summary of project, risks, benefits, and assurance that the participants did not need to answer each question as well as prepare for a sexual assault confession with Psychological Services brochures. He also recommended one of the Deans for approval from the Institutional Review Board (IRB) in order to ensure legal protection for the project and students. Then, he advised to begin with friends and target specific people on campus in order to get a diverse range of stories. With this in mind, I created a consent form with his suggestions and a template from the Internet.

The Dean confirmed that I would not need IRB approval because I was utilizing interviews to gather stories rather than data. I was thrilled because my process would
remain causal, further increasing trust between students and myself. Though the interviews were conversational, unfortunately the consent form had to remain formal. (Appendix H) As a result, I noticed that many students were overwhelmed by its’ detailed structure and only took a few seconds to peruse the document prior to signing their name. I always described the project while the interviewee was skimming, in order to ensure clarity. Although I always had a second copy available, participants rarely kept their copy of the Consent Form. My early hypothesis was that students had too many documents to obtain any more, however, my more recent theory is that students are looking for a quick way to share their stories and emotions without a formal document to prove that their voice was heard. I believe students wanted to go beneath the radar, desperately confess, and then be forgotten, so that they can reshape and conform their opinions to the crowd.

**Beginning with Friends:**

I followed Professor Flack’s initial advice and interviewed my close friends to practice active listening, describing the consent form, and personal comfort in the process. I was surprised to learn many deep and profound stories from my friends on campus that I have never heard before. I was shocked at how the questions provoked stories that I did not know they had experienced. I wrote in my journal after interviewing my friend Tom, a friend from high school who also attends Bucknell.

I am not sure why but I feel a little sad after this interview. Maybe it is because Tom is one of my good friends since high school or maybe it is because he has changed so much (in a great way) because of Bucknell; I just haven’t been a part of his growth. His confidence filled the room. His outfit: sneakers, tube socks, baseball shorts, t-shirt and huge backpack and slight bald spot on the left side of
his head have not changed since high school. Yet, his confidence, open mind, focus away from himself and towards others, and perspective full of excitement and adventure, rather than fear of the future has completely changed. I’ll never forget when he sulked and cried on his 20th birthday because he still wanted to be six years old. This interview has personally struck me because through Tom, I can see a transformation and growth, all because of Bucknell. (September 19, 2011)

I was surprised that the interview led me to a new grouping of stories, even from a dear friend, thus I had confidence that the questions would equally provoke a student I had not met before. I imagined the entire interview process as a game of darts; I began by interviewing my friends at the bull’s eye. Gradually, I met others through their suggestions, which widened my sphere to new circles of Bucknellians. I never emailed a random student because I was constantly receiving suggestions for other peers to interview.

Although I met many new interviewees through friends, I was simply not prepared for the stories told by those closest to me. I was stunned to hear sexual assault, rape, and binge drinking secrets from those I thought I knew well. This was enlightening for me because I realized that everyone struggles with problems or situations that they may not reveal, even to close friends. The form of a private interview, dedicated solely to an individual’s experience, created a safe space where they could openly share things they did not know how to discuss in everyday conversation. I felt that the interviews became a confessional, where students released their baggage into my tape recorder, as if the horror story would disappear by the act of sharing it. As a result, I developed a closer relationship with those that I assumed I had known. The more I interviewed friends, the
more I reconsidered ever really “knowing” someone because their experiences were so unexpected, in comparison with my original knowledge of the individual.

Seeking Help:

I conducted multiple interviews per week, sometimes two or three a day, and I quickly grew exhausted. In order to speak to as many students as possible, I needed help. I created a message center, poster (Appendix I), and other advertising techniques for a conductor interest meeting. I thought that new conductors could interview their own circles of friends, that I may not have contacts with.

Department of Theatre and Dance and Double Take Project:
Interested in hearing your fellow friends, students, and peers? Double Take Project is trying to develop a theatrical script based on real student interviews at Bucknell...but we need your HELP!
The meeting for those interested in conducting interviews is on Tuesday October 25th at 5 pm in LC Center Room.
Contact cmc037@bucknell.edu for more questions!
Let's uncover the student voice of Bucknell.

I did not use word of mouth as a tool for advertising because I wanted to attract people who were genuinely interested in the project. I thought attendance from seeing a poster or email would indicate that an individual was very attracted to the cause, rather than my friend. At the meeting on October 25th I wrote,

It is funny where I am right now. I am in the LC Center room, it is 5:09 pm and I planned an interview conductor meeting for now. No one is here. It is interesting how I feel both angry that no students support this and relieved/not surprised that for now, I am continuing on this journey alone. It is depressing not having one person show up to your scheduled event. This is a good lesson in how posters, banners, and message center alone are NOT a good way to reach out to campus. I am exhausted. I think it is time to pack up and go home. I have a few friends that
want to help me conduct interviews, which is more settling than none at all.  
(October 25, 2011)

After this depressing meeting, I realized not only did I need to better my advertising 
skills, but also I should focus on my friends that have expressed interest in conducting. 

One of the women was a freshman and the other, a minority student on campus. I asked 
them both to interview their friend groups to help me reach more student voices. 

Together they collected and transcribed five interviews diverse in style, age, sexuality, 
and gender. I learned that their input was more helpful than reaching out to those on 
campus that may not be as committed to the project. Their passion inspired their own 
initiative, resulting in organic and enthusiastic interviews. Together we conducted mock 
interviews, reviewed the consent form, and created an email template to send to their 
friends. (Appendix J) The templates gave the two conductors confidence in an official, as 
well as casual approach. 

Both women enhanced my progress by connecting to unfamiliar groups of 
students, increasing word of mouth, and easing my workload. However, I was concerned 
to perform their interviews because I did not witness the student’s physicality, word 
syncopation, or tone of voice. I asked the conductors for guidance in interpretation and 
when I later included the stories in performance, I let the piece guide its’ interpretation. 

*Behavior of Men and Women in Interviews:*

I noticed that there were a few major differences between men and women in the 
interview setting. First and foremost, more men than women forgot our scheduled
meeting time and did not arrive, which occurred for at least seven interview plans with men. They also did not respond to emails as rapidly or as frequently as women who were eager to interview and share stories.

Once the interview began, I noted the physicality of men and women. The men often did not keep eye contact and focused their gaze down and to the left, whereas women sat up straighter and made intense eye contact while talking. These were small, but common observations between men and women in my interview environment.

**Behavior of Men and Women Analysis:**

Because of male inward focus, I had difficulty gauging their honesty. I felt that they were protective over their fraternities and a little threatened by my questions regarding the party scene. Some interviews were very superficial due to this defensive response. For example, I interviewed one of my male friends from freshmen year, because we were close before he joined a fraternity. I heard rumors from my freshmen hall mates that his fraternity changed his personality. I reached out to him because I was curious if this gossip was true and I hoped that our friendship would ensure an open discussion to critically synthesize his fraternity experience, but this was not the case. Every question I asked, he related back to the “good old days” on our freshmen hall. At first, I thought this was sweet, but then I realized he was reminiscing on freshmen year to avoid the topic of fraternity. I believe he did this because of his insecurity of his Greek experience and the public display of his stories. Although his identity was protected, I
think he and other fraternity men guarded their negative words to curb their current poor reputation. Also, I believe that the men do not want to be responsible for exposing fraternity secrets or stories that would taint the image of their organization.

I felt that there was more pressure on the male interviewees because of fraternity focus in the Campus Climate Report. The men have social and brotherhood power at stake because of their dominant position on campus, which accounts for their defensive response and guarded story telling to protect their top position. Women also responded to negatively to the report, but perhaps sorority women have less power to lose then fraternity men, thus less to protect, and ultimately increase to their honesty in the interviews.

Transcribing and Organizing:

At the beginning of this process, Professor Flack warned me that interviewing would require minimal hours, yet transcribing would take three times as long. I did not want to believe him and told myself that I had the time to give; Professor Flack was right. Most interviews took one hour or less to conduct and took me approximately three hours to transcribe. I spent days with the recording device in my lap, typing as fast as possible, stopping the tape when I could not catch up, and then restarting. I downloaded a program, “Dragon Speak” to convert my voice into a word document. It was effective for a few interviews, but it was unreliable and slow. I then discovered how to download the interviews to iTunes and found a keyboard shortcut to stop the audio so my fingers could
catch up. This process was grueling. Although I was tormented by the hours spent on my computer, I developed a deep bond with the interviews. I re-listened to the stories and examine the inflection, tone, rhythm, and pace of the speaker. At the end of the transcription, I nearly memorized the vocal patterns of each individual, which enriched my performance abilities.

Although transcribing gave me time to familiarize myself with the person speaking, consequently a bond formed between us. I was personally attached to the interviews. Again, I thought of Professor Flack,

Finally, he gave me the most helpful portion of advice, which was to protect myself. As he rattled off Bucknell sexual assault statistics and national data, I noticed a distant look in his eyes. Although he seemed angered by the material, he also was distant in order to preserve his own identity and soul. He pursued a balance of personal investment, while maintaining self-health. (May 11, 2011)

I behaved exactly opposite of Professor Flack; I was further angered, emotional, and affected by the tales. Because the content of the stories was to be anonymous, I kept all of the information to myself. I did not speak with anyone about the disturbing parties, assaults, or behavior I heard about. For a long time, my own silence was necessary and not a problem, yet as time passed the stories echoed in my computer and brain and I became deeply affected,

I just wanted to say I feel like a hoarder. I feel like a story slut...well, I guess more of a collector. I just know everything. I know so much about this campus right now. I’m not going to see this school the same way ever again. It is not that I’m not positive; I’ve changed so much because of what I’ve heard and continue to change. I have a lot to share and feel like I am just like a little collector, collecting stories from tons of different people. I just know a lot, it is tiring. Yea, I just feel like a bag lady, like I’m an antique storeowner, you know? I just own these dusty secrets. (November 16, 2011)
The metaphor of an antique store dealer is a pleasant representation of my emotions. As time passed, my silence continued and this metaphor developed into a more intense form. I found myself constantly angry or sad and needed personal relief through performance. I focused all of my energy on preparing for *Rage Behind Curtains*, instead of the despair I suffered from the interviews.

Another way I channeled all of my fiery energy was to organize the transcriptions. My original structure was to simply type all of the interviews consecutively in a word document. As I transcribed the interviews, I noted themes in specific colors, so when I revisited the document I recognized overarching topics. Then I copied and pasted similar stories into new word documents. The stories naturally divided into eight categories: horror, positive/humor, dating/hooking up, diversity, LGBT, academics, drugs, and freshmen.

While examining the interviews, I noticed two new themes, “Be yourself” and “This happens at every college.” An astounding amount of students responded to the question, “If you could shout out to all Bucknell and all of the students would hear you—what would you say?” with the answer, “be yourself.” Here is an example from one senior woman:

Probably gonna sound kinda cheesy, but whatever, be yourself because somebody else will recognize that you are brave enough to do that… um and people will like you for who you are. And like, you’ll find the right people to be friends with um and even if its scary to like to think that you’re going against the grain in any way, which is especially difficult here, it’s gonna, there are people here who will accept that and appreciate that and like admire that.
I was surprised to hear so many students offer similar advice to their fellow classmates. For me, this answer recognizes that students know that their peers are denying their true identity to mold to the culture. The woman quoted above explains that the campus will recognize and appreciate individuality, yet many interviewees offered the same reluctant advice. To me, this shows that there is a desire for acceptance, rather than a reality of acceptance.

The next trend that emerged from the interviews was “This happens at every college.” When discussing the party scene or high levels of sexual assault, students revealed a shocking story and then undermined it by saying, “Oh, but this happens at every school, sexual assault is a nationwide problem so…” I felt as if students were blaming national issues to avoid their presence on campus. By deflecting the problem, they lowered the significance and impact of major issues to eliminate personal responsibility. Their attitude was, if Bucknell struggles with issues similar to other colleges, we are not any better or worse off, thus it is not a problem, right? I have a sense of hopelessness for the student body because of the multiple occasions with which this phrase was used, which to me indicates a lack of ownership and care regarding these issues.

_Interview Space:_

One of the greatest challenges in this process was finding a proper location to interview. I required an enclosed, small space with hidden visibility from other students.
so interviewees felt that their identity was protected. I began my search spring 2011 and was given a study carrel in the lower level of Bertrand Library. I was ecstatic to have my own space, but I learned that not only was the study carrel on the quiet floor, but the cubicle resembled a bathroom stall; there was a gap between the floor and door and another between the door and ceiling. This was an inefficient location for the project because the conversation was exposed and disruptive to other students. I realized that the only private, enclosed space for students to talk is in an empty dorm room. This space issue is symbolic of for Bucknell communication; students share public space together, but there is no private location to talk. There is limited space to be real with one another because we are constantly put in view of other students, forcing us to put up a mask, even in private need.

I believe limited student-to-student private space severely affected the process. I conducted interviews in the booths of 7th Street Café, the New Student Space couches, dorm rooms, and lobby of the library. I even held one interview outside in the freezing cold because we could not find a more discreet location. All of these spaces had the visibility I was hoping to avoid. For multiple interviews in 7th Street Café, my friends or peers of the participant talked to us mid interview, noticed the recorder, and then recognized they were imposing. I observed that the interviewee instantly shut down her responses because of the brief interruption. I believe that the location shaped the honesty of the interview responses for fear of being overheard or judged by those in the surrounding environment.
What I learned about myself:

Once I started interviewing Bucknell students, the first lesson I learned was how to listen. For me, listening was comprised of many elements to reflect individual perspectives and Bucknell culture through performance. First, I had to learn to give all of my focus and attention to the interviewee. In order to do this, I needed to quiet my inner thoughts and judgments to openly receive the stories. I often thought of the Boalian game, *Mirrors*, in which the leader pretends to look in a mirror and move his body while the follower reflects his exact movements. In my interviews, I tried to resemble the reflection of a mirror, eliminating myself and imitating the thoughts, feelings, and emotions of the participant. I found this very helpful in establishing trust because they saw a portion of themselves within me, thus increasing their comfort.

I also learned that I assume many things about other people because it was difficult for me to listen to stories that I did not agree with, while remaining quiet internally and externally. It was important for my inner thoughts to be hidden, otherwise the interviewee would censor their stories and for the sake of my project, I needed all voices to be heard whether or not I personally agree. This was a humbling process that was very satisfying because I created a character for myself with the objective to listen. I was free to let go of my own opinions and present Bucknell in all of its honesty. However, as the project continued, I found that suppressing my own voice in order to share others, took a toll on my own self-worth. The more I learned about Bucknell, the
more I had to say. However, once I was able to release the interviews through performance, the lighter the load was to carry.

Faculty and staff tried to forewarn one of my most difficult lessons. I was told to take care of myself and find ways of self-protection from the stories. I underestimated the horror stories on campus and did not know how to react when they were shared. The interviews and the Bucknell social climate literally consumed every aspect of my thoughts, my life, and me. I had a dream embodies my response to the stories,

This is one of the only dreams I’ve had in months and ugh I haven’t dreamt since the summer. So, I dreamt that I was dragging my car around campus trying to find a parking spot, my car had died, but if I was gonna leave my car there, it was going to get towed. I had to drag my car... I’m walking, hauling my car with a long rope over my shoulder and every parking spot I found in some way was going to be towed; I had to keep dragging it around campus. That is kind of how I feel some days. I have these intense secrets and stories to share and I am just hauling them around with me all the time; I don’t have a spot yet. I haven’t quite fit in on campus, I don’t know how I’m going to share this…but I need to share this. I am not a therapist. I do not know how to deal with the stuff people are telling me. I am terrified of becoming numb to this all. If I am numb, I won’t be able to share these stories with Bucknell the way they need to be shared. I am tired and feel heavy with weight. I think I definitely need some kind of therapy; someone to talk to about all of this. (November 15, 2011)

The symbol of the weight of the car highlighted the heaviness, isolation, and lethargy I felt from the stories that I could not share. After this journal entry and multiple emotional breakdowns, I began to see a therapist on campus that helped me separate my life from the stories of others. This was necessary for my personal sanity and the continuation of the project. Listening and reflecting is absolutely grueling, exhausting, and overwhelming, but the right help was essential for me to continue with passion and energy.
I would like to state an obvious point: one does not do a yearlong project on the social scene if one is thrilled with the way campus functions. Clearly, I chose the social scene as my focus of interest because I personally am distraught, disturbed, and affected by it. My original intention for this exploration, aside from my fascination with Applied Theatre, was purely out of feeling alone and struggling socially. I often felt isolated to my dorm room on weekends and lost many friends due to my disinterest in partying. A major lesson I learned from my interviews was that I am not alone; I am just willing to speak up. Almost every interviewee felt isolated at some point during their college experience and many more than expected, admitted that they feel uncomfortable with the party scene too. The realization that I am not alone sparked my intensity to reveal this message to others. I believe that these interviews provide a safe haven to express all insecurities and mine personally is my social isolation. This project has thrust me in corners of campus I never thought I belonged, only to discover that I am never alone.

What I learned about Bucknell students:

After hearing hundreds of stories, I had many sad realizations regarding Bucknell. I could go into depth about the shocking alcohol consumption rates, unreported sexual assaults, frequent drug use, common silent witnesses, and lack of ownership of the self, but I am not writing my own version of the Campus Climate Report. I do not desire to define social issues; rather, I would like to expose the cultural undercurrent behind them. I learned that although Bucknellians are silent about their inner desires, most of the time they truly have a lot to express. They have created high towers between each other so that
their personal thoughts remain isolated, but deep down, we are all screaming. I realized that the interview resembles a confessional because it creates a one-on-one space where walls can be broken down in privacy and then built back up again in the public view. At Bucknell, in public we must go with the flow; we dress the same, party the same, behave the same and seemingly enjoy every minute of it; whereas in private, the interviews separate students from the group mindset and allow freedom in expression.

I learned that active listening breaks down the constraints of groupthink because the individual is heard. When conducting interviews, I thought about the faces of museumgoers in Marina Abramović’s piece, *The Artist is Present*. Marina sat all day long with various participants in silence. She used performance art to provide a place where individuals were recognized while keeping herself open to whoever she sat with. I tried to resemble Marina Abramović and listen selflessly. I believe that I gave a similar gift of my undivided, full attention in interviews, which is something students may not have received at Bucknell before.

Bucknellians are unhappy with the social scene, but have been conditioned to enjoy it. I believe that at the core students crave social change, but pretend that everything is wonderful because of group pressure. Interviews encourage vulnerable and real dialogue between two individuals, which is unusual on campus. I believe this vulnerability is the cure to groupthink and solution towards real connection between students. One interviewee proposed an idea,

I would definitely say something. Um, what would I say, I would say um...huh...I would say I think we all should all...um...I think we should all take a shit on the academic quad all at one time, and not out of disrespect to Bucknell
but because I think that would do a lot for our community if we all shat together once cuz that’s, I, you know, that’s shits like, you can’t fake that at all, you know? You really gotta be you’re dirty self, that would be great…I’d take a shit in front of everyone on this campus (laugh) yea I think people just need to be more real with each other you know, I think people should just realize that they’re saving can actually be in their hands, in a positive way, you know? You don’t have to be afraid to live life the way you want to live it, you can actually do that.

For me, this interview sums up this man’s desire and the hidden longings of many students to be open and honest with one another. First, we need to admit we are hiding and second, we must be vulnerable. Bucknellians, let’s follow this man’s advice and take a shit on the quad, maybe then we can be real.
V. RESEARCH:

RAGE BEHIND CURTAINS
Fertilization:

This project manifested itself in my life similar to the birthing of a child. I felt as if I was a mother in the process of creation. I spent the semester internalizing interviews, students, stories, and digested them into my own existence. I cultivated these elements within me and then released them into the world. The metaphor of birth begins with the intention of copulation, the steps towards creation. My goal was to rid the stories from within myself, give everything to the campus community, and expose the reality of the Bucknell experience. I was tired of listening to students conceal their thoughts and wanted to create something that represented a piece of all of us, something we could not express ourselves. So, I began creation.

The final result was, *Rage Behind Curtains*, a 40-minute performance experience, composed of twenty-two stories from different perspectives on the social scene. (Appendix K) I read the interviews seated in a wooden chair, at a wooden table, from a three ring binder. In between stories, I stood up, walked to the front of the table, and read from my personal journal to reveal my experience. After the performance, the audience was invited to free write on their thoughts and then join together for a miniature Theatre of the Oppressed workshop. I did not conceive this form; rather two artists, Anna Deavere Smith and Spaulding Gray, inspired me. I merged Deavere’s Documentary Theatre and Gray’s personal experience pieces to create my own aesthetic to match Bucknell’s social needs.
I would like to argue that creation is a violent act; an artist must make a single choice and deny thousands of others in order to produce work. Anne Bogart elaborates, “Art is violent. To be decisive is violent. Antoin Artaud defined cruelty as ‘unrelenting decisiveness, diligence, strictness’. To place a chair at a particular angle on stage destroys every other possible choice, every other option” (Bogart, 45). My process was similar because I constantly made painful decisions so that one single choice would thrive.

The first decision I had to make was the title of the show. Because of publicity demands, I needed to release the title as soon as possible to build interest. For inspiration, I referenced the interview transcriptions, and remembered the words from one young woman who said,

I mean it’s almost like the people here like are trying to be congress men and looking for like congress wives and so that’s how I kind of see it, like people putting on this façade...we’re kind of like, we’re raging behind curtains, I guess that’s a good way to describe it, it’s almost like everyone is trying to protect themselves...I feel like this campus is very like, it’s tow sided like outside of a house and inside of a house. Like outside of a house like...its’ put together-ness, like...people are discreet and then you step inside that doorway, as long as Psafe isn’t inside, and then people definitely change. I mean it’s, it’s not just like the walls but it’s like...the walls actually take on a protective role in the social scene...situation.

The phrase, “we’re raging behind curtains” struck me because of the double meaning of the word “rage”. When one references rage in the world, it describes severe anger. However, on campus, the word is another term for extreme partying, for example, “We are going to rage hard this weekend.” I felt that “rage behind curtains” matched my own personal anger, the fury that I felt from the students, and repression of the self to mold to
Bucknell culture. I knew that the student body would recognize the double entendre and attend the performance because of the intriguing union of slang with the reality of their environment.

Once the title was established, the first step in developing a script was to sift through 96 pages of interview transcriptions and eliminate stories. This process was heartbreaking because I wanted to share every story and each student voice. My singular strategy was to cut stories with similar themes and messages. I did not want the piece to feel repetitive, but there were countless amazing stories with similar messages so I chose the most poignant. Then, I created two giant groupings, stories that must be in the piece and stories that may or may not need to be in the piece. After brutally categorizing the material, there were 39 definite stories and 10 maybe stories, totaling 49 accounts. I recorded myself performing a few pieces and realized that each was approximately 2 minutes long. If I wanted to create a forty-minute show, I had to reduce more than half of the stories that I already narrowed down. I decided to approach each story by labeling gender, class year, and theme in order to ease the next series of cuts. This helped to ensure equality in gender, race, sexual orientation, and minority opinions. From 49 stories, I cut 15 only to discover that the script was still too long. I painfully reduced the story numbers so that the total number decreased from 34 to 25, and finally 22.

Once the interviews were chosen, I arranged the stories in a climactic arc. I visualized the shape of my desired trajectory with the letter “u”; the piece began with lighter stories, the middle consisted of gritty and tales, and the end returned to hopeful experiences. I chose this arc because I felt that the audience expected intense stories
regarding sexual assault or binge drinking and if I subverted their expectations with the introduction of optimistic stories, I would increase their engagement. I also thought it was important to contrast playful information with plethora of negative experiences the variety and reality of perspectives were revealed. This was necessary to assure the audience that many different students were equally represented in the piece.

One evening I was so angered by my need to discard stories from the performance, I decided to take a break and ask advice from one of my artistic friends. I complained to him saying it was painful to judge the worth of stories and make destructive decisions based on the content of their tale. I said I was afraid that the audience would never understand how difficult it was to limit the voices of my fellow peers. He asked me a brilliant question, “Are you journaling about these fears that you have for the audience and the pain you are suffering in this process?” I replied, “Yes! My journal is the only thing that is keeping my sanity afloat.” He then simply said, “Well, why don’t you read your journal to the audience?” As if the clouds opened up, this ingenious idea inspired me to immediately put this journal entry into the script.

Making this is not fair. How do I choose these stories? In interviews students tell tons and tons of stories, some positive, some negative. How the hell do I decide what story is ‘worthy’ for December 4th or not? In theatre we use the phrase ‘sometimes you have to kill babies’ meaning sometimes as an artist you have to kill even the most brilliant idea if it does not fit the piece. It is painful. This actually hurts me. I’ve done 35 interviews, have 96 pages of a word document of their transcriptions and have done over 17 hours of interviews total. How can I possibly narrow all of that down to a 40-minute experience? Want talk about killing babies? A plague has happened to these stories. The only thing that gets me through is that this is not the end. All of these will be heard at one point or other—just not all at once. That would be insane. (Wednesday November 23, 2011)
Once I realized that I could include my anxiety and struggles in the performance, other ideas took shape in my head. My journal documented all of my personal highs and lows in the entirety of the project, and instead of sharing one journal entry, why not share multiple. I decided to reshape the entire structure of the script and intertwine myself with the performance so that the audience could understand my experience in addition to my classmates.

Next, I made a list of things the audience should know about the process and my experience through Double Take Project. Once the list was complete, I looked for journal entries that corresponded with my goals. I chose a total of seven different journal entries and strategically placed them in the script so that the audience would follow my personal transformation, as well as receive answers to specific questions at the right time. For example, after reading the 22 stories, I noticed that many mentioned fraternity parties as the culprit for negative social experiences. I thought that the audience would wonder if I asked questions about Greek life in the interviews. If they assumed I specifically asked about Greek organizations, I would lose their trust and ability to listen to the stories. It was essential to be inform them of the questions to understand that students willingly discussed Greek life, I have so much to say and do not know where to start. I think a lot about Anne Bogart who said—make violent decisions—just make a huge leap. So here’s what I’m scared of: I’m scared the audience is going to think I am anti-Greek. I’m scared the fraternity men in the room are going to feel blamed and hated. I want them to know that I never used the words Greek life, fraternity, or sorority in my questions. Here’s what I asked… (I then slowly read all 12 questions to the audience) See? Students came up with Greek life and wanted to talk about Greek life all on their own. I’m not framing this to be hateful—just sharing what was said. (November 27, 2011)
I purposely placed this journal entry at the beginning section of the script so that the audience would have this knowledge as early as possible. I also wanted them to learn other components of this project such as my emotional anguish, sense of feeling alone, development of the title, function of Double Take Project as a whole, and personal cycles of hope. I was able to correspond a journal entry with each of these topics.

Over time, I developed the idea that the journal entries had a wider function than merely the transfer of information. Through sharing my desires, fears, and worries, the audience was able to learn about me because the act of sharing revealed my personal judgments and allowed me to appear as a human, rather than solely a reflective mirror. The benefit of exposing myself was that the audience was not threatened; instead they were welcomed by my honesty and open presence. As a result, an important bond of trust cycled between us, increasing their ability to listen and respond to the stories because we shared the experience together. Another function of the journals was to juxtapose the darker stories with light humor. Balance is vital in a theatre piece because if the audience journeys through an emotional rollercoaster, then they can experience each rise and fall more fully.

After the journal entries were added to the form of the piece, a new challenge erupted. Distinguishing my journal entry from an interview story was essential for clarity. I decided to create a ritual so that the audience would learn to recognize a pattern between storytelling and personal emoting. When I finished a student story and a journal entry was to follow, I simply picked up my journal, clutched it to my chest with my right
hand above my left, stood up from my seat, walked around to the front of the table, and
opened my journal to the correct page. After reading the entry, I would close the book,
clutch it to my chest, sit down, and place the journal back in the right corner of the table.
The ritual provided consistency and a rhythm to the performance, which was effective in
establishing a safe environment. It also allowed the audience time to reflect on the
previous story, while shifting gears to hear my personal interpretation.

I included a few other rituals to stabilize the shocking content of the stories, such
as before each piece, I said the gender and class year of the student. I felt this
circumstantial information was necessary for the audience to accordingly adjust their
internal perceptions, as well as determine the equal representation of male, female, class
year, and diversity in the script. Another ritual was the addition of a teacup. First and
foremost, I needed to soothe my throat, but I also strategically included the hot tea to
calm the audience. In between stories I would quietly take a long pause, pick up the tea
mug, sip the liquid, and place it back on the desk. These few moments allowed the
audience a sigh of relief, and time to regroup before the next story commenced.

In addition to structural rituals, I developed personal rituals to help me dive into
22 characters quickly and efficiently. I identified the “CROW” for each story. CROW is
an acronym used by Professor Grant to teach the basics of character development:
circumstance, relationship, objective and where. This was helpful to remember each
student, the cadence with which they spoke, and their physical gestures. Another
advantage in performance was I had interviewed and transcribed all of the stories so it
was easy to play all of the characters because their faces, voices, emotions, and eyes were
ingrained in my mind. I found it helpful to imagine myself back in 7th Street Café or the location where we interviewed, and see the student in front of me. Once I reexamined their tiny facial muscles or expressions, I remembered exactly how they delivered the monologue.

I faced yet another challenge, when I attempted to vocally mimic my peers. I interviewed many students with accents and patterns of speech that could potentially stereotype race or sexual orientation. For example, I interviewed students from the International community and I felt very uncomfortable attempting to imitate their accents. I decided to depict vocal tonality and overall energy, instead of an accent. I considered announcing the ethnicity of the student in my brief introduction prior to the story, but I was nervous to offend the audience. Instead, I embraced the fact that I am a Caucasian woman, depicting diverse stories, and leave specifics details ambiguous for the audience to make their own conclusions.

Another layer to developing the performance was the fear of boredom. I was afraid that the audience would grow impatient from the repetition of my voice thus dull their listening abilities. I remembered that I created a video for Take Back the Night with actors performing the interview stories. I realized that it was never approved to play in the Bison, so students had not seen it yet. I thought I could utilize the film in addition to my spoken portion of the performance to create a dynamic contrast between forms of storytelling. On the day of the event, I prepared the DVD, but the opportunity to play the film was eliminated when my performance ran longer than anticipated and the audience was enthralled, thus the film was superfluous to the overall experience.
Once the structural decisions were made, the script was completed, and the baby was ready for the next phase: labor.

*Birth:*

To rehearse, I recorded myself performing and realized that the reading would take approximately forty minutes. I discovered that I had the potential to captivate the audience for another hour and ten minutes to enhance their experience. Often with theatrical performances, I believe the audience is emotionally moved, then without reflection, exits the theatre, and rapidly rejects the emotions. Because I had extra time, and have always wondered how to guide an audience to introspection, I conducted an experiment. The stories that I read were disturbing, controversial, and emotional, thus it was necessary to do something with the audience to help them process their reactions. Boal workshops with student groups were helpful for students to express and reflect on their experiences together; I thought a miniature version would be interesting for audience members. I used two basic activities from my workshops, the first, Affinities, because it is an unthreatening activity that gently promotes dialogue. I used eight Affinity topics specifically related to the content in the performance to spark reflection. Then, I broke the audience up into small groups and asked, “Is there anything that has happened to you that reminds you of a story in the piece?” After a few minutes, they sculpted the group into their personal story. Once each participant had a chance to make an image, the tableaus were shown to the entire group who discussed or altered the image based on
their own interpretation. I did not know what to expect from the audience, but planned the workshop as a mode of community reflection.

After I planned the workshop, I thought about public reflection versus personal reflection. I questioned the transition between digesting horrifying stories and then running around the room. I thought this shift would be too jarring for those that wanted to let the piece settle within them. Free writing is a tool used to dwell on the material in an impulsive and uncensored manner. I thought this exercise was beneficial for the audience who would have many thoughts and experiences surface, but nowhere to channel their energy. I added ten minutes to the event to allow the audience time to generate an unfiltered response. For my own personal benefit and for documentation, I invited them to share their free writes with me. First, I was able to use their writing in my project, and second, the audience formulated and then released their thoughts without responsibility. I thought the opportunity for limitless expression, without the reminder of the paper in their pockets, was therapeutic and encompassed my goal of all Bucknellians given a voice in Double Take Project.

Once I decided the structure of the evening: performance, free write, and workshop, I required a space in which all of these events could occur with ease. I knew Rage Behind Curtains was not meant for a theatre because the space connotes a formal, high budget, distanced performance setting; exactly opposite from the casual, honest, and private experience I was yearning for. I discovered Hunt Basement and confirmed that it was the perfect site because of the moveable walls and open room. I also enjoyed Hunt Basement because it is located at the base of the sorority dorms, where a majority of the
stories took place. Also, the space is neutral and comfortable for the typical student to attend, rather than the theatre that stereotypically attracts artists. Because I chose to remove the performance from a theatre, I lost the raked audience seating that is necessary for optimal visibility. I decided to keep the audience intimate and close so that while I read, they felt as if they were the interviewer and I, the participant. I placed the table in front of two double doors so the structure would frame me, similar to a proscenium arch. Then I laid down mats surrounding the table so that students could sit on the floor, exceptionally close. I lined chairs around the mats in the shape of the letter “u” because this figuration achieved maximum seating and visibility.

As a result of the non-theatrical location, another struggle was ticket admission. Originally, the performance was to have a typical ticket fee and for many weeks I overlooked this fact and focused on developing the script. However, prior to the event, I realized my error, I was presenting stories I had conducted from anonymous students across campus, and was going to charge them to listen to themselves? This logic did not make sense, and in fact, felt wrong. In no way did I want to commercialize or capitalize on the student body and the stories of the social scene. With much stress, I convinced the faculty and staff that to charge the campus to see this reflective performance of our culture was simply inappropriate. Luckily, the proposal was approved and the event continued free of charge.

I approached publicity for this show with a guerrilla theatre mentality; I intensely utilized every form of advertising I could conceive such as posters (Appendix L), message center, Facebook, and the most effective form of communication: email. I
contacted hundreds of people and asked them to forward my email to more student groups. In the process of crafting the perfect blurb to describe the show, I stumbled upon a beautiful quote from a male student that I interviewed. I asked for permission to include his quote because I felt that it so perfectly summed up the performance. He agreed,

The Department of Theatre and Dance Presents:
Double Take Project: Rage Behind Curtains
"Coming into Bucknell you know you’re a freshmen, you’re fresh meat, you’re something that hasn’t been cooked yet. I look at Bucknell as a pressure cooker in a lot of ways...um you know? You come here as "fresh meat" and I put that in quotation marks and then by the time you’re out, you’re good! You’re a good piece of filet minion ready to be eaten in the real world...right?"-Anonymous Bucknell student

Senior Tina Cody as part of her senior thesis has been conducting interviews across campus about the social scene and is sharing these stories in an interactive experience on Sunday December 4th at 8pm and 10 pm in Hunt Basement. Free Tickets, suggested donations at the door. Limited seating; Please arrive at least 15 minutes early. Tickets can be reserved through the Campus Box Office, www.bucknell.edu/boxoffice, 570-577-1000

His quote and my advertising enticed many positive responses that I was afraid to run out of space for all of the audience members. Also, a majority of the faculty was unable to make the latter performances and asked if there was another viewing opportunity. With haste, I organized an open preview at noon prior to the official 8pm and 10pm performances and invited specific faculty, staff, and students to attend. This alleviated the anxiety of turning people away at the door and gave the campus more opportunities to experience the piece. Before I knew it, advertising was over and the day of performance arrived.

The audience for the noon performance was comprised of faculty, staff, my parents, and a few friends. The faculty severely outnumbered the students, which deeply
affected the workshop following the piece. Because the show was free of charge, we did
not have ticket stubs to count the number of audience members. 58 people attended the
next performance and there was an even balance between faculty and students, in which
more peers than adults stayed for the workshop. Finally, the 10pm audience was made up
of 39 students, with the exception of the Dean of Students, the only staff member. Almost
all of the students stayed for the workshop, which lasted until midnight because the
students did not want to end the discussion. For both ticketed performances, 98 tickets
were sold, not including the participants at the noon performance.

*Post-Partum:*

There were three sections to *Rage Behind Curtains*, all of which I perceived
different reactions from audience members. I noticed varying emotions in the interview
portion of the evening depending on the ratio of faculty to students. Many faculty
attended the noon performance, where a majority of them were crying. They seemed
shocked, traumatized, and deeply saddened by the stories, while the few students present
quietly observed their professors. When they were outnumbered in the latter
performances, faculty seemed to internalize their horror. In all three performances, the
material did not surprised students because while speaking, I made eye contact with
them, only to see blank stares; students were affected, but not shaken in the same way as
the faculty. I believe students often listen and accept similar stories to the point where an
assault or drinking rampage tale does not stir their systems. They listened with a coolness
that was upsetting to me because the stories were so normal that they could no longer recognize their appalling content. I questioned whether the stories were shocking to anyone else, other than the faculty and me. Reflecting back on the responses from the interviews, I remembered that students discussed masks and curtains because they alter themselves to fit cultural norms. Many of the interviewees utilized the private interview as an opportunity to finally break down their masks and be themselves. I suppose that the public and vulnerable audience setting forced many students to put up similar masks for fear that a friend or peer would judge them.

Through free writing responses, I learned that my hypothesis was right; the public performance resulted in jaded masks, while the private writing activity revealed what was buried beneath. Although their stoic faces matched in the crowd, their private responses marked individuals. The free writes were absolutely beautiful. Some were screaming with anger, while others melted into disappointment or comfort. They were poetic, picturesque, and brutally descriptive; they felt free. Three categories emerged: the performance inspired a memory or a personal story, gratitude for this experience, and constructive criticism. The one common thread between all of the free writing sheets was that everyone found a piece of himself or herself in the performance. Identifying with the stories resulted in a sense of relief and joy because they realized that they were not alone. There is a grave isolation and lack of connection between many students, which was made clear through the free writes where students longed for something real, but were afraid to be themselves. A few specific messages that I will share touched me, but the purpose of this project and activity was to create a space for expression: Therefore, I
cannot deny the voice that I have given my fellow peers and classmates. Please see Appendix M and let them all be heard.

It’s frustrating because I want there to be a change. A definite tangible change. Not just in one person, but in a culture. I want there to be a change because I don’t want to be a liar when I tell people this is a wonderful place to come. I once spoke to a prospective and her parents about what a great place Bucknell is. I meant it. She came to Bucknell and was assaulted her first semester on campus. I want there to be a change. These words from the students you shared today—they speak of change. I guess I just want an avalanche—not a gradual wearing away—an avalanche—that starts with a rumbling—your project.

Although I truly enjoyed the stories, I feel like they are a misrepresentation about Bucknell. I agree with a quote from one story—something like there are exceptions. I am not saying there aren’t problems, because I know there are, but we are going about change in the wrong way. By talking about ALL of the issues at once, people cannot digest it. We need to introduce one problem at a time, acknowledge it, and do something about it. Change is continuous and it won’t happen all at once, so why push all of the issues at once? People are too focused on being perfect to accept that they may have that many flaws. Sometimes the most impactful story will be the shortest.

I’m tired of being a show. I am a freshman girl and I am bisexual. I want to be able to go to a party with my girlfriend and dance with her and kiss her without having a crowd of guys watching and cheering. I remember the first night we went out. It was a Wednesday and my friends and I were going to a downtown party. I invited her along and was so excited when she agreed because I thought she was gorgeous and I really liked her. So we got to the party and were playing some games and then we went to dance. While we were dancing she turned me around and kissed me. I was in heaven. This gorgeous girl was kissing me! I never wanted it to end…but it did when a frat guy came up, pulled us apart and said, “Can I join?” All we were to him was a form of entertainment. This was something real and he took that away from me. My first kiss with this amazing girl will always be tainted by that jerk.

I will not critique the voices of my peers; merely expose how this project impacted them and our campus on a real, intense, and emotional level. A few responses were very critical of the process and one addressed a very important issue,
This experience was interesting…*However I feel like I wasn’t accounted for, not just because I’m black but because I’m a minority…with very different experiences than that of the homogeneous greater Bucknell majority. If there was an opportunity to expose Bucknell for what it is, that was tonight and although this Double Take Project was intended to do so, in some ways it failed. I knew it wouldn’t be perfect, I’m just a bit disappointed—as if I don’t exist. Why not talk about the experience of everyone? Isn’t Bucknell supposed to be about diversity? However, I do applaud you. This was very courageous of you. You gave me more insight to the typical lifestyle of the average Bucknellian.

I was very upset after reading this perspective because when I chose to not indicate race, gender, or sexual orientation of those I depicted, there was no way for the audience to know that these voices were represented. I thought it was interesting that this response assumed that all of the interviews were from white, heterosexual men and women. There were many stories from different perspectives on campus, but because I did not indicate their race, this student made the assumption that they were all white.

The next day, in my Women and Gender Studies class, an African American peer approached me and expressed her disappointment in my project because she felt her experience at Bucknell was unrepresented. I told her that there were African American, Latino, Asian, and other cultures exemplified in the piece, but I chose not to imitate racial accents or gestures. I asked her for other suggestions, when she did not respond, I replied, “Should I have said, ‘African American Woman, Class 2013’?” She could not answer and I apologized for making her feel excluded. I was distraught by this experience because her reaction was exactly the opposite of my intention. I assumed that because I knew that the speaker was, for example, Asian that the audience would also know. This assumption was incorrect and ignorant of me. I did not realize that when the audience looked at me, they only saw a heterosexual white woman, not Bucknell culture. Then, I
thought about Anna Deavere Smith and how her race perhaps made her African American characters obvious and Caucasian characters more acceptable, while my African American characters could potentially offend. This experience increased my awareness that my inclusive intentions were not achieved. Later that day, my Women and Gender Studies Professor responded to this discussion,

Hi Tina, I think you made a good choice in not trying to imitate people's voices to indicate their race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation. And I think that your project was very well done indeed. I know that many, many students felt vindicated through the experiences you shared. I agree with you that this one criticism is a significant one, however, I'm not sure that indicating the race/ethnicity of the person would have alone fully made the difference. I think representing some of the experiences of those who for reasons or identity might not take part in dominant forms of socializing at Bucknell could also help in future interactions. Did you have some of those kinds of responses in your interviews, for instance, where students of color or LGBT students or religiously conservative students were saying that they couldn't relate to the frat party scene due to the music, type of dancing, other behavior? I have a feeling that's more what Tanya was concerned about in her one objection to a performance she otherwise very much appreciated. I think she could not personally relate to any of the student narratives, regardless of the racial identity of their authors.

I found her response very reassuring, except I still could not help but feel guilty for thoroughly disappointing one of my peers. I remained paralyzed about the issue and was unsure how to make appropriate changes in the future.

Another series of criticism from the free writes said, “The people who really need to see this are not here.” I reconsidered the demographic of the students in the audience, primarily women and independents, with only five or six men total, most of which not involved in Fraternities. I was very disappointed that despite my advertising to the Greek community, only a few members showed up. I felt the majority of the people who came
to the performance were individuals who already felt socially excluded. In my own free
write on Sunday at 8 pm I wrote,

My throat is sore, I felt like I wasn’t fully in it. Looking at this crowd, literally all
the people who are here are the misfits. I’m literally preaching to the choir. UGH.
I desperately need to do this in the fraternities. DOES CHANGE BEGIN WITH
THE MISFITS?

Later at 10pm, I expanded on this idea,

Went even faster than the one before. I had this group. Mostly... scratch that,
there were all girls, except 5 guys. Gr. Seeing Jen cry really got to me. Woah. I
don’t know, I feel like I’m flying. My feet are killing me. You know who is here?
The same people who always come to everything. People right now in the
moment are furiously free writing. Furiously. I feel relief. I’m exhausted; I think
my feet hurt so much from the ground rattling beneath me.

I was angry that those who most often put up masks on campus did not come to an event
where they would be asked to remove them. It was relieving to see that other students
recognized this in their writing and wanted the project to touch those individuals. In the
last workshop following the 10pm performance, one of the participants brought it up; she
 echoed many free write responses, “I’m really sad that the people who need to hear this
are not here.” From this small comment, the room launched into discussion, but one voice
radiated above the rest, one junior man proclaimed, “We are the change Change is right
here, right now. We’re already doing it.” Another woman responded, “Yea, but I do not
want to go home tonight and leave you all. I don’t want this moment to be forgotten and
the change to be over.” And he replied, “That’s the point. You’ve had this experience,
you’ve been changed. Now bring this change home with you, bring this change to our
campus. We’re already doing it together in this room.” The workshop continued until
midnight with an overall hesitation to leave for fear that the spark of change would fade.
His comments reassured me that this was only the beginning. I was blessed to be a part of this workshop. For the first time, I felt as if I was not alone in this project; I was a part of something huge and realized that my work, my passion, and *Rage Behind Curtains* brought a random sampling of students together, at midnight on a Sunday evening in December. In that moment, I discovered that this project developed its own beating heart and officially left my body, with its pulse passing through my peers.

The other workshops were extremely different compared to the last group, with their own function and energy. The first was primarily for faculty who dominated the environment with their impulsive and emotional response to the material. The second was a balanced representation of both groups where students and faculty were timid to express themselves in front of one another. I found this workshop beneficial, but also very guarded and safe. Finally, the “midnight workshop” was, electrifying, organic, and felt like a student revolution; I will always remember that night as one of my most cherished and sacred hours as a Bucknellian.

After the midnight workshop had reluctantly concluded, I do not think I have ever been so exhausted. I cleaned up Hunt Basement and struggled to carry all of my materials to the car. When I drove home, I was unable to find a parking spot in the lot near my house. I continued to search the vicinity, but still could not park my car. Finally I found a spot, almost as far away from my room as Hunt Basement. Once I pulled in, I turned off the engine and laughed hard with myself. I reflected back on the journal entry that I had just read to my peers and professors about a dream I had in the midst of the stressful interview process. In the dream, I am unable to find a parking spot and am forced to drag
my car around campus. Ironically this situation repeated itself in real life immediately after the performance. Yet this time, I felt free, like a weight of a thousand years had lifted off of my shoulders by releasing the stories into the bellies of others. I believe that this dream occurred to me in the present moment to signify that my struggle was still not over. I was still symbolically not able to find my space, my niche on campus with this work. The irony and reality of the whole moment was too honest and serendipitous for me to get upset, so all I could do was laugh in the darkness in my parked car. For the following three days, I was filled with unbelievable exhaustion; my body, mind, and soul released a weight and needed to adjust to its lighter load.

In the weeks following *Rage Behind Curtains*, I received many emails, letters, and Facebook messages about the impact of the project (Appendix N); one woman sent me her paper she wrote for class about the experience.

I just wanted to congratulate you on the bravery of your performance. Whether or not you realize it, what you are doing is incredibly meaningful and vital to our campus. Keep doing what you are doing, and I guarantee you people are listening. It is small steps, and can start with just one person, that can amount to a tremendous impact. You should feel very proud, and I was so happy to be a part of it.

Tina, that was, by far, one of my most memorable and moving experiences at Bucknell. Thank you so much for inviting me and letting me be a part of it and witness everything you put into it. It's easy to see that this was not an easy experience for you and that you had to battle through a lot of emotions and second guessing yourself in order to continue this project...It was nothing less than a treat to hear/see you perform. You are an incredible person and you have a very unique ability to captivate people in a room. Very few people are able to do this. Megan and I were both talking about how easily you brought every single person there into your experiences and had them visibly feeling what you felt. It's a testament to how genuine you are and the effort/care you put into something like this. The stories were eye-opening and profound....I was on the edge of my seat the entire time and i dont believe i've experienced a full range of emotions in that
short of a time span before haha...honestly, though...you have so much to be proud of, and I hope the rest of this experience continues to be as rewarding and special as it has so far. I don't want this to sound weird or conceited, but it sometimes bothers me that a lot of people aren't able to relate to how much soccer means to me and the magic and joy it brings to my life...It's difficult to explain...but it's incredibly obvious how much you care about theater and this sort of work and I really hope you never let that go.

I didn't get to meet your parents, but I hope you saw how proud they looked... your performance was perfect and I wouldn't dare suggest that you change anything...

Let me know if you need anything else....or if you ever need someone to talk to about the difficulties/worries/burdens that you've been having because of all this. sorry for the long email haha...just wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed it.

Although it felt wonderful to obtain such positive feedback, I was unable to respond to any of the messages I received. Perhaps it is because I was utterly drained, but I think it had to do with my own desire to let the project thrive on it’s own. I did not want credit for the work; instead I desired Bucknell students and their honesty in sharing with me to shine.

Theatre is an ephemeral art form and it flourishes in our memories; the brief spark of life and relationship between audience and performer or workshop leader can never be truly captured or recorded. Without their feedback, the essence of joy and awareness oozing from the audience members would disappear forever. The baby was conceived, created, born, and released into the realities of Bucknell through *Rage Behind Curtains*; little did I know that it’s pulse was reverberating all over campus.
VI. RESEARCH: MISCELLANEOUS
Double Take Project’s involvement with the Bucknell Radio Station (WVBU) developed on accident. My hall mate randomly approached me regarding the interview progress and together we realized the potential for a new theatrical form. We developed a plan to first conduct a promotional interview about Double Take Project on the radio station to boost awareness and impact of the project. (Appendix O) After this interview, we realized that the stories I collected would create a fascinating radio show. This reminded me of the origin of This I Believe, in which one story was anonymously broadcasted per day for the American public. We decided to theme each week with a new topic and air one short piece a day for the entirety of spring semester. I picked a few of the most provocative and poignant interview stories and asked my peers to pre record them with WVBU. (Appendix P)

I confess that I believe many Bucknellians do not listen to WVBU. In fact, I know a majority of students are not aware of our radio station. Despite minimal student attention, I felt that it was important for these stories to be heard, regardless of the amount of listeners. Both projects were able to use one another to make themselves known to campus and achieve their primary goal: get students to listen. Word quickly spread and the Bucknellian wrote an article (Appendix Q) that furthered boosted listeners and involvement for both WBVU and Double Take Project.
Take Back the Night:

Take Back the Night is a rally against sexual assault where students, faculty, and staff gather to share stories, remember victims, and pledge to prevent sexual assault on college campuses. These rallies take place in many colleges across the United States, but fall 2010 was the first time Take Back the Night came to Bucknell since I have been a student, but it has been present on campus for many years. I was unable to attend last year, but this fall I offered to help with planning because I thought I could interweave Double Take Project and the event. To make this happen, I worked with two other student leaders and a staff member in the Women’s Resource Center. I enjoyed being a part of a large committee and found it much easier to plan and make the event a success. I had three tasks: develop a short theatre piece for the introduction of the evening, My Short Skirt Day performance, and Interview Film.

My main focus was to organize a short piece using the interviews as material for the introduction to the rally. I wanted to inform, shock, and excite the crowd so I pulled relevant stories about sexual assault, events prior to an assault, or examples of a mindset that promotes objectification. I chose seven stories, five women and two men, each with a different point of view. Some of the stories were more intense and dramatic, while others released tension. Overall, the piece had a serious tone so as to properly set the atmosphere for the evening. Once I chose seven stories, I arranged them into small chunks and made them flow to create a new overarching piece. Since I assembled this in my head, I could not hear how the chunks weaved together, so the next step was to
acquire a group of actors. Once we were all together we read the original draft, discussed
the script, and made changes. Once the script was completed, I presented it to the staff
member for final approval. I was very surprised when she asked me to eliminate the male
stories from the piece. She argued that the event focused on sexual assault and the male
perspective would shift the purpose of the night. I was dismayed because I believe sexual
assault is not solely a female issue, but related to both genders. One of the male accounts
explained an upperclassman that noticed a freshmen man at a registered party on the
verge of tears. He asked him what was wrong and the freshmen broke down crying
explaining that he had lost confidence coming into Bucknell and felt excluded. The story
was a beautiful representation of male struggles on campus and displayed an honest
connection between two young men. The other male story was about a man who is at a
party and asks a woman out to dinner. She was uneasy about his request and publicly
humiliated him. I felt both stories subverted the expectations of the audience and would
complement the female stories. The staff member required me to cut the first male text
and reluctantly allowed me to keep the second. She also eliminated Greek terminology
from every story so to not threaten sorority or fraternity members in the audience. I was
angered by her censorship because I believe this incident is indicative to a wider Bucknell
problem: we continually making concessions for each other to avoid confrontation. We
perpetuate masks by lying to one another to avoid conflict. I made it known that I was
unhappy with the alterations, yet followed her suggestions and completed the script.
(Appendix R)
The performance took place in the Weis Center lobby where five actors and I were intermingled with microphones in the crowd. After a brief introduction, the stories leapt from the audience as if students themselves were unexpectedly confessing their experiences. At first, everyone seemed surprised. Students shifted their heads and bodies to see where the stories were coming from. Small circles gradually appeared around the actors as they realized who was performing and who was not. The piece lasted a total of ten minutes and the crowd was oddly silent afterwards, as if the words were still echoing against the glass windows. I did not receive a lot of feedback from the event, other than the comments I heard from students such as who was speaking and where did the stories come from? If I had the chance to perform again, I would introduce Double Take Project myself so as to reference my face with the initiative and properly explain the source of the interviews from anonymous peers. Although I would have changed our mode of introduction, I thought the interviews were successful in setting the serious, silent, and introspective tone of the evening. For the rest of the night, students remained unusually quiet and reflective as a result of this performance.

Another challenge to note is that Take Back the Night was the first event in which the interviews were shared. I had an enormous fear that the serious, depressing tone would cause students to associate Double Take Project with strictly negative elements of the social scene. Although my goal was to balance positive and negative stories, Take Back the Night was the first impression of the project and the stories were primarily depressing. This was the reason I did not give a proper introduction so that students would purposely be confused to the origin of the stories; now I think if I had explained
the source and intention behind the project, it would have been effective in battling their defensive thinking.

With the fear of negative first impressions in my mind, I planned to positively promote Take Back the Night and Double Take Project with a film in the Bison Cafeteria. On camera, actors presented portions of stories with their faces blocked to protect their identity and the identity of the storyteller. Contra to Take Back the Night opening script, I chose a balance of stories, both funny and shocking to debunk prejudices while simultaneously preparing the student body for Take Back the Night. I recorded eighteen stories: five men and thirteen women with varying perspectives, ethnicities, and topics. (Appendix S) I immediately sent the film to the staff member for approval and expected to see it in the Bison the following week. When I never received a firm response or saw the film in the Bison, I grew concerned and angry. I felt falsely convinced that my project could make a difference, and administrative procedures blocked progress. I craved a firm “no” from her and other staff, but instead I received ambiguity and minimal response. I learned that she had received grief from her mellow advertising blurb for Take Back the Night and as a result was protecting herself and her own position by not showing my provocative film in the Bison. Also, because the film contained positive and negative stories it could no longer be associated with Take Back the Night because of the comments she received from the faculty. Despite all the work I put into making the film, it never was approved to play in the Bison.

My third task in preparation for Take Back the Night was to promote the event through “My Short Skirt Day”. It was focused on women’s empowerment and the idea
that women should be allowed to wear short skirts or whatever makes them feel beautiful without “deserving” an assault. The same staff member asked me to organize a performance written by Eve Ensler called, “My Short Skirt.” (Appendix T) The previous year I created a theatre piece focusing on body image in which five women performed Ensler’s poem. I reunited the group of female actresses to rehearse the text. We decided the most interesting and public places for the performance was the Bison, New Student Space, Terrace Room, and Bostwick Cafeteria. The women decided that an entrance would help them both attract attention and decrease stress in performing in an unexpected space so they wanted to dance and cheer the mantra: “Ooh I feel so good like, I knew I would, ooh I feel so good.” This small infectious chant inspired smiles and laughter. Although prepared to perform, the actresses seemed terrified. They quietly began their mantra in the New Student Space and instantly received many strange looks from surrounding students. The reactions varied based on location, for example in Bostwick Cafeteria, students outwardly ignored or made disrespectful comments towards the women. One interesting occurrence was a group of freshmen boys mocked one of the actresses when she said the word “vagina.” The staff person instantly panicked and asked me to eliminate the word in the next performance. I sharply responded that this exposure was exactly what these young men needed. By eliminating the word vagina, we would make it ok for them to not understand or appreciate the word. Also, out of fear, we would avoid their response, when in reality their reaction speaks wonders about their maturity and conformity pressures. My anger and passion must have been clear because she instantly withdrew herself from the situation and let the actresses continue. Despite the
disrespect in the Cafeteria, we received a drastically different reaction from the women in the Terrace Room. After the performance, everyone gushed into applause, confirming that the women were not uncomfortable by the word vagina, instead felt empowered and overjoyed.

This experience was enlightening for me because I realized the true fear from faculty and staff of potential failure and conflict. I was shocked that small hostility from a group of freshmen men almost caused the director of Women’s Resource Center to censor the word “vagina.” I realized that acknowledging conflict and sparking a reaction is exactly what Bucknell students need to open their eyes to our culture. If we are preoccupied with appeasing all of the students, then we are lulling each other into complacency and silence. I learned that authority figures have their own authority figures and I need to always trust my instincts.

In planning Take Back the Night I realized that in the developmental stages, all of the ideas sounded wonderful until the act of doing became a reality. Our group thought idealistically rather than realistically, which led us to believe anything provocative was possible. In reality, this was not the case due to administrative politics and pressure on this staff person. I was surprised by the regulations and restrictions upon fresh ideas and this project gave me immense insight into the inner workings of the relationship between staff and regulations. I did not anticipate or enjoy censorship and approval challenges; however, I gained a valuable perspective on the difficulties to making change. I learned that new ideas threaten formulaic standards and cannot guarantee success and are not
trusted. I felt strengthened by this process and more fully prepared for wider administrative change on campus.

**BIIE Performance:**

Bucknell Interdisciplinary Improvisational Ensemble (BIIE) is a miraculous merging of a Music Professor, Mechanical Engineering Professor, student musicians, performers, dancers, and spoken word artists. Together this wild group intermingles to create impromptu artistic compositions. I have been a part of this group for two years to help my ensemble skills, movement security, and contact improvisation technique. The group typically does not create work based off of a theme or idea, but instead start with an individual and his or her impulse. However, I proposed an idea to the group altering our structure for one rehearsal. I placed a pile of transcribed interviews on the stage as our inspiration material and asked if a video camera could be present as an additional element to performance. The group lovingly accepted and I brought 47 pages of interview material to our scheduled date. Together we created a 45-minute performance piece utilizing the interviews as central material. (Appendix U) The result was stinging with sadness; there were a lot of thrashing body movements and drunken commentary. I was able to see through this piece a sober response to one’s drunken state. One haunting image was an interview about negative body image paired with a BIIE dancer facing away from the audience with opened legs and a saxophonist between them, his saxophone close to her mouth. For me, this image depicted male dominance and female
submission on campus. I was also surprised by a young man who rapped and stomped his feet, saying over and over, “I’m gonna make amends,” symbolizing his struggle with social status versus his identity. The interview pages themselves were transformed into bird like creatures on a hopeful pursuit, while later they were crushed and crumpled indicating hopelessness and destruction. For me, the BIIE performance was a symbolic realization of the material, as well as a way in which I could release my own sadness and heal because for a few moments I left the issues to my fellow peers to confront.

7th St. Performance: Open Mic Night

I performed at an Open Mic Night, Friday November 4th at 7th St. Café. This was the first time I read the interviews in public and I was incredibly nervous. I chose six varying stories in tone, subject, gender, and class year. I also included one of my own so that the audience could relate to me directly. I wanted to show the students that I was not hateful towards the social scene; rather I exposed what students were willing to share. My emotions ran high right before I stepped onto the stage.

I was really scared…actually I was terrified. I’ve performed for hundreds of people before, but there was something vulnerable about performing real stories for real peers that was absolutely terrifying. I knew no one in 7th St. No one was there to support me except for me. I owned that. I did that, by myself. I just sat by myself in the corner. I wish I had the stories memorized so I could see the awe on everybody’s faces. Every time I looked up it was silent and everyone was just watching me.

After the performance a freshman woman came up to me and said, “How can I help? I want to help you.” We talked for a long time and had a wonderful, almost informal
interview about her experience at Bucknell. Following this conversation, two more students introduced themselves and expressed their need to help with my project. I was speechless and left the café with tears of joy running down my face. This was one of the best moments in the project because it felt as if change was underway and all of my hard work was paying off since students were starting to talk.

_Confessional:

Through my interview process I realized that students were searching for a way to express their inner thoughts, doubts, and concerns about the social scene. They seemed desperate and thankful to share varying stories that they could not express elsewhere. I realized that our discussions were both therapeutic and healing because the students were able to release pressing thoughts from their conscience. I wish I could interview the entire student population so all of my peers could have this healing experience, but because of time constraints, this was obviously not possible. Instead, I created a “Social Scene Confessional” as a way to quickly connect with my peers. My original intention was to stand in the middle of the quad and invite students to tell me stories. In theory this idea was very simple, but to get approval was exceptionally complicated. I met with many staff members who rejected the idea because of the location and finally was sent to a Dean for final permission. He reluctantly dismissed my proposal because he said that the quad is “sacred, hollow” space and must be used only for matriculation and graduation. Instead, he gave me permission to stand outside of the Elaine Langone Center, so every
day for six weeks during the fall semester that is where I stood with a sign that read, “Tell me a story about the social scene.” (Appendix V)

After this meeting I had an incredible epiphany regarding the symbolic reality of our silent academic quad. I wrote a journal entry on this experience that I later included in *Rage Behind Curtains*.

I just had this realization. This is it. Do you know you can’t schedule an event on the quad? You cannot do anything on the quad except matriculate during orientation and graduate. Did you know that? This is it. I’ve stumbled on it. Think about it…have you ever seen anything on the quad except people studying, tanning, and playing Frisbee? Ah I get this. It’s all clicking. It’s all about the quad. If you think about space metaphorically—what is the quad? THE HEART. If the quad is the beating heart of Bucknell, the center, if we as students or anyone can’t say anything at the center, the heart, what is it saying about us? The heart is frozen, “hollow” space as some people refer to it as. The center of our campus is hollow? If we can’t speak at the center of the University no wonder we are having trouble speaking to each other. That space shows the core of our University—by nothing happening there—our perfectly trim grass and plants—it’s all about image! This image of perfection on the surface! At this place we enter and exit the University and while we’re not doing that, we’re silent and quiet, looking perfect. (October 31, 2011).

This realization impacted my entire outlook on our campus as well help me to make multiple conclusions regarding the inner workings of the Bucknell social scene. In the meantime, I remained brooding about this quad while standing in front of the LC with my sign.

The process was very interesting because the first few days were miserable; my friends were the only ones who to talk to me and other students looked at me as if I was a monster. Every day I feared and dreaded standing in silence for a full hour. Slowly things began to change.
Nobody came to confessional, which was very disappointing. I feel super uncomfortable when I’m there, but that’s ok…I don’t know, I’m still getting looks, but the looks are actually starting to transform, at first they were like who are you, what are you doing? But now they’re turning into, you’re still here? Ok I’ll acknowledge you, I’ll smile at you today so I’m hoping if I’m there long enough it will develop into something more. (November 15, 2011)

As time passed, I grew more hopeful because the confidence rose in my peers and I received more and more stories. One man told me that he was gay and described that his female friends touch him all over because they assume he does not mind due to his is sexual orientation. He said he has felt violated by many women who do not seem to understand that unwanted touch is considered assault, regardless of gender or sexual preference. The more I stood outside, the more dedicated I felt to my peers and the project so when external factors invaded my experience, I ignored them.

It was raining. It was so nasty today and I was like nobody’s going to come, nobody’s going to talk to me and I’m just going to stand there with my umbrella feeling super uncomfortable…but I realize that the rain is awesome because people feel bad for me so, they pity me so they come talk to me! I notice that the stares are still changing from completely out of the norm to wow she’s still standing here! Today I got more questions like, “Why are you doing this? I saw you here a couple of days ago.” I am also noticing that students are beginning to depend on me. Today a group of athletes talked to me and hoped I was going to be here tomorrow because they said, “oh we’re going to bring you this guy tomorrow, he has some great stories to tell you!” It felt really good to develop this trust so people feel comfortable to come and talk to me.

Once a student got the courage to speak to me, they did not hold back. I was surprised by the intensely personal and shocking responses shared. For example, another group of male athletes told me a story about one of their teammates who films parties with a video; he wanted to make his own “Bucknell Girls Gone Wild.” One night he filmed this party and two girls went up to the camera, took off their shirts, and started kissing. The next
day one of the girls contacted him through Facebook and asked him to delete the video because she has done stupid things in the past and did not want to get in any more trouble. The men laughed to me as they recounted his response, “Yo shortie, I’ll throw you some cash when I make it big.” I was shocked and disgusted, but remained silent and smiling because the men had the confidence to share the story with me. I did not want them to feel judged or threatened. It was very difficult to do nothing, but I reminded myself that I was gathering a cultural representation of Bucknell and had to include their perspective to reflect the reality of our social scene, regardless if I agreed with their choices or not.

Finally, students were not the only ones to confess their social secrets; I often received comments from faculty, staff, and workers on campus. One professor hastily brushed by, stopped, and turned around to look at me. Under his breath he said, “As faculty members we condition ourselves not to find out [about the social scene] because it scares us” and quickly walked away. After he left, I could not move. The pain and conflict in his voice resonated in my ears. It was clear that the confessional provided a place for everyone to relieve themselves of guilt, secrets, or emotions. For me, it was an adrenaline rush because I simply never knew what to expect.

7th St. Performance: Hope Infiltration

Fall semester, I spent many hours working to obtain a performance opportunity on a Friday night at 7th St. café. Typically, the performers are hired musicians from outside
of campus that perform as an alternative venue to the party scene. Often, the students have never heard of the performers and do not attend. I was yearning to change this system and increase the amount of unpaid student performers, to both allow the University to spend their money elsewhere and students the opportunity to perform for their friends, increasing the size and hype of the audience. Finally I was granted permission to perform, despite my alternative performance style. At the time, I intended to perform student interviews at the microphone to increase awareness; however, once the performance date, March 1st, finally arrived, I was feeling hopeless for Bucknell. I did not want to recollect the horror stories from the interviews or see the faces of my peers numb to my words. I wrote, “I dreaded opening up the stories again. I didn’t want to see or feel them. My anger rose and bubbled to the surface faster than I was prepared for.” I personally needed something positive to refresh my spirits and attitude.

After discussing my raging emotions with my advisor, he suggested that, similar to *Rage Behind Curtains*, that I should tell the audience through my journal entries my cravings for hope. Based off of our conversation, I decided to scrap my original plan of storytelling and instead collect the positive stories from the interviews. This worked well until I realized I only had a few stories to share and the performance had to last at least an hour. I needed more stories, but did not have time to quickly interview or survey students; I then realized that the most efficient, natural, and enlightening way to generate hopeful stories would be to include the audience. I took an enormous risk and placed the performance into the hands of those in the room. The courage that exuded from me was one of exhaustion, slight desperation, and curiosity. I decided to structure the event as so:
introduce myself and the project, describe my current sadness and need for hope, encourage them to think of stories of a time when they felt hopeful for Bucknell, share five positive stories, and then open up the microphone for anyone to share. I was incredibly nervous, but felt if the audience was silent and had no positive stories to share, it said more about the Bucknell student experience, rather than myself as an artist.

The performance began with all of my fears quickly exposed; I held my breath as I waited in silence for the first student to have the courage to speak into the microphone. I wrote,

At first it was a little awkward and quiet, no one wanted to stand. Then someone told a story, more strange moments in between, then another story, another, and another, and then we caught flow and it was story after story. It was remarkable.

Students revealed relationships with faculty, battles with cancer, kidney stones during BuckWild, singing tour guides, and supportive friends. A freshmen girl in the club, Students Helping Animals, told one of the most memorable tales. She described a grueling week where she sat at a table in the LC Mall, with other club members, in an attempt to raise money for a local animal shelter. She said that one day a tall man in a clean, black suit came up to the table and spent over 15 minutes discussing the club with the members. He asked detailed questions about their previous events, goals, and dreams for the future. After their discussion, he humbly handed the speaker a fifty-dollar bill and walked away. Another student at the table yelled after him, “Thank you President Bravman!” The storyteller was shocked, as a freshman, she had not seen the President before and did not know that she had been speaking with him the entire time. Many other remarkable stories were shared about the Bucknell experience.
After the flow of stories dwindled, I asked the crowd to raise their hand based on their class year. I learned that a large majority of the audience was freshmen, with a small grouping of sophomores, a smaller grouping of juniors, and I was one of two seniors in the café. The audience was a social minority; they were on the outskirts. It is assumed if students are at 7th St. on a Friday night instead of at a fraternity party that they are either freshmen or independents. I learned that this assumption was true and was again upset that those who needed to hear such beautiful stories were not present. However, I stumbled upon a realization while journaling.

The room was full of joy. I know the room was full of those on the outskirts, but maybe those are the people that need the hope to stay strong. What if change started from the outskirts? What if the outskirts became the center? I felt amazing after this performance. I felt like I had made change. It was special because it reminded us all of the good things that do happen at Bucknell. I’ve been so focused on the bad that it is nice to hear my peers love this school. The cynical part of me thinks most of them are freshmen and there is something magical about freshmen year that is campy and sugary sweet. It is positively intoxicating. Sometimes I wish I could go back to such a naïve perspective on this culture. (March 3, 2012)

It is clear in this entry that I am torn between feeling positive about the evening and jaded regarding the freshmen experience. Through this performance, I learned to put my personal emotion aside and feel the room: students were glowing. Afterwards, many peers greeted me and begged for this opportunity again; they explained that they have not felt so loved at Bucknell in a long time. I noticed that many students were meeting one another based on connections they made in the stories and the room was simply full of happiness. I was proud to be a part of it. This evening gave me the hope I needed to continue to pursue impacting our campus climate.
Student Affairs Performance:

Last semester I met with another Dean and she invited me to perform a short segment of *Rage Behind Curtains* or any interview stories that I felt the faculty needed to hear for the Student Affairs staff breakfast. I approached this performance with one simple question: What do I have to share about Bucknell students that are different from what the staff already knows? I decided that the one thing that the Student Affairs staff was unaware of was that students constantly conform to large social groups and their norms because of a lack of self-identity. I choose stories that emphasized how lost students were feeling within themselves.

Instead of jumping into a performance, I felt it was necessary for the staff to understand a bit about my project, my intentions to listen to my peers, and a brief description of what I had heard. Only until I read my stories out loud to the staff did I realize how depressing all of my choices were. The faculty remained silent and transfixed on my face; the room was absolutely still. Afterwards, I decided to do a small image theatre exercise with the faculty. I asked them, “What were similar themes you noticed in the stories?” They responded quietly and reluctantly and eventually we decided on honesty. Then I asked for three volunteers and was surprised how difficult of a task it was to encourage participation; this reminded me of the importance of teacher and student or administration and student switching roles every so often. They each had to make an image of honesty. Then I asked for three more volunteers, except this time I they created a sculpture of the opposite. Again, the faculty did not want to participate, but eventually they pushed each other to do so. Overall, I felt that this exercise was not successful
because of their lack of participation and understanding how the image helps to create dialogue between the students. Then I read a few more stories, and upon the request of a staff member, chose some of the positive ones.

The most shocking moment for me was during the question and answer period when one staff member asked, “Do you believe change is possible?” I wanted to scream and throw a childlike temper tantrum right in front of all of these people. I wanted to yelp “No! Not at this fucking school,” but I held it all together. The staff in the room was unaware, but the night before I had conducted a workshop for all of the Social Chair positions in the fraternities and sororities and was feeling more hopeless about change than ever. I gritted my teeth as I told her that I was frustrated, but yes, I believe change is possible. I could see a similar anger and sadness in her face as in my own; at least we both knew we were not alone. Honestly, I am not sure how this event went with the staff because I found it difficult to gauge their reactions. The only feedback I received was from one of the counselors in Psych Services:

Hi Tina,
A colleague described your work as courageous and genuine. I saw a completely quiet and engaged audience. Your choice to deliver the stories as the students you interviewed is always effective and never over or under done. The choice of stories was impactful. The active workshop exercise illustrated the process part of your work which is fundamental to it's success. I always appreciate the authenticity of your voice spoken with honesty, openness and from experience.
Thank you for your time and effort in this project which stands to benefit all of us. Thanks also for your performance this morning at the DOS staff breakfast.

This small email confirmed my impact on campus and gave me the fuel needed to persevere.
VII. FORUM THEATRE COMPANY
Spring semester, I worked with my advisor Gary Grant to reshape a portion of his Applied and Interactive Theatre Capstone class to coincide with my project. The class typically teaches students how to facilitate their own workshops for social change and then the students create workshops for those in need in the community, such as Ashler Manor or ClearVision Center for Girls. With the help of Professor Grant, we created a new opportunity for service for students in the class, Forum Theatre Company. As an extension of Double Take Project, a group of five students from this class came together to create “Face-to-Face.” Together we conducted three workshops: one open workshop, one event in a classroom, and one workshop with Speak Up Bucknell, Peer Educators.

Our primary goal was to create Forum Theatre scenes and perform them all over campus. We created one scene about a woman who is too drunk at a party and is coerced to go home with a guy. The scene focuses on the bystanders around her and provokes the audience to intervene about what they could have done differently to stop the situation from occurring. My most personal success this semester in Face-to-Face was the moment in the Peer Educator workshop after we shared our scene and we replayed it to provoke intervention and within the first few seconds at least five individuals shouted, “Stop” with possible ideas. After many hours of research and experimenting, I’ve been desperate to try a Forum Theatre piece with a group of Bucknell students about an actual issue. I was terrified to perform it, but just to see that the scene was so relevant and provocative to the point that multiple students were motivated to take action. This is a huge event for Bucknell students because they were willing to intervene and make change. Through my work in Double Take Project, I learned that many students are unwilling to make change.
because they are protective of their organizations and do not want to critique them, but the eagerness from the Peer Educators was refreshing and hopeful.

If I could erase the semester and attempt Face-to-Face all over again I would delegate the workshop planning between the group members instead of just myself organizing events. I would also do an open Forum and invite all of the students to attend. Perhaps it would have been more beneficial if we worked to plan one large open Forum event, rather than a lot of small workshops. However, I think the individualized workshops helped to spread our message to campus at a quicker rate than one large event. Also, through our class discussions and my own work of the Double Take Project, I discovered a massive amount of tension between the administration and students. I think it would be fascinating and extremely beneficial to begin to heal these relationships and develop a stronger communication between the two groups.

The main reason why Face-to-Face was unsuccessful was because we began at a terrible time of year. We were only prepared to conduct workshops in late April, which was one of the busiest times for all of the students. As a result we had poor attendance and focus for the majority of our workshops. However, I developed immensely as a result of this experience. One of the biggest things I learned from our last workshop was the importance of using “I” phrases. In the last few minutes of the workshop we allowed the students to speak and at times I felt that there was a very judgmental and oppressive presence in the room. I did not know how to change it and recognized later that the lack of “I” statements were a part of the problem. I now understand that speaking from a personal place requires me to analyze myself and my own emotions, ultimately forcing
me to take responsibility and ownership over myself. I think this was one of the most valuable lessons for me because as I am about to enter the world, I have a deeper sense of myself and will not get swept away in the agendas of others.
VIII. CONCLUSION
So, in deciding, what, how to properly end this thesis I came across a brilliant idea… in that I’ve been interviewing people for a full semester and talking to people, getting the full Bucknell student experience, socially, and I thought what better way to end this project than interviewing myself and getting my own personal emotions and stories into the mix? So, I invite you to read a full transcription of my conclusion or turn to the Appendix and pop in the DVD and listen and watch me spill out this confession, um and this conclusion.

Before I go any further and before I actually begin, I want to be honest because that has been a massive majority of the themes of this project. If I’m honest with myself and honest with you as a reader, as a watcher, I do not want to do this conclusion. At first I thought it was because I did not want this project to end, but I’m exhausted. I do, I would like to find some kind of closure… I guess I just fear that it will not be enough. Whatever I say, whatever I write, or whatever I can think of will not be enough to encapsulate all the work, time, energy I have spent. I am afraid I will not be able to wrap it all up with a nice bow saying this is what I learned and this is what I discovered and this is what I hated. So there you go. I’m afraid, again. (chuckle) I’m afraid that this will not be enough, therefore I just want to admit that I don’t want to do this and I don’t want to start this, but here I am, I’m doing it, let’s go.

1. What was Bucknell to me before I began Double Take Project?
Bucknell was a place for me, before Double Take Project, where all of the popular kids from high school gathered. My first impression of Bucknell as a prospective student was still my perspective prior to this year. I have a vivid memory of sitting on the bench after accepted students day on the quad with my dad, crying, saying, “I can’t go to this school, I can’t be at a place where everyone is perfect and beautiful and behaves like princes and princesses. I can’t be at another version of my high school with another version of people who are rich and wealthy and closed minded.” I ended up coming to Bucknell and my opinions of the people here were very similar.

Um. Before this project I was terrified of the social scene, I was always excluded or I felt always excluded because I struggled to believe that friends can be made while partying or while drinking. I have a vivid memory of, hah, of being pressured to go out with a group of friends, before, it was right after rehearsal so it was probably 10:30 on a Friday night, ugh and I dreaded Fridays actually, I love the weekdays, I dreaded Fridays because I knew would be pressured to go out and I was always terrified to go. I didn’t like feeling hot and sweaty and like I couldn’t connect to anybody in the room. So before Bucknell, I mean before this project, I thought the social scene was just a bunch of animals, a bunch of stupid people who had nothing better to do than get drunk. I had a hunch that maybe people were scared of who they really are or scared to make real connections. But honestly, my, prior to this project, I hated the social scene here and I hated the people because I thought that they were partying, I thought they were partying because, well, because they were bored or that they thought it was cool. I didn’t think about everything else that might be underneath… um so before this project I felt
completely isolated and alone, like I was the only one who might dislike the social scene. I also have another memory of being in a fraternity register with my boyfriend at the time, who was in that fraternity and one of the brothers come up to him, came up to him, I guess he didn’t know I was dating him at the time, and said like, whispered in his ear like, “Woah man you gotta fuck that girl tonight,” and my boyfriend turned around and said, “That’s my girlfriend do not speak to her that way, about her that way,” and the guy was embarrassed and just like walked away, but that instance I thought that’s what all fraternity men were like. I thought all I would ever be at this school in a party situation was just meat to fuck. That is what I thought prior to this social scene, prior to this experiment, this work. I thought that everyone was just blind, idiots, horny, rich, students. So I had a very judgmental, very angry perspective on the social scene. So it seems like the next question would be, so then why would I care? Why would I care to do this project? Well as I said I had this hint of doubt, this slight instance that maybe there’s something more, like maybe there’s something hidden under all of this, maybe I’m not the only one. Honestly that’s where it started, just this like hunch of doubt.

And I thought maybe theatre could bring out some kind of truth or some kind or could even reveal the fact that maybe... maybe just reveal the fact that first hypothesis, my first judgments were right about these people they’re just they’re just drunken idiots who think they’re cooler than everybody else... but my hunch, my thought that maybe there’s something more going on here is really what my optimism, my internal optimism and desire for something to be different... desire to not feel alone or like a foreigner at
my own school, that is what definitely motivated me to hope and to experiment, and that gave me the initial strength to begin this project.

2. How were the methodologies studied effective or not effective at Bucknell?

The first technique I studied was Theatre of the Oppressed and I believe it was very effective as part of Double Take Project process. It was effective because all of the elements Forum Theatre, Image Theatre, Invisible Theatre, Legislative Theatre, Rainbow of Desire, Cop in the Head all encourage non-hierarchical and non-verbal dialogue which was really important in students, were already coming in feeling defensive and feeling, um unheard by each other and ugh feeling like they needed to hide things. So the sculptures created an environment where students didn’t have to worry like oh who has power in the situation, who is in the cool sorority who’s in the uncool, whatever, it didn’t matter, it was just make an image, everyone can do that equally, all images are equal um it also, this ugh image helped work helped work with students and their fear of standing alone. Because everyone often does the exercises together, TO encourages bonding and community building which is essential to this environment where I think students feel internally very alone. Forum theatre also allows students to practice change in their own bodies because there is so much fear of conformity and there is so much fear of stepping out of the box, Forum Theatre literally forces students to try different solutions, which was really effective in simply just practicing, hey maybe I have a, ugh you know, maybe I could behave differently.
Also um TO is anonymous which, which or TO can be um anonymous, in terms of, we did a lot of post-it activities, that was really helpful in again making students feel comfortable, bridging the masks slowly between public mask and private mask that students wear. TO was a safe space in which students could express this internal struggle without necessarily, without everyone knowing who said that and who said that. Um, TO also encourages disagreement and… which is vital, again, in students expressing their different opinions and increasing their confidence in expressing different opinions.

Also, um, there is both focus on internal personal issues and external structural issues so the workshops could, were in a wide range of personal self-identity versus this is the issues (for example), I have with how to build a club, that’s an issue that, you know, that came up, things like that. So it can cover a wide range of problems, which is really important ugh because a. students um can decide what they want to talk about which is empowering and also the internal issues being brought forth to an external environment um makes them realize that they are not alone. So often we sculptured, we created sculptures of how do you feel inside at Bucknell, show us how you feel inside, and then you could realize wow a lot of other people feel excluded, a lot of people in this room feel um empty, things like that. So it was a way to build community in a safe place with, while keeping everyone’s masks still present for the most part, or gradually maybe removing them which was really, really beneficial.

But TO also didn’t always work at Bucknell. I think TO didn’t work at Bucknell because TO requires time. It requires a lot of time and often I had… I had an hour, I had those students who were required to be there for exactly one hour and then they left. To
do a lot of these exercises it requires a group, a group of people of community members who are willing to continually come to an event. I think that was partially because students weren’t interested, but also partially Bucknell students are all over the place, they’re really busy so it was hard to get anybody to commit to anything longer than an hour workshop. I had an hour and a half workshop once, ugh and that was the longest I’ve ever had.

Another way that Theatre of the Oppressed didn’t work at Bucknell is simply the name: Theatre of the Oppressed. The word theatre here and arts is not ugh something that students want to participate in and theatre naturally indicates, or evokes moving and maybe being weird or standing out and that is, again, something that Bucknell students may be afraid of. Also the word “oppressed” is something that I wouldn’t say necessarily Bucknell students, ugh believe that they are, so um both of those words are complete shut, ugh turn off, and also make it really difficult to advertise, to attract students to come and also make it difficult to, to explain it event to students, to build interest. There were a lot of, a lot of struggles where I’m not sure if TO was the best fit for Bucknell.

Another form that I studied, well I studied four artists, but I studied two artists Anna Deavere Smith and Spalding Gray who created their own forms of different, but, forms of um interview based, storytelling based theatre. I, in Rage Behind Curtains, decided to kind of combine both Anna Deavere Smith and Spalding Gray into a one woman performance where I, I used Spalding Gray’s personal connections with the reading of my journal entries and Anna Deave Smith’s portrayal of characters ugh through the interviews, however I made changes in that I didn’t adopt all of like the
physical characteristics that Anna Deavere Smith used; she literally transformed herself: costumes, prop, set, I did not, I chose not to do that and chose a more Spalding Gray, minimalist approach, just a table and a binder. Um I thought that my version of both of their art forms worked in that um it became a cultural examination of Bucknell which, and it created this wash of Bucknell which I think was really important in increasing the shock factor of the audience members, because, they, it created such a wide wash that I think it was at moments something… they look around and you know did she interview you? Did she interview you? Um things… that was, that was important; this cultural wash created.

Another ugh way it was effective is that it, it contained a special skill of mine. It showcased my own acting ability um which, which was in itself um a good story, a good entertaining night. It wasn’t just factual lecture information. This form functioned well to my advantage and my virtuosity as a performer.

It also, this form, was very beneficial in that, and it was effective in that it didn’t limit me to any issue specifically. I could focus on the social scene in general and give the audience a wide variety of opinions so the audience didn’t feel defensive because there was a pro Greek a negative Greek, a pro, um, a pro-this a con-that, you know, it was all, it was all different types of students were heard, therefore, it decreased tension, decreased animosity, which is already present when students were walking in the room, already feeling defensive.
However, this style in other ways didn’t work at all, ugh I believe the way that I chose to modify Smith and Spalding Gray ugh resulted in unclear and unclear racial, ethnic, and um sexual orientation questions. So audience members felt as if they were not heard or represented, but I simply, because I chose not to imitate to the extent of Anna Deavere Smith those characteristics were left unknown and thus assumed a wash again, ugh just a general white, heterosexual Bucknell male or female, which was an issue as a result of this form.

Also, the minimal inclusion I did of Spalding Gray with my journal entries, I think resulted in the audience feeling, ugh at moments, as if I felt I was better than the typical Bucknell student or if I was above the typical Bucknell student ugh because I only shared minimal interviews, they had no idea my perception on Bucknell. Um… Spaulding has his very clear opinions put into his pieces, but because I didn’t include them, my own views of Bucknell, I think some felt as if I was better than others.

Um, also um another, another issue with this form was that the stories didn’t surprise the students. And that is a question I would have for Anna Deavere Smith, if I could ask her, because she creates a cultural, a theatre anthropology piece of a historical event, like the incident in Crown Heights, I was wondering if her audience was surprised by the reaction of the community members because for me personally, I felt those who were watching their own community members through me, were not surprised by the stories told, or the reactions had.
Um, another art form I studied was Guillermo Gomez Pena and Agit-Prop Theatre. And I kind of combined both of those when I was making my confessional. I thought what really worked well with this with Guillermo’s and Agit-Prop Theatre is that both ideas are very ugh guerrilla, they’re very in your face and they’re very out of the norm. I thought this worked so well for what I was trying to do because I stood out, I set an example for how I thought Bucknell students perhaps could act or should act. Which was really liberating for me, and I think very liberating for those who could come by to see, oh look she has the confidence, she has the passion to stand outside every day for a semester ugh holding up this ridiculous sign. Um, I also thought the act of the model of a confessional built by Pena and Agit-Prop allows casual dialogue. Sometimes I felt the interviews could be too formal and scary so students would shut down, but the confessional allowed just for a brief conversation that I thought sometimes was more frank and more honest, sometimes than my interviews.

Um, again, um the model of a confessional is that it is a public location, um yea, it was a very public location, but a private moment takes place. I thought, again, I felt this helped bridge the masks it bridged the public mask with the internal mask and I thought that was very effective, just the form of what a confessional is, and the form that Guillermo and Agit-prop encourage.

However, again, ugh the con, the… it was ineffective in that there was not enough time. I had not a lot of, it would have been easier if I had a duo as Guillermo did, um or if I had others to, to work a confessional instead of just myself so it could have been more consistent, so students would have gotten more comfortable speaking with me or anyone
at the confessional… because of time and Guillermo was able to stay in the museum all
day and night for the run um of his piece however I was only able to stand outside for an
hour everyday and sometimes not, sometimes I couldn’t. So I think that was, that was um
ineffective at Bucknell because I did not have enough time and the students didn’t have
enough time.

Um, also, I was very much in a public space ugh Guillermo’s piece is in a
museum which is public yes, but also it’s tucked away whereas I was put very, very
public which I felt at times this location deterred students and, and really kept on the
public mask because everyone could see that they were confessing to me.

And finally the point that it was effective, the fact that it was in your face that I
felt at moments was very effective to get to set an example for students um and to shake
things up at Bucknell but I also felt at times it was very ineffective because, because it
was almost maybe potentially had the feeling of attacking or imposing which may have
deterred students from sharing with me in the long run.

I also studied Marina Abramović and her piece The Artist is Present and I thought
that the form of her piece was so effective in helping me listen to my interviewees really
take in, ugh take in all of their energy, and all of their ugh physical gestures as she did
when she was sitting and listening to her audience. I modified this however, I did modify
this form because I didn’t want to just sit ugh in silence, I wanted students to feel
comfortable. I also felt that her piece um was an art piece, a modern art piece in the
museum, I wanted, I didn’t want students to feel like they were a part of an art piece, I
wanted art to be secondary nature in their brains. I wanted them to think they were having
a casual conversation with me and I was going to use their words to make art, not them as the artwork with me. And that was important because I wanted them to feel comfortable.

Um, one, I also though again felt the time required, the time and energy required from this form of listening and sitting was impossible for me physically and mentally to do as often as I wanted with as many students as possible, as many as Marina had as well come through. Her form had constantly people passing through, whereas I had to make personal one on one private connections.

I also studied the book *This I Believe* as a form. We used this in the radio station and this form was very effective because it was a fast, rapid, anonymous way to get cultural stories out in the public quickly. Um, the anonymity also helped the truth resonate I think because um the natural nature of the original *This I Believe* radio station created a sense of the American public… so that the American public could be me, could be you, could be anyone, therefore when these stories aired on our Bucknell radio station this could be your neighbor, you know this could be your roommate, this could be you know your club member, your sister, your fraternity brother, it could be anyone.

However, this radio, the form of the radio station and program was very difficult to organize. It was difficult to get those to record um those to record their pieces, actors to record the pieces was very difficult. It required a lot of work from the radio station and everyday airing a different piece and then to just throw them away after the day was done, which was a lot of work for not a lot of recall replay time.

3. TO is intended for those in very poor communities, how did it work here at Bucknell?
This past summer at ugh TOPLAB in NYC I worked with, I trained in TO there, I described my project and I was actually torn to shreds by the group because they described that TO is meant for poverty; it is meant for those who have not power at all because if oppressors are in the audience, oppressors have all the power and if they are given power through TO they will continue to uphold their power and um they don’t want change. So, I was pretty discouraged after that ugh encounter this summer but decided to try TO anyway at Bucknell and I learned that, ugh, I guess in poverty situations there are many structural issues that are oppressing the people and the citizens and I believe there are also structural issues that are harming Bucknell students, however um I believe that the real oppression, and oppression is a very strong word, but I believe oppression is found internally in Bucknell students. There is internal struggle and internal self hatred and, yes, struggle with Bucknell students and their outside world and their social environment. Um I believe that yes although there are technically what I would consider oppressors in the audience, I found that in typical TO situations that I’ve made, ugh usually men or administration, have been in the oppressor quote on quote role and yes they’ve been in the audience and yes I’ve struggled with the argument that I don’t know if they want change, but I have learned also that going into the fraternity men’s house, they are really struggling with conformity, almost more than any other group on campus, and their internal selves are completely different than what they’re portraying outside and that to me TO can do a lot of good. I’ve learned that TO is very moldable. I can move TO depending on which group I’m with, so I believe for me TO has been able to, to stretch all boundaries regardless of oppressor or oppressed.
4. After doing the Double Take Project, what did I learn about myself?

I learned four major things about myself. One, I realized that I have an intense capability for self-hurt, I’ll describe that later. Two, I learned how to work alone, three I learned about protection of my own emotional and spiritual well being and four, I learned the true meaning of the phrase, you can lead a horse to water, but you can’t make it drink.

So back to one, I learned, so I learned that in beginning this project, now looking back I had ridiculously high expectations. If I’m honest with myself, I believed that I could change Bucknell in one year. And not just any kind of change or social change I mean I would have visions of a revolution on the quad, literally the students deciding themselves that they want to bring down the Greek system, that they want equality and peace. I literally saw Woodstock in my visions and my dreams as for how this project would end. I know that sounds absurd but that’s the standard I set for myself.

I also realize, like as a part of that, I never picked a specific focus in looking at this project. I picked the social scene, I never said oh I’m interested in specifically curbing sexual assault at Bucknell or minimizing excess alcohol consumption at Bucknell, no, instead I just said the social scene. I wanted the students to decide what they wanted to talk about, which in theory is great and it was great, but I think for me, this was an issue because it created a whirlwind of issues that could have been examined,
whereas a smaller focus might have been easier to feel like I had made change. Because I picked such a broad topic, it was difficult. I also learned that I set myself up for self-hurt. Because I had such high expectations of making change I almost wanted to play God. I almost wanted to be the catalyst for overnight change at Bucknell. I go back to those revolution images of students on our quad and if my reality wasn’t lining up with that I began to use that as a reason to hate myself and feel unworthy and hate myself in this project. But overtime, I learned that my expectations did not have to be so high in order to have success. A success could mean anything on a small scale, and I learned how to love myself by not putting this expectation on me of God, and changing everything in the blink of an eye.

The next thing I learned was how to work alone. Because I never really got full student support or a full ensemble of people to follow me where I went, I had to learn to be by myself and work 100% alone for a cause I believed in, and that was really empowering to know a. I can start something big, as an individual, I can make an impact. I don’t need a group, I would love a group but I did it. I did something huge without a group of people and that is noble and that is something that I love, I’ve learned to love, about myself. I’ve also learned that out of working alone I’ve grown. I have strength to make change.

The third thing I learned was protection of my emotional health and spiritual health. Because I care so much about Bucknell and because I care so much about the
social culture here, I allowed this project to destroy myself. I allowed every story I heard to rip me to shreds and get angrier and angrier at Bucknell to the point where second semester, beginning of second semester I was burnt out. I had nothing left to give because I was so, I had spent all this time learning about Bucknell which made me angrier at Bucknell and I wanted to destroy everything I had built in this project by making a big fuck you Bucknell piece. That’s honestly what I wanted to do at one point. I wanted to go on the quad and destroy myself, destroy this project as almost a sacrifice, maybe if I could do that maybe something would finally change. So I learned to keep in balance, and keep something about me separate from the work I was doing so that I could be fully there for those who need me, and more importantly for those who need this project.

One of the pivotal moments in this project was speaking with an artist, a guest artist who came to visit Bucknell to talk, Bill T. Jones. He is a modern dance choreographer, innovator, dancer. He came and spoke and afterwards I met him and asked him about his process. He said in making art we have to set up walls, we have to identify walls and an artist pushes through them and I was really struck by that. I went up to him after the performance, or after his lecture and started crying to him saying or choking back tears saying I’ve interviewed tons of students on my campus, I’ve spoken to tons of students, I’ve identified the wall, I’ve identified the problems, but I don’t know how to push through, I don’t know if I have the energy to push through, I want to just back up and say fuck you to the wall. I’m just crying and crying and Bill T. Jones turned to me and said, Tina, he was like, you have fire, you have this sacred fire within you, you
have the power and the passion within you, but right now you’re letting that fire you burn you. You are burning. You are burning he said. You need to step back, turn inward, and take care of yourself because you have this light. There’s no other way to describe it, but fire within you, but this fire of this piece and this fire of who you are is burning. In that moment I knew that I needed to step back, reevaluate, bring myself together, and calm down. I learned the importance of caring yes, but also healing and taking care of who I am as an individual.

Finally, I learned the meaning of the phrase, you can lead a horse to water but you can’t make it drink. I learned that no matter how much I personally set up, or how much I wanted change or set up all the opportunities for change I could for students, if they don’t want it, they don’t want it. It says more about them than my efforts or my project. It shows Bucknell that Bucknell students maybe don’t want change or don’t want to take the opportunities that are presented to them to make some change on their own. So those are the four things I learned about myself in this process.

5. What did I learn about Bucknell students?

I learned nine major things about Bucknell students. First, I learned through the interview process, specifically in a private setting that students really struggle with their identity. Ugh because, and I synthesize that this lack of identity or this unclear sense of self leads most here to, to find identity in social groups, to find identity in bigger clubs or organizations, Greek life, um and that organization becomes their identity therefore they
accept the moral standards of that group, they accept the social um identity of that group, they accept all of the values of the group as their own because they are lacking in their own personal values. I also learned that as a result of that lack of identity there is a ridiculous amount of conformity that occurs, again, not knowing yourself leads to joining the groups, going along with the crowd, conformity. Um, this conformity, also I’ve been calling it a fear to be different, there is a fear here to stand apart and stand alone. Whether that means you’re for or against something if not everyone else is doing it there is a serious fear to, to be alone. Um, so there is a lot of groupthink, a lot of group mentality.

I also learned, ugh as again, as a result of conformity there are these masks that students wear. What they wear when they are in a big group and when they’re accepting the identity of the group in public and what they’re wearing in private in an interview setting with me. So students would say things to me and then I would see them later and they would be completely, um accepting the social culture because that is who they are in the public setting, but in private they can whisper things like, I’m not really happy with how things are going. But when they’re at a party or at chapter or something it is really difficult to stand a part from your sisters or your brothers or your classmates and say, no I don’t agree. And this is a chronic issue I learned about Bucknell students. Chronic. Because of our lack of inward reflection, we succumb to these huge groups which perpetuate, they’re prevalent, they’re everywhere on campus.
I also learned that as a result, that masks create loneliness. Ugh the sense of a duality the sense of two people living in one body, two people with two different opinions crammed into one body creates tension, creates loneliness and I think a lot of Bucknell students are very lonely. I think people inside feel completely different than how they portray themselves on the outside. Again, I’ve learned this through discrepancy between behavior in an interview and behavior in a workshop or performance setting or just around campus on a personal level interacting with those I’ve interviewed or those I’ve been in a workshop with.

I also learned that there are these cycles that Bucknell students just accept. Like they accept that there is a typical like, a social trajectory, which is like, you know, freshmen year if you’re a girl you go out and hook up with a ton a ton of people. If you’re a guy you pay your dues and you stay at home. Sophomore, junior year you are obsessed with your Greek organization. Um, junior year you may go abroad and get some perspective, but either way sophomore and junior year is like obsession with the Greek system. And then everyone so far, seniors and underclassmen I’ve interviewed, have admitted to knowing that seniors, oh seniors go to the bar, seniors go to the bar, what is so wonderful about the bar? Everyone is together. It doesn’t matter what Greek organization you’re in, everyone is welcome at the bar if you are over 21. So all of the underclassmen accept that they know that probably like all seniors in their Greek organization kind of fall out of touch with their group, as seniors and um, over time, that’s just a known fact, and um they accept that you know that by senior year I’ll
probably reconnect with my freshmen friends again. My question is why do we wait to
senior year to reconnect with those who are in different Greek organizations when the
seniors willingly admit yea I only see my senior friends because now we can all go to the
bar together and I love the bar because of that? Well, maybe we should, maybe we should
have that equality all the time, all four years on campus.

I also learned ugh so that students are very quick to blame the administration for
any red tape. Any time the administration says this is policy, this is policy, students are
very quick to get angry about that, but I’ve noticed that students themselves are unwilling
to change their own policies in Greek life and have the same excuses as administration,
oh well it’s just policy, it’s just the way it is that mixers are closed, it’s just the way it is
that freshmen boys can’t go to parties, it’s just society that cool fraternities and the cool
sororities mix, that’s how it is in the real world cool people hang out with cool people. If
you’re uncool you hang out with uncool people, um I’ve heard this in workshops from
students, those statements. So it’s interesting that students blame the administration and
then conduct the same behavior themselves.

Um I’ve also seen an unbelievable gender dynamic between men and women,
divide between men and women. For example, women in their interviews describe often
being treated as animals, objects, currency, however in a workshop setting when men and
women are present the women um diminish their anger that I’ve seen in private, in
interviews. They internalize it and they don’t express it to the men.
I’ve also seen a lot of racial, um sexual orientation, and cultural tension between students or anyone independents, or anyone who is considered different. There is great tension between those who feel like they are different and feel like they’re not represented, they’re not heard, they’re not welcome, they feel also that those who are “in it” who are “cool” don’t even recognize them. It’s just a matter of ignoring them or something like that, that’s what I’ve learned.

I’ve also learned that the students feel like they are being treated like children often by the administration.

Another thing I’ve learned about Bucknell students is that student leaders have an incredible amount of pressure. Now… pressure both from administration and from students. I find it interesting to learn that most of the “cool” fraternities and sororities struggle to find their presidents, why? Well, the administration wants change, the fraternities and sororities are extremely protective of their Greek organizations and do not want things to change, on the surface. Therefore, the president is stuck in the middle between what the administration wants and what the students want, and the president has to please both sides. So I’ve seen student leaders, not just Greek, all clubs, student leaders answer to their administration say one thing, and then turn to their students and say, oh don’t worry I’ll half ass this project or it won’t really follow through what this administration wants, so that they can still remain cool and seen in a positive light by
their friends. This dynamic is really interesting and really stressful on many student leaders in all different organizations, particularly I’ve noticed in the Greek system.

6. What is my proudest moment and um the toughest moment for me in this project?

I really struggled to come up with the moment where I felt most proud. I couldn’t think of anything other than the workshop after *Rage Behind Curtains* at 10 pm where a huge group of students stayed until midnight, discussing the social scene together. I was so proud that I, I singlehandedly brought this random, incredible group of students together. I was also very proud and just thankful; it’s more thankful and blessed that I wasn’t alone. That night was wonderful because I felt like this crusade that I’ve been on was worth it because everyone else was finally on board, I wasn’t alone in this hope for change. Maybe that’s it; it was a moment where I felt Bucknell students wanted change too.

And then the toughest moment was something I haven’t written about in my thesis because I personally, mentally, and physically, emotionally have struggled with this event so much so that I was unable to write about it, but perhaps I’ll be able to speak about it now. I did a workshop for all of the social chairs of all of the Greek organizations on campus. It’s the first time that all of them have met in person, all of them are sophomores of their Greek organizations and basically their responsibility is to plan all of the mixers and parties for their organization. I decided to get them all together because a.
I thought it was important for them to meet, they had never met before and I was very curious about their perceptions on their positions of power and how they thought they could maybe bring some change into their organization. I decided to co-facilitate this workshop with another fraternity member, ugh a man, who I thought was my friend and who I sincerely trusted to lead a wonderful workshop with me. I thought it was important to have a gender balance so that everyone in the room felt included and respected and like they were heard. However, the most critical moment of the whole year for me, was the moment when my co-facilitator decided to turn on me in the middle of the workshop and become a typical fraternity boy or stereotypical fraternity boy, I should say, and rather than encourage, ugh a dialogue about issues such as hierarchy and um exclusion, he proceeded to talk about, “Hey it really does suck when you run out of beer at a party and everyone blames you.” Things like that. When before hand, in private, we discussed major issues that we thought would come up, yet in the workshop, in public, he completely changed his demeanor and I felt completely abandoned, and like, I had failed completely. Another critical incident in this workshop was one student said as a comment towards the idea of potentially having parties that weren’t just one fraternity and one sorority, perhaps people could mix; perhaps all different groups could be together. In response to this idea, he said something along the lines of, well that’s, that’s society, that’s the way life works: those who are cooler hang out with those who are cooler and those who are not don’t and those who are beautiful hang out with those who are beautiful, and those who are ugly hang out with those who are ugly. That moment and dealing with this workshop emotionally was one of the most difficult things I’ve done
this semester. My response has been to be very numb to the entire situation and I don’t think I will ever fully heal from the horror I experienced in this workshop because this was the root of Bucknell, this is the root, the root of the issue at Bucknell, the social issue is that we are giving the most powerful position in a fraternity and sorority to a sophomore who has been denied power all of freshmen year, has not been allowed to go to the parties, and now is in control of them. And now has accepted his fraternity or sorority as his or her identity and is creating all of this exclusion. That was one of the toughest moments for me in this workshop.

7. What were the biggest challenges you faced in the Double Take Project?

I faced two major challenges, the first was that this project attracted outsiders, quote on quote, those who already feel excluded from the social scene. I felt that I interviewed, or those who most willing to interview, and those who were most willing to attend workshops or events were those who already felt excluded and were looking for a voice. However, I really wanted to attract and speak with those who are considered, who I consider the perpetuators of this current social scene, or the state of the social scene. Those who are in the thick of it, those are the people I really wanted to reach out to, but those were the ones who… were the ones who were most difficult to get to speak about their experience because I believe they are the most defensive of their experience. Very protective and secretive of their organization or their experience in a club or Greek organization. Um so as a result the only way that I could get those individuals into, in
with me in my work was making it a requirement. I would never, I don’t know if there were any fraternity men who attended my *Rage Behind Curtains* performance, not required, but when I required an event with Sigma Phi Epsilon all thirty sophomore brothers attended. So it was very difficult to get those who I believe are the perpetuators to speak.

The second biggest challenge was the red tape that I faced from the administration, in particular, any time I had… because a lot of these needed to be requirements in order to get Greek organizations to participate, or other students to participate, I had to go through procedure after procedure after procedure, which I was ok with and I was willing to do because a. I had the time and b. I was passionate enough about these workshops and these ideas, these new ideas that I was willing to do all the homework and the work for it, however other students who may have this desire to make change might find it really difficult to work with the administration on new ideas. The biggest issue in relationship to administration was it often… the rules that were given opposed dreams or things that I thought would really benefit the students. As I said earlier, one of my dreams was to do something on the quad. Um, I had a fantasy of a revolution on the quad, however, in realistic terms I wanted to hold a sign and perhaps have a confessional on the quad or other events for students on the quad that encouraged real dialogue. I learned that this was impossible. And I also learned that there are so many times when events have happen on the quad without permission. For example, other organizations have held events on the quad without asking. I asked because I wanted to
be in a good light with the administration. I wanted this project to get the natural publicity and the word of mouth from the administration; I wanted them to help me with that. So in that way I wanted to make all the right steps, I didn’t want to get in trouble, however as a result of that I was faced with a decision: am I going to follow all the rules that they have set up for me so I can continue to have them as a support or am I going to break them so that I can do what I think is right for this project? I really struggled with that and for the most part honestly I followed all of the rules. I never did an event on the quad because I wasn’t allowed, although I really wanted to and I’ve known many organizations that continue to do events on the quad without their permission, or in secret. And that is also part of the issue is that there is a discrepancy, there is inconsistency, if you do something that is “bad” and you don’t get caught… for example, there is an issue with posters, um if you make a poster that doesn’t go through the policy of accepting it, but if this poster is of positive content, it doesn’t get torn down, but if that poster that you make doesn’t go through and has negative content then it is ripped down and there’s a whole fuss about it. So it’s an inconsistent message to students on who can follow the rules, who can’t, who can break then and why.

8. Advice to any other student who is trying to do a project like this?

I have fifteen points.

1. Build a cohort of students as many as possible who are into your cause or who are into this idea.
2. Empower students to make their own change. Student initiative is where it’s at.
   That is how real change will happen on this campus, not administration telling us what to do or making plans. It’s really if the students want it, they can make it happen.

3. Make friends with everyone. Yes students, but administration and staff and faculty. They are your allies; they are there for you. Especially the Deans, get in with everyone.

4. Stay organized. Check your emails all the time and send a million.

5. On this campus, avoid the word “theatre”. It is a major turn off.

6. See a therapist. You will need it. And it’s just wonderful for your own self-growth and self-awareness.

7. Figure out a personal hobby or like just always make you time. And another one for me was like avoid the computer in your bed, like bringing your computer into your bed. It’s a lot of… you just need separation between the project and yourself.

8. Do it for others and not yourself because if you’re searching for personal gain (or recognition) you probably won’t find it (laughter) or it might not happen.

9. Keep your expectations low. That’s an important one.

10. Always fight hard for everything that you want or that you believe is right.

11. Ok, so the best way to get on the student’s side is to appear neutral and welcome all, all opinions and encourage different opinions. It is important, it is vital for the success of your project to be on the side of the students so that they trust you and that they will share with you.
12. Keep a journal and document everything. This stuff needs to be shared and cherished between all Bucknellians and the world...so don’t just, let it go. Save it.

13. I personally kept all of my anger and all of my opinions about Bucknell hidden until now, and only shared it will really close friends, my real voice. I’m still not really sure if that was the best choice, but that’s what I did.

14. Remember that you, Bucknell, and everyone around you is on their own journey. You can’t control it. And recognize that everything that happens is an incredible learning opportunity for you and those around you, even if it seems like it sucks at times. And it will, at times. (laughter)

15. Try to always zoom out and see like the big picture, whether the big picture to you is the whole bubble, the whole Bucknell bubble, or like the world, or society as a whole. But really, try to see the big picture of Bucknell and recognize that everything you do is for the common good of bettering our school in the long run, and that is what is really important, bettering Bucknellians for the future to make us more whole, more ugh well rounded, honest, open, real people.

9. If you could do it again, what would you have done differently?

I have ten things that I would do differently, um but honestly I have to say all of them are more, ugh, or an addition to what I’ve already done. I wouldn’t necessarily change the things I’ve already done, rather I just wish I had I had more time to do more for Bucknell.
1. The first thing that I would do differently, or would like to add to my process is picking significant dates, like um, not just saying, oh we’re going to have a performance… no, we’re going to have a performance on this date and I’m marking it in the book and I’m gonna tell people about it so it has to happen.

2. Second, I would really like to improve on my delegating skills um because I felt like there were at moments people who did want to help me and my cause, but I was unsure how to delegate and to instruct people and what to do; I found it easier just to get it done myself.

3. I would pick fewer projects, if I had to do it all over again I would probably pick maybe fewer project and um make them more widespread, like wide scale. So perhaps Rage Behind Curtains could have been performed at a bigger venue multiple times, rather than like Rage Behind Curtains and the confessional and like all these little baby projects I had going. However, I really liked that all the baby projects infiltrated different circles of Bucknell students in different ways and that was really meaningful to me.

4. I wish I, obviously, would have gotten more help in general from students, I wish I could formed a troupe somehow of students.

5. I also would have like to have gone into the fraternities and sororities more because I believe there are a ton of issues and concerns… and its like personal issues like within the organizations that really need exploration and discussion.
6. I really would have liked to reach out more to the International students and African American population on campus. I feel, yes, I did have contact, of course, with multiple students but not enough to feel satisfied for me.

7. I wish I spent more time crafting the description of some of the workshops that I had in the blurbs or how I described it to people. I felt I was very vague purposely, but sometimes it was too vague so it was ugh it became like a fear to participate because it was so unclear what the workshop was.

8. I would like to have performed *Rage Behind Curtains* more often and in a more public place so more students could see not just the students who paid to come, or not paid, um not just the student who came to the performance for three, like it was three times so.

9. I would like to figure out a way to reach everybody at once somehow and how to reach the “typical” Bucknell student through this project; cuz I’m not sure if that happened, I felt I spent a lot of time with those on the outskirts of the social scene.

10. I always wanted to do something at a party like do something at a downtown party or register and that never happened.

10. What are your recommendations for the future?

I, Tina Cody, after doing this entire project, you’d think I’d have a ton of recommendations for Bucknell on how to change it. Well…first and foremost I guess, wouldn’t it be nice if we could change the Greek system? Structure of course. There are
ton of external issues, Greek system, the system at large is one, um and I could go into
detail about why and how I think, how I believe that groupings based on looks or
personality traits inevitably segregates a campus. However, I really don’t believe that that
is the recommendation I am trying to make, nor I think that structural change is even
possible at our university. I think Greek life is a permanent fixture at Bucknell
University. So instead of focusing on that, I’d much rather dive into my primary and
only, only recommendation that I really don’t know how, how to make this happen, but I
believe that rather than focus on external issues, we need to focus on the internal issues of
the students. And the primary internal issue is a lack of self-awareness and self-
knowledge. And isn’t that what college is about? College is about self-discovery,
personal self-discovery. Um and how do we as students help each other discover
ourselves and how does the administration and faculty help us discover ourselves in a
healthy way? Um, so I don’t really have tangible solutions on how to make that possible.

I could list to you structural solutions for example, I believe that you know if we
could change fraternity meal plans so that guys and girls could eat together, or if we
could have coed living environments, or we could have…if all Greek mixers, if all Greek
parties were open to everybody I think that would change a lot, um if we could build a
bond, like an actual bond between administration and students rather than a parent child
thing that some students feel, I think that would increase communication. If we could
decrease the discrepancy between the punishment system and like what we say happens
when you do xyz and what actually happens when you do xyz, and if that could be
consistent, and if everyone could be aware of those policy rules. If we could have more common student spaces, if we could somehow make sober interaction cool; if it wasn’t alcohol is bad, rather segregation based on, based on superficial personality traits or traits is bad, “bad” quote on quote. So I could list all of those structural changes that if we could fix, yes, big things would happen pretty rapidly, but I see a hollow campus.

In terms of the student body. I see very, people who are conflicted and really lost inside, and to me that personal internal value, I don’t, I don’t know how to get at that, other than doing this image theatre, applied theatre work I’ve been doing. Perhaps students have to like write, you know, their dreams freshmen year and somehow have a class or something that lasts all four years about developing who they are and who they want to be, who are they becoming? Those kinds of questions aren’t asked of us and most students don’t ask them to each other. Something about developing who we are as individuals and who we want to be, what are our dreams? Because I think if Bucknellians had a deeper sense of who they are they might be less likely to adopt an identity of a social group, and instead adopt their own.

11. After doing Double Take Project, how do you feel about Bucknell now?

Well my last semester, in addition to Double Take Project, I was in our spring musical called *The Wild Party*. I played this elderly woman, this aging performer, Dolores Montoya, who was crazy, but also a little removed. The whole concept of the musical is a party, it’s a vaudevillian party and it progresses into a pretty rough night. It is
indicative of some nights at Bucknell, but rather set in contemporary times it is set in the 20’s. Um so my character played a very similar role to how I felt in this project, this process. She kind of was a little bit removed at points from the whole party and kind of was able to see over, see over the party and see everyone. I think prior to this project I had assumptions about Bucknell students and many judgments about who my peers were and who I thought they were becoming and what it meant if you drank alcohol and what it meant if you had random hookups… but after playing this character I realized that while she was looking at the party, she saw why people were drinking so much. She didn’t just see oh people are drinking they have low moral standards or whatever, no, she saw, and I saw as Tina playing her, saw as Tina watching these characters, that they had a reason to drink so much, they had a reason to have mindless sex, there were stories… there were traumatic stories behind why they became the way they behave. And I learned that myself playing this character when she loses control herself and gets into a drunken stupor and has a threesome and um gets, gets her dreams crashed in front of her. And I realized playing her, she had a reason to do what she did, and that reason is really tragic. You know, she didn’t have enough money to support herself so she needed to have this threesome to potentially make it out. Granted Bucknellians don’t quite have as high stakes, perhaps, but I guess this part and this whole process helped me see the person behind the mask… and helped me realize that there are stories, everyone has stories, and everyone has a reason for what they’re doing. And that reason might be really sad or really traumatic. Um and I prior to this project, was just judging. I would go into a party and just judge say oh these people think you know they’re so cool, they’re so you know
smart they can just blow off their homework or they’re so dumb they don’t understand anything about life. I was wrong, I think. I learned that it’s sad the fact that like Bucknellians struggle with sober conversation, it’s sad that Bucknellians struggle to show who they really are to each other and that’s something that I don’t have to judge anymore, not that I can pity them, but I can understand more. That everyone has a purpose, their actions behind their actions, so I see, if you would have asked me this earlier this semester I would have described a lot of anger and hatred… and I still have a lot of anger towards Bucknell and the way that Bucknellians treat each other and the way Bucknellians behave, however my anger is now stemming of a more place of understanding rather than judgment and that’s a gift that I’ve been given. A gift of, of through listening have been able to have perhaps more compassion and more understanding that everybody is coming from someplace and my judgments might not have been quite fair.

12. Did my hypothesis come true? Was theatre able to change the Bucknell social scene?

That’s the big question, isn’t it? I hope so. No I should have more confidence in what I say. I believe I saw theatre change people on a personal level through this project. I saw personal “aha moments”, I saw personal epiphanies, I saw, or I read through free writes, or through emails, or just through private conversation the way in which these workshops, and all of these events affected people on a private, personal level. It’s hard to judge because so much of this work, so much of my goal became focused on inward
reflection and inward development, it’s hard to gauge exactly what success I made. Um, I was not able to change a lot of structural issues like open parties and mixers and things like that, but I like to say I was able to definitely create a cry, a scream, a bubbling up from, from this like boiling pot we have going on here and I’ve been able to let a lot of people’s voice be heard and a lot of people feel heard and a lot of people listen. And that just listening and responding and talking and responding, that cycle creates community.

So I’d like to say that I’ve seen community change at Bucknell um on many different levels, on small levels, we’re talking like just building a community in a small workshop that stays till midnight, just because they want to? Or just building community even in, you know, with a group of sophomore fraternity brothers. They went through that experience together. Yes, it was small but maybe it did something. So, yes, I believe I did make some kind of difference using Applied Theatre at Bucknell.

Is change possible here, in the future? You’re catching me on a good day. Ask me any other time and I probably would say no. I’ve struggled tremensly throughout this process. This has been the hardest thing I’ve done in my 21 years on Earth thus far. It would be wrong of me to say, that I did not, that I, that I’m hopeless for my school. But I can honestly say that I’m burnt out that I, I need some time to let this whole year settle. If I could, I would conclude this in a couple months or would add to it in a couple of months after I let everything really hit me. Is change possible at Bucknell? I fucking hope so. This place needs change. I don’t care if this is a really wealthy, primarily white, upper class private school that costs 50,000 dollars… I learned that no matter what ethnicity or,
or how much money your parents make, there’s struggle. Everybody has something going and we need change here. I just hope that people continue to have hope and passion to keep it going. And I’m sorry that I couldn’t do this for longer or I didn’t have more time, but I also recognize what now, right? What happens to me now, what happens to this project now? As I said, I need time. This was the hardest thing I’ve ever done. And I need to let that sink in, I need to go away and try something completely different. I’m speaking from a personal place because this project has infiltrated every part of my being. So it’s time to separate myself from it a little bit. I can’t believe I’m making this conclusion right now, sitting in front of this camera, right now, on April 21, 2012. I feel like I’m scratching for some sort of ending that’s not gonna come, so what now? Life continues. I pray that whoever’s that watching this one day, maybe this is like from 50 years from now, maybe this is the hope you need to start something or something like that. So I just hope that Bucknellians continue to, to talk and to listen one another and try, try to be real. ‘Cuz I’ve just learned that honesty is quite an incredible tool that we have as humans. We need to use it to break down these masks of perfection that Bucknellians wear. What now Bucknell? I don’t know. One of the free writes talked about an avalanche. This individual talked about wanting an avalanche of change, right now, right here, quickly. I learned that unfortunately I couldn’t do that myself, but I am a part of a roar, a roar that I hope continues well beyond my graduation.

13. The last and most effective question out of all the interview questions that I asked everybody, was if you could shout out one thing to all Bucknell students and everybody
could hear you, what would you say?

I thought the most fitting ending to this project would be myself answering this question. For a long time I’ve asked it and not known what I personally would say and was always amazed at other people’s incredible responses, but I feel like I’ve had long enough time to sit on this question myself and develop my own answer.

So, I’m gonna set the scene. It’s sunset at Bucknell we’re all on the quad, all of the students are crammed on the quad, all of us together. Somehow I’m standing on something, so I’m kind of seen, or maybe not at all, but I have a mic and somehow I’m heard. We’re all standing together, of course we’re talking but maybe it dies down a little bit and I think I would…I would look over the crowd or something…and I would freeze. I would freeze up. I wouldn’t know what to say. I feel like I would be expected to say something perfect, but I would freeze because I put that pressure on myself and I feel that pressure from other people. If I could say something to all of the students I would ask them something I think more than say something, I would ask them all to say something real from inside of themselves, right now…and I would encourage them to think of anything, something really, they’ve always wanted to share, maybe I would just ask the question to them, so everyone could be heard. I would want to create the ultimate community where everyone could hear each other, just everyone’s most personal inner thoughts. I could be anything and we’d just pass the mic around and every Bucknell student could be heard even if it’s something stupid. I would want to be a part of creating
an incredible student community of equality. I guess if the mic was passed to me what real thing I would say…I would say…a gift…a gift of community, and open air, life, and vulnerability is home. Did that make sense? I would say thank you. I guess I’m ending this project right now; it’s like letting go of a child. I’m not sure if I’m gonna cut this or keep this but somehow the second I get up and press the stop button, it’s over. So, I think, I think I said what I would say to everybody, in the setting sun of Bucknell, but rather than an empty quad, it would be a full one of all of us, the core of our university would be beating as one and I would be a part of that, of that heartbeat. Ok. I think I’m ready to conclude. That’s it.
IX. BIBLIOGRAPHY


X. APPENDIX
Differences between the so-called "dramatic" and "epic" forms of theater, according to Brecht.

(Outline based on the notes to *Mahagonny*, together with other writings.)

The "Dramatic Form" according to Brecht.
(Idealist Poetics).
1. Thought determines being.
   (Character-subject).
2. Man is something given, fixed, inalterable, immutable, considered as known.
3. The conflict of free wills impels the dramatic action; the structure of the work is a scheme of wills in conflict.
4. It creates empathy, which consists in an emotional compromise of the spectator, depriving him of the possibility of acting.
5. At the end, catharsis "purifies" the spectator.
7. At the end, the conflict is resolved, and a new scheme of wills is created.
8. Hamartia prevents the character's adaptation to society, and this is the fundamental cause of the dramatic action.
9. Anagogosis justifies the society.
10. It is action in the present.
11. Experience.
12. It arouses feelings.

The "Epic Form" according to Brecht.
(Marxist Poetics).
1. Social being determines thought.
   (Character-object).
2. Man is alterable, object of the inquiry, and is "in process."
3. Contradictions of economic, social, or political forces impel the dramatic action; the work is based on a structure of these contradictions.
4. It "historizes" the dramatic action, transforming the spectator into observer, arousing his critical consciousness and capacity for action.
5. Through knowledge, it drives the spectator to action.
6. Reason.
7. The conflict is left unresolved, and the fundamental contradiction emerges with greater clarity.
8. The personal faults that the character may have are never the direct, fundamental cause of the dramatic action.
9. The knowledge acquired reveals the faults of the society.
10. It is narration.
11. Vision of the world.
12. It demands decisions.
C. Guillermo Gomez-Peña Confessions

Here are a few written confessions from his performance in Scottsdale, Detroit, and Pittsburg:

“I am a 27 year-old female. My mother and grandmother are Mexican. Each married a white man. I resent them for denying me my Hispanic culture.”

“I am a gringo but wish I could someday sing with el Mariachi Vargas.”

“I wish one day I could be legal & have lots of sex with blond women.”

“I desire badly a Mexican man.”

“I am all for cultural diversity as long as it doesn’t raise taxes.”

“I fear that America will become a two-language country.”

“I fear that indigenous people of the world will not survive.”

“Stop raping the land and seas you ignorant sons of bitches.”

“I am an Anglo. My wife is Hispanic. My son is ½ and ½. Is our family politically correct?”

“To fall in love with a Hispanic & be mistreated.”

“I confess that I wish I was able to be as expressive and loving as are the friends I know who are Mexican, Puerto Rican, or South American. I wish for more music and color in the lives of North Americans!”

“I hate Mexicans. All they are is babymakers.”

“I search out men who are not American. I am American. In many ways I am ashamed of my culture. I am embarrassed by American family values, what little exist.”

“My oldest sister felt like she didn’t want to get involved with a man whose last name was Gonzales. She felt that if her last name was too ethnic that it would cause problems for her, being a female in the field of medicine. She doesn’t want to become more of a minority than she already is. I feel I may want to go as far as marrying an Italian, to keep my children’s heritage as pure as it can be, because American society has deteriorated to violence and kitsch.”

“Two chickens, plucked; two cubes of bullion (pref. pollo); one small onion; diced cilantro, sal, pimiento—simmer for two hours—three hails Marys—salvation.”

“Fear of being intimidated by art.”

“I desire freedom from you following me!”

“I wish all Mexicans would be deported!!! And take all this bad art with them!”

“I desire this trash [the exhibit] be destroyed. The drugs, guns, witchcraft stuff and liquor make me think so highly of Hispanics.”

“To bash your little head in!”

C. John Throssel

Title: John Throssel
Year: 1991
Date Range: 1986-2005
Photographer: University Archives
Institution: Bucknell University
Institution Location: Lewisburg, Pennsylvania
DOUBLE TAKE PROJECT:

WORKSHOP

UNCOVER THE TRUTH ABOUT THE Bucknell SOCIAL SCENE.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 4th
1 pm Tustin Studio Theatre

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT THE SOCIAL SCENE?
WHAT DO YOU HATE ABOUT IT?
WHAT IS ONE THING YOU WOULD CHANGE IF YOU COULD?

Take a second look at a "typical weekend" through the student perspective to discover if stereotypes of binge drinking, lost clothing, and feeling alone in a crowded basement are all just a part of the college experience - or something more.

Questions? doubletakebucknell@gmail.com
F. Audition Sheet

DOUBLE TAKE PROJECT WORKSHOP

NAME _______________________________ CLASS ___________ MAJOR ___________ EMAIL ________________
PHONE _______________________________ Texting? Yes/No BOX# ________________

What is true about you in a collaborative situation when time is running out?
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

If you could tell a prospective student at Bucknell one thing about the social scene what would it be?
_________________________________________________________________

Do you have any special skills? (musical instruments, roller blading, anything!!!)
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

What is something the group should know about you up front?
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

If you could tell Bucknell students one thing from you how, what, and where would you say it?
_________________________________________________________________

Are you comfortable performing on stage? If so, is there anything you are uncomfortable doing on stage?
_________________________________________________________________
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If you are not part of troupe would you be interested in helping out in other ways (interviews, spread word, organize events, send emails)? ___________

PLEASE BE HONEST WITH YOUR CONFLICTS (list your Fall schedule as best as possible)
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G. Interview Transcriptions

*Note: I included portions of 32 interviews out of 36 total interviews. All of the participants gave their consent to the publication of their interview in the Appendix of this thesis. I did not include interviews with explicit sexual assault in order to protect the identity of the participants. The interviews are in no particular order.

1. Junior Woman

Well actually my first, first party at Bucknell was my senior year of high school. My sister invited me to come and as a senior in high school I was really, I don't know I had really strict moral standards for myself and I told myself that I would never even grind with a guy. I would NOT let him touch me in that way and I stuck to that when I came to my first party at Bucknell like a guy tried, he was an inch away from me and I pushed him away and ran out the building and I told my sister this is so dumb I'm never gonna let a guy grind with me. And then of course when I actually came to Bucknell the first party I went to she got me drunk and I didn't hook up with anyone but I definitely grinded a lot. As a senior in high school I felt I wasn't a part of Bucknell so I didn't have to change anything about myself and then I think at least looking back now it kind of seems that when I enrolled at Bucknell, now I am a subject to Bucknell culture so might as well give it a shot otherwise I'm being closed minded.

When I was an outsider it seemed like a jungle. I was actually terrified, but when I was there with people that I knew, my sister that I knew, I guess I felt more comfortable breaking loose.

I was with my sister, it was one of those situations where we got invited early to pre game with the brothers of one of the frats and there were only 2 guys in the room and there were 2 of us. My sister was interested in one so I felt a lot of pressure to go along with the moves the guy was making on me otherwise why am I there? I felt like if I'm invited to pre game I go along with ever flirting happens cuz otherwise I’m just an extra body, not serving a purpose. So I ended up hooking up with that guy that night even though I didn't want to, I felt a lot of pressure like, "well you got invited here early so do your duty" This was also my first hookup at Bucknell. It was the sense that when I entered that room, 2 guys, 2 girls, alright, I know what's going down. She didn't know it was gonna be that way.

Before coming to Bucknell I didn't envision myself having a problem with long term relationships. I was looking forward to having one person I thought I trusted and that's completely changed. I don't know if I just denied it before or if its actually being at college changed that sense of myself. Maybe it has to do with so many hookups freshmen
year that totally changed my perspective on a relationship and trust.

I thought that "that first kiss is going to be so special", I'm going to hold out. And when it happened I thought "it's not, this type of stuff isn't special at all, its just something, you feed your desire"

It's exciting when you are doing it but a couple weeks later when you look back on it you feel a little dead inside like I really did it? I really gave a special part of myself to that many different people? I'm under the impression that drinking doesn't make you a different person, but it definitely changes your decision making.

I'm not interested in having a relationship with him, I just want to hook up with him! that's it! then it gives you a reason to get all dressed up, I want to impress that guy, it seems like a guy never have one girl in mind. You have to be prepared to wait for him to go thru the rest of the girls at the party so it can be pretty heartbreaking too!

It's really funny, the one guy, I hooked up with him a couple of times, and every time, every single time I get a huge patch of whisker burn on my face not just red but it was like bleeding and pussing for the next couple of days and you have to answer to people and say what happened to your chin. haha.

Yea when all those, this was I guess last fall when all these cases of sexual assault were coming out and I had to tell my mom, you know emails about it, and so many sexual assaults and such and such so my mom was like, "are you sure you want to be going to Bucknell? Is this the school you want be at?" yea of course I said yes to her but inside I was like, do I want to be here? do I want to be surrounded by this? And the other part of me says, well isn't this happening on all college campuses? I don't know...probably.

I think we call it "walk of shame for a reason" we try to cover it up by laughing ha ha ha I had the walk of shame but I think on the inside it really is shameful in a way.

I just had this realization (laughter) that hooking up is very addictive. As much as I can stand here, and say, and look back and say those decisions I made may not have been the best, I still have a desire to this weekend to go hook up with someone, I have that desire, I want to hook up with someone just because, I don't know what it is! Cuz you got used to it? cuz it feels good? cuz you feel good about yourself? Your like, yea someone wants to hook up with me, and because we're sexual people and I don't have a boyfriend so what am I supposed to do? No one takes me on a date so I gotta hook up with someone. There you go.

2. Senior Man

I felt like I was walking into something special because everyone was excited to be here.
Hold on this is going to be my alma mater these are the things I'm leaving behind. What the fuck is that police (looking out the window) these are the things I'm leaving behind like this is my chance to leave my mark, there are all these things I should take full advantage of. The biggest thing for me is I want to milk this University for what its worth. I want to have as much experience in different things as possible, that could be interpreted in many ways like I want to try meth, I want to have foursomes, I want to jump off a building and land on four mattresses that my friends stacked at the bottom ha…my biggest challenge is accepting that you won't be able to do everything but being happy and satisfied that you were milking it the whole time.

One day on a weekend I will be on 7th St and I will go under the 7th St Bridge, no yea more, right by 7th St cafe. I'm going to go under the bridge and I'm going to be a troll and I will see drunk people stumbling by and I am going to be like "come down into the water" "you there" "throw me a biscuit" "come under my bridge" I want to do that so badly…or just float underneath the art building cuz what's under there? No one knows….

I was terrified. I was just scared of the whole social scene because I didn't get a good connotation of it. I had a negative opinion from omission. I never experienced, I never let myself experience have experiences, I didn't know what it was. I remember fighting with you about it freshmen year, it this it? In a sense I do believe now I wasn't right doing it…I had no opinion so the first instinct was fear. And every party is different. I think I was intimidated by so many bodies in a cramped space and dark and blasting music… but that can be fun too. You're only as comfortable in where you are as you are with the people you are with. So if you're comfortable by yourself you can be comfortable anywhere.

Rich said this the other day, "I don't really give a fuck about what people think, I never really have but it just sucks that you can only be, people say you can only be yourself once you get to college, but I feel like you can only be yourself once you become a senior, because at that point you don't give a fuck about anyone's opinion anymore."

I do like playing roles, I can be the preppy kid, or I can be the goth kid, its like acting.

I well, I guess, looking back on it at the time of how I felt when I was a freshman at house party when I fell asleep at 11 o'clock. (Giggle) I chose to go to bed because I just wanted the day to be over faster. Not in the sense where I wanted to avoid it, but just like "I'm not going out, I'm not doing anything else, I'm not in a very good mood, I'll just go to bed and I'll wake up tomorrow and will start another day. Then I felt like that's, I should be, I'm not gonna go out and do house party-esque activities, I should still do something, and I wasn't strong then? Or I wasn't making a strong decision? I...I don't regret it cuz it helped me, obviously every decision I made has put me in the position I am now but ugh I don't ever want to feel like I can't do anything just because other people
are doing it.

As a man on campus, I feel good, as a feminine man that has grown up in a household with women of all ages, I feel, especially with one who is very rebellious and one who is very impressionable, I have both sides of girls as siblings. I don't know what it's like to be a girl, I like confident girls, I only wish that girls could feel as confident as anyone and I feel like there is um a lot of…if you want to feel sexy, DO IT. If you want to feel confident DO IT, but do it for yourself and no one else and ugh I just like ugh behind everything, I don't know what everyone is feeling as they are grinding up on someone they don't know or if they're dressing as whatever, but I can only hope as a girl at this school they feel as confident as a guy that is walking up to a girl to…I don't even know…girls…girls are almost like itemized, in general, it is something that is portrayed in all of society but ugh its a shame, I feel confident as a guy but then again in the Greek system does that because of houses and that like, it is the right thing? Is it a bad thing? I don't know. I'd like girls to have houses, I don't know if they'd like to have houses, I don't know if it would work if they'd have houses, ugh and that’s just Greek even outside of that, even if you're outside of a girl that is not Greek. I don't know anything. This is a guy question not a girl question. It just goes to girls. Here's the thing: girls don't have the opportunity to make themselves known, make it known that they are there, make it evident that they are a presence on campus as much as other things are.

3. Junior Man

It was last year that comedian came to school…who was it? It was…a couple weeks into the school year and there was the comedy show outside, and…. after the show me and…. a couple of my friends went to ugh… a register at Phi Psi. It was a register, it was ha, it was just like a register, it was kind of overwhelming. I'd never know what. The first thing that put me back was that there were like 30 guys waiting around outside, I was just very confused. Once I got in, I don't even think I stayed that long, I might have stayed 45 min, didn't really know what to think hah. Registers in general to me are just like really odd. I don't feel comfortable with the fact that you know ugh, I don't know how to say this, random guys will just come up and start grinding on a girl that they've never met before and how that becomes ok, do you know what I mean? I just, I don't feel comfortable with it. I never have and I still don't. You know, it just kind of skeeves me out that guys can just be that and girls, girls especially can be comfortable with randos just coming up to them, not even saying their name, or asking them to dance, just kind of doing that. It’s also really hot and sweaty and gross. Not really my thing.

I think my favorite night was the last night I was at school second semester, me, a couple of kinds from my freshmen hall, and one of our upper clansmen friends and ugh in ChI Phi, we did an epic meal time sort of thing. We spent from 7-10 preparing this ridiculous meal. There were 6 or 7 of us all eating together in the chI phi basement and for the rest of the night we just hung out kind of like not even like drinking just hanging out together,
the night ended with myself and two of my friends going and smoking a cigar above Freas right on the academic quad there, um, and then just kind of reflecting on the whole year. That in itself was probably the best night.

Um, in terms of like, huh, like ugh, any particular instance of that, I mean especially during rush, especially this year you can kind of tell where certain places where you did not fit at all. There are places where I would go and there are a couple of places I tried to be interested in, if that makes sense, but from the very second that I started talking to somebody or walked into the house even it would be like yea, huh, I can't be myself here, and you know move on, go someplace else.

One was getting sent to the hospital last year. That was awful. For me personally, every time I go to a register and see what's going on I am a little bit embarrassed, because you know, it's just disgusting. And because I know, I've never been to a party at another school so I don't know if that is the same everywhere, I have no idea, so for me that just kind of like sucks. I was really embarrassed when *** got kicked off campus, because I know a lot of people in student government and more specifically in the inter fraternity council and things like that, like I got like the actual, I got to see the actual report of the stuff they got kicked off for. Some of the stuff that I read about that they were doing was just, you know, disgusting. Really, really, awful. I mean, like I can tell specific stories if you want but it's really messed up. Um, my ugh, my best friend from back home goes to Emory and he's in a frat down there and during the winter last year, before *** got kicked off, as they were under social probation or whatever um a brother from Bucknell's *** went down to visit his friend at Emory and my friend ended up talking to him and this was in the report as well, one of the things they, they ugh say made their pledges do during the first semester of pledging, like one of the many things, this is one that always stuck with me was they took like seven or 8 of them, blindfolded them, and then took them into the um cemetery over here and forced however many of them, I think there was 7, forced them to kill a cat in the cemetery, forced them to kill a little kitten in the cemetery as part of their pledging. Yea. And that's really messed up. That's not rumor, that actually happened cuz it's in the report yea. Um so that and especially since, the first time I heard that is from someone who isn't affiliated with Bucknell in any way, that’s really embarrassing, that's other people, if they hear about Bucknell, or they hear about you know Greek life or something like that at Bucknell oh (snap) that's something they could, that's embarrassing to say the least.

The way that it came up was that my friend was talking about all the stuff they had to do for pledging and um in his fraternity and the guy in *** was kind of laughing it off like, "dude that's nothing" like you should hear the stuff we make our kids do. He told him that and my buddy just shut up basically. It’s like one of those things; my frat goes harder than your frat. Something like that. Which, that's stupid. Why would you be proud that you forced your kids, your pledges to kill a kitten? Why is that a point of pride? That’s stupid.
I'm really happy with my situation in Greek life. I've said this several times, everything happens for a reason. If you let it happen, you're gonna be happy. Like for me I ended up in a place where, like I said before, I can be myself, I can be me, its cool, doing whatever it is I want to do. Um I know from me I will always have the support of my brothers whether it be through theatre, any other aspect, already I know that every single one of the things I'm involved in will have like 75 more people there just because, I can stand up in chapter and say hey guys I’m involved in this production, it would mean a lot if you would come. I just know for a fact, I wanted to be someplace where I feel like my craft, my art is appreciated. Um, ughh…Greek life, there is definitely the cons though...but for the most part if you're in the right place, if you end up in the right place for you, then you know, the positives drastically outweigh the negatives. I don't really know what else to say.

My mom was involved in Greek life when she was in college. She was her philanthropy chair. When I was growing up she would always tell stories when she was in her sorority, her best friends to this day are still her friends from AXO in college, and they still get together. I really love that connection that they had together. I also got into it because I would watch like like ugh oh shoot like those old classic movies that really portray the classic ugh ideal of what Greek life used to be. Be like, shirt and tie, brotherhood stuff. I think my whole family was Greek except for my dad. Both of my uncles were, my mom, my grandma, my granddad, everybody was except for my dad. The only reason why my dad wasn't because he was playing football in college so he really couldn't get involved in Greek life, but yea so it was just kind of something I've always wanted to be involved in.

I don't think I’m a man. I'm still a kid. Ugh…I don't know. I think ugh some of my best friends are in other fraternities and I literally never see them because I can't shoot them a text and say hey lets go to the bison and meet up for lunch because we're all on frat meal plans.

It would be one of three things, ha, it would just be like the really sappy, be yourself, don't be afraid to be yourself, ugh make art now, love that, and probably be just like go bison. Something like that ha.

4. Freshmen Woman

The reason why I fell in love with Bucknell is everyone is so friendly and open here. When I was visiting people made me feel like I was already a part of the Bucknell community, like before I even go accepted to the school. That's probably the best thing, a sense of community.

Well the first party that I went to was down town; it was at the soccer house. We didn't really stay that long, it was all freshmen girls and soccer guys so it was kind of awkward
and we were all just like standing there and it wasn't really that fun so we left, but um my first register was really crazy. I wasn't expecting it, I heard they were really crazy, but I wasn't expecting it to be that intense I guess. I was the America part at Sig Ep and I went with a bunch of friends and ha we spent so long getting ready looking cute and all American-y and then ha as soon as we walked in, pretty sure within like 5 min of being there I had an entire beer poured on me and like you just like soaking and swapping everyone’s sweat which is fun I guess, like I don't know I wasn't expecting it, but it was fun. Ha.

One thing that kind of surprised me, how I think it was at one of the other registers, Psafe was there, and like they were right outside the door, and they could obviously see like people were drinking and obviously not everyone was over 21, that kind of surprised me that they didn't do anything, that kind of surprised me cuz I thought they were more like, at least from orientation, all the people like um transition to college, it seems to Psafe was very strict in terms of alcohol consumption and things like that so that surprised me a little bit, and also I wasn't really used to ugh the fact that people just come up to you like not that people come up to you and start dancing but guys come up to you and start trying to feel you up, people who you have no idea who they are, that was kind of surprising to me cuz I'm not used to that at all, probably because I know everyone in my town, I live in a really small town, that kind of surprised me. I would just grab on to my friends and say I have to go to the bathroom, I don't know it was weird. Like it makes me wonder like when did it become appropriate to like part of the norm for complete strangers to come up and start like doing that? I don't know, its just weird.

Um…I haven't personally felt like I need to change anything about myself, but I can see, but I don't really know exactly, I've only been here a month, but I can see how at least in the social scene how people would feel like they need to go out and drink or feel pressure to like I don't know do something that they didn't want to. I could see how a lot of people could fall into that, um just cuz even though its not it feels like everyone is going out.

We started at Sig Ep and then we went to um which was really fun and we were dancing and having a really good time and then we went to Phi Psi and we ran into a lot of people that we knew and that was really fun and then coming back here and we were just crazy and she like fell out of my bed and she ended up sleeping here and it was just a really really fun and we had to get up super super early the next morning so um, it was just a lot of fun because we were together? I guess? It felt like we were doing all these crazy things I guess it was the first time we'd both gone out to a register, unexpected and it was fun.

Not embarrassed, but just like, I don't know I haven't really formed my own opinion on this campus climate report yet but just like from what, obviously the report only 66 students were involved in the report in the entire campus so I think its like pretty skewed um view of Bucknell, but I had no idea that the sexual assault and rape was so prevalent, that whole issue, which I know I mean it is probably really prevalent on a lot of college
I think its kind of messed up that freshmen girls can get into any party and freshmen guys can't, it kind of sucks if you want to go out with your hall or something you can only go out with your girlfriends you can't go out with your guy friends at least anywhere I think that's kind of messed up, and also...I mean while its cool that we can get in anywhere but it's also kind of like, not insulting but I don't know, I can't think of the word, but just cuz I'm a girl I can like get in anywhere and get free alcohol, like I don't know that just seemed kind of weird and um yea I guess that’s it. And also as a girl I feel like, this is probably anywhere this isn't at Bucknell but there are more instances where a guy will approach a girl and make the girl feel uncomfortable there are more instances of that rather than a girl approaching a guy and making the guy feel uncomfortable, so…

Girls go out and have a good time whereas guys there's like a specific set of rules.

Like I like to go out, like on the weekends and stuff, but like I'm not like I'm not like the type of person who can go out all the time every night, like I get really tired or I have a lot of work to do or like I have 8 am classes Monday thru Thursday so like a lot of my friends go out on Wednesday, so I haven't felt alone or excluded but there has been a sense of if you don't go out you are missing out on something. Um which I don't really know why because you obviously aren't like the parties are usually all exactly the same all the time anyway but it's just like I don't know like when someone comes back like oh we had such a good night this and this and this happened and oh like I wish I had gone, but I haven't felt alone so far.

Um, maybe, that like we should be more accepting of everyone, not just in terms of whether you are female or male but like whether you are, I don't know, attractive like attractive in a typical sense or like unattractive like, like parties should be based around like having young girls, or freshmen girls or like younger girls come to parties, get drunk and have the older guys get laid, parties should really just be about having fun not about what you look like or how you act or anything like that.

There's this girl that I met here, she's a freshmen she said she didn't bring any clothes that she likes to wear to college; she bought all new clothes in order to fit the "Bucknell look."

5. Senior Woman

Oh when I found out that Nikki was my roommate and oh sorry and um and I looked her up on Facebook and she looked like a Barbie doll so I was like oh dear this is gonna be interesting and then we ended up being really close and freshmen year was awesome. I think its personally…but I always feel like everybody else knows each other and like I don't know anyone but that’s not true and I think a lot of people have that when they get
somewhere new, but it seems like whenever anybody else it seems like they know each other they're best friends, I don't think that's particular to Bucknell but I did feel like that.

Um oi, I mean I’m always trying to figure out who I am and what is most important to me in life but that's I don't think that's particular to Bucknell, um, oi, yea figuring out what I want to do after this, figuring out my purpose, because I, Bucknell provides amazing activities and things to be involved in and I've loved that and so I've found parts of myself in all those things but trying to piece it all together myself is difficult, right now I’m struggling about what I want to do next, going to the career center and they are extremely helpful but a lot of the connections they have is catered towards people going into like jobs that are not as new and progressive as arts or interdisciplinary things like for non profit organizations, or arts and psych...I think separating myself in this bubble from myself outside this bubble is going to be hard, like I know who I am here like I’m in Acapella, in the theatre department, I’m a DG, I’m like, I have like my friends here but once I leave here it doesn't mean anything to anyone that I’m a DG haha you know, nobody knows what that means.

It’s hard to assert who I am in a party setting, I guess we can start to go there, it’s hard, I feel like I need to perform or something. I mean that's the nature of like me, but yeah I feel like I need to, I’m in a sweaty place with all these frat boys and girls I want to have real conversations with these people and I want to show them my humor and who I am and get to know them cuz that’s yea I love to get drunk and have fun but that involves actually getting to know people and that’s really hard to do that here, its really hard to do that at big parties anywhere, its loud and its yea, and its hard to talk to people, and its sweaty and its gross (giggle) so like there's challenges to that aspect of Bucknell.

Academically, it’s manageable. And I choose, like I’m not an overachiever like I used to be in high school, no I just, I don't do the bare minimum, I do what I need to do to do well, don't go so extremely above anymore because there are other things that are extremely important.

Going to SAE for Christmas in October with some of the girls on 4sw, I was like, there was so much hype about it and this is such a good party and this is gonna be so fun and blah blah blah and we showed up and like, this is one thing that I absolutely hate about Bucknell is the way that the freshmen guys are treated at the frats. The Greek system itself, the way that the parties are, the way that the registers are, like it is what it is, I hate registers now I thought I loved them when I was a freshmen and stuff but why, like why do, there's not enough girls to go around for these frat boys? That’s why these freshmen boys are completely rejected? Like its ridiculous, this year every register I've gone to which is like one or 2 or last semester and this semester or every register I would show up at there would be like 30 freshmen guys standing outside just like looking like little puppy dogs that like that want to just get into this party and these stupid frat boys are whatever are using their fake power to make sure that these guys don't get in unless they like know 17 people or their box # is on the list and its ridiculous, so a few times I’ve been like, I’m not gonna go in until all these boys go in like not that that, these guys can
go in instead of me, I know that’s not really normal but I just feel so upset about it because like why? Why that is extremely sexist, we are singling out this group of people at Bucknell that can't, they don't even know how horrible the parties are anyway, its like gross, registers are blah so that's what I saw happening at this first party. I thought it was really cool and I was really excited to get in, I think Michael came with us and he couldn't get in and we still went in, like we were like we feel bad but we're still gonna go in and leave…our…guy friends…we went in and it was just like you couldn't even move around, I started sweating immediately as we walked in, so we go downstairs in the basement and its like backlights and it smells like reeks of old disgusting beer, girls are just grinding up on, I think there was like a stripper pole kind of thing, and I was like trying to pretend that it was really awesome and fun but I was like Oh. My. God. And it seems like everybody else is having so much fun but like I can't imagine that they are, I don't I don't know. So you wanna stay because you feel like you're missing out on something, something awesome is gonna happen, and then like but you don't miss anything, all you miss is people sweatily hooking up with people they don't know and yea I love dancing I do love dancing but like I was just overwhelmed by this experience and then we left and like ok I guess that was supposed to be really fun…that was the first memorable experience.

I love to play drinking games cuz it occupies you. It’s fun and you can talk while you're doing it and I just like "em a lot.

I was an OA because I was proud to be a Bucknellian. Just like the amazingness of orientation as a freshmen omigosh this is gonna be awesome I’m so excited about this and like when I’m home on breaks and stuff and I’m wearing Bucknell stuff people are like oh you go to Bucknell? Prestigious place..

When people talk about how homogenous we are, we're not diverse. That makes me feel like I’m, don't have, because I don't have like a different race or that I’m not like special or unique in any way. And I think, I don't like that we're considered a bubble cuz that makes us seem really like closed minded and like yea like single minded selfish or something, like we don't consider what's happening in the rest of the world um.

I think they downplay the Greek system so much to prospective students. They told me that half of the people are in Greek life. I don't know how they manipulated that statistic to be half, I mean, I guess they excluded the freshmen because they can't even rush and I think there's a lot more girls involved than guys, they said, "51% of Bucknell's population is involved in Greek life," I can't believe that that's true, its gotta be at least 75%, and ugh and yes there are a lot of other activities but they're not like the focus of the social life so they portray that in a way that's false so yea the secret would be that , although that you're felt to belong and become a Bucknellian with orientation and everything once that's over its always just upper clansmen and freshmen because we're involved in Greek life or we can be involved in Greek life and then its just freshmen like they don't we didn't get to go
to mixers, we didn't go to that stuff, so that just separates you too, unless you're involved in clubs with people in Greek organizations you're not going to know anyone.

Like rich uh pretty uh like relatively smart but also like work relatively hard play really hard, I am well off and I work pretty hard and I think also being involved is kind of the stereotype and I’m involved um but there is a sense of shallowness in the stereotype that I feel like I don't have but I feel like everyone would say that, I’m not shallow yea um I actually sometimes feel like embarrassed of my socio economic status because I’m not on a scholarship or anything, like my family pays the whole tuition and I feel embarrassed about that because people will talk about yea like no body is paying the full thing, so I feel like I wasn't smart enough to get any money, I don't know if they knew about our economic status, was that part of weight of whether we got in or not? So I feel really upset about it sometimes cuz I think like oh I wasn't really smart enough, cuz I think its like over half the people have either financial aid or scholarships and I’m not one of those people and it makes me feel like I don't deserve to be here, like I don't think about it a lot but sometimes when that kind of conversation happens I feel like of like oh maybe they wanted me more because of like my money, I know like I’m smart enough to be here but it makes me feel like I’m at the bottom of the heap kind of, so when people say, I don't want to be sounding like "oh I, have money, my life is so unfortunate cuz I have money" and I’m not, we're not like super rich but my dad can afford it so we pay it and um so that doesn't make me feel good sometimes, yea.

This is the most sad memorable night. It was freshman year, it was right after one of the 12th night performances, it was middle of first semester and I’m gonna tell you all the details I remember about this. I was wearing a, like my favorite blue dress from urban outfitters and it was like really cute, I got rid out it because Will wore it in our Avant Garde thing and also it was old but anyway so it was my favorite dress and it was really cute, whatever, it was pretty, dark blue and it thought it looked really good on me, so I wore it to this register at Lambda and I don't remember who I went with but I ended up being kind of alone on the dance floor which happens sometimes and like people were just you know whatever just freak dancing and stuff so I don't know I’m more assertive and stuff than most girls and I just went up to this guy and was like hi do you want to dance? And he was like yea and so I like started like freak dancing with him, grinding with him, ha this is really weird to tell, and he like started kind of like feeling me like holding your waist and then starting feeling like my stomach and he just like backed off and was like "no". And I turn around and I was like what? He's like no never mind and he had already taken out his cell phone and was texting somebody when I turned around and what, I don't know, and he wasn't even looking at me and was just like "no". And I was like are you serious? And I slapped him across the face cuz I was like so mortified so embarrassed like like he was telling me that I was too fat for him to dance with and I was just like completely devastated and that is still I still think about that when I go to registers and stuff, I had no idea, I could never tell you what he looks like, if I saw him on this campus I would not know but like what he did to me was like extremely scaring
and that will, that will like I'll always remember that. Huh. And and actually that was the same night, I felt so shitty about myself then that I think I felt like omg I need to do something to make myself feel better so I started dancing with someone we both knew and started making out with him, just like what? And yea yea and I think I just felt so shitty about what had happened that I needed to redeem myself in some way and that was one of the first thought that I needed to be like I couldn't, confirm the idea that I wasn't unattractive, or something so that some random person hooking up with me would confirm that and I even, this is like, I mean anonymous right? I even tried to take him back to my room and like he said no and that night was just like what? And then I was just like still like felt good that I had made out with somebody like it was like really like in hindsight like really weird and bad, bad for my self esteem, I don't know, so that was the worst, well there was other nights like well when I professed my love to somebody but that was the most mortifying memorable night um but there are a ton of fun nights. But that's the thing those aren't as memorable or like you know how like we remember shitty things better than we remember good things like when people critique you and they say all these good things you only listen to bad things, that I think just stands out a lot and also like things that happened over House Party were like really great and then ended up being really not good. Like you know you think something is really awesome hooking up with this guy and its really fun and then he doesn't remember hooking up with you? Or something like that? That you think turns something really great into something horrible, its like extremely embarrassing. And like there have been so many amazing nights with like DG especially I feel like I don't know love some of those nights where we have special events you know like welcome nights not super fun but pre welcome night when we're all together and we teach them the song and yea that’s like really fun and um yea.

Probably gonna sound kinda cheesy but whatever, be yourself because somebody else will recognize that you are brave enough to do that um and people will like you for who you are and like you'll find the right people to be friends with and um even if its scary to like to think that you're going against the grain in any way which is especially difficult here its gonna, there are people here who will accept that and appreciate that and like admire that.

Oh all the time. I feel alone all the time. Because I do have a lot of friends because I do have a lot of friends but I don't have a group of friends, I don't have the group I go out with or the group I each lunch with or the group I live with cuz of course I do have you guys but like I have other separate groups too so I feel alone sometimes because I feel forgotten like people aren't gonna text me because they think I'm doing something else or like I'm not usually always with them so yea I feel alone a lot especially as a girl who hasn't had a boyfriend here or even has had a steady hookup or anything. And I’m ok with it, I’ll find somebody I’m not like actually that's not true I do all the time worry that I'll never find somebody and like I really believe that, that’s a possibility, like I don't, yes I think I'll find someone, but part of me is like, that's not guaranteed, its not guaranteed that you're gonna find a boyfriend like, and I like really like in a lot of ways have a really
good self esteem in some ways I have a really shitty self esteem but in a lot of ways I think I’m a catch and would treat a guy so well and be fun and I would be great! As a girlfriend but none of the guys here have like seen that or agree with that so I feel alone in that way um I don't have like I haven't like gotten that confirmation like of my own beliefs, like I have friends who will tell me of course like they love me and that I’m really great and this and this and that’s awesome and I couldn't ask for anything more than that, but yea, I get sad sometimes when I see couples and people who are in love and I don't have that and I haven't had like I haven't had that in almost 5 years and that’s, I mean at least I've had it at all though, there's some people who've never been in a real relationship, so yea I had a boyfriend in high school for 2 years and that was very like pretty unique experience for high school and but like I feel like I haven't had a relationship since I’ve really matured so that makes me lonely sometimes, but I just think about how it allows me to keep cultivating myself and the longer I have on my own the longer I'll be able to figure out myself before I find somebody else to complement me. So its ok, its ok to be lonely sometimes.

Yes. I think most people feel alone at some point. Um and I do think there's something that’s difficult to put into words about Bucknell that makes people feel lonely but I do think it's more of a universal thing um but I think the way the Greek system alienates and categorizes people so that they feel um like judged in some way and then they end up feeling alone or yea and some nights I'll just, if I don't ask like what other people or doing or like talk to my friends and get in on a plan like for the weekend or for a night then I don't just fear and its confined sometimes that I won't get like called, that if I just like if I just go to class on Friday and go to my room on Friday and don't talk or text anybody and don't call anyone that no one is going to call me to like see if I’m going out or like go out with me and that's happened before. And that's the saddest thing ever cuz its like oh people don't notice I’m not out or they don't care and I think its because I don't have a solid group because everyone’s assuming I’m probably somewhere else.

I go out with different people every weekend which is really awesome because I have different experiences which I love but its sometimes lonely because I have to make the move on like tagging along with the group and then like when I do tag along with the group that I haven't necessarily tagged along with all the time then they don't like stick with me the whole night or like they assume I was with other people, so I have to ask, "oh you guys are going to the bar? Can I come" and their like of course you can come but it feels weird because I wasn't really part of the original plan, I don't know, but I think there's a lot of people like that here. Um.

It has just started and people keep being like oh like over these 4 years, like the year is over, but its only three, ok don't tell me it’s over yet I still have this whole year um.

So my blue dress story. So after I slapped him which I wish I had done harder, um he like grinned at me and like chuckled a little bit as if ok like I deserved that kind of thing, but
also like I don't care, it was a mix of like I know I’m being an ass, also you're nothing.

6. Junior Man

My most important challenge is, it’s two things, I think its ugh balance between not wasting my time here and not doing so much that I end up hurting myself, cuz I know freshmen year I did everything. It was fun and it was great I aced my classes and I was fine but I knew as time went on I knew I needed to drop back a little more but I was afraid that I’d be, you know if I wasn't doing anything, I'd be wasting my good ‘old time here, you only get 4 years, so I thinks that’s my one challenge that I keep fighting to make sure that I stay busy but not hurt myself, or not do too much, one of the many challenges.

Ok well, well my freshman year I tried not to go to any parties because I wanted to focus on my work and also I was dating someone at the time and I was afraid that going to a party things would happen but the first time I tried to go to a party it was a terrible experience it was at a frat named TKE and they were having a Vegas party and I had a friend who was in TKE and he said oh I'll put you on the register, no problem I’ll get you in. So I go to TKE, I’m on the register, I get let in and I’m in this nigh black suit, you know Vegas night, I got all dressed up for it, and I go in my friends room and we start drinking a little bit and people started coming in the president of TKE was in a really bad mood I could tell that day and he just started walking around storming into peoples rooms, he came into my buddy’s room pointed at me and said get out. I said why I'm on the register? And he said no you're a freshmen get out right now. And I wanted to know why but he was in such a bad mood I thought well I’ll listen to ya, so he basically pushed me out of the house and went to the register and said don't let that kid in again, I said I'm on the register but whatever, so that was a really bad experience and then I remember I was walking around trying to find my other friends who went to I think DU or some other friend and I couldn't find them so I went back to my room. And that happened over the course of maybe 50 minutes.

I think that Bucknell, I discovered this more and more as I get older, people try harder and harder to fit in. For me, I didn't have that much trouble because I got involved I made so many friends off the bat in so many different things that I felt like I could just be myself and I didn't need to "fit in" I already didn't feel like I was the Bucknell stereotype: the rich white kid from the city you know or somewhere but um you know I felt really like an individual and I felt really good about it so many friends right off the bat that I didn't feel like I needed to fit in, but I do feel like that people especially and this applies for any college that they need to fit in in order to have fun. They need to join a frat, they need to join a sorority, they need to get in the most popular club, they have to change who they are in order to seem cool in front of other people that they think are cool, I think most people come in with that sort of mindset but as time goes on they realize that they don't need to do that, at least that’s from what I know, but yea especially about rush, the
whole rush thing, its all about fitting in. like oh I want to be in this particular frat or sorority, or I need to be, and then they kind of embody that if they join.

I think, I think once you come to this campus and once you get thru your first semester here you know what's going on an you know which frats do what and what and what sororities do what and you know which frats stand for and already start learning the chants for different sororities and you already kind of scope out what you want in the social scene. Um, for me, I, when I first came here I really focused on my academics so I didn't know but other people knew so I learned from them so yea, and also I think its different for me because even before I came to Bucknell I knew I wasn't going to be in a frat cuz I just knew that financially I wouldn't be able to do it and also I guess I wouldn't be able to have the time, but I think once you get on campus and once you get through your first you month, you kind of get most of it. Of course every frat every sorority has their little secrets like "oh we can't tell anyone else" but you know like once you hit rush your good.

A lot of people I see that go into frats have this kind of duality where outside the frat they are one person but inside the frat they are completely different um and I’m especially seeing it with a number of sophomores who just went into frats um their demeanor completely changed and priorities change, um I’m so happy I’m an independent because I don't feel pressured by the social scene, I don't feel like oh I need to go out I need to party I need to do this or oh I need to just go to Chi Phi I need to go to Sig Ep like I can only hang out with certain people, I can't talk to freshmen cuz their gonna be rushing, I feel like I’m really not stressed at all! Of course I don't need to pay and do all the community service stuff, all the stuff they do as well and I think I’m very happy with my choice as an independent I feel like I can go anywhere, I don't feel tied down at all, which is nice.

Oh wait, I have one, ok so BobR cast party me and Johnny were throwing around the ping pong ball and I saw Rebecca with her cup she was facing the other direction she was about I would say ehh 5 or 4 meters away from me and I was sitting on the couch she was taking a picture and the camera was slightly over her cup and she was facing the other direction. I threw the pong over her head and landed it right in the cup. it was the most epic thing in the world and me and Johnny were just like what? Ohh that was that was an epic moment from my freshman year.

I get really embarrassed when someone starts talking about the hookup culture here, whenever a discussion like that comes up um and that's my personal preference on what that is and what that means but I get so pissed of when people that I know start um start talking about you know know how, "I hooked up with 5 chicks last night" "I hooked up with 7 chicks last night" or "oh yea I heard that this girl, I took her to bed last night yea man" its just, it's just disgusting, its really gross and I think that uh I get really embarrassed because…I don't know…I grew up, I was raised in, I grew up in the 90's but I was raised in the 70's that's what I always tell people because I grew up and I was always taught about respect, being a gentleman, modern day definition of gentleman not the old, you
know, always be nice always be respectful, always open doors put down jackets stuff like that you know never be to forward and so it’s it’s just its baffling and almost like almost scares me a little bit when I see all this happening cuz I just think I just think what like what relationships are and what affection is is becoming so physical mentally and emotionally is going down the drain, and the poor people who do focus on the mental and emotional as well as physical, try to find a balance between the three, they can't do that cuz the majority of the campus is not like that and it sucks, it really really sucks and that's why I’m having so much trouble now, and that's well that's another story. not about your project. But yea, I think I’m most embarrassed about Bucknell when I when I see or hear or notice or anything about the hookup culture really embarrasses me.

My freshmen roommate was, ugh, I lived in the common room my freshmen year cuz I hated being in the room with him half the time cuz he just he did not care about his academics at all and that’s because his dad owns a company and his mom also owns a company so and he's making up a major cuz he doesn't want to do anything else here except for partying, he's in TKE now, he just brought home a different girl almost every other night, and the way her would talk about the girls it was just so disrespectful, and the few times that I did hang out with him like drink in the room or just hang out, it'd be me him and some of his buddies and it was him and all of his friends were like that, and I got, every time I would listen I just got disgusted. like hmm, like constantly using the phrase "oh that bitch you know, she blew me and I’m never talking to her again" and "oh that bitch" it was never, women were always referred to as bitch or hoe or hoar, or they would always, they were treating women like property, like material, like a material and not like a human being. and the one time that I actually got really pissed off and actually spoke against them, they got really weirded out, like "oh bro we didn't mean it we're just talking like that" and like I don't know, it just, this new generation of people I feel, the morality is in such a different place from where I personally have, its sad, but yea.

In Bucknell, in general, I think whether you are a girl or a guy you represent Bucknell and what you do represents you and I dance, I do theatre, I do physics when I can ha and that’s me. And that’s just being out and about doing rehearsal and stuff, now at parties I feel that a man automatically becomes sort of like a predator, and I was thinking about this the other night when I went to Chi Phi's downtown house like I played pong for most of the night I didn't really interact with people unless it was like you know some guy friends but um like just noticing how guys would like scope out chicks and chicks would look around almost scared and it was like almost watching something from the freakin animal planet or discovery channel cuz it was this big group of girls all like packed together, like the herd of buffalo and here are the lions kind of just scooping it out and getting ready to pounce and its, like its funny but it's also like wow we're really resorting to that. And and I told you how I attempted to go up to and actually talk to a girl, ask her out on a date, and they were weirded out by it and of course a lot was probably cuz they didn't know me, or they didn't know me very well or they were kinda just like why is he asking me on a date? That’s really weird and I was kind of like yea I think yea I think
that's basically what being a man's like, especially at a party. Being a man at Bucknell I just feel that, like we're all Bucknellians and we're all expected to do our work, class, and have fun, and give back to the community, and give back to the campus whether you are a man or a woman um I don’t think that there’s any higher expectation of a man than a woman I think both, I think expectation line is there for both sexes. I mean I can assume that other people might think that there’s more opportunity for male versus female just that what it’s been like in the past, you know before women had rights and stuff but in my personal opinion I feel that Bucknell is doing a really good job at making it equal or almost in some cases ugh giving more power to women which is good cuz I feel that well I mean regardless there is more women at Bucknell then men there’s 60% women and I think 40% men I think that’s what it is so I think that Bucknell’s doing a really good job trying to you know making it expectation line is equal and making it as equal as integrated as possible between the sexes. That’s just my personal opinion. But when it goes to the social scene I think there’s a huggeeee shift between I mean of course you have that one girl who is really strong and oh you’re not touching me and you know is a good individual and is really strong and is proud or like that but at parties it just completely switches cuz intention completely changes at a party. Yeah.

Definitely. Definielty. I think I think me personally I feel that I usually feel alone either when something happens outside of Bucknell, something at home goes in effects me because my friends at Bucknell don’t know what’s going on at home for the most time I feel kind of left alone with all the heat and all the crappiness that’s going on um other people feeling alone. Definitely. Um same thing home stuff and also I feel ughhh specially people who hook up with other people and um they feel like they feel bad about it and then they try to talk about it and they get singled out about it um I think people feel alone when they can’t, when all they’re friends go out but they have to do work um and there’s definitely, um or when they don’t get into Acapella group or frat or sorority they want I think then it’s a blow and it makes them feel really alone. Dealing with things in general I feel that people have trouble opening up to other people. I think most people do have trouble sometimes opening up to other people. Yeah.

There’s actually a great quote that I use, cuz I was ranked 9th in my class in high school and the top 10 get to put quotes in the yearbook and I had this awesome quote that was about success and achievement, it said, I don’t remember it word for word but the quote says something like there’s a difference between succeeding or being successful versus achieving something, success comes easily and achievement requires work and it was something along the lines of that. And the way I kind of interpret that was successful is like a lot of people think successful is like money. Um getting a good job, getting a good family having a home, being financially sound for the rest of your life sending your kinds off to college, continuing your line, lineage, um successful is like um getting that dream job, going out, having ugh the time and money to ugh go out and explore the world, achievement I feel though is very is very on a different level, I think to achieve is more than just what you can see it’s more than what you feel and I think and that’s what I
strive, hell after I graduate I might end up in a cardboard box but as long as I feel that
I’ve achieved something here at Bucknell as long as I’ve done everything I could to make
myself happy and make sure everyone else proud of me like that’s an achievement and
live my whole like on a 40k salary here just being with random companies or whatever
and I would feel achieved if I felt proud about what I was doing. And I think what I
would tell Bucknell would be is strive to achieve, not to succeed. Cuz success will come I
feel if you really try hard you really work hard you really try to achieve something, the
success will come you know? I mean, I see people all the time they go and they pursue
what they love and later down the line they end up making a lot of money they become
very successful but it was all about that initial achievement. That initial want to achieve
and so I probably tell everyone to strive for achievement and take and take pride in what
you are doing because I think I think that everyone’s so focused on the social scene here,
on partying on fitting in and having all these friends and being known amongst the
campus that they forget that it’s also college, this is also a time to learn and make
yourself better and to take pride in what you do and hopefully that pride will continue
after you graduate and then you can achieve something and then you become successful
so yeah.

7. Senior Man

To prove myself that I am good enough to do theatre just because of my accent I feel that
sometimes I feel that something can stop me to fully complete my potential. Ugh so yea
to ugh to prove that I am capable of doing theatre even when English is not my first
language.

Um…most meaningful experience I don’t know like at community college before I
transferred to Bucknell I got the opportunity to be a student ambassador and the president
of the student organization club and I feel at Bucknell I feel like I haven’t had a chance to
get involved myself in too many extracurricular activities that are not related to my
career. So I feel like the most meaningful thing at Bucknell is just to focus on my wishes
to start filming, start directing, start acting, start getting my hands dirty in what I want to
start doing professionally so I feel that well all those leadership activities at community
college helped me to overcome a lot of um barriers and to get to know more people and
all of that in a way it was sort of a distraction to my real career so at Bucknell I had the
opportunity to actually concentrate on what I want to do and I think that has been most
meaningful.

Oh yea! The first Bucknell party was a lot of fun. It was an alcohol free party in uptown it
was um it was November of 2008 because I came to Bucknell for the summer program
the transfer program in December 2008 and in the Fall 2008 there was a reunion for all
the scholars. We didn’t know if we were going to be accepted we didn’t know if all of us
were going to get transferred to Bucknell but we came to visit for one day to explore the
actual Bucknell experience, the Bucknell summer experience because the summer is
completely different than in the fall and the academic year so we came to Bucknell on Friday take 2 classes just to visit 2 classes and that night happened to be a party at Uptown I think it was a rave? It was a lot of the scholars dancing together and it was a lot of fun, it was, we didn’t know anybody on the Bucknell campus it was just us being together. So there was a sense of partying together, a sense of community. Um so that was my first party at Bucknell, and my first real party at Bucknell was as an actual transfer student ugh I think it was in a fraternity house it was a completely different scenario because I didn’t know anybody it was it wasn’t an alcohol free party, it was dirtier, ugh but my real first party experience was a rave at Uptown which was a lot of fun.

I was because I have no idea what it was. Like we don’t have fraternities in Peru I have no idea what it was until I came. Well I didn’t know it existed. Even at community college I had no idea there was such a thing as fraternities and sororities once I transferred to Bucknell, so I knew about fraternities literally two years ago and I like my friends said we’re going to this Greek party and I was like Greek? Wait there are Greek houses? I had no idea what, yea, ugh I feel it’s a choice, its not for everybody, I feel that it’s meaningful for a lot of people, it doesn’t mean anything to me. Like ugh I travel a lot I travel to Europe for the first time and you don’t need any of that outside, like after people graduate no body will really care what fraternity you were on, so like it could be fun for a lot of meaningful but I just don’t need it so ugh I ugh it’s different for me because I just got exposed to it 2 years ago. A lot of people grew up knowing about it, a lot of pressure from family members saying “oh I was in this fraternity, your grandfather was in this fraternity, its been a family tradition to be in this fraternity” so its ugh it’s a lot of pressure I actually I know somebody a friend who said he his dad really wanted to rush and join a fraternity and he refused to do that and um and his dad got upset about that but it was his decision so it’s different for everybody it wasn’t for me because I just got exposed to it.

I do think there is I do believe there is a pressure for people to fit in. if I had experienced that it was probably when I had just transferred to Bucknell because I was experiencing new things, I had no idea what it meant to live on campus, like at community college I went to class in the morning and then on the afternoon I was back at home, there was no such thing as living environment. So here I was exposed to living environment where surrounded by fellow students 24/7 you live with them, you eat with them, you party with them, you do all, all the things with your fellow students so ugh so you want to fit in to be able to because you are adapting to a new environment. Ugh but personally I don’t feel that need anymore because I don’t think, I’m happy with what I do, I don’t feel the need to to make anybody else like me or stuff like that so its I definitely, I definitely think that there is some people who desperately need to fit in and as a former RA I’ve seen residents who need to believe that if they can’t join a Greek house they will they will don’t have any social life.
Last year like my one of my residents she just commented that she wouldn’t know what to do if she wasn’t accepted in a sorority, I was like but you don’t have, I told her you don’t have to join a sorority but she was like no you have to otherwise you don’t have a social life. Something that is something that is sad but people do but a lot of people do depend on the Greek system to have any kind of social interaction, they can’t understand the fact that there is something else beyond Greek life um so people do try hard to fit in. I don’t anymore.

Oh yea there is but I can’t tell you it’s a secret haha. Its um, there’s a secret tunnel that connects the library with um with um Coleman and the literature, Vaughn literature building underground, yea, um, so not a lot of people know about that, it’s not accessible to students. Um I know about it because a professor told that in his capstone class and I happened to be there at the lecture um there are a lot of historical secrets but I think that’s not what you mean. I mean, what’s the secret to be part of a fraternity or sorority? What is it that makes you to have the it factor to to be part of a brotherhood or sisterhood? Is there a secret? No! What is it that people look to in people that are applying to to be part of a sorority or fraternity, if there is a secret and that’s social things, I don’t know it. I don’t know what it is.

Ok this was before I became a Bucknellian so before I had even been accepted to Bucknell as a transfer student I was, it was the day before my graduation at community college of Philadelphia I had, so I graduated I was going to transfer to Bucknell, I wasn’t going to experience any time of limbo what I was going to do, so I had the entire summer free before I transferred to Bucknell and I applied to an internship as an international student there was I remember during my interview they were looking at my application and oh! Bucknell! You’re a Bucknell student? Yea yea I just got accepted to it so I have never actually taken, that was the fall before I transferred so I could they gave me the internship to see that I have been transferred to Bucknell. That that made me proud to be a Bucknellian even before I became an actual Bucknellian.

Ugh not really. I don’t know. Well there was ugh a writer that came last year the one who wrote the book for the freshmen and ugh they behaved very badly. Like they they they were very disrespectful and the writer left I heard this from an English professor, I didn’t actually experience this myself. But I don’t know besides that I don’t think there’s anything…ok maybe the fact, maybe the fact that Greek life is so important at Bucknell, ugh when we went to Scotland, when we were talking to the students of Western Washington they were saying oh no we don’t have, Greek life is not as important as it is there the fact that our university could have like we can’t have a normal social life without the Greek system behind a step behind because we depend upon something, the whole traditions, the whole history of Bucknell tradition is something that makes a lot of people proud and it makes me proud to feel part of something of a big tradition but after a while it leaves a double standard like ok this traditions make me feel proud of something but at the same time wait a minute these rituals have their repercussions.
I could tell you how it is to be a student at Bucknell compared to a community college, I mean I’m not, I honestly don’t see any any difference. Between a man here and being a man at community college and being a man in Philadelphia. Being a man in Peru is a completely different question. Its ugh something completely different. I mean you are who you are it doesn’t matter where you are, for me. A lot of people change who they are dependent on where they are ugh none of the transfer students, most of the transfer students are older than the rest of Bucknell students so they already have a clear sense of identity, of where they belong so they don’t really have to change who they are to adapt or anything they have to adapt in different ways but they don’t alter their identity, um I think that a lot with the freshmen, last year when I was an RA the way they behave between themselves or over the weekends, was completely different than when their parents came to visit it was like like the parents perception of their children and they behaved in a way that fulfilled the perception of the parents, but once they were gone it was um they were other people. I’m not saying necessarily that’s a bad thing but I can tell how people change depending on who they’re around, so so um especially this age 18 19 when freshmen come in they’re discovering who they really are so they don’t have a clear sense of what they want to do so they’re so easily influenced by their surroundings. But being a man at Bucknell, for me, is not any different than being a man in Philadelphia or community college, I don’t know.

Yea. Yea. I don’t think of myself that I belong in the Bucknellian social sphere, because I don’t really participate on the on the weekends, but yea I think I do feel alone just because I’m but I don’t think it’s a bad thing that I feel alone, I actually like it because to feel alone it’s a tricky question, I feel unique. And but I know that there are not a lot of people like me and by me yea its hard for me to fit in with a lot of people in at Bucknell just because of my socio economic background, where I come from, or just how much money I have compared to how much money other people at Bucknell have, I mean I do have friends who are from similar culture or socio economic status but I feel... to be alone just makes me feel proud that despite my circumstances I managed to be at the same school as they are, so yea I do feel alone but that’s a reminder that I come a long way to be in the same place as they are a lot of people haven’t had to go through a lot like I have, so being alone is not always a bad thing.

Support the arts instead of spending all your weeks, all your money on alcohol and all your time partying, do something more useful with your time because once you get out of here there’s gonna be, you’re not gonna have as many educational experiences as you have now. And if you don’t take advantage of some of the resources that are around you now it’s going to be too late and after you graduate today right now right here is your only, it’s not your only but it’s your most important ugh educational experience.

8. Junior Woman
I vividly remember her taking me to a frat, that night and I remember going through the engineering quad to get through to the building, that little underpass, and I think it was Chi Phi, she took me to Chi Phi, at the time I had no idea which frat was which and I just remember buses, buses returning from people who were like at formals? Or whatever? And I was like oh this is so cool there are frats like I’ve never seen a frat before, this is so weird, they have really nice houses, like I remember DU was really impressive and then Lambda woah! But at the time it was just like so all of these are different frats and I remember they were a lot going down into the basement, and I was sort of like mehhhh not really into it at all, the party scene, like the like the lights that make the white glow, black lights, black lights, I think like I don’t know paint for some reason? I don’t know, maybe that’s just me making up things, um, and like we stayed there for 5 minutes and then we left cuz I was like ooh wow this is pretty intense and like a lot of drunk people and I thought, at the time I thought I was like woah, and granted this was Chi Phi, so I had no idea how bad the others were but like I was just sort of taken aback by that, like I’m sure its just fun if I knew people but it didn’t really resonate with me all that much, and I didn’t think I was going to come to Bucknell so I was like k, so that’s that’s this campus, and I thought Chi Phi was really ugly compared to all the other frats um but then when I got into Bucknell ok lets make the most, cuz when you come in you have orientation and it’s like not about the rest of the campus it’s just about your class and getting to know each other. So like I couldn’t even gauge my past experience with the present because, it was just totally different with my class and we weren’t interacting with the upper classmen really so I mean that was my first impression, pretty much just like these images. I didn’t have oh this is great or oh this is bad, it’s like oh this is college. It came under that umbrella, oh this is Bucknell.

Like there are the arts kids, those arts, arts kids, and then you have the frat bros, the sorority girls but the sorority girls are sort of all these different types of girls and yet their sorority girls still and I find its very had to bridge the gap between even like music majors are so different from arts majors, sports teams are in their own frats so they don’t necessarily go out and rush, so its very interesting that its so divided even though in the first week we preach togetherness in the orientation of our class um but its sort of like maybe its just that the base line, the base point where we start off from and then break away into our own groups its harder to keep a well balanced I guess plate of all these different friends and um it sort of becomes like you have your own little niche and you become comfortable with because its so hard to bridge that gap.

I think something that made me proud to be a Bucknellian, it’s very hard for me to associate as a Bucknellian, cuz I don’t associate as a Bucknell-ian…I associate as a theatre kid in Bucknell. I’ve never really associated as…is there something that we can all agree on something that all Bucknellians can agree we share this space? I guess that’s what’s missing for me, something that ties us all together, yes I was very proud for our basketball team to get so far, seeing them on TV, or the sports tend to be something like ra ra ra Bucknellian, sort of unite in, and I guess.
Ugh, that’s so hard um I guess like don’t deny yourself what other people can give to you. There’s a reason why college is the best time of your life and you want to meet as many different people as you can because it is is such a huge pot of different people and that you will close off later in life you will choose your path, so why not stay here a little while and mingle. Cuz it’s one big party, mingle with different people.

9. Senior Woman

Um, ugh, I had a host who was wonderful ha I had an overnight host. She and I actually kept in touch all throughout her time here, she just graduated last year. She worked at office of admissions, she was in some sorority, I can’t remember but she was just genuinely nice. She was just so hard working, she told me blatantly I have to study for an econ test but if you want me to take you around I can do that, just having that friendly attitude from multiple students, whenever she’d introduce me to her friends “hey guys this is my prospee” it was just like, “Hey! How’s it going? Are you really applying here? like are you unsure?” it was just a really happy environment and I was really excited to be here.

I think my most important challenge was recovering from freshman year. What I mean by recovering is getting back that positive attitude and energy that I had about Bucknell before arriving here and coming here and being here so essentially I hated my freshmen year. I hated my freshmen hall, they all pledged and rush into the sorority and fraternity that I despise the most and that are most stereotyped and the most elitist for lack of a better term and I was always that girl that was nice to the custodians and it would pain me to see that every weekend the whole hall was like trashed. And it was rough on me freshmen year I always stuck to people that I thought I could relate to, I didn’t try to make friends I was very anti-social and um I was in a play but I feel like I was type casted so I definitely wanted to stay away from everything I loved. So it was rough for me sophomore year and trying to enjoy my time here.

It was hard. I was an RA so I was trying to put on this persona like I love this school, but I really don’t. And ugh I actually was the RA for my freshman hall. Freshman year I was in Larison 3 and sophomore year I was assigned RA for Larison 3 and I was really against it, it’s like the biggest hall, I was like my hall’s gonna be such jerks and idiotic divas and I was like not happy about it at all, but it turned out to be the complete opposite. So my sophomore year was like a complete 180 and it really helped me gain faith in my hall and regain my optimism because my residents were wonderful. If I see any of those 43 students on campus they will bum rush me and like, “Hi! How’s it going?” So I think I invested a lot of time in trying to create a community with them that I didn’t have and I think that’s what worked, and also I got more involved and tried to put all that freshmen year stuff behind me, I was in common ground, the Bucknell brigade, I did after school tutoring, seeing those children from the nearby low income housing
community definitely put things in perspective for me, like this is bigger than me, I’m here for something else.

I remember, clearly. I don’t remember the date exactly but I think it was early October, I’m not sure if it was after fall break or before fall break because I was really anti-social so I didn’t want to go to the parties or anything, and I had a boyfriend from high school so I thought I was a big deal ha and I was like “I don’t need the social scene, I’m fine” so it was a fraternity annual party called “heaven and hell” I don’t know something like that, one of those themes, and um it was awkward ha ha in my culture you go to a party to dance. So I’ve been growing up going to parties and eating, and talking, and mingling, and dancing if you want to, not being forced to do it, or learning, it’s very social the way that I was brought up. It’s all about choices, maybe you don’t like the genre of music, you like the next one and its like we’ll change it up and there are older cousins or older family members who will teach you how to dance and it’s not embarrassing and it’s all like welcoming, where as my first frat party and it was like people making out over here over there and omg that person’s in my foundation seminar class oh they don’t say hi to me and it became this recurring pattern of going to parties and people that I either had class with or interact with during the day would ignore me or completely not see me and I think that also influenced me to shut down the fact that I was invisible in the social sphere but visible in the classroom, if that makes sense.

Honestly? Ok. Yea. No. No this is for the benefit of your project. I am going to be honest. I honestly think you need money, you need money for clothes, you need money to splurge, you just need money overall. You need to be very into the idea of clumping. I mean clumping is natural it is psychological it’s natural but I mean if you talk to anyone in Greek life outside of that pledge rush period they can be sweethearts they can be the nicest people you’ve ever spoken to but when its that week late August early September period where everyone just thinks, everyone just sits together in the same group, its just so overwhelming, so I think in order to fit in you have to want to fit in and you have to have money and you have to be not necessarily closed minded but not really open for change. If that makes sense. As horrible as that sounds. There are good people at Bucknell. There are exceptions to the rule.

I think nobody talks about perceptions of beauty. I feel like its very undertoned and secretive you see people at the gym, you just assume it’s for athletic purposes or personal desires but I think that’s all bullshit. I think there’s a majority of people that do it for the fitting in in Bucknell culture. You have to be thin, you have to be I think you honestly have to be fair skinned, you have to have flat like nice straight hair um its just like so ridiculous but I were to just go wash my hair right now and leave it puffy and wavy and wear jeans and a baggy t-shirt and sneakers to a frat they would probably tell me that it is packed. Whereas if I were to flat iron my hair put some makeup on put the tightest dress I have on in my closet, maybe it will be easier to get in, but then again, I don’t have like the ideal skinny body that is idolized here by the male population or whatever but I think
that’s the biggest secret about Bucknell. Nobody wants to talk about how they’re fat friends can’t get into the register or whatever, nobody wants to talk about how I have different hair, or different kinds of hair, nappy, kinky, curly, wavy, and that’s not really appreciated or thought of as beautiful. Which is that idea of Bucknell beauty, the Bucknell look.

It was summer of 2010, summer before my junior year I was taking a science lab course here and I was with some of my friends, I believe it was 2 other females and 2 males and it was just a group of us and we were just walking around campus after a party we were bored, completely bored, I think the party was lame or something, and it was at a gateway. So it’s like summertime is even harder to socialize because so everything is so minimal. So we left this party and we just started walking around one of the guys is like “let’s go to the golf course” and we’re like it’s kind of dark, this is creepy, like I don’t think this is a good idea and everyone’s like no it’s fine it’s fine, whatever, we go and we just hang out literally just enjoying the atmosphere enjoying the whole nature of Lewisburg ha walking around the golf course, probably not a good idea, and then we saw some area and we just sat down and started looking up at the stars, I love star gazing, I’m a dork and um every time I step out at night I always look up at the stars its always just my weird own ritual of inspiration and we’re all just looking at the sky and we’re all like it would be so funny or fun to watch a shooting star like I’ve never watched one before this is one of the guys, and I was like me neither! I would love to! And this other girl was like oh I’ve seen them it’s not that big of a deal, and this other girl like I’ve seen it and I love it! And just like engaging in this random conversation about starts blah blah blah and literally I kid you not this sounds like it’s in a movie, right there a shooting star just passes by and we’re all just dead quiet and I’m like did that just happen? Did that really just happen? And everyone’s like omg yes it did! Ahhh! So that was like my own magical night at Bucknell it was so like innocent, natural, fun, peaceful, that was my most memorable night at Bucknell. That was not a movie…that was real life.

Um first would be every day that I go into tutoring either at Meadow View or Effix Place there are communities that are considered low income one is behind I guess frat road I guess it’s called snake road something like that or river road? Or something like that and there is one behind Wal-Mart. And it’s just every time that I’m there and I feel like I help a child with their homework that just like eats me up inside that’s just like omg you’re making a difference. And they’re like oh I want the Bucknell kids to come, I want the Bucknell kids to come and just hearing that label “the Bucknell kids” for once it means something positive to me and that’s one time that I’m really proud to be a Bucknellian.

Second time would be um in the Bucknell brigade trip we went to ugh a dump literally where people would throw their garbage, where sanitation takes garbage ad up above on some hill area of the dump isn’t not like a day care but its like a children center for people who actually like live there, people that live in abject poverty have to make ends meet at a dump and that to me, like I’ve always known about it I’ve been to the
Dominican republic where my parents are from, I’ve seen it, I’ve lived in poverty in New York City, I know it exists which is actually being there was a completely different experience and then after the children, playing with them, tag and silly little games, I guess that really made me proud to be a Bucknellian because they all didn’t want us to leave. They were lined up outside 5 of us after an 1hr1/2 of interaction and they were like just staring at the bus and the fact that they actually wanted us today that made me proud to be a Bucknellian it made me feel like I as a Bucknellian, that’s part of this Bucknell program making some kind of a difference even if it was minimal.

Oh yea haha um lets see. Um where was I? Posse plus retreat it was my freshman year? The theme of the retreat was education and we were just talking about how some people are privileged to go to private schools some are not blah blah blah and we’re just having this debate about education and I’m just embarrassed because I felt like I was one of the few people that actually felt like Bucknell was a privilege, like I’m at Bucknell because that’s what will help me better myself. I was embarrassed because it seemed like everyone else didn’t want to be associated with the Bucknell culture and that was like in February of my freshman year so I sill was in “I hate Bucknell mode” it was embarrassing because it felt contradicting, I’m defending something that I really don’t feel myself, don’t feel like myself, and don’t feel comfortable in so why am I defending this so much? And I guess that realization, so yea, that made me hate Bucknell even more, I was defending it when I shouldn’t be. Um because a lot of people at the retreat were really anti Bucknell and they felt like we don’t have enough diversity, we don’t have enough people that are knowledgeable on different cultures etc. etc. so it was a debate that was really about how can we bring this topic of education back to Bucknell and make it seem like we’re making a difference so a lot of people were like we can’t, like we can’t do anything so I was like the optimist and I was like no like if we no like if we like blah blah blah we can make change. I’m a senior, I’m not support it right now, but I can’t honestly tell you that I want my children to apply here so it’s very bitter sweet, it’s very huh like neutral right now. Sometimes I’m like “yea orange and blue” and other times I’m like “ehh I need to graduate” I still have an open mind.

It’s really hard to be a woman at Bucknell, I think it’s probably hard to be a male at Bucknell too because of the pressure to conform and be a complete douche bag ha but I definitely think as bias as this is going to sound it’s harder to be a female on this campus because of the things I mentioned before about beauty and trying to fit in and trying to be considered beautiful when it’s a stripped idea or model of it.

Haha I’m sorry I don’t mean to laugh at your questions, like yea oh man. Freshman year, I actually applied to other schools to transfer spring semester freshman year but my advisor wouldn’t let me do it, he thought that I was making a huge mistake and that the places I was applying were not up to par with Bucknell he couldn’t sign the paper for me and we had a huge debate and I was like “listen you’re great advisor, you’re wonderful, I love you, but I need to get out of here, I’m not gonna stay here. So whether I need to go
above you to get this signature or whatever it is I need to do, I’m gonna do it.” And he was like well you go ahead and do it but I cannot sign your paper because I enjoy you in my classroom and I want you to stay. And haha I felt really alone because I felt like nobody else could understand that I wanted to get out of here not even my own advisor who I thought was like my favorite professor at the time and um it actually turned out for the better he knew what he was doing I didn’t go above him because my mom said to toughen it out for the rest of the semester and on top of all the social stuff, like financial aid, I had a lot of loans and I was like this is not gonna work, but then I applied to be an RA and it got better, so, I guess he’s the reason why I’m here. I gave a speech in um April, April of my junior year at the scholarship day luncheon and um a lot, I actually got recognized by a lot of students and a lot of faculty who appreciated my honesty and said I’m so glad that professor didn’t sign your paper like that made me smile cuz I felt like I was so alone back then and I hated it here and I wanted to leave and my eyes are getting watery because thinking of that time period of my life, like I lost so much weight I was so depressed and thinking like now every time I go somewhere I’m always close to late because I’m very punctual because I’m saying hi to like a million people and all my close friends are like omg you know so many people and I’m like no I don’t I’m friendly. Honestly, I don’t want to degrade your project because I feel the social scene needs a lot of work, I honestly think it was just like the institution and the extracurricular activities that were out there like if I didn’t do the brigade or if I didn’t do common ground if I didn’t get involved with the Black Student Union or OHLAS or the Caribbean club or community service like if I didn’t do any of these things like I probably would have left. So like yeah the social scene needs work but the institution as well but there are things available like you kind of have to take the initiative yourself like this isn’t high school where you’re spoon fed everything and that’s what I was struggling with, like I’ve always been independent but I didn’t know that I had to be even more independent like I had to constantly be fighting for my race, for my gender, for myself in general so just learning that you have to do everything on your own I guess that was a huge turn around for me so..

I would probably shout stop looking at yourself in the mirror stop looking at yourself in the mirror. Yea something like that, something crazy like that, I, I feel like I mean me personally as well, we’re all obsessed with looking a certain way and it’s crazy how much it’s heightened in college you would think people are more mature and open to differences and size which tends to be natural and people don’t understand that, it could be based on genetics, like some people are just curvier than other people some people are just like skinnier than other people I have a friend who eats like twice as much as I do and she’s skinny and she’s skinny! She’s naturally like that, she barely works out she used to do track but still she barely works out and eats whatever she wants and that’s just the way her body works and people don’t understand that and people, guys and girls need to understand you don’t need to drink muscle milk every day you don’t need to like eat salad every day like find the balance, stop looking at yourself in the mirror. I understand
you want to check yourself but it’s ok. If that make sense.

Oh of course ha it’s like an endless struggle, sometimes its hard for me to get up in the morning and think like I’m at a school where I will not send my children to. But hopefully others hopefully people can feel like they can send their children to, so hopefully I’m helping them. It’s really bittersweet, it’s really hard but ha

The other night, the other night I went to the bar and there was this girl who like I don’t recall at all she pulled me aside she was like, ”Hey are you Jen?” and I was like, “Yeah” and she was like, “Not to sound creepy or anything but I remember you from my sophomore year you were in my Women and Gender studies intro class and every time you spoke I just felt like you were so strong and powerful and I thought you were a senior and then I saw you the other day at the hostess thing voting thing and I voted for you and I’m sorry this is really creepy we’re at a bar and I’m just telling you how much I like you and I don’t even know you,” and I’m like, “No no its ok this is so nice like I really appreciate it.” It was so funny like five minutes before that I was telling my friend how much I hate Bucknell because everywhere you go it’s a frat scene and this particular night after the concert Bull Run was packed like as if it was a frat party and I was just like I need to get out of here ha and then two minutes later this girl like makes me smile and I was like ok I need to just shut up eat my words haha so the speech a lot of students were like wow thank you so much for that that can help me today that can help me and I didn’t think my words were that strong like I’ve never, I do think because I want to help others but I don’t do it with the intention like I’m gonna change lives I just do it like a day to day basis and looking back if I were to graduate tomorrow I would be happy.

10. Senior Woman

I’m not gonna lie I chose Bucknell because I really liked the brick ha I think I was just so overwhelmed by everything that I was just like you know I really like the way this looks and feels like very traditional beautiful school. I don’t know I’m very interested in aesthetics and the way things look around me.

Um I think not quite fitting in and being a little bit alternative has been a challenge that there’s um it may not be a majority the Bucknell norm um you know being like beautiful and wealthy and having a certain style but it’s definitely a loud minority you know and so not fitting into that is hard, like I actu… I think I’ve grown from that and discover who I am more through that and like really thought, I’ve been forced to think about who I really am whether that’s the person I really want to be or who I want to be here and so I think that’s helped me develop and reflect on things a lot more yeah, you know what I mean? Because you’re put into this situation where you don’t quite fit in so you don’t just automatically go with the flow you’re constantly questioning which I think is a good thing.
Well I think that there’s a standard look and like I was saying before like I really am interested and pay a lot of attention to the way things look because I think it is very indicative and there are exceptions you know and I am constantly looking for those exceptions there’s a standard look and I don’t want to buy into stereotypes but at the same time it’s there for a reason, but being beautiful and wealthy and having the preppier style and I think, I think it’s the party culture here you know I think you have to party a certain way to be thought of in a certain way. You know? And I think, I don’t know, sometimes I question like well like when I go out and I go out a lot like I am having fun and that’s my goal and sometimes I wonder if other people are out for the same reason, to have fun or to be seen and be seen in a certain light, you know? Sometimes I just wonder what peoples motives are when they’re out, and I don’t doubt that there are a lot of people who go out because its just fun but I also think there’s people who go out, I don’t want to make generalizations, I think there’s exceptions to every rule. Yeah.

Well I never partied in high school, in high school, I didn’t really fit in in my high school either which is like my high school was like very indicative of Bucknell actually um very preppy wow very wealthy kids and I was always alternative, really quiet, really shy, I don’t think anybody even knew who I was in high school um so I had my 5 good girlfriends and to this day they’re still my best friends, we just did stuff together, had so much fun, but we didn’t go out and drink and party we just didn’t feel like we needed that. So my first party here was definitely a culture shock I was with my freshmen hall at a DU register and it was hot and sweaty and there were drunk people making out everywhere and I was just like what is going on what is this um and I was uncomfortable um but at the same time I was like ok I’m here I may as well have fun while I’m here cuz that’s kind of my attitude wherever I go, I may be uncomfortable but whatever I’m here. So, just deal with it. Um so I did and um kind of got into it a little more as the people around me yes I was influenced by them and started to have fun with them but as I think as I’ve grown older here um I go back to those parties that are similar to the ones I encounter that first time and I feel the same way that I did, that I’m like eehh this is slimy and kind of skeezy, just don’t feel comfortable so I’ve kind of reverted back to that and when I go out I like to be with people like my friends, the people I like to be around, more relaxed you know people talking. I think for a lot of people the bar is like their version of what registers were but I also think it’s a maturity thing um that people are done with taking shots and getting wasted and going to registers and making out with whatever happens right there so I think it is a maturity, maturity thing. At least I hope.

I actually had a dream about this last night, yeah, that this like tel… I don’t know maybe it was because I knew today was happening but this television interviewer was interviewing me and asking me, we was like doing a survey on how girls felt about their body image from sophomore year to senior year and I was like ok sophomore year was Greek life and getting involved in that and before coming here and even during my freshmen year I didn’t realize how prevalent Greek life is and in my dream last night I
was like I think it is really destructive to female body consciousness. I don’t know if that’s entirely true because I really love my sorority and I feel so comfortable there and I think that its definitely a very integral part of me coming into my own and feeling comfortable about myself is being around people who feel the same way about themselves and about me, but I think that division of sorority life of Greek life like the pretty girls are in this sorority, these girls are in this sorority and I don’t know like I’ve been very confused about that lately because there are so many exceptions to that so like why are those stereotypes there if there are so many exceptions to that? You know? Also I was having a conversation about this with one of my friends who is in one of the upper tier sororities whatever you want to call it um she was saying she was like I’m jealous of your sorority and I was like what do you mean and she said because you love it so much and the girls love you and you love the girls and I’m jealous that you have that. I guess she doesn’t feel that way in her sorority that she’s not as, she’s like a weird girl like me, ha, she’s like very out there and like very different and I guess she doesn’t feel as, she was telling me how lucky I am and that’s true but when I go places and people ask me what I am and I say oh I’m in this sorority and their reaction is either like oh like I wouldn’t have guessed that like you’re too cool or whatever to be in that sorority and I’m really offended by that or they’ll have the opposite reaction where they’re like oh you’re in that sorority. Really. But like I feel if I’m going out there shouldn’t I be giving a good name to my sorority instead of my sorority giving me a name? So I think that’s the aspect of Greek life that bothers me the most, it’s that you’re not going out there representing your sorority, your sorority is representing you. And I don’t know how to break that barrier but I’d like to somehow because I don’t think the answer is getting rid of Greek life I mean it gives girls a lot but somehow altering that that individual versus sorority perceptions you know, seeing people for who they are rather than being like oh they’re in that organization they must you know? I don’t know how to articulate that well. And I think that um I think most people focus on the drinking culture and um you know the hook up culture and girls being caddy with each other but not all so much on individuality, which is the thing I think I’m most concerned with. Like my, my friends from home go to all different types of schools and they’re drinking cultures and hook up cultures are pretty much at any college you go to whether they have Greek life or not I don’t think, you know it may be different with Greek life but I think like individuality is the biggest thing for me. Yeah. I don’t know to word it ha it didn’t’ sound very articulate.

As many like qualms as I have about being here I think everybody as whether they fit into the stereotype or not I think everybody questions that but the thing that I like about Bucknell is that everybody is a Bucknellian and when you go out into the world and you meet other Bucknellians you bond over that you know, it’s not like which sorority or fraternity you were in or whether you were an engineer or not um you just bond over being a Bucknellian no yea I definitely consider myself a Bucknellian. Yea I like that.

I think it was coming back from being abroad I met a lot of people, I was only abroad in
the summer but still coming back this fall um again it was like the brick and the colors and that feeling of being physically here that sunk in with me you know? The moment I came back and like seeing the people that I love so much like we were gone for a while and I was far away from them but it’s like nothing ever changed between the time we were apart. So it’s not like a particular moment that I have, it’s more just like the feeling that I get you know when you’re with you’re people, your group. And it’s like no time has passed at all. And the fall, the fall, yeah, it’s so beautiful. Yea the colors the smell the feeling you know how it smells a certain way? Yea yea. Like that little, that cold, I mean I hate hot weather ha so I like really like it when it’s cold and 7th street. I like live here. I’ve known so many people in this one place. I was actually thinking about this last night about like my time spent here has been I think a big part of being a Bucknell which is so silly it’s like a café ok but I spend a lot of time here and I’ve gotten to know a lot of people here yea like my friend um, did you know Pam? She was my really good friend and um and I got to know her through my big. My best memories of Pam are here um which you think like it would make me not want to be back here but this place just like has pam in it cuz I know it was a big part of her, a big part of her Bucknell life. Like my other friend, Weston always here with him and we don’t really cross paths too much outside of here but this is our place, I don’t know I love it haha yea.

Um…yeya I think there’s a part of me when I’m at those parties when I’m like what are these people doing? We’re too good for this like making out with randos or embarrassing ourselves so I think there’s a part of me that feel embarrassed there I can’t really judge because I’ve partaken in all of that but I guess its different when you grown older and step back also I’m taking this class right now, it’s a history class about poverty and punishment and it’s a really serious topic and it’s really interesting but there are a lot of people in my class who just are so rude to the professor and don’t take the class seriously at all are on their cell phones all the time um like most of their contributions to the class are snide like joking remarks like not being not that pertain to this class or anything intellectual um that surprised me and these are mostly seniors and that surprised me and embarrassed me um because I feel like one thing that bothers me and our ability to think in different ways and to really advance ourselves emotionally and intellectually into what we study and what we do and how we think and so I guess I felt a little disappointed that there are Bucknellians who don’t take that on because being here is such a privilege you know like if you’re not going to truly invest yourself into what you’re doing whether it is academic or social or creative or anything then why do it? I was just disappointed and embarrassed in that class.

Um…hard. Wouldn’t you say so? There’s so many pressures for both sexes, I says sexes not genders to be a certain way I think body image is the biggest thing on my mind, I struggled a lot with it um and being here as much as it’s made me grow up like I’ve actually like learned to deal with my situation for the better but it’s been it’s been a struggle because everybody here, not everybody, I shouldn’t make generalizations like that but a lot of the women here are just so beautiful the perfect body, perfect hair, perfect
walk, they talk perfectly and just like that’s hard to be around when you are alternative and have a different body type and ugh in England this summer or when I go back home and I’m out of the bubble the world doesn’t look like that so much you know there is more variety and I had a um my roommate friend visited, he’s Australian, and he one of the first thing he said we were like walking outside to go to the Caf or something and he said this school is so beautiful and I was like yea I know hah the brick! I go back to the brick ha the brick! And he’s like no I mean the people, they are beautiful. And it was funny hearing somebody who’s never been here before say that. My grandma and grandfather came to visit last spring and he said the same thing about the people being so beautiful you know and and it’s true and and that’s like while that’s something I think this school takes pride in it’s also hard. There’s definitely an ideal of beauty that not everybody lives up to, even here you know and when you’re that person that you know doesn’t live up to that its hard, I mean bring it back to being a woman I, I feel like women are judged by other by men you know like at a party but also by other women and I’m I’m not gonna say I don’t do the same thing um because I think judging is just part of being a person you know, so I don’t exempt myself from that um but, but like being in that situation when I’m feeling judged I think I have more open minded understanding on judgment but yea so so that’s hard to body and how it dives into the hook up culture is difficult.

Like my body image image issues? No no no I don’t mind telling you. Um well I have OCD um and it manifests itself in a lot of different ways um but it’s mostly just in here (points to head), my mind is like the wheel that just keeps turning my body and my body image frustrations about it are like always on the wheel so whether they’re on the forefront of my mind or the back of my mind they’ve always been on my mind and like I like the way my um therapist explained it to me which I, I hate saying it because it sounds like I’m making it up but she’s like mentally you’re anorexic the way you think about the way you look at yourself in the mirror but it doesn’t manifest itself physically for whatever reason, and that’s been a really frustrating thing is the disconnection between the two cuz they’re like I just wish I would manifest itself physically but no matter how hard I try it just doesn’t and I know that’s wrong ha like I know cognitively that it’s unhealthy and wrong but just the physical part um and the mental part so its yea so its mostly like a mental thing um but I think it’s gotten a lot better compared to here because of the people I choose to surround myself with are a really positive influence on me m and maybe its just part of growing up and finding who I am spiritually, um and emotionally that’s helped me in sort of coming into my own um also one thing that’s really helped me a lot, I’ve always, and you’ve noticed we’ve talked about it but I’ve always been very into dress and fashion um and like what I choose to wear and I think that’s something that’s helped me like if I’m wearing something that I’m really in love with then I just feel that much better about myself. I think it’s also ugh a like hiding mechanism in a sense too though, I think that’s how it started if I’m wearing something awesome aha then people will notice just that I’m like really fashionable and wearing something awesome versus my body and what’s
underneath it, but as that has developed I also like use so like at first I think I would use fashion to hide myself whereas now I find myself much more using it to express myself and to be comfortable with myself and I think that that’s shown as, like my fashion has definitely changed yea yea I don’t know so like my fashion has gone through that mental evolution haha yea. Yea I don’t know I think like I think a lot I’m very introverted which you might not guess um but I’m just very internally open minded and a part of that wheel like is always thinking, I don’t know if I’m aware of it this myself not all the time, but I definitely think about things a lot.

Yea and I love it and and you know I don’t want to leave, I’m sad to graduate and I love it here, I do I’ve like come to love the fact that I don’t quite fit in cuz I think that like I don’t fit in but I’m at Bucknell too and we’re all different and we’re all here I like voicing that but um I think that everything’s meant to be and like the way I see things like everything that happens is a consequence of something else that’s happened, and I don’t mean consequence as a bad thing I just mean like reaction and um it’s all cyclical um yes I believe I was definitely meant to be here and sometimes I think I know why which is to leave my impression on Bucknell or to develop who I am or to touch somebody else’s life and other times I’m I’m like well I have no idea and I just don’t know that’s alright you know? Maybe I’m just not supposed… I don’t think that we can know everything about why we are where we are but I definitely feel like I’m meant to be here I’m definitely connected despite all my complaints haha yea but I think like voicing those complaints and talking is one of the best mechanisms to change um and for, I always like hearing people say they like Bucknell because if we don’t voice or complaints or the positive things than how do we know, then you think you’re alone when you talk to other people there are a lot of people here who feel the same way…um… I think I did in the beginning I think I felt like I was one of the only ones who was different but but I think as I talk more and more with different people I learn that I’m not and that’s why I think talking is such a great tool, I think talking can change a person, or listening can change a person that’s why I think your project, that’s why I’m so in tune with this cuz it’s about talking and listening as a tool yea um which I think is really really cool and really important.

Tina: I guess I feel like kind of alone, I don’t know where to go with all this stuff I’m hearing people are kind of like putting pressure on me they’re like “well you’re doing this project so like what’s gonna change? Like nothing’s gonna change you know what I mean? And some days like and maybe its like theatre people because we’re used to having a final product you know what I mean, but there is no like endpoint to change, you know what I mean, there’s no, so it’s just frustrating to think like nothing may work and that’s ok and that is just as valid and something changing you know what I mean, and all it may be is like one person having a conversation with somebody and that might be like enough for this whole project, right?

I was talking about that cyclical motion, like I really believe in that like everything is always evolving so you’re never getting an end product but that’s not the point. Um I
read this philosopher Albert Campus and he said something like um it’s not about the end goal its about the means and you’re gonna live a much more fulfilled life if you treat each means as the end goal. Yea. And so the point, not the point to say that every single moment in life we have to enjoy because that’s just not realistic there are things we do we do not enjoy but more to say that each thing you do fulfills you in some way and it can be a very small way or a very grandiose way but you should never be doing something to get to this point that’s way far off, you know you should be doing these things cuz you like doing these things and if you get to that endpoint then you should like doing that too. I really jived with that and that’s what I really believe and that’s why I really like being at Bucknell I do have an end goal for what I want to do in mind but for right now it’s about being here and being fulfilled by what I’m doing whether it’s really hard and tiring and stressful or like having so much fun and awesome.

Tina: It’s easy to be like oh the product is the process its so easy to say that and other days…

B: Or to be like when I get here it will all be done and I’ll be older, when I get here but to me, that’s not what it’s about, it’s about right now.

Tina: That just filled me with like serious hope. I so needed to hear that today.

B: I think that’s why I jived with that too.

Tina: It takes the pressure off of getting somewhere too.

B: Yea! Right? Exactly. So enjoy this process and whatever it comes out to be, whether it impacts one person or a bunch of people or the whole campus like that’s it is what it is, it’s meant to do and that’s enough, yea having to impact ne person I think is a pretty incredible thing because I think that person will influence somebody else.

B: Like I said I think talking, talking and listening is, is one of the most amazing things. Cool.

B: At one point I believe you asked me what it was I like about, love about, connect, why I connect with it, why I am a Bucknellian and I think it’s discussions like this where they’re, they’re like meaningful, intellectual emotional and spiritual outside of the classroom, like so much in the classroom too like I, I loved the classes I’ve taken here but it carries on outside and it’s stuff like this, I mentioned my friend Weston earlier we have discussions like this all the time and there are other people too that you know that these conversations take on this sort of weight to them but in a really satisfying way you know where it’s candid and open but intellectually stimulating and I like that people here want that and are driven by that in day to day life. I mean, I don’t think every interaction you have with people has to be this stimulating and I don’t think it should be cuz that would
just be a lot haha, but I think when you do have those moments and they happen often enough here to feel connected yea.

**11. Junior Man**

Everyday every day is a challenge for me at Bucknell not in a bad way though it is Bucknell is built in a way that is for me it promotes it promotes like an anti-community and so I wake up every day and try to promote actual community which I know probably sounds pretentious cuz who am I but I really believe that and I believe that there are people there’s there’s great people here and there’s great teachers here so a challenge for me every day is getting through all the bullshit and trying to bring people together and trying to do something that’s like worth our time and worth our brilliance as young people.

Well I don’t think I remember my first party um first party I probably went to try a frat, you know what though that was probably one of the first things I did here, go to a register and um it was cool um I remember thinking right from the start, well at the start it was just amazing to have so many faces that I didn’t know, um I was really into that and it was great to just drink very heavily and be in this kind of safe zone where I knew I was going to be okay, like I could I could get as hammered as I could , like and ugh I knew that I would somehow make it home and I knew that even you know and I was throwing up and shit I like that there was going to be a bathroom somewhere near it was him way safe because like I said I’m from New York and ugh if in New York you go out every day you’re risking something you know? Every night and you go out there’s like a risk there where you might not actually make it home or you might or something might happen um it’s very real here it’s just like a playground like I was like my freshman year it was like a playground every day I could jump from place to place and ugh yeah it was really fun it was really fun I always liked the first the beginning stages when you come into a new scene the most interesting to me always because um I can kind of develop who I like develop my role my way so I was so freshman year was the most fun like going to those first parties all these girls everywhere unlike it was so open-ended you know? You just didn’t know what was going to happen and it was just a challenge to because you know freshman guys don’t get in to parties apparently as soon as I heard that I was like that’s bullshit you know? Not bullshit in the sense that that’s wrong that actually wasn’t the first thing I thought of the first thing that I thought was that I um I’m gonna prove that wrong and like everyone should and that and like we all can get the parties and then like it became like ugh like all the freshmen guys were playing like this one ugh this game, like who could, who could this is really what it was, who, like what other freshmen guy am I gonna see when I get in somewhere where no one else can get in you know because you know that’s that guy’s on my level. I was like breaking down like this whole thing I wanted to like conquer it sort of.
What I have to do um it more for me about not fitting into much because I don’t agree with the current in general so. Well not much it’s pretty easy you just have to join the frat system, you have to keep your head above water in your academics and ugh you just can’t be a burden on anyone you know? And ugh if you do the things you’ll be fine. Um well I didn’t want to do any of those things are I (laugh) I guess I was into it my freshman year because they didn’t have any way of defining me. They didn’t want to put me in the system and that’s why I could run with it, but when it became something where I was either in or out and some people wanted me in I was always gonna be out cuz I can’t do that type of stuff so what was what was the question? I guess I try to make it so that I’m someone who who for some reason is allowed to, to be the people can be ugh… people and yea is so that’s how I try like an exception in every place that’s how I see what’s going on around here or you know and people ugh invite me to a lot of random stuff so it’s it’s almost like because of how I feel about Bucknell I need to be the expert I need to be everywhere in all these places you know I go to like mixers and shit now and like you know just places huh places by regular standards I shouldn’t really be or like people don’t think that at least that an independent let alone like you know if you’re in a particular frat where you can go and where you can’t go things like that.

I think people need to understand how much fear happens around here, how how scared people are because the whole the whole model of Bucknell works in a way of offering security they offer you a piece of paper that will supposed to somehow secure you a trajectory into the real world and they offer you all these nice things and all this food and all these nice social establishments and call it Greek life, you know the Greek life is the same way they offer all this ability and those things, those fears that people have are what drive them to participate, it’s not the joy of life that that drives people to participate in things like that, it’s the fear what life could be if we fail. Um and that’s really sad because sad because we are very capable and there’s so much we could be doing but because we’re afraid we subscribe to systems that you know, maybe they have pros and cons and we can identify the pros and cons but in the end we always are just gonna keep joining. If you go about it that way if you search in life in general and that’s what school is supposed to teach you about if you go about it in a way where you search for security out of fear you end up never actually being safe first of all because you put your security and other people’s hands you also end up without any of the highs of life I mean you search for some sort of middle ground that you can be sure of the allusion that you can be sure of that but you really can’t so if you just let go of that you’re gonna fall really hard sometimes and then things are going to go differently other times you know and that’s really incredible to be afraid would be okay with that fear and not trying to mask that fear um that’s the point the whole point you know and when you look at people around here with their nice you know the perfections that they pursue and their
smooth skin you realize that ugh that people are very………people are very stunted because they’re not allowed to be wrong around here you know if you don’t join a frat you may not get all the pussy that you want you may not get all the friends that you want and you can’t be wrong you know you can’t fuck up that’s the attitude around here so you join a frat…yeya yea that’s just what’s bad about it, it’s the opposite of what we should be learning, and and you know people say things like people say things like this is my 20’s I want to party and I want to do that because this is supposed to be the time of our lives you know and later on is that safe secure shit where I settle down but people aren’t being crazy here people are being very safe and pathetic you know, there there doing the same shit over and over again and their making friends in the same ways over and over again and they’re finding the hookup in the same ways over and over again and if you what they don’t realize what people don’t realize is that they already have settled down, they forgot to live, they never did that stage um they they’re not acting like 20 year olds they’re acting like 40 year olds who have already settled into a career and they’re calling it like the crazy life ugh its just what they do, no every I don’t have a story in particular its just like its just really is like an every day thing and I mean part of it is because they the role that I make myself play here is people reveal themselves very readily to me because they can’t help it, I know what you think of me because you have to have an opinion of me I’m inside and I’m with your people you have to have an opinion of me whatever it is because the people who are with it what I’m doing they embrace it and they tell me and the people who aren’t its just so obvious so my, the reason why I know how afraid people are is because how they deal with me, when I show up ugh because I pose a threat to their system, I can walk into your frat house even at 12 in the afternoon and eat your food I can do that at like 60% of the frats here and I do because I get off to that shit I like to see like and people don’t know how to react you know? And its obvious people are worried the sacrifices they made for that frat don’t actually mean anything you see it when people kick people out of a frat for a party when people are discriminating who they are going to let in you see the fear because the fear of that kid that kid who’s trying to walk in might actually be more endearing than you are and that kid might actually be more fun to hang out with then you are all so you know so you gotta protect your territory, why else would you kick someone out of a party? It doesn’t serve any purpose other to absolve the fear of what that person might do or that person might take your spot somehow that you feel that you’ve earned.

The first one is a kid I met at a register who who was a nice kid who was a freshmen it was the first couple weeks of school and um he came out to the backyard crying, clearly, or on the verge of tears and I gave him a cigarette and I asked him what was going on and he kind of tried to avoid it but sort of drunkenly let out somehow brothers were being mean to him and that they had maybe pulled him off a girl or something and kind of just let out in abbreviated statements that he had been, like he had lost confidence you know like coming into school he thought he was a good looking guy when he came here and things like that and now he doesn’t and um yea I mean I went through stuff like that my freshmen year there were times when you know, I’m like a skinny guy on a beefed up
campus so that was ugh hard to come to terms with you know so I know I know how he feels to come here and have kind of bash your self esteem or whatever to have people be a dick to you so I try to be cool to him um and just tell him and I turned to him and said this is important you know I looked at him in his eyes and just prayed that he wasn’t too drunk to remember this moment cuz you know a moment where he might actually find himself high enough on the mountain to see the disaster you know and not join it so so I told him this is really important that you went through this and you should never forget that this happened because it’s so easy to people always forget the bullshit they went through when they joined a frat, but he didn’t he didn’t remember at all. I saw him a couple hours later and he didn’t remember um that was really sad.

The number one thing that does it for me is the way girls dress here. Because I know that seems shallow to say um but just seeing women dress the way they do here as relative to New York City is like one of the most painful things cuz they’re so beautiful, some of these women her are so, all, all of them, most of them are so beautiful so few of them actually tailor the way they dress and the way they walk and the way they talk to themselves you know to their actual beauty that’s only theirs they there’s just like so many girls just doing this one particular thing and imagine what this place would look like if they felt comfortable enough here to be themselves just dress how they would dress do, talk how they want to talk, imagine if women and men hung out with each other like freshmen year halls, imagine what that would do for the self esteem of women here, imagine what that would do for men understanding how to respect a woman and how to care for a woman you know you learn that really from doing it but also from being friends with with girls, knowing what they go through and it’s a system that encourages us to stay separate which ends up ultimately with one, one of the two sexes being the victim of the other if we stay separate and in this case that’s the women its wrong um its sad that they huh the whole thing is sad so sad like yeah. It reminds me of like when you study in class like Chinese women in the medieval era would put their feet in like foot binding shoes so they would be inhumanly small so that they would force them to walk a certain way, that’s what it looks like.

Yea, its hard to explain, I want to be a music...I want to be an artist and I want to be a composer and this is this is just like the greatest laboratory because these are exactly exactly if you believe in art these are the people that need it and if you believe in like that’s it and because I’m I’m in a place where no one fucking understands what I’m doing half of the time and um its I feel like some sort of boot camp like if I can reach these people then I will be able to reach anyone anyone you know? Imagine you know if I can affect the kids on Bucknell imagine what I can do for people that actually give a shit and for people that actually want to be with me you know like what a soldier I could be if I could just figure this out. So yea I’m happy here in a really weird way even though it sucks its like its like ugh fitness or something I guess I’m happy cuz its right not because I want to be here.
I would definitely say something. Um what would I say, I would say um...huh.......I would say I think we should all...um..I think we should all take a shit on the academic quad all at one time, and not out of disrespect to Bucknell but because I think that would do a lot for our community if we all shat together once cuz that’s I you know that’s shits like you can’t you can’t fake that at all you know you really gotta be you’re dirty self, that would be great, I’d take a shit in front of everyone on this campus (laugh) yea I think people just need to be more real with each other you know I think people just should realize that they’re saving can actually be in their hands in a positive way you know you don’t have to be afraid to live life the way you want to live it you can actually do that.

What I believe, I have hope for Bucknell in a sense that I believe in the people that are here fighting, fighting the good fight so to speak, those people are going through something that you just can’t describe to people and like I have so many friends in New York City so many incredible artists and musicians that are all already doing their thing and succeeding in so many ways in new york city but none of them, none of them have this thing, none of them have seen any type of shit like this ever and the reason that I have hope for Bucknell is because this happened like this coincidence happened that created this incredible microcosm where people like me can happen somehow and can actually see the shit for what it is and ugh learn about it, study it kind of so that’s that’s why, I think there’s gonna be people like me and people like the people I see more importantly like me ugh people some of the people I see around here and what they’re doing and I think there’s gonna be more people like them and I think what they’re doing is incredible like to come from here, that’s another thing I’ve noticed like the position of the women here on campus has resulted in what I call the Emily Dickinson effect which is these incredible beautiful talented women going up and being clearly more free and creative than any of the men can be and it’s because the way the system is for the men its easy and for the women its hard and to be in that position much like the position I’m in at Bucknell, fosters something in an artist, it fosters some kind of fire that needs to breathe and and ugh that’s the Emily Dickinson effect. If you know anything about Emily Dickinson haha um man yea that’s one of the coolest ways in which I see hop Bucknell the women have shown up and just have blown minds because they don’t give a shit because from the start they were never going to fit in to what was going on they could not care less, it’s incredible.

Right but it’s youre doing it and that is already happening, you can celebrate in your own good news you know? Its already happening, just keep doing it, I’m serious I’m building an army Tina. Haha

Tina: Hows it going?

It’s going well, going well. I really just like this year every door has opened for me its crazy crazy so sophomore year is totally paying off I had to do my own thing for so long,
everyone like disappeared I just had this like awesome all access pass I didn’t make any enemies just chilling, just chillin.

12. Senior Woman

Thought it was my senior year, I was with my Posse and we visited in April um, it was just wow is this where I’m going to school? And all the flags and the lamp posts it was like oh this is so great, it was very magical, very magical, Bucknell does a good job of making it look very spectacular not that it isn’t yeah yeah very spectacular looking.

I think it was Bucknell’s way of misleading students again when, when we visited we were hanging out with all the posse kids so it made me feel like Bucknell was more diverse, hanging out with all of these posse students like I figured that would be a daily occurrence in my life, take your freshman year, and I was like where’d everybody go I was very not that I was lost like I feel like I’ve been very independent since a very young age so wasn’t hard for me to you know go make friends and do what I needed to do but I know a lot of people that struggled because they were they were kind of misled because they thought that there were all these people here to support them and then they came here freshman year and we’re like I’m kind of on my own. Which was, I mean I was able to overcome it and I think things have changed since then I’ve do you like students have less of that problem that I still see students today that come here there’s no one for them to turn to initially and they kind of have to not only feel comfortable as a student in academics but also try to find their place. Sure but still isn’t that diverse but at least they have some sort of diverse feel yet freshman year was like woah hahaha talking to them a lot of them don’t understand and they can’t really try to imagine what it would have felt like as a freshman my year which I mean I’m glad they don’t have to experience that it was kind of lonely but I had my posse and I had my freshman all so it made things easier. I think it was just it was just the atmosphere that was presented when I visited just wasn’t there when I got here I remember one of the first phone calls to my mom just like mom I don’t know what happened I mean like I my freshman year was overall a good year but still just coming here under I don’t want to say false pretenses but that’s what it felt like. Um yea that’s one thing I think Bucknell really needs to work on.

I think there’s two sides to the story for me to fit into Bucknell I kind of had to find my niche so for me that was doing things like going to the gathering and joining BSU like that pro active social organizations on campus but for some people it’s like joining a sorority or doing something like that I mean I’m not in Greek life which is surprising to some people at I don’t know why, but I feel like some people they have to be themselves to fit in but I feel like a lot of people tried to be like someone else in order to fit it but for me personally I was just my self honestly if you don’t want to be my friend and not your problem not mine um but yea I feel like a lot of people either change themselves or try to be someone they’re not in order to fit in to the Bucknell bubble. Actually one of the girls I work with she just joined a sorority and I was like oh how do you like it and she was
like well I really just joined so I could go into the parties ants you know my friends were doing it so I decided to do it to and I am like thinking like sororities should be about sisterhood and things like that like you’re just joining so you can be with your friends and get into frat parties and I guess I mean that’s kind of the thing that happens at Bucknell you want to make sure you can get into the fun registers and drink with your friends and stuff like that of feel like so many people focus on Greek life and I mean it is large but it doesn’t have to be as waaaah but I mean the only way to describe that there is no words I really have any problems with Greek life I feel like certain individuals in Greek life ruin Greek life for other people by their actions um cuz I know a lot of people in Greek life that are really awesome really awesome people that are involved on campus they’re not super crazy they’re not doing stupid crap like hazing and all that mumbo jumbo yea. Yea I’m one of those people that’s okay with Greek life I mean if you pour a beer on me and if you don’t say you’re sorry that’s when I want to punch you in the face.

I feel like everything so open. I feel like there are a lot of things that are discussed like the hookup culture, Greek life drinking drug problems like I’m trying to think a secret hmm. I feel like… a secret is like a lot of seniors that I’ve talked to especially girls that are in Greek life don’t like it. Like by senior year it just kind of tired of doing it I feel like if a lot of the freshman girls that I know like did not consider Greek life before coming to Bucknell knew that like by senior year your kind of over it there’s not much to it then maybe they wouldn’t be so like determined like it’s not that it’s all cracked up to be which I mean maybe obvious for some people but for some people they think it’s like a dream and a lot of people are just kind of over now that’s that which I mean yay for you if you think that if you don’t I don’t know I think it also depends who’s in your sorority and then those stereotypes that are associated with that sorority

I remember in my feminist philosophy class we talked about some incident I think it was like a register party or somebody’s party where some girl like basically like got brought upstairs and was sexually assaulted and literally people were there in the party just like watching this girl be dragged upstairs and nobody said anything. I think for me that was just an all time frustration like Bucknell’s campus and its just like complete ignorance of the reality of what’s going on and just like stories of like people who’s friends have been sexually assaulted or raped and they’re like well don’t say anything because you don’t want to make that person’s life more worse than it already is like I’m just like so many people can just shove things under the rug and just pretend like something’s not happening just for the sake of keeping everything like cool or having a good time. It’s so frustrating. Like why wouldn’t you say something? I just don’t understand why Bucknellians are so ok with just letting everything go. Just being like oh its fine its whatever, it happens, like when, our campus is like 1 in 3 which is higher than the national statistic and people are just like oh whatever she’s wearing a short skirt, she deserves it, things like that, there are nights like those where I’m just like I don’t, I don’t get it, like if I was in that setting I would have tried to do something if I’d known what was going on but there are some people who just who just watch it happen and just not
say anything, and its those nights that I just remember and I’m like this campus, there’s something wrong with this campus, something completely wrong. I don’t know why.

Yes um last fall we brought Dr. Lawrence Ross and h and h, national, NPHC speaker for black Greek like month we tried to put on with the BSU and um he spoke and granted his dialogue with the audience wasn’t very organized and it did run over time but literally with in the first two min. he started speaking people were just coughing and like at first I was like well maybe people are sick but then it just got to the point where it was just blatant like these people were blatantly coughing and being disrespectful throughout the whole entire speech and literally at one point I just had to leave and I just like call my mom and I just started crying and I was so upset because people these people were getting a P for P it wasn’t like they were sitting there for no reason they were getting something out of it and granted you have to take what this man says you can take it with a grain of salt move on with your day like you don’t have to care were trying to educate students because there are black Greek life organizations that are on campus that are for the most part aren’t really known about or people don’t know much about it or the tradition or anything like that so it was just I was just baffled at how rude people were for no reason it wasn’t like this man was out rightly offending anybody he was just explaining a history of a tradition that happens to be at Bucknell and students were being so inconsiderate and I was so upset and at that moment I was just like why did I come here like what how are these people my fellow classmates and my friends it was just mind blowing and then at the end of the event someone actually no I was outside on the phone with my mom a couple of girls left the lecture listening to my conversation with my mom and I was just like I’m getting tried to make sure this P for P is like rescinded I don’t care like these people don’t deserve anything from us we were just trying to educate the campus community and they couldn’t even respect the Speaker for an hour well it is actually for two hours which was awful but I just couldn’t understand these girls like oh my God she’s getting our p4p taken away and I was just thinking like are you kidding me like and then to talk to people about it they were just like oh they must’ve been sick like defending people’s actions when they were just out right being ridiculous I was just like wow it was a sad day sad day for Bucknell I just did not understand cuz I would never do something like that even if I didn’t understand or I didn’t appreciate or I disagreed I would sit there and take it or kindly excuse myself if I got to a point where I was fed up and just needed to go I wouldn’t sit there and cough throughout the entire lecture from beginning to end me afterwards there were few groups that were very respectful and stayed throughout the whole discussion even the question-and-answer section and were just very polite which made me feel a little bit better that there were students in the audience that actually like gave a shit but for the most part I was just like woah, wow yea.

I guess when it comes to like the frat scene, or some sort of party scene where the men feel like they’re able to do whatever and however as they please I think that’s annoying that guys can just be like “oh let me try to make out with you right now” just like no um
if you asked me maybe but first, no. I think that’s difficult and I think that some girls think that as a woman they should just do whatever it takes to just you know keep everybody happy which may even be ignoring the fact that there are women and they have a voice so they just let the guy do whatever they want which is unfortunate cuz but I don’t feel like I have a problem being a woman on this campus at all which I’m happy about.

Try to be yourself as much as possible which I know it might be frightening to know people might think know that you sleep with a night light at night cuz you’re afraid of the dark things like that that you don’t think are cool but there will be someone who either sleeps with and I like too or can appreciate the fact that you sleep with a nightlight I don’t know what I they get it college is hard it’s a new start where you can create a new persona where nobody knows you unless you’re one of those individuals that comes from a school that constantly has people coming from your school so but um try to be yourself cuz at the end of the day all you have is yourself and if you’re trying to be someone else you may not even like yourself at the end of the day if you can’t even have yourself, what are you gonna do? You got no one. Um so yea if you’re yourself you can at least find one person that will appreciate you I like to think more than that but at least one person um cuz when you graduate like when I’m graduating next semester which is really frightening I want to be able to say like I was myself and I was able to make it.

I think Bucknell does a good job of making a bubble. Do I appreciate the bubble? Yes and no. Maybe I do know the bubble is very comfortable but it’s hard cuz like being a minority in Lewisburg Pennsylvania it’s a very interesting lifestyle like going to the Wal-Mart or the Dollar tree or like Perkins I feel like I’m a circus freak and like I’ve become accustomed to it my mom actually visited she visited twice the semester cuz she dropped me off and for family weekend freshman year it was different because it was my first year here so I didn’t really know but just telling her about it she could like pick up on people just blatantly staring like my mom actually almost fought a woman in Dollar tree because this woman and I guess her family were in the same aisle as us and this woman was blatantly awkwardly staring not like the type of stare where someone is lost in space and they’re kind of just they just happened to be looking in your direction she was just blatantly looking at me with this awkward grin like I don’t it was very uncomfortable um but I didn’t even notice because at this point in time I like don’t make eye contact with anybody outside of campus it’s very uncomfortable because I don’t know how comfortable people are and I don’t want them and I don’t want to look at them and have them look at me and me make it awkward face and then trying to think that I’m saying something with my face I don’t know my face says a lot I don’t even know what it’s saying so it can get means trouble um my mom was like I’m going to punch this woman in the face if she doesn’t stop fucking looking at you and I was like what like what is going on I looked and I was like oh she was like what are these people’s problems and I was like mom were in central Pennsylvania this is very rural Pennsylvania we went to Perkins and this guy my mom gave him a dirty look and I was like why she was like he
was just looking thing is also when I’m with my mom it’s confusing because my mom is extremely white and I’m not so it’s just kind of like huh? Like what are you doing like who are you how did you get together so yeah I’m me I’m accustomed to it when talking to some of the freshmen like one of the freshmen guys I know is like taking it to heart people don’t sit near me in class blah blah blah like I don’t know if it’s because you’re black or your demeanor or maybe it’s just you’re sitting in an area of class where people just don’t want to sit like you’re sitting next the air conditioner I don’t like sitting next to the air conditioner it’s just cold um and there’s some black students on this campus that are just completely ignorant and I would want to sit near you either he’s one of those people that could potentially be like one of those black ignorant people so yeah I mean it’s not an excuse but just saying I don’t know I’ve become accustomed to it which is kind of sad in itself and I just grown accustomed to people looking at me like I’m a freak or giving me these looks like they want to like shoot me in the face because I make than that uncomfortable when I’m in Wal-Mart I was shopping with my dad I think it was like an electronic section or somewhere or buying socks and this whole family I want to say rednecks cuz that’s just really mean but that’s what they looked like but they were decked out in camo the whole family even the infant was in camo like this was this was a serious family a serious family I think there were like seven of them and they just pushed their cart and they just looked at me you’re just pushing their carts I didn’t know what to do cuz it’s one of those things where like you know these people are staring at you and they don’t like you and you don’t know what their gonna do and you don’t really want to walk away because why would you walk away from that situation like I’m here at Wal-Mart you’re here Wal-Mart and we don’t have to look at each other, I was like dad I gotta go but I just hung up the phone I was just like I didn’t want to be weird like oh my God high that would be really how people would take that kind of thing it was very comfortable yea. It doesn’t happen on campus I don’t think I’ve had any of that happen on campus they are people just don’t know like black culture or things like that and have questions which I mean I’m fine with or if they say something that could be slightly ignorant but I know they’re not coming from ignorant place just they just don’t know that doesn’t bother me but I don’t think I’ve ever had an interaction with someone who’s just completely not open to diversity at least not to my knowledge but I have had friends who like what my friends supposedly some guys got hacked and started writing on my friend’s wall you like the watermelon, you’re a nigger, niggers are funny, niggers are black it was just ridiculous and then my friend decided to go to this kid’s mod and try to beat the shit out of him but I don’t think that happened it’s hard to believe someone saying like oh my Facebook hacked your Facebook got hacked for like a week and like consistently was just like picking on my friends that’s a bit much so yea there’ve been instances like that that have happened on-campus. I think there is an incident where when my friends was walking on the street it happened on campus but I believe they were um townies were like saying things through the windows at him and I think somebody threw something at him like a piece of food or something like that. So that huh, I know its it’s so weird to think that that’s real life, I just don’t get. There are people like that a lot of people take offense to it but I just I look at it as it’s probably their upbringing and I mean if you’re
racist that your opinion it’s not a fact it’s your opinion it’s my opinion that I’m liberal my opinion that I’m a feminist and I believe in feminist philosophy such a nice take it to heart because I mean attacking the person isn’t going to do anything about it it’s the education that they received underneath that I try to let it roll off my shoulders cuz at the end of the day I’m not that I blame them for something that their grandparents or parents passed down to them that’s not their fault just like it’s not my fault that I’m black like that’s the way I was born exactly yea I just understand why people are like oh you’re black sorry that’s not I didn’t choose it that’s the way I’m made so I just don’t understand when people pick on people as though they chose to be that race or they chose to have that type of hair or they chose to have that type of background nobody chooses who they are that’s just the way they are why are you gonna hate on someone because that’s the way they were made? Like that doesn’t make sense to me. I feel like it’s fairly simple this person is black because they had two black parents and they decided to have a baby I mean if they came out white that’d be a little strange um so yeah I just don’t I don’t know I don’t blame people for being racist it’s just passed down if I blame them for being racist it’s making it okay for them to blame me for being black or having parents that aren’t the same race or something like that very stupid, stupid.

I think Bucknell’s a great place at the end of the day when I graduate I think I’m to leave on a high note like I definitely have troubles but coming to Bucknell was a big step for me especially coming from like a city where it’s very diverse a lot of my friends from diverse backgrounds from Puerto Rico from LA from England so difference then coming here it’s just like when did I go? There’s lots of corn for one thing yea I definitely think if I had stayed at home and gone to a university at home out that I would’ve had the same experience so I’m glad I came here and all the amazing people I’ve met some of the not so amazing people that I met that made me start thinking about different things in life that I never thought about before like if someone honestly just time not to see any good in coming to Bucknell than maybe they just had a really shitty experience I feel like there’s always a positive to negative like yeah going to Wal-Mart and being looked at like a circus freak it’s sucks but you know what it makes you realize there are people that are just unfortunately brought up that way it’s not okay for you to not like those people not their fault so things like that I always see a positive to negative so when I graduate I’m gonna be like yeah I had some shitty times at Bucknell but look at me I got a Bucknell degree now in-your-face like it all works out in the end.

13. Junior Woman

The first time I walked on Bucknell’s campus um I didn’t really know that it was a party school or that it was really um I mean I knew that it was a very like social campus but I didn’t know that it was so much of a party school until I started going to registers my freshmen year um…My first register, I think it was probably one of the fraternities um walking in I’ve never I’ve never seen so many people in like such a small enclosed place like such an uncomfortable place where so many people were like trying to make
themselves comfortable. I mean like the environment itself is like dark, it’s really noisy, it’s really really hot, like those 3 things normally you find in a comfortable situation um and I don’t know its just an uncomfortable setting um…I mean freshmen year is full of mistakes I mean you watch the movies and what you think um goes on to get into frat parties and everything and I mean I know that I thought that everyone would just get in and that is not the case, trying to get guys in, I’m trying to think of freshmen year stories. I mean, we were like drunk messes all the time um I remember the night last, or my freshmen year Halloween there’s like 2 nights of partying on Halloween and the first night we made it out in costume and the second night which was actually Halloween we were very much drunk and we were able to take a bunch of pictures but then we like did not make it out that night um that was the first night that we found out that you shouldn’t mix alcohol.

Um what else can I think about, I mean, I remember bumping into upper classmen girls upstairs and girls saying like like you’re blacklisted like things like that I remember one time I was upstairs and these girls were like screaming and um and I was like woah don’t need to scream or something and some girl turns to me and is like woah you just pissed off a senior and another girl goes yea you’re so blacklisted right now (laughing) and then, I know…nothing I just told her that she was being loud just a bunch of drunk people.

I feel like freshmen year is a time when you can get away with all of these embarrassing little things and then then sophomore year I think people really see where they want to go and um and they kind of understand the parties that they’re going to, they’re more, they’re more aware of what they’re gonna be doing that night depending on where they’re going um

Secret of Bucknell social scene…well its um I mean I’ll expand on my parents idea um I’ve seen a lot of Alumni come back and I know like the strongest ones are very very social, they definitely were very social when they were here and I see, I see like this I don’t want to say fakeness when they come back and like talk but I know the questions that I’ve gotten from alumni are like oh like is this party still cool does this fraternity still throw the best parties? I’ve gotten all those questions and its kind of um…I see that in the students, sort of, their time here is like…like they’re time here is just like…it’s not like we’re trying to top our parents, I don’t know, I mean we try to act older than we like really are, here. Because, well I, something that I’ve noticed lately is that the guys are rarely as drunk or drunker than the girls I don’t know if that’s a secret though, I mean like I’ve noticed that more and more that they like won’t be drinking or they’ll be like passing it out to a girl um yea I mean maybe they just assume that the girls need it and they don’t I mean I mean they could probably be just as horny with or without the drinks in them so… but girls probably need drinks to loosen up to have fun at a party or leave with a guy.

Um, well the drink is definitely a secret, what they have at like parties is definitely a
secret I’ve experienced a bad time with mixed drinks. Just last year I started to drink mixed drinks and um I was at one party and I was assume I was roofied because there was like 4 hours that I just like had like it was I stepped off their porch and then 4 hours later I snapped to in a really random location luckily people pieced together my night but just snap to at like 4:30 in the morning and be like at that point like if if it scared me like so much and so I assumed I was roofied but no one believed me um and so I don’t know they just said it was the drink but I don’t know it was like weird to me, but I mean I’ve heard a few girls say that they were roofied but girls just like they’re very… unbelieving of that they just assume that you were just like black out which I… I don’t black out I know that like when I do forget massive hours of my night I know that… its usually… something more than that.

Um well I get in a lot of crazy, I end up doing crazy things after, after going out um I tend to like hop to a lot of different places, but some of the best nights are when like I hop to really fun places the funniest times have probably just been sitting out of someone’s porch though rather than actually being in the place, registers to me are no longer really fun, I mean, the few that I’ve been to this year are very packed with freshmen which is totally fine, I mean I like them and I think they’re sweet and so innocent but it’s its so, it’s like, it’s all like the mischief being pulled freshmen year that is everywhere, I mean its fun to dance but there definitely not as fun as they were freshmen year last year, I think it’s because I know people now, so you can’t, the more people you know in the situation the less likely you are to make yourself look like an ass so I think that kinda, and when people leave for the bar its kind of…annoying cuz I can’t but they can.

Um well after one night me and a friend broke into the corn field or up there and we like ran into the construction site and I was very proud to see all the construction going on haha I mean um proud to be a Bucknellian….um well I think it is really funny looking back at the riot videos, have you ever seen the riot video of um its like 2001 or 1998 Bucknell riot video um and I mean like looking downtown downtown is an interesting thing cuz its like a student downtown but I mean like it’s like these kids think they are responsible enough to have like houses and everything but then like it’s just a mess like its just ugh its like people think they are responsible and have a house and that’s a big ego boost but um…its like how they act with it, the leaders of it I don’t know but downtown is like very its very fun in its culture downtown but I don’t know I mean there’s like a lot of heritage of the houses, you can see the wear and tear and like the fact that floors collapse like in some of those houses shows like a lot of people have been in them for many many years.

I’ve never been embarrassed to be a Bucknellian, but definitely embarrassed to be at Bucknell like acting in the way that I had I guess um I mean one time I was I was downtown, it was, I think it was like family weekend last year and parents were like walking out of a house and me and one of my friends walked up and were like I didn’t see them, I didn’t know they were parents so I assumed they were kids coming out of a
party and I was like where are you guys coming from and they’re like ugh our sons house, I was like oh…wait sorry, I was wearing heels like and a shirt or like a skirt way too short to be worn out in public so that was like embarrassing for me but I mean we’re all Bucknellians so that was kind of ok um…a lot of my friends make fun of me for being at Bucknell, they call it Fucknell at home cuz they think that it’s so like preppy and proper, I mean it is preppy but…I think a fun part of the social scene is that being social with people shows that we’re not that preppy because going to these parties can really I mean you see people, yea the image is preppy walking around campus, put together when you’re on campus but it really unravels when you, when you step into a party. And that’s, that’s kind of like, that’s the beauty of like the social scene is you really just get to see people having fun and you get to talk to people that you normally wouldn’t um and just like get to know kind of who they are behind the makeup and the sperries, hunter boots, and I think that the social scene definitely like it makes people less uniform when like alcohol is involved, or when you’re just like comfortable at a party.

I’ve never really…I mean Bucknell is filled with gorgeous gorgeous girls…it kind of…I’ve never really seen prejudice things against women or anti-feminist um things or um but I mean definitely like you definitely have to kind of um I mean you have to dress a little more revealing than you’d be comfortable with I guess like stand out in like a party setting, women compared to men…I…I mean I feel like the things that we’re put through are very different because we, freshmen year we have the power and they don’t and as upper classmen kind of reversal but girls still have the power to like get in and to…it’s it’s like a strange dynamic between men and women on this campus I feel like, it’s artificially set up because…I can’t explain it, but its very like , I mean its almost like the people here like are trying to be congress men and looking for like congress wives and so that’s how I kind of see like people like putting on this façade but then…it’s like different. I think because Bucknell is so small too its like totally possible to know almost everyone, I mean like, I’m trying to think of examples of men and women, I mean like the guys are definitely territorial here, they usually stay at one house or one specific organizations party for the entire night or they will stay with their organizations 24/7 like year round and girls are very, we kind of have the freedom to like go everywhere I guess.

Yes most definitely, I think kind of like I think kind of everyone does to a certain degree feel alone, because no matter how much you have a brotherhood or sisterhood or um or like to have a million friends but I mean like at the end of they day like you’re alone like you can’t get out, like you’re friend can’t get you out of Psafe, only you can get yourself in and out of trouble, people are definitely, I mean its, its…I don’t know. I mean I think definitely to some degree everyone feels alone here. Um…

Um…I think just get along. I mean…I, I don’t know, there’s a lot of drama that tries to be hidden I feel like on this campus like people try and act like they’re not pissed off by something but then 2 seconds later they’ll be really pissed off…people are very high
strung here, I mean we go to a very rigorous school so I understand the stress, we should just all get along, yea.

I’m very happy yea, I mean I think its, I mean I haven’t really experienced any other like school partying, I’ve visited some friends but not really gotten to see what there’s are like um I think a weird part of this campus is people don’t like couples exist on this campus but not to the degree on like other campuses, at other schools people go to parties boyfriend girlfriend together as a couple but here its just... like even if people are couples here, I’ve never heard a guy say that they are in a relationship like actually say that like yea she’s my girlfriend even though like they’re in a relationship on Facebook, but I can’t say it, it’s like the hookup culture I guess it’s um...its it’s very trying to remain no strings attached...but I mean there are so many strings, cuz we are so we are a small campus sort of and like people know what people do... no matter how hard you try to like... no strings attached I guess.

I feel like I’m talking all negatives, I really do, I enjoy going out, I go out usually 2 or 3 times a week, its, its really fun to just like socialize with people, I just like talking meeting people all the time, just seeing what people are into especially with alcohol it lowers peoples nervousness I guess so they can really like get to some interesting topics right away um and I mean in the bar is its own scene that I don’t really know yet but the social scene in general, its fun, its not like, I mean it can get crazy but its not, its not the typical thing that you see in like a movie or something which I’m sure some campuses do get like that but we’re kind of like we’re raging behind curtains, I guess that’s a good way to describe it, it’s almost like everyone is trying to protect themselves, its like everyone thinks they are eventually gonna be a president coming out of this school so I mean like of course every president had tons of fun and got into tons of trouble but I mean….I think people here are very driven to having a good impression a good um, which is a good thing too because its going to make them not mess up their lives with their past um...social scene...that’s just like, that’s some of my view. I mean I think a certain aspect every time I meet a different group of people especially the dynamics, freshmen year is just a mix of everyone, no one is divided up into fraternities or sororities or organizations yet and then really sophomore year kids are really struggling to maintain their freshmen friendships and while being kept at a distance with um separation by other organizations um I see as they’re juniors like that’s like the biggest change I think because they realize the people that they can’t stay really close with from their freshmen connections and then and then they really just become become what they join, I guess junior year, and then senior year no one really cares enough to fit anything, so its kind of like a full circle, going back to freshmen year and um at that point you kind of do whatever, see whoever. How did that start? Ha um

I think…I think I wish I had concrete examples but I mean soberly…I feel like this campus is very like, it’s two sided like outside of a house and inside of a house. Like outside of a house like...its put together-ness, like...people are discreet and then you step
inside that doorway, as long as Psafe isn’t inside, and then people definitely change. I mean it’s it’s not just like walls but its like…its like the walls actually take on a protective role in the social scene, situation…I wish I could…

I think house party too shows a lot because I know there’s one thing where professors are out serving kids um food and the fact that we’re able to be drunk and talking to professors like I’ve talked to so many of my friends that have gone to see professors like while drunk or while extremely hung over and I mean I think that’s kind of the beauty of Bucknell too because I’ve seen people meet with the president of Bucknell drunk and its…it shows their social skills could be very, it shows you can hide a crazy self behind anything even when you are drunk.

I think a lot of people just like reading some of this, I think a lot of people do have a goal to black out, and I don’t know why, that kind of of that really doesn’t make sense to me, I love remembering my nights like like somewhat and I don’t tend to black out but I know a lot of people that do. I think its, maybe it just gives them the excuse to really just be absolutely crazy, and then they can blame it on that and just cover it up with oh but I was black out so its fine, and people take that as an excuse, they totally take that as an excuse. If you were black out then it is acceptable to do poor things I guess?

I want to share more secrets about Bucknell. I mean I hang out a lot upstairs or outside or um usually I get away from the drinking games and stuff because those are usually, when I do play those I’m just standing there drinking, its loud, but I’m just standing there drinking um…but I found when you get someone to a quieter place it can be so much more fun…like I love to get into some guys heads…I mean the girls…I mean this is like such a tricky question….I think a lot of people try and make themselves out to be a lot more social then they are too and that’s kind of like a secret of being cool I guess? um…like a lot of people will say that they’re going to something or say that they went to something even though they didn’t because its it’s more like respectable I guess to be social rather than to be studious um a lot of people I mean will completely be social and then lock on to work and in this case just take Adderall or something and that’s kind of a secret all over a lot of people to take Adderall to stay in school…

The food like um the binging after like the drunk eating I guess it’s huge a secret, girls will not admit that they just ordered Doms like that’s like off the table but I know I mean I lived in Roberts last year and I think there’s like 2 guys floors and all the rest are girls so we would rarely see a dominos car pull to the front of our building just because girls don’t order it soberly but you wake up on a Saturday or Sunday morning and you walk out to the trashcans and they are filled with Dominos boxes like the eating culture is definitely an odd one here, um I mean I mean we have like the smallest, I assume we have like the smallest percentage of overweight people in student population here at Bucknell I mean I’m I’m a small girl and I feel like I’m like just average here whereas I go home and like I’m probably like there’s I don’t know but its like but there’s so
many...people are so much more conscious of body image here and it makes me more conscious of body image whereas when I go home it’s whatever its like its like we’re going out to eat sometimes its not a question like...yea so what other crazy things eating here, I guess it shows the more affluent a campus is, um...I mean the better can eat definitely but its just kind of funny that the turn around of that um, I’m just like, I’m fascinated by the eating culture here...it’s almost like an anti social thing here, they don’t I mean like usually you think that eating was like a social time but a lot of people will not eat during social time, its like an opposite thing...Dominos is just like the perfect example, you make Bucknell evacuate downtown and the only thing you see driving around is the dominos truck driving around at 10 o’clock at night 12 o’clock at night it kind of it kind of shows something. It’s fascinating. But then guys, I mean I guess guys do the same thing with the gym I see so many guys just like pumping iron for hours at night like trying to drink like whey and bulk up muscle its like an artificial thing again like girls eating guys exercising its healthy but I don’t think it’s a motive for healthy...

I was in a register and some guy stole my shirt and I was like, this was like last year, stole my shirt, he like took my shirt off of me, I mean I was wearing a little belly shirt but still he took my shirt and and then I lost my shoes in the basement so I was running around in just a bra and ran upstairs, luckily my friends like saw me and gave me a shirt and I mean its like little embarrassing things like that um but I was like so upset afterwards, I called 2 of my sisters and they immediately came and found me, I was like crying down by the gateways and two of my sisters came and just talked me took me back to their room, I slept in their beanbag and I had known them for about a week 2 weeks maybe, I mean, I mean registers are kind of like like stuff happens but like everyone is drunk and everyone else is which is I mean a lot can happen and people don’t notice it and that’s kind of I think the drinking has gotten to a whole new level though, I was talking to my mom this weekend about it and she knew that I had gone out she knew that all of us drink, drink heavily, I don’t think she knew how heavy and I used the word binge drinking around her to describe what I do and she got so scared she calls me every day now, every day that she knows I’m going out she calls me and be like “Lisa you don’t have to” like which I’ve gotten to a point where I think freshmen year and sophomore year I think like I had to binge drink to go to a party and this year I realized that I don’t have to do that anymore but that could also be because of my level of comfort and with knowing more friends at each place that I go its like a comfort thing and its it it shows me that I don’t have to drink like even in social situations at any party I don’t really have to um but definitely first impressions of the social scene here you kind of assume you have to. Yea I mean with like just the fact that everyone is drunk around you especially at registers big places where there are a lot of freshmen flooding places you feel a lot more alone in those situations compared to when you’re at like a specific party with your friends cuz when you’re in a room full of friends they’ll look out for you you know? And that makes me feel less alone. I think that’s why a lot of upper classmen will go upstairs will hang out like outside or upstairs in places because you’ll feel less alone in those places where you have friends up there just...yea.
14. Senior Man

Everyone has their own experience coming to Bucknell and Maura Cullen our diversity speaker speaks so well to that how everyone’s got their own story and you don’t know what they’re story is so even if that napkin has dropped on your foot after someone’s stepped on your foot twice that day and you freak out and go crazy, there’s a perspective to it. So I think that’s in a way that’s something you’re trying to get at, seeing different people’s perspectives. It’s a mosaic. You can form biases on statistics, you can form biases really on whatever you choose to highlight but by taking stories you certainly bring out the true colors of people and experiences and places, and places really do have an effect on people as I said my hall experience it was that it was um it was great because of the people.

Coming into Bucknell you know you’re a freshmen, you’re a first year student, you’re a freshmen, a freshmen, you’re fresh meat you’re something that hasn’t been cooked yet, I look at Bucknell as a pressure cooker in a lot of ways um you know you come here as fresh meat and I put that in quotation marks and then you by the time you’re out you’re a good, you’re a good piece of filet minion ready ready to be eaten in the real world right?

Definitely fragmented um and while it sucked and while I don’t wanna say, I don’t wanna, it sucked we had such a great hall experience um it’s necessary in a lot of ways college is supposed to show you fragmentation of yourself of what you value and and what you’re interests are and in that fragmentation it really helps you identify as I said what what you really value, what you really want to do and whether it be a process of elimination I like this place or I don’t, you learn, you learn. Had our hall stayed together, had my hall stayed together for 4 years, um lived on the same hall for 4 years, I think it would have been a dis, it would have been a dis-justice to to everyone um because I think we as I think as a hall we all could have um grown so comfortable within our own skins, we all would have stayed in for 4 years, I think we all would have so much fun with each other it would have just been us for 4 years, and you know it is such a small school its great to have its great to have a good family and I still think that my first year first year hall was a family and it still will be for a long time um reunions I’m sure my first year hall will always come back and just smile honestly about the experiences we had we had great experiences surrounded by and based on human interaction on a social level, on an artistic level, on on cultural on on religious on so many good ethnic backgrounds versus a background vs. a background that was common and being common with drinking that we didn’t find common ground on going out and getting hammered, and yes some of the hall got a little segmented on certain nights and whether there was harsh sentiment I don’t think it was necessarily harsh but I think there was few less than half of the hall that went out and chose to drink and some of us paid repercussions for it um I know I personally um did for some of the decisions I made first year and whether I thought I was I was I was wise or or learned in my ways of drinking, I learned a lot and a lot of it was through,
through um ugh judicial punishment, I paid fines up my ass freshmen year for for going and buying alcohol when I shouldn’t have, um going to a fraternity party at a bar which got broken at which I ended up having to pay you know lawyers fees to take care of it, I saw a lot my freshmen year and learned a lot but it was those experiences that were that were the daunting ones and really had some serious repercussions on me.

Um but my my first one I remember was at one of the fraternity houses um nice guys kind of had to sneak in to get in there, kind of had to walk in with older guys to get in I was like great great, whole time I’m lookin around like CIA’s after me like comin to like kick me out of here and arrest me for comin into a party um I don’t know it was it was a good time I wasn’t too…um intoxicated, I was still very conscientious of what I was doing um and ugh I ended coming back with a girl to to my hall, definitely got a lot of slack the next day about it my roommate wasn’t so pleased that I ugh had him out of the room for for some time um I think it was overall a positive experience just cuz I had I had not cuz I came back with someone but because um it was controlled and I had a sense of stability and that has always been a big thing coming from a background where um I like to have stability and control and and more so have almost been put in a position to have stability and control and and today um I even at at my house, I live at a house downtown um if there’s ever a party at my house I’m the first one to stop drinking when I know that there’s a risk of of um you know a code violation with sound or people are getting over the top too drunk and someone needs to be there to be um you know sober enough and capable enough to deal with anything that would arise and I’m happy to take that position where a lot of people are like oh hell no like I wanna drink I wanna party, I don’t give a shit and that’s the last thing I would think of.

I remember my um the junior fellow on my hall he always wore a collared shirt and I said woah that’s, that’s I kind of like that, I kind of liked that a lot like in my high school I had to wear a shirt and tie so I was like I like the aspect of showing your business and giving professors the perspective that you’re not gonna show up in sweat pants or pajamas that you you value the class in a professional manner so I thought in sense it was good, I know a lot of people are very posh-y about their aesthetics and materialistic, I don’t drive in a hot shot car or anything, I guess to a certain extent it wears on you a little bit.

Drinking is a big one if you’re in a fraternity, ugh I think its ugh, if you’re choose not to be there’s one dry fraternity and that’s it, as an easy, an easy outlet, but if you choose not to drink and your in in one of the 6 or 7 other fraternities you almost have to give a good reason why um and and it’s and I think in a sense you will be demasculated if that’s a word you will um its um its looked down upon so I found early on that it was drink to have fun, drink to get there um although in a lot, a lot of times I rarely made myself even puke um from drinking too much but I think that’s a big thing coming into Greek life um and Bucknell in general that drinking is a big thing to fit in.

Getting into the mysterious priority list of what people have going into a drinking night
um which could be a range of you know A to Z, oh ok so you’re prime you’re prime
drinker he or she is going out and they are lookin to get some they are looking to get some
sexual action that night, absolutely, and to get there are going to pregame they are
going to pregame with friends um coed or just girlfriends or guy friends we’re gonna get drunk, we’re gonna get so drunk, they go out and the first they do they get to the party they get another drink and they start dancing like idiots and its like its get up to as many interaction with people as you can and you gotta start judging people you gotta start questioning people’s judgment at that point its just like are you in a position to start meeting a lot of people or talk to a lot of people and get touchy feely with a lot of people and make those decisions that does someone want me to dance with them or not um and they’re going to try to leave with someone and by the end of the night it would almost be with anyone whether they’re interested in the same sex or the opposite sex, anyone um whether they agree with this persons political moral um they like them or not it doesn’t matter they’re trying to get some, so I think that’s your um I think that’s your type a prowler, going out for a night on the town at Bucknell.

The tunnel system at Bucknell is pretty cool I’ve been in there, I’ve been in there yea, I’ve climbed through the tunnels went through a man hole and ran through there I had a quick escape with um public safety I think they were in the tunnels when we got out so I just strolled out and thought it was pretty funny that I ran through Bucknell’s tunnels. I did it with a few friends it was a social event.

What’s secretive to an extent is the drug culture here um you don’t really see it on campus, you don’t really see it at night either unless you go and try to find it um and I think it speaks to the users on campus and how they choose to um keep it secretive for better or worse reasons obviously, um I don’t think you see um I think you know there’s a lot of marijuana use on campus, statistically you know its happening across the US um but the harder drugs um cocaine for instance you don’t really see it but it exists, it exists on all campuses, there are drugs everywhere um so I think that’s a secretive social culture, very secretive, you know top secret um I haven’t seen or heard any serious drugs on campus, I mean there are.. there is ecstasy and mjmay use for big register events on a very small scale um you know you’re talking you know individuals on one hand of parties attended by 300 um so it could be dangerous it could be fatal you never know what goes into a lot of those pills so other than that I can’t think of anything secretive. Statistically, I would think Bucknell is doing very well in terms of the harder drug use um and ugh I don’t think, to a greater extent I don’t think it effects the students I don’t feel it it effects the campus um as far as grades and academics.

I think that goes on with a lot of women that feel that just in a secretive way that its just you know all this fondling and and inappropriate touching and rape even is something they can’t even even address or or go and um and and tell someone um so ugh I think that in a sense would be another secretive aspect of the social culture um again statistically statistically it is low um you know not everyone you know not everyone is fondling each
other and raping each other um but I think I know from what was addressed in the 
campus climate report is that we are statistically high on this kind of stuff and a lot of it is 
unreported and in that sense yea that’s secretive.
Um yes um I’m really proud of the LGBT community here on campus, seeing my 
fraternity present ugh past president stand up in front of 90 guys as he as he confessed to 
a bunch of guys you know that had many times before um thrown out slurs like gay and 
faggot and homo and um that he was bisexual and seeing how guys kind of internalized 
that 90 fraternity boys, frat boys, just sitting around you know emotional it was amazing, 
something you wouldn’t expect, something you couldn’t like I don’t think you could cast 
90 of the best male actors in the world to go sit around and reenact this scene it was it 
was you know you could feel people’s hearts throbbing around the room, guys that you 
didn’t even know too well guys you had socially determined as the prowler in your 
fraternity or the non drinker, the abstainer you could you could just that all got washed 
away while you sat and listened to this one guy pour his heart out in something that was 
so relieving for him that he shook with tears. And the LGBT community here has been 
growing Safe spaces, my fraternity is a safe space that means everyone has agreed that 
they would, I don’t know terminology exactly but you can look up what exactly, we 
agreed that anyone would support anyone ethnically, racially, um and their choices of 
sexuality and and um and ugh and something along the lines of that and everyone has 
agreed to that and it’s happened for three years now um to me that’s amazing um I think 
its 2 years now so seeing that made me so proud not only to be in my fraternity um and 
be be a member of my Greek fraternity but the Bucknell culture for um on a greater scale 
and whether statistically speaking this would be true but on a greater scale given this 
individual and others that I know of the opportunity even enough amount of comfort to 
go out and do this. So for me, that’s amazing yea that’s really amazing um.

Here’s your good example, your prowler A, he’s the one that that he’s got in quotation 
marks a kill count right oh I’ve I’ve had sex with like a hundred 50 girls, oh great for you 
I hope I hope you don’t have an STD first of all but second of all ok that’s 150 girls um 
how many of them are friends first of all, how many of them know each other, how many 
of them have talked about you because of because they know you have just gone out and 
slept with that many girls, I would be so entirely surprised if that that prowler A who 
slept with 150 girls didn’t um according to um higher values, good values, good moral 
fiber you know? As a good person you know treated these women these women or men 
whatever what ever prowler A goes for um as um as human beings as people with values 
with feeling and emotions and some people um I think that no prowler A has not done a 
very good job at that, has created some really bad images um and and has brought upon a 
a persona that other people will determine not not something that is out of your control 
and um that’s gonna be seen in 5 10 15 25 30 years that that reunions anniversaries and 
the rest of your life um in such a globalized socialized world today where things get out 
so easily where this person slept around a lot in college um I know because my friend 
went to Bucknell and knew of this prowler A um so that can only bite your ass but I mean 
I have a family and as a talked about seeing my first year, my freshmen year family at
reunion I’m gonna be so delighted to see these people and um individually I can’t call anyone out I made that decision I’ve made some horrible decisions the first year and I continue to make some horrible decisions as my life but you know what I feel confident that the people I lived with my first year and um will come back for this anniversaries and reunions because we’re we’re proud of who we are and we’re proud of connecting based off our good values versus you’re prowler A who may never come back to Bucknell um who may be um who may be um adverse to some serious mental, social, issues because of some of the social issues they made um and how they continue just to fragment themselves at Bucknell versus identifying themselves um the best decisions you make are the ones you make on your own that’s the thing Maura Cullen said.

15. Senior Woman

So we went downtown so my first party ever was in a downtown house, it was like gross, like 2 room like dirty carpet houses and we played pong and I was like super nervous because I didn’t know really like how much alcohol I would or I could drink before I got drunk I didn’t know what the math of it was, and I didn’t drink very much at all cuz I, my friend was like playing pong on one side and was like no you should play you should play and one of the guys was like yeah you should and I was like I’ve never played before I’ve never drank and he’s like that’s ok I’ll drink for you! If you don’t want to drink that’s fine so like it was like really nice and a really positive experience and he was super nice and we left like right after that game, I think we stayed for like 20 min, I mean it was fun and it was my first party I guess.

There’s a faction of the social life like it’s own sorority. I mean I guess I’ve been seeing somebody in a fraternity and I have been for a while like or at least at that fraternity that’s how I feel which is funny the way like when you first start dating them you’re introduced to all the brothers as like the girlfriend and you’re like in this strange group of like girl like girls that you’re definitely going to be very nice to but you’re not hitting on them and like there’s like a special sort of friendship that bonds around that that you wouldn’t get otherwise cuz you’re like not fair game or whatever anymore which isn’t like bad it’s just funny and like you get introduced to the other girlfriends so those are the people who you’ll like see all the time or like when you’re downstairs in the kitchen and you’re making food and like see the other girl and you’re talking and get to know her through that and like you only seem them in the kitchen at 2 in the morning when you’re both in your boyfriend’s clothes and like and you say my boyfriends acting like a tard right now you’re like yea mine too yea you get get to know them. There’s was this one time at I think it was fall formals last year where we were like sitting at a table an it was our anniversary and we didn’t bring alcohol and it was our year anniversary and like one of our friends whose in the fraternity pulled out a bottle of champagne and was like I snuck this in because it’s one year for you guys and we were like that’s really sweet but like you didn’t bring a coat or like a bag or anything and their dates bag is the size of my fist like I have no idea how he got that in he was just like I got it and it was really sweet
we were like dancing around it was really fun and at one point like all the guys who had
girlfriends for some reason came together at one point and for some reason like did a kick
line in the middle of the thing and it was like all of them like all of the girlfriends
standing in a line facing them just being like I don’t know why this is happening and one
of them was like our boyfriends are idiots or like there’s this like special thing not that
you feel like you should get to know girls but like you just kind of do cuz you’re all in
that same boat, even though that’s a negative term. Its funny and its sweet cuz you have
that little support system of girls.

16. Senior Man

I don’t know, I’m kind of a cheese ball I guess so I really enjoy the orientation program
and that’s what I’ve done. I’ve done that every year that I have been able to um and I
don’t know I really like that because I really enjoy that Bucknell goes as far out of its
way as it does to kind of welcome the new students kind of ease the transition, I don’t
know how you’re orientation was but mine was like awesome and I met a lot of really
great people pretty much everyone who I’m friends with to this day, I met every…pretty
much every guy in my fraternity pledge class there pretty much all the guys who ended
up being my main friend group there and it was just a really amazing experience and I
really enjoyed it and I wanted to give that back to people. So being the orientation
program and being able to do that yea it was great. I remember um

I don’t know it kind of gets you down after a while I remember sophomore year when I
went home for thanksgiving I was just kind of depressed cuz like I felt like all that I was
doing was just like going out drinking a lot blacking out maybe hooking up with some
skeeezy chick but never really having that many interactions like true interactions just kind
of go out, party, dance, get really drunk, and then just pass out really drunk face down on
your bed wake up maybe take 1 day off maybe 2 and then do the exact same thing again,
you’re not going on dates with people, you’re not going to see movies with people,
you’re not like not having those interactions are kind of like you know define
relationships you just kind of going out and exaggerated stereotypes partying, excess, and
it kind of you know weighs on you after a while guys don’t want to admit it but I
remember I was all around miserable something that I lost like 20 pounds first semester
joining a fraternity just from drinking too much, not eating a lot um so I was like really
really really just like emaciated, I was just not feeling good and I was talking to my friend
about it and they thought it was something like I was pledging and they were beating the
shit out of me or something like that but I was like no honestly I go out way too much it’s
not healthy and I don’t enjoy it that much and after that I kind of, after I realized that I
pumped the breaks a little bit limited myself, you’d go out3 or 4 times a week and
especially if you’re in a fraternity and you’re a sophomore you kind of feel like you have
to get as drunk as possible and it’s not always the best.

17. Junior Woman
Um okay well the very first time I came here was the first school I saw and my grandma actually came here um she didn’t get to graduate though because she um had like siblings and cousins in World War II so she had to leave after a year and a half but um it was very cool coming back here and like you know feeling her presence here and she she’s alive still but she um it was just that I felt like an instant connection so that was very cool but I didn’t know if it was the school for me because I had never seen any other schools but I thought it was very special when I came I did love it. And then she actually got to come back here um when was it um my freshman year she surprised me on my birthday and she and my grandpa got to come back here and he saw it for the first time and she hadn’t seen it for 67 years and she started crying like she walked on the quad because she was just like it just looks exactly the same. Yeah so that was very cool to have that connection yeah.

Tina: Was she happy that you chose Bucknell?

B: Oh my God she when I got in I called her and she was sobbing it was oh my God, it was awesome.

Tina: Did she love it for the year and a half she was here?

B: She loved it. Her best friend is actually from here you know her best friend got to graduate um and she didn’t but her best friend Lyla she’s from here too and they live like 5 hours apart and they’re 88 now so they can’t really like see each other too much but they like talk on the phone everyday.

Um I always like to say there’s 3 favorite things I like to do on campus um the brigade, my sorority, and new student orientation so I’ve been an OA for 2 years and I love every year seeing the new Bucknellians come on campus, its just like the coolest thing and move in day is like the best day ever because you get to see kids like meet their roommates for the first time and like walk into their building for the first time that will be their home for the next year and so I love move in day I love orientation I’m like obsessed with it I’m probably going to do it again. Um so its just like really cool to see those 5 days and like to see your hall that you have progress from being complete strangers and so scared and so quiet to being so comfortable with each other then by the end of the year they’re still eating lunch together and they’re still eating dinner together and they’re watching movies on the hall on Friday nights together and they’re going out together and going to parties together like its I love that experience um then the Brigade was just like another just phenomenal experience for me um and it kind of like changed what I wanted to do with my life like I always wanted to be a doctor but now I want to do global medicine which is really cool and you get to meet all of these amazing kids too and just people like I never would have met at Bucknell from completely different social circles um a lot of international students people in different Greek organizations people
who are independent um so it was very cool that experience it was just like life changing and I got to with um Karina which is she’s great I never would have met her I’m not Jewish and um dr. dawn and um all these great people so um that was my other one and then my sorority I have loved I’ve been like obsessed with all the people I met there um so those are my three experiences at Bucknell I feel like have made me like closer to it and have connected me and made me realize like how special it is to be a Bucknellian because I feel like you don’t get that at every school, you know.

I remember it exactly. Okay I was, it was during orientation, even though they tell you not to go out and I was so scared to go out it was like the last day of orientation because I was like really freaked out and um I went with my hall to the soccer party downtown and I walked in and I um was not a big drinker in high school I didn’t have a sip of alcohol until senior year and I walked in and was just like oh my god there was all freshman girls literally like every single girl at the party maybe 10 boys and it was just like overwhelming and I remember clearly it was like a red light like a some type of red light and they had a mixed drink there I didn’t drink though because I was too scared and it got busted so I walked out there was a girl on my hall um and I walked out of the party with her like we realized what was happening and we walked through just like Psafe and Lewisburg police completely lining the bushes and we were like oh shit like we just survived our first college party. So I was just so nervous to get in trouble I was very just a good girl in high school that I just was so scared of getting in trouble and that was my first like college party.

I feel like there is like an un I mean I feel like everybody knows about it but its kind of like an unspoken hierarchy that like you might talk about like within your own Greek organization but not with other people as much and there’s like an unspoken like an oh we’re better than this person but we’re worse than this person and these two people are better and these you know so I kinda I feel like that might be unspoken, you know what I mean.

Tina: Does that change the way you think people treat each other or just like..?

Maybe certain people um like I haven’t really experienced it because I like literally have friends in every single sorority so I have been like fine with it like it hasn’t changed my friendships but I’m sure some people if they get too serious about it but people just need to lighten up a little bit seriously they need to like chill just like not care about what other people think because like I feel like that’s when people like you.

I feel like especially during rush everyone cares like people don’t want to be like in certain places because they don’t wanna they don’t want that association and I think like that’s where it comes out during rush its like huge you know? But um I feel like Bucknell if you just like look at it and try to met different people outside your comfort zone maybe like go outside go to like a flag meeting go to some theatre shows meet people that you’re
not like really good friends with like all these things that you might not be used to like you’ll meet all these awesome people like I feel like I’ve met some of my best friends like are people who do who are willing to like go to the Vagina monologues you know like its not everyone is going to go to that but if you’re willing to go to that and go and you know stay in on a Friday night and watch a movie and things like that then you might meet people that like if you don’t care about doing those things and you don’t care what people think about that then you can like cheat that I guess.

On revelations last year actually I got, I drank way too much actually and got completely blacked out and everyone took care of me which was like just really like cool like fam, I’m sorry a girl who doesn’t even go here but was in my family she transferred she like took me home and took care of me all night like she doesn’t even go here but she was in dg and she was just like I’ll take care of her and that was like a really cool night because everyone was like oh are you ok and it was just I don’t know that was a cool night to see um I guess a positive and negative, I guess negative because I maybe didn’t make the smartest decision um.

I think I literally feel like every year I do orientation like when I like am doing Ray for the orange and the blue like I know its sounds so cliché or like standing in the middle of convocation like I cried this year at convocation because I’m like this is just so beautiful like we have such great traditions here or like every time I see like people doing work that I didn’t know they could do like when I saw the vagina monologues and I saw like Alex who had never acted before and I saw her like doing this like really profound and hard piece to do in that just because she thought it would be interesting I was like so proud of her and like so proud of the fact that like I went to school with her and every time I see like other students um doing what they love and doing a really good job at it like that’s what makes me proud and that’s like why I love being a Bucknellian because there’s all these people who are just so talented and smart and beautiful and love what they want to do and so passionate that I like that’s why I love it because I feel like you can do that here and when people go out and don’t care about anything you know they just get it done I feel like that’s what makes me proud.

I feel like there are some people here who maybe like are here for like different reasons like people who just don’t really care about school or about like who just like t party all the time but I mean I feel like you would really get that at any college like I always like to tell myself like its not Bucknell it’s the age in America its this generation um but never like I don’t think any moment that I you know.

Um I get a little frustrated sometimes with the boys here like from like a women’s perspective with that because I feel like like the fraternity scene makes boys view girls as more like objects and like ass than I just like I just hate how there’s not a dating scene here really, I don’t like that I feel like I would be such a good girlfriend and I’ve never had a boyfriend here and I know that there here its just like where are they? Where are
they? Um so I get a little frustrated sometimes but I also do feel like there’s like on the
social side I get frustrated because I feel like at mixers and registers it’s a lot about just
like getting ass, the boys getting ass you know? But then I feel like on the academic side
there is total like equality, like I know there are so many girls who are doing amazing
things like I’ve never had any feeling of like oh boys can do better so I feel like there’s
literally no issue with that just because I feel like even there is gender equality at
Bucknell academically but I get a little annoyed. And I know a lot of my friends do too
like where are they boy? Where are the boyfriends? And there are all of these statistics
about Bucknellians marrying Bucknellians and like oh why do people do that? I
know that they’re there I just feel like a lot of the stigma here is like you can’t take a girl
out on a date, that would be weird or like if you take a boy to formals you have to hook
up with him there are all these stigmas they probably do happen and they I know they do
happen but um I don’t really necessarily like that they happen?

I feel like if people like started focusing on like the positive more and just like the beauty
and like every single person has something beautiful about them and something special
about them and I just feel like if people focused more on that and more on like this person
is an academic this person is a great athlete and this person is a great leader and like if
people just focused more on everyone’s individual amazing characteristics instead of
bashing them and saying well they’re in this sorority and they’re in well they’re a slut and
like you know? And not focusing on negative characteristics and I feel like we’d be a
much happier campus you just need like you know just like chill don’t gossip everyone’s
great everyone’s beautiful. Focus on that. That’s like my life motto too because whenever
I’m like talking to my friends about people the first thing they have to say sometimes is
like oh well she hooked up with him and he’s disgusting and well she’s in this sorority or
oh I hear she did this one night like who cares well she just published a paper that’s in a
psych magazine now or she is a leader on the brigade now or she’s president of a sorority
now like if you just looked at those things like look at what people do like everyone
makes stupid decisions not everyone’s perfect but everyone has something to bring to this
campus and there’s a reason that we’re all here.

I feel like also like every problem at Bucknell is not just a Bucknell problem like a
college problem you know so I feel like whenever I’m like feeling down about Bucknell
I’m like well its not just here its fine its everywhere.

Um and then my when I was talking about my grandma and her best friend from
Bucknell um my grandpa passed away this summer and my um my grandma’s best friend
came to like the funeral and the wake and the entire she stayed with my grandma and
held her hand and it was just like the coolest thing between two Bucknellians like they 67
years after they graduated and they’re still best friends and they’re still there for each
other and they still have Bucknell as their common thread like that was literally like I
texted my friends after and I was just like this was the coolest thing because that’s going
to be us when we’re old and wrinkly and you know we have people pass away like you’re gonna like those are the people that will be there for you.

18. Junior Woman

I’ll see groups of like freshman walking around campus and I’ll think oh my god was I that obvious? Was I really that like, was I that annoying, was, was I, I mean some girls, they would go out, like just after orientation they would go out at night with their nametags on. Their freshman orientation nametags. And I’m thinking thank god my OA warned me about that. I’m just like oh my God, are you kidding me. Yea being a year older you notice a lot more, I feel. At least I have.

it was, the fantastic student I am, it was the night before classes freshman year and a few girls who lived upstairs from me in uh in McDonnell they were like come on, there’s stuff going on at a house downtown you should come you should come! And I was like ahh, noo I mean we have class tomorrow like what, are, are you serious? (laughs) and they were like no no no come on come on everyone’s going. So I’m like all right, screw it. So I put, I like put some clothes on and I go downtown with them. It’s one of those really hot, humid nights and I walk into this like downtown house. I mean you know how the downtown houses are they’re like cramped, and like really sweaty and ew. And I walked in I was like ahh, this is great, everyone’s like loud and rowdy and people are seeing each other for the first time in like 3 months. And (laughs) some kid, who now is one of my really good friends, asked me to come back to his room with him. Hi, I’m John, want to come back to my room with me? Umm (laughs), no thank you? I had no idea what was going on this was my first American party ever. And so I said, no thank you? And he was like, okay. And he walked off. Five minutes later he comes back. He was with the, the seniors and they were making (secretively) the freshman do stuff basically and they’re goal for the night was for each freshman to get a girl, to, to go back to his room with him. Clearly they’d chosen me to be that girl for this kid. He comes back five minutes later; do you wanna come back to my room with me? Huh, you again, um, first I was like, you don’t know, we’ve, we’ve met. Hi. I’m Claire. He was like oh, oh okay umm, will you come back to my room with me? I was like no thank you. I’d been separated from my friends so I was like backed up against the kitchen sink I was like uh ohh, like no thank you, thank you but no. And he goes away. Ten minutes later he comes back. I haven’t managed to move from this spot, I had not learned the art of the shoulder check to move your way through a house in like American party language. I hadn’t learned the body language quite yet, like comin through! Like move! Hadn’t learned it. So I was like pinned up against the kitchen sink, he comes back again. Hi. Hi John we’ve met. Hi. Yea. Yea yea we have met. Oh really? Really? Will you come back to my room with me. You know what John? Um okay, you know what, come back in five minutes and then we’ll go. Alright? And he was like okay, okay. In these five minutes I was planning to leave, like absolutely just book it for the door, cuz I had no idea what to do with myself, I didn’t find it funny I found it really weird and (laughing) really scary at the
time. I had no idea what was going on. I try and move, but I see one of my friends that I know and we start talking and yadayada. Five minutes later he comes back. Firstly I was like how, how are you even retaining this information? You are high and drunk out of your mind and you can still like remember directions people give you? Like uh what? And so he was like, so can we go like can we go back to my, to my room. And I was like uh uh and my friend Emma was like uh okay we gotta go. I was like (meeng!). So we walk out and we’re walking uphill I’m thinking oh wow, that was, that was funny I just got asked to go back to a guys room with me, like that doesn’t happen to me like I hadn’t had my first kiss I hadn’t, like nothing, absolutely nothing and there I was being asked to go back to his room. And so we’re walking back uphill, I’m thinking oh my god poor kid he’s probably gonna end up being like puking his brains out by the end of the night, ooh oh look at the time, I should probably get to bed I have an 8:30am class and I don’t know where it is. Go home, shower, go to bed, wake up in the morning find my way to this class. I walk in, sit down, we’re all sitting down in a circle and like out of my periphery I see someone walk in late. (laughs) turn my head and like, the world stopped moving. I was just like (laughing, disbelief) who is it? Who is it? I was like oh my god (laughing) oh my god. First thing I was like this is impressive, like you rallied hardcore, like how are you alive right now this is like, that’s impressive. Secondly, this would happen to me. This would. It would.

When the basketball team made the pre-NCAA. That made me proud. I was like yes, like that’s great, cuz, my, my friends back home who were watching the NCAA March Madness tournament they were like whoa whoa whoa Claire your school is on TV, what like what? Are you serious? And I think, there, there have actually been a few moments like that with particular like with my connection to sports teams like my connection to the women’s rowing team um people like people, people from, its mainly sports teams from here being noticed by my friends at home and then saying, wow, like wow, Claire your rowing team just, just came up on the Australian rowing website, what like what? Are you serious? And I was like yea we’re actually kind of successful like that, that made me really proud, things like that. I, I think I have, because I have such an affinity with the sport, with my sport, when something comes up where my team or like my school is successful I just feel like this over whelming sense of pride I feel like, you know like the proud mom just like puffing her chest up because you know it was like my girls my like my friends were succeeding and making like a name for their school and yea.

Unless you’re like a social like bomb and you can like make your way around campus being the “it” guy because you just have like wickedly good social skills its very difficult for you to kind of like make a name for yourself or become socially active without being an athlete. Because being an athlete immediately connects you to a stereotype, which is fine, but then it connects you to authority figures within that group who will then help you. And that’s, I mean I found that immediately with, with the guys on my freshman hall because they were all athletes, football, they were all football players. They have it easier because they’re labeled. as soon as they’re associated with their sport, with , with
their group, they’re labeled and you know they’re kinda placed in their nice slot on the social ladder, whereas non-athletes really have to work a lot harder to fight for it and like find their place and like establish like where they are on campus. Not female athletes, I think it’s a very different, there’s not so much the um the hierarchy with female athletes because it’s not so much associated with your athletic success where like where you are and like the social ladder as much as it is being an attractive individual both physically and like inside. if you get along well with people. if you’re someone whose easy to get along with easy to talk to um whose friendly, whose, whose outgoing then you make it very easy for yourself to kind of move around and be socially fluid. Whereas if you’re shy or if you’re introverted I, it becomes difficult. Equally if you’re too extroverted and you’re in peoples face you’ll start to get annoying and and you know people won’t take you as much as they would someone whose very easy to get along with.

Don’t let anything that you are not directly affiliated with or connected to or feel passionately about shape who you are. Don’t let anything that happens outside of what like who you are and who you are as a person who you are as an athlete who you are as a student don’t let an accident, don’t let an assault don’t let anything change who you are. You control who you are. You shape who you are by what you do and how you do it. Don’t let externals affect you. Yes.

19. Senior Woman

It sounds really cheesy, but my sorority, cuz I never ever wanted to be in a sorority and I ended up having a really weird sorority experience because I joined last minute and then, um, right before initiation I got really sick and found out I was gonna have to pull out of school for the rest of the semester, and so they rushed and did my initiation. And then while I was at home they were sending me letters and there were people I didn’t even meet yet and it was really great, and then I came back to school and it was just this huge group of people who loved me and supported me and like I really needed that.

I think the secret to the Bucknell social culture is that people try intensely to be like the college stereotype and they don’t realize that they’re taking it, I personally don’t think they realize how extreme they’re being and that their idea of a normal college person is not the person at Bucknell whose doing these things. For example, like that website “texts from last night” I don’t know if you’ve seen it, I feel like Bucknellians think that if their Saturday or Friday night does not like involve something of that crazy level happening or like “hangover movie” level happening, that they’re like a waste and they’re lame and so they try really hard to like drink wayyy more that like other colleges drink, many more nights than other colleges, I don’t know.

It surprises me living in the house down here. I did not think that people went downtown and drank every night of the week but oh my god there are so many people out in the
street drunk every single night and I’m just like come on! It’s a Tuesday, what are you doing downtown.

I feel like there’s this um, house party mentality which lasts all year about how its socially acceptable at Bucknell to show up at your classes drunk like its okay to like drink all night when you have an 8 o’clock class in the morning like, you know, like if you show up totally hungover and you fall asleep in class that’s fine that’s what everyone does. I mean cuz I remember going and sitting in class like every year, it wasn’t just freshman year I mean like this happened last year and people would be drinking alcohol like in class like the entire week up to House Party weekend people would be drinking in class and I was just like what are you even doing here you’re clearly not here to take classes at college like what are you doing? But I don’t know it kinda like shocked me cuz people will talk about things and I’m like what? People do that? And they’re like oh yea this whole group of people do that. And like I know a lot of people drink when they do their homework its just like I don’t know, the level of like alcohol consumption here and people, like alcohol tendencies almost, is like, I don’t know, bizarre. Cuz I don’t think that, like this isn’t real life, this isn’t how people live (chuckling).

Sunday night some drunk guy like kicked our house, or punched it or something. There’s like a hole in it. Like a hole in the shingle. Like I, I don’t know. There’s all these drunk people like sitting on, like we’ve got that weird porch, so we’ve got these drunk people sitting on that or like sitting outside our window or like on our porch its pretty funny (laughs) but I don’t know it was just very loud.

Oh you know what was really embarrassing? Doing downtown cleanup on Sunday. And (laughs) picking up 2, and ok you know those huge 10-gallon trash bags or something? I don’t know what they call them but they’re like the huge black trash bags. Well I picked up two entire, filled to the brim, of like natty light and keystone light cans that were in bushes (laughs). We picked up 65 pounds of like recyclables and all of that was alcohol related (laughs) like cans or bottles yeaaa (laughs). So that made me really depressed cuz like come on like, its not even like we were picking up you know like if people left like a can like it was like we were picking them up like under the leaves, in the bushes, like there were cans just like stuck into a tree, like what? So that made me that was the most recent thing where I was like, really? (laughs) we have to go and pick up like the streets of Lewisburg cuz you act so childish and cant even throw away your garbage? You can do better than that (laughs). But yea it was really embarrassing cuz there were all these people from Lewisburg walking around they’re like wow, like if the streets always looked this clean we’ll start coming down here again I was like oh god. There were people who live there who’d just like walk around us and go into their house and they, or they’d be like what are you doing like why are you raking our leaves cuz they wouldn’t rake their leaves so we raked them, like what are you doing? And no one ever said anything they’d just give us weird looks and go in their house that was kinda weird. So hopefully they’ll start picking up after themselves. You can always hope.
This is from a gay thing, so one night I was surprised one well ok always ok well the ok the main reason I wanted to transfer from Bucknell was the only thing that people did on the weekends was go out to parties and I went out to parties and there were guys dancing with girls and there were no gay people and clearly I wanted guys dancing with me I shouldn’t have been there, so I was there and I went to one, I don’t know why, and there were two girls who were there who I knew were dating and they were dancing together and I’d heard that the frats were really homophobic and that was one thing I had considered in coming to Bucknell and I was like oh gosh like you know what’s gonna happen and there was a huge ring of guys standing around watching them and chanting and it wasn’t like these two girls were going out you know to be together and you know cuz their dating and they like each other and these guys were acting like they were there putting on a show for them and they kept like trying to join in and I was like what, what is happen (breaks into laughter) like seriously? So that was really shocking the first time I saw that and that’s the norm if girls are dancing with girls at parties. Like guys think that, like they don’t like gay guys they don’t want guys dancing with guys but if girls are dancing with girls then it’s a show for them, like they are there to dance for their enjoyment like total, like I’ve never seen such pure like objectifying of (laughs) individuals not even the fact that they were gay I was just like how can they just watch them, it was so creepy and it was weird, ah, it was really shocking.

20. Senior Man

I had a very like… strong perception of the Greek system that it was, I did not view it very favorably, I thought it was just an animal house, um, and I just didn’t want anything to do with it so my entire freshman year I never stepped foot inside a fraternity house, um and then the next year I, you know I had met some people during my first year getting involved, and people were telling me ‘Oh you need to rush you need to rush’ and, I was really kind of, I was really hesitant to do it and I was like, ‘Oh this isn’t for me, like what, Am I gonna am I gonna be forced to do anything I don’t want to do, like how does this like connected with the values that I have put in place, for myself and so that was another big challenge in a moment of pressure with like deciding whether to rush and I decided like, the day, of, the like the day before or something like right before the deadline at the minimum when I was like fine I’ll just rush you know, that doesn’t obligate me to anything, and so, I went through rush and um I don’t know if things would have been different, if it wasn’t such a presence on campus so I don’t know if that, it’s hard to say what that final compelling factor was whether it was my friends, whether it was just, the social climate, or the opportunities for more connections, but um that was definitely a moment of pressure for me and now that I kind of look back on it, I kind of think like, I would have been better as an independent, um I certainly appreciate some some of the things that I have gotten from my fraternity, but um But at the same time I think I could have been perfectly happy without it so, um, it was a really weird decision
and one that I’ve never really, and it was a really difficult decision and one I never really kind of/ justified to myself completely, if that makes sense, yeah.

In some ways you tend to have to go with a big group, um, in regards to a lot of different things, not only what you wear but also like, your, how you view social life and what’s appropriate, um, how you view others around you, um I’m trying to think what else, but I think that I think that it’s kind of like an all encompassing type of thing so it’s not only like, the material items or like the the impression that you give off but it’s also kind of, how you conduct yourself internally and, and how you, approach different things on campus, so um there are definitely significant challenges and, and I guess in some ways, like, like the numerous regrets of the behavioral norms like this is how I express myself and all of that, hey I might have been, there might have been some conforming there, but yeah.

I think the one thing that people like to keep private here is the hazing issue on campus and you’ve seen it come out in different ways in past couple of semesters, but I have definitely heard some, horror stories involving certain organizations and and what their members are pressured or forced to do, and it’s kind of, it’s odd because it’s like this taboo topic that no one wants to talk about, largely because they don’t want to, be caught, however at the same time, I also don’t think they want, I think that these people that are involved in that recognize that it’s not a, it’s not a good thing and they don’t want people to hear about it, so, I think that, and I think we like to kid ourselves like ‘oh that’s not really a problem here,’ but I think it it definitely between various corners of campus, um, but I definitely think that’s one… no it also happens in musical groups, it happens in clubs and organizations, um it happens in the athletic teams, but, it’s across the board.

Um, another was a party I attended at um at Martin House, which um is where some of the members of Kappa Alpha Psi live, and that to me, like, it stands out to me as memorable, because like, there was a moment at Bucknell where I was not like, everybody else, you know, being a white male at Bucknell, you kind of, you just tend to blend in and obviously, we’re 81% white and um, going to that party like, meeting new people, meeting this whole other part of campus that in many ways I view as kind of, I don’t, segregated is a is a tough word, it’s a loaded term, but like, I feel like many of our like diverse populations on campus are, are segregated and, so just being there and just, meshing with people that, I had never really, known or interacted with before, it’s something that I’ll remember, it’s something that has kind of like guided me because, I want to have that type of experience where I’ve been, and it’s kind of helped me understand where I want to go with my life, and where I want to live and, and those types of things, so, even though it was just a party, the interactions I had there and like, the different type of party that it was like compared to everything else, it was, you know it’s funny because a lot of our um, African American students on campus like, they know other students that go to Susquehanna or Bloomsburg and so it was just this great mix of people who are like, within Bucknell like you and I, but also like other schools, around
Pennsylvania just coming together, and it, it just felt so, I we talk about the Bucknell bubble all the time and it always gets, caught in commotion of the day to day and what whatever we want, with with the people that we see every day when we walk by, and this is just kind of a moment where, even at Bucknell like, there was some degree, of unanimity, and just an opportunity to meet people that don’t go here, which is really, which is really rare so, and it was like, you know it it wasn’t in a basement, it wasn’t, um, it was crowded but like at the same time like you could, you could get away and just talk, which is a big thing, and in fact most people were drunk at some point, but it was different in a lot of ways, but um it was really cool and one of my more fun times at Bucknell.

I am very proud to go to Bucknell and I love this school, um I think one of the biggest moments, like I don’t know exactly what context you’re looking for, but like, the um the NBA tournament last year for the basketball team when it was like, the big one, and like, you know sometimes you know when you’re like, especially being from a state that’s not in the northeast, or mid-Atlantic region, um Bucknell isn’t as familiar as Maine, where I’m from and so, being able to go to DC, and go to the game, and cheer on our team like in a in a much larger more public context, was a really fab moment for me, um um and something that really, really it made me proud to be a Bucknellian, and seeing all of the alumni at the reception before the game, so just seeing, 800 Bucknellians all going to this one reception, and there was, we won an award from the local media station that weekend for the, the best fans even though we got killed, and so like, it was just seeing that community come together outside of the campus context, that um, that made me be proud to be a Bucknellian and also being a senior now it made me recognize like, there is more to Bucknell beyond your four years, um and that it’s a really strong, a really strong bond that people have for this institution.

And these are things that are obviously, these are kinds of things that don’t happen on a regular basis, but um, you know I have this friend of mine, he went to a fraternity party and was turned away because, he was gay, and he well they used a, you know, a really offensive remark towards, you know, towards him, and so um, it’s moments like that where I like the insensitivity makes me embarrassed, It was at a register and it was very public, and um it was just embarrassing, obviously an awful thing that my friend had to go through, and um and I think it was something kind of about, how we treat, minority students here on this campus, um, we haven’t really recognized that, that they don’t just pick us to contribute these things to the college like when these clubs on campus put events on, it’s not just for them to to get to know people who are different from them, and and learn from their experiences, and just become more cultured and I think that a lot of Bucknell students aren’t interested in that and that’s where, or they’re intimidated by it potentially like I don’t want to say that everyone has bad intentions but um, I think that, that’s definitely a challenge that we face as better integrating those people and getting more majority of students here to recognize um the benefit and to really go out and and meet these people.
One night I was surprised by…(cough) ‘cuse me, I was walking home from the, the bar and um, students were in the bushes outside of Larison cottage having sex… there’s one for yah aha haah yes and that’s another one of those embarrassing Bucknell moments, Um um well a couple of my friends, I’m like, I was… it was just disgusting but um a couple of my friends who are a little bit more balsy than I am um, they started clapping and like yea they started clapping, “yea that’s right!” and I don’t know I was like let’s go, let’s go, omigosh. So its moments like that where I’m just like, this campus.

If I can say, and I’m trying to not be too stereotypical here, um but I’m I’m gonna have to be more (something as you are laughing), um but I think you hear it all the time, and like it’s just like ‘Be Yourself” and I and I would focus that message largely to, freshmen that come to campus, it’s like you know what, you have, you’re different, we all come from different places in life, and that’s something we should all embrace, and I just want people to come to Bucknell with an open mind, um and um to not um, when they get to campus to not feel the need to play into anything that they wouldn’t have, would they should they should they not be at Bucknell, um I want them to feel that they can express themselves freely and I want people to feel like they can, be, they don’t have to subscribe to you know gender norms or campus norms, um um I just want people to embrace, their inner selves, and share that, and I think that’s another big things to really share that with people because um it’s, we all benefit when people share, and um, I don’t think we necessarily see that as much from people on campus who just don’t feel like supporting, um (cough) so Be Yourself, Express Yourself, and Share that with everyone, um, and um, and don’t be afraid to like, break out, you know branch off, don’t be afraid to be like trailblazer, um who is going to you know, make you know, possibly make things different on campus, to affect change on Bucknell um, you know, that would be my message.

So once I joined the fraternity I can honestly say I didn’t have any pressures people respected the fact that I didn’t drink, certainty I think I missed out on certain things like the first 3 years of school here there was definitely a significant component of um social life that I missed out on so some of the bonds that I probably could have built with my fraternity early on really never happened and I think it’s because of that which is kind of disappointing but yea the pressures within the organization other than that, other than just trying to know people in a way that didn’t ugh compromise my beliefs um other than that I never was I wasn’t hazed I never was forced to drink, I was very lucky in that regard.

21. Junior Woman

I was in a sorority for a year. Uhm, and I took a year off, and I was six blocks away, and, because, I wasn’t on campus and partying with the girls, they didn’t talk to me. And I disaffiliated and now they don’t look at me… So everything, everything is based around, being Greek or drinking, and, mostly the drinking culture is based around being Greek.
Because there’s shit else to do, if you’re not…

The first, frat party I went to, um, was Halloween–freshman year. (clears throat) One of my friends dressed up as a-as a magnum XXL condom – taped together trash bags and wrote magnum down the side–yeah, absolutely loved it… um. which was really funny, and we went to…I don’t even remember which one, yeah, it doesn’t—it’s not relevant it’s a frat, um, not to stereotype, but they are all pretty much the same. Um. And we got in because of his condom, um (laughs on next line) which is really awkward phrase. But. Um, there were just like people – there were so many people and it was just like, confined, sweaty bodies just touching each other and that just made me really uncomfortable. And there was actually a couple, like, with hands down pants and in shirts like, very, very, very, um, much… I don’t-I guess you would call it hooking up, but. They were like… seconds away from having sex on the dance floor and that is not an over exaggeration um, and it was just-it was gross. And I just didn’t like it. There were so many p-people and I just like…being, in a space where it was inevitable that somebody was going to touch me whether I wanted them to or not, just made me really uncomfortable… Which is kind of, unfortunately, what, you expect when you walk into a frat party-somebody is gonna come dance with you. Um. Regardless if, whether you say, I want to be dance with. Um. In one of my classes very recently, one of the girls went, uh-m…went to a party and she was dancing, in a corner by herself. And. Someone, like, came up to her. And. Put his hands on her waist and started dancing with her, and she was like I don’t know you. Why are you touching me? And he was like, I just wanted to dance, and she was like, well I don’t want to dance with you, like, why would you think that it’s okay to dance with me? -and he’s like. Your in my space. I just wanna dance….

Like. No. Doesn’t matter whose space it is, like, personal autonomy – you don’t touch another person, without, saying – can I touch you. It’s again the whole, strategy in another language or, like, body language, just because you might, think, that the person wants dance with you, you should still say – do you want to dance, like, establish that, very fundamental, basic… Not. Hidden in. Coded language – (awkward chuckle) consent (little awkward chuckle) e-hmmm, so…. Oh th, th-the frat party-the frat boys were really, um, excited. They were like (excited voice) “Oh my God that’s the coolest thing we’ve ever seen. Yeah come on in. All you guys you’re friends-You’re definitely cool if you’re friends with that guy.” Yeah…which is different than the traditional, um. One guy per group of several girls and like the girls will get the guy in, which is very different.

Or, (higher voice) “Oh my God did you hook up with – whoever?” Like, “Who did you hook up with last night?” The expectation that you’re going to, have sex with somebody, or hook up with somebody-whatever that means. Which is again. Shrouded language. Speaker-speak. What does that even mean. When you say oh I hooked up with – it could mean like, we made out, or – we had sex. Like. What does it mean? Why does it have to be secretive-why is there shame around, saying, what you did was sex. Like. We’re a very…um (exhales) sex … sex negative, isn’t really what I wanna say, like, we’re not-we’re not really sex positive, but there’s still a lot of acts that are taboo, and like we cant
talk about it. Why? Everybody’s having sex. And if you’re not, you’re thinking about it. And if you’re not…thinking about it, you, at least, are aware of other people, “doing it”. So. Why is there a problem with saying explicitly, what goes on?

The night that my friend, um, told me…that…another man, on our floor, had drugged her and raped her. That made me really angry… Um - cause it was somebody I—we both lived with and that we—we had to share a space with. Um, and not only did he ‘assault’ her, um – and took her virginity, but. He – Thought about it. Spent money on it. Drugged her. Followed her around. And then raped her. –And then played it off like it wasn’t a big deal the next day… like… It takes A Special Kind, of…Douchebag… I just-I can’t even an-and I see him from time to time and he’ll be like (higher voice) “Oh, Hey Courtney!” and I’m just be like, (Lowered voice, threat) You. Really. Don’t. Want, to talk to me. Because, I really, cannot, trust myself, to not, like, throw you in a dumpster, (breathy laughs) that’s like my, my favorite…sometimes being silly and she’s like, “well shush, I’ll throw you in the dumpster.

Today I was walking to class (inhales), and there were six frat boys and (large exhales) in their little like row walking in front of O’Leary and I was walking to Carnegie and like, they were taking up the entire side-walk and there’s like muddy grass n shit over here and I’m on the edge. Um. And he looked at me, like the guy in my, in my, line looked at me and then just kept walking – towards me, like, expecting me to walk around him? Like no, that’s not how that works. So I walked, and we, we like walked – and I didn’t move. And he like kinda, kind of like half-shouldered me, and was like what are you doing? And I’m like… take up less of the fucking sidewalk! And he was like (deeper voice) “ok, fine”. (One chuckle) Like no, be aware of what you are doing, you are not more entitled to this space – because he had a penis – I’m assuming.

Uhm… So like, it’s a lot of that, and women are expected to – cause wha-you see that when you are occupying when you are occupying the same space or going to occupy the same place shortly it’s women who, women have, we talked about this in, in, which is funny, have a smaller stature, smaller posture, the way they sit makes them smaller, take up less space. Um. And I don’t, A. don’t do that, I will sit however makes me comfortable and B. don’t support that dynamic.

(small voice)talk about things. (Laughing) Umph. You talk about them, – takes away the mystery, takes away the secrecy, takes away the shame. Talk about it. (Quick exhale) It’s ok – t-to ask questions, it’s ok to – to not know. But you have to talk about it. You can’t get anywhere, you can’t learn, you can’t grow without having a dialogue. Um. And I think a lot people are afraid to-to talk about it."

It was, it was not a Bucknell person, it was the guy I, I dated in high school. Uhm…and…the, the people who lived in the room next door, had a dartboard on the wall – adjacent to mine. Uhm, and, I could hear them throwing darts, like laughing having a
good time throwing darts… while it was happening. Uhm. So my petition was… they could have heard me too. Uhm. And then (exhales) later when, I went, around and I said ok, like this is who this person is, like – it was, it was rough, cause I had a prom picture, like this is who this person is, if you see them around here… let me know, let the RA know so, we can handle it. Uhm (exhale)…and the reaction of the people who live next door to me was, “you look happy in the picture why does it matter its not like he raped you or anything”… And I was like… Well. (exhale, clears throat) mhm. Actually. I wasn’t going to disclose that but since you said it, that’s exactly what happened while you where over here playing darts. And he was like “oh”… Like, be aware of the words that come out of your mouth. Like I can’t stress that enough and I feel like a broken record but, like, the words that you say matter. And, how do you know that’s not what happened, you weren’t there, yes? I mean, I, I can’t imagine how they didn’t hear me? … But. I mean, that’s, that’s (trails off, under breath) whatever. Uhm. I just. The, the reactions like it couldn’t possibly be assault, like, like, that doesn’t ever happen…like, yes it does, it happens all the time, in the places you least expect it, ih-in the room next door to you. Like, you wouldn’t expect it. To hear that. Like, how would you feel if, you know your - the person next door to you came over and said Oh My God I was just assaulted, like how would feel like Oh My God that happened right next door to me… that makes me really unhappy. That the fact that it can happen anywhere like I thought this was a safe space but (high note) nope. Even, even safe space aren’t safe spaces, with the, with the, right amount, right amount, you know – with the, the wrong people (exhales) uhm, and anybody can be the wrong person. Uhm. I feel like, like that kind of alienated me from my freshman hall.”

22. Senior Man

I saw just a whole new person, whole new people, I saw violence, I saw I don’t want to say attempted rape but um what could border on assault um I saw females squatting and pissing in our backyard I saw ugh drugs although never really started to see how big of a role drugs have on this campus until last year, junior year um…I saw a need like any college campus a need from every single person you see it in their eyes, go to any party and you see it in their eyes. They need to fit in somehow and usually the way of fitting in is drinking and for guys its how much you can drink obviously, how many shots you can take how fast you can down a beer um and obviously which girl at the party you’re talking to um its pretty sad. Well…well I can say there have been instances in which I’ve had friends at parties, girls that I have in classes and I’ve been talking to them just casually drinking beer talking to them and immediately I’ll get a comment or two from a friend, you know trying to humiliate that situation in terms of the girl I was talking to and obviously it was just it was just a friend cordial thing and they take it any time you talk to a person of the opposite sex at this school there’s gonna be baggage along with that which is just like that’s the perception at this school, at least from the parties I’ve been at and the atmosphere, the environment I’ve been at like you talk to somebody from the opposite sex and immediately the interpretation is you want to have sex with that person
and you’re trying to get him or her drunk or you’re trying to hook up with them um there really is no room at least in the beginning for just casual hanging out at parties doesn’t seem that way um I mean I think whether people are willing to admit it or not there’s like pressures coming form all different directions um pressure to seem like you’re not uncomfortable the first time you go to a party, um pressure to seem like you’re very sure of yourself um pressure to hook up yea.

I think they’re different in good and bad ways, I can’t speak for girls but for guys it’s this it’s purely reputation um…I mean drinking the most, hooking up with the hottest girl um and obviously I’m not speaking for myself, I removed myself from this whole thing a long time ago, I didn’t want to be really part of this whole game but um yea you know who even if as trivial and pathetic as who’s the best pong player you know its like people joke about it but yea there is you can tell there’s a lot of pride that goes into yea I can drink more than you I can play pong better than you um its kind of an environment where guys can flex their masculinity as much as possible um yea.

Well last year I was first kind of made aware of the drug problem on this campus and it is way more than anyone would ever acknowledge um dealing, doing drugs, um anything from cocaine, ecstasy, painkillers, marijuana, um you know its probably I think I’ve even heard LSD and acid several times um that’s probably just the tip of the iceberg, honestly, um, the first time I realized was house party of junior year and I walked up the stairs in a house and ugh just looking for somebody and there were 2 people doing coke on a foosball table and the reaction rather than try to hide it or anything like that they just looked up at me and offered me a blow like I was like no I’m good and I walked back downstairs um it’s very casual on this campus to offer somebody drugs um even with injuries um I’ve had painkillers offered to me several times just to deal with it and I’ve had to refuse politely but um that same day that I saw the coke on the foosball table that same night I went to a frat and it was house party and sure enough went upstairs went to the bathroom just guys doing blo, coke off the counter top of the bathroom um to be honest that was twice in one day that was the first time I really, like I knew pot played a huge part on this campus but cocaine and pretty serious shit also does um and its weird it’s like people you would never expect people who seem to have their shit together all the time um and they’re into some really bad shit like yea.

In terms of sexual assault I have seen guys really and you can tell its this whole pressure of having to hook up with a girl and in guys there seems to be a mentality if you walk away from the party at the end of the night without having hooked up or without having a girl in your arms you, a failure of a night, it’s a less than successful night, it really is, it’s the game where you have to, like you’re on the hunt, its really pathetic. I saw a friend, she shall remain nameless, I saw a friend ugh and this girl was obviously resisting him like just didn’t want to have any part of it at least I mean they were good friends but she didn’t want it to go any further and he just kind of kept moving her closer to the wall and kind of pinning her there and pushing her obviously it’s not as bad as some things get
here it never got to full on assault but he like really wasn’t, no didn’t mean anything at that point and they actually did end up hooking up and I think they’re actually going out by this point but its like you know I saw the beginning of that and it was purely forced, it was one sided.

Um I also got a call, was it last year or the year before? I was asleep at 2 in the morning I got a phone call from one of my very close friends a girl and she said that she was completely in tears, just broken down, couldn’t understand her at all and tried to get her to settle down and she said her boyfriend who I had known at the time, never really liked her boyfriend, and he either punched her or pushed her down the stairs, it was at a party and just he blew up and went off he was drunk and just beat her I think pretty bad and um I ran downtown to see if she was ok but the problem with this school and I will say it’s a problem like there are guys who who seem perfectly normal perfectly nice perfectly gentlemanly and sometimes when they get alcohol in them and sometimes not it’s like they’re pretty violent in more ways than one, they’re aggressive, they’re power hungry in a way um they need to one up the guy next to them that’s for sure. Um well obviously she was a wreck, there were people there and here’s the worst part, there were people there trying to comfort her and they brought her to their house and I went along and was chilling there for a little bit I don’t know it was 3 or 4 in the morning, I don’t know, but um I made it clear that I wasn’t cool with what had happened and I was fully intending on either going to public safety and confronting the guy and all these all the other people in the room were trying to convince me not to do that. And my friend the girl she was on the fence, you know obviously did not want to draw attention to the whole thing but was pretty shaken, shaken up and ugh ultimately I didn’t do anything because she just you know ended things with the guy, broke it up, she she didn’t want me to go forward with it but it was there was like intense. And the other people in the room knew the guy they were good friends, you know they’re comforting the girl but at the same time they were really trying to prevent me from doing anything about it and it’s like this whole cover up attempt it was really pathetic, really pathetic, and there’s obviously not a blind eye on the part of the faculty in this school public safety because of the task force committee and all that, they’ve made people aware, but there’s a blind eye on the part of the students where like students literally watch these things happen and pretend like they don’t happen or pretend like it’s ok and they make excuses for it. Bucknellians are really good at justifying their actions, good or bad, they find ways to justify them um usually alcohol related. They like live these honestly I don’t want to make it seem like it is worse than it really is but they live these double lives there they think, a lot of them think that they’re better people than what they are, it’s pretty sad and obviously this isn’t the whole campus, there’s really really good people, amazing people, people who don’t let alcohol do this do them, this is the exception, but um there’s a habit among a small population on this campus to just pretend, just turn a blind eye from some of the shit that goes on.
I don’t understand why girls here, they literally, it seems like when they are preparing for a party, pregaming or anything, they have this goal in mind they have to make themselves available, and make themselves as appealing as possible for these guys and like guys here have the upper hand it’s really sad but guys here have the upper hand in all senses um.

Being part of a team, you start to be identified with that team and so there was a rumor going around at one point that our particular team had roofied people at a party and you’re identified with that it’s pretty bad to be honest, and honestly people don’t automatically assume it’s you but at the same time you’re part of that collective, you party at that particular house, you know those guys very well so you’re connected with them whether you like it or not um and I think the rumors were false honestly. Two girls accused us of that to the public safety and public safety investigated and I think they were false, I never really heard the end of that, they were false and turning a blind eye, like everyone else to be honest you know and there are guys on my team that I would not expect to do shit like that but at the same time…they might you know um and I’d be really reluctant to believe it.

Guys will sometimes sacrifice you know, if it’s midweek and you have competition on the weekend they’ll sacrifice ugh you know preparation for that competition in order to make sure people don’t think this particular team can’t party well or refuses to party well um there were a lot of moments where I disagreed about us having a party and we went forward and had a party there were a lot of moments and I didn’t attend during those moments and obviously I made my voice heard and some guys agreed and some guys didn’t but um the reasoning behind it or the opposite argument was game’s this weekend we’ll be fine, there’s plenty of recovery and you know we can’t just not party just because we’re athletes which is pathetic because we are different from everyone else here as arrogant as that may sound and like we’re different we are, we have this thing that separates us from everything else and we have to make sacrifices for that but I don’t know maybe its just that’s who I’ve been, I’ve never been one to make sacrifices for that um and it frustrated me a lot, you know I had to get used to it, just find ways of dealing with it but it frustrated me a lot that my teammates often did not want to make sacrifices for it and they said they would but they didn’t you know.

This is a case where me and my team mates, that’s why I love being a part of the athletic scene here um we had a regular party at our house um a great party a bunch of people um nothing got really out of hand it was just an awesome celebrating time just purely celebratory and after it died down around 1 or 2 in the morning it ended up just being me and my classmates on my team the fellow sophomores or juniors I can’t remember and for the next 2 or 3 hours it was just awesome, we stayed in the house and drank together, just us 5 or 6 or 7 I can’t remember it was just us no one else, no girls, no guys on the team, no outside other Bucknellians, and I think we ended up going to hot diggity dogs and just fucking eating our faces off at 3 in the morning and ugh at one point we were walking down 6th street (cough) we walked past the yard, do you have class right
now? Do you have class in 10 minutes, wow you have class in 10 minutes, anyway I’ll finish the story and we can finish the rest whenever. We walked past the yard downtown it was on 6th street and I guess it was a family that lived downtown they had a little plastic, one of those little plastic toys r us bikes and somehow during the morning I had sunglasses on I don’t know why and I have pictures this is the only reason I remember this, I have pictures of this but I grabbed the little toys r us plastic bike and one of these tricycle things and I think we pedaled down the entirety of 6th St taking turns, it was a night like that where like, we put the bike back we did, but it was just one of those nights where, in a way it was great to just get away from our sport and just be us.

23. Sophomore Woman

There was um just one story comes to mind I had a particularly bad night one time and it was like a Friday or Saturday night like 1 in the morning and um and I just went um running around campus and when I went back to my dorm I didn’t get to my hall yet I just like sat down on the stairs to like catch my breath, and I just kind of sat there for a while and this girl was coming up from doing laundry and she stopped and put down her basket and was like are you ok? And I was just like yea I’m fine, thank you for asking but like like I appreciate your concern and she was like ok and she continued up the stairs and like then I was like I would say I would be proud to go to this school if something like that can happen but I haven’t really experienced anything really like that since.

The guy on the hall that I keep referring too all the time, is still very shy and um he wears earmuffs all the time and a lot of people just make fun of him for it and we’ll be walking in groups or like going to football games or like events at the Weis center and there just like groups of guys or like groups of people who like point it out and start making fun of him for it and on multiple occasions I turn around and freak out at them like why do you care that he’s wearing earmuffs, like what is it to you if he’s wearing earmuffs like does it really bother you that much that you’re going to pay attention to something that he’s wearing like he’s even if it’s 80 degrees outside. Nothing, they don’t say anything. They either pretend that they don’t hear anything or they just shut up they don’t say anything but it’s infuriating to me that they’re so judgmental on something so trivial.

We usually try to go to dinner together so we’ll sit in a big group and there are people who come sit with us sometimes who aren’t in choice they just know people from being engineers or whatever there’s this one time this kid came and sat with us and he was talking about um it was right before or right after house party weekend I think and he said something like he was talking about his weekend and like empty pizza boxes in his hallway and antics that went on with drunk kids or whatever and he said but I wouldn’t expect you guys to understand because you don’t live on a normal hall and just the tone that he said it, I understand what he meant people aren’t going to be drinking on our hall but the tone that he said it made me mad and I freaked out at him at the table and I was like what makes us not normal because he choose to not partake in these activities it
doesn’t make us any different it just like makes us healthier if anything, like we don’t judge you for doing the things you do so why do you judge us for not doing the things you do and my roommate was like it’s ok just relax and everyone at the table was just like, they think it’s entertaining when I do that cuz they’re not gonna do it themselves, a lot of them are very soft spoken they don’t stand up like that, I just don’t stand for that like, think before you speak and when you go to somebody like who are you to judge? That really pissed me off and he doesn’t come to sit with us anymore so ha.

24. Junior Man

I feel like a lot, I feel like the Bucknell experience has changed a ton of people, like I’ve lost friends that came into college saying they wouldn’t drink but now are heavy drinkers um so I mean that’s probably what happens in every college but it’s still sad to see that happen.

It was actually freshmen year on house party weekend, Friday night, um and me and my best friend ugh were just watching TV and he didn’t want to go out and I wasn’t going to go out on Friday night either and we were just watching TV and basically we just heard some shuffling outside of our door back and forth a few times, we had no idea what it was and it was just like what is going on so I just decided you know I’m going to open this door and pretend to go to the bathroom see what’s happening and I open the door and this one girl’s just…her… she has these big boots on and she has her jeans on her ankles and she’s wearing a towel I guess because she was embarrassed that she you know her jeans were on her ankles or something? I don’t know but and then she open the door and our eyes met instantly by chance I guess and she was like I need help and I’m like what? She’s like don’t worry I’m not drunk and I’m like ok um apparently she asked me to help her get her boots off so she could take her jeans off and I…I sat on the ground and helped her get her boots off and she went on her merry way I guess, I don’t know, it was definitely one of the more memorable experiences, I don’t think she was drunk, I don’t know what was going on in her mind that she couldn’t pull her pants up or I don’t know I don’t know its beyond me, definitely one of the more memorable nights. I just well I went to the bathroom and I came back and we just, me and my friend just laughed uncontrollably, we just found it so funny cuz we’ve never seen something so stupid, it was I don’t know, I’ll definitely remember that for quite a while.

25. Junior Man

They’re going to parties because they think that’s what everyone else does and everyone else is only doing it because they think everyone else is so in reality I don’t think a lot of people here, I don’t think a lot of people really enjoy drinking and partying they’re just caught up in it and don’t know how to else deal with it being here, I mean they say it’s a small town with nothing to do but I’m from a small town with nothing to do and you don’t have to drink to entertain yourself you just need some friends and some ideas, I
think there’s kind of a lack of creativity. In general, yea, just people our age they need all this intense over stimulation and I’m happy just sitting and listening to music, I mean I don’t really have time to do that here but I will do that on occasion I’ll just sit down and listen to something and really listen and do nothing else.

26. Junior Woman

He came before I guess his senior year to visit and stay over with someone who had, who had gone like to his high school or something and he got like so drunk he got sent to the hospital and the girl was like freaking out cuz she would have had to get his points and he was like I’m not in yet, they’re gonna like never let me into this school and he got in anyway haha and he had points he had to meet with the Dean and everything before he even got here and they accepted him and I was like this place is nuts I’m not sure if I can handle this.

Ok so my sophomore year of high school my dad took me to Cancun for winter break for like a vacation just the two of us and sat me down at the bar it was like an all inclusive resort whatever and we watched this girl on her 18th birthday get totally hammered and my dad like sat me down I had like one Piña Colada like virgin and I didn’t drink at all I had a sip of his regular one and I thought it was gross but we like watched this girl pound shot after shot and then we watched these two German guys like hit on her and they were like creepy and random and she was like oh I could really go for some weed right now and she was hammered off her mind and my dad like so this is what happens and he full on showed me she sat there at the bar sober and then got tipsy and then she was talking to everyone she was happy drunk and then we didn’t see her for 2 days so we were like oh she’s hung over and for like 2 days and he’s like so that’s what happens when you drink a lot and I was and it completely opened my eyes and I like I had talked to the girl at the earlier stages when she was social and tips and whatever and then we just watched the progression and honestly like it completely gave me a completely different perspective on drinking that like I feel like a lot of people here don’t have, so when I went that rave and when I went to that rave freshmen year I was fine cuz I knew my limits and I knew that when I started to feel a certain way I should stop whereas like other people were like so gone and I can’t imagine being like blacked out my entire freshmen year like I’ve never blacked out because I know my limits and I know how much it takes for me to get like my happy place and that’s where I like to stay but like people are like yea I’m going to black out this weekend and I just don’t get that mentality and like I don’t know like it was so fun to dance and see everyone and like I love that memory of it so I would hate to not have it and the people who were so gone on that first weekend at school it just like it shocks me that people would allow themselves to miss out on something.

Of course we drink, it happens, of course people hook up that happens, like that’s all part of like the college experience quote on quote.
I talk to my friends who go to Towson or wherever else and they’re like oh I asked this girl out on a date like I hope she likes me omg like I saw this girl across the bison or restaurant or whatever at our school and like thought she was really pretty so I went to talk to her like I don’t know it was really nerve wracking but we hit it off so I asked her out and I’m like that doesn’t happen at Bucknell like at Bucknell if you think someone’s hot you find them at a register and hook up with them and you’re done with them for the year and like I feel like that’s something that isn’t really people pretend that it’s ok because it’s the culture and that’s because, that’s what everyone does but I feel like that’s something that a lot of girls talk about to each other that this sucks but no one really talks about it with everyone else. Cuz I mean everyone wants to have someone well not everyone, I don’t want to generalize but like most girls that I talk to have wanted a relationship or wanted someone at least constant and the boys are just like she’s hot I’d hook up with her and its so disgusting and like it’s like a turn off to hear that I’m friends with a lot of guys so like I hear that, like they say that to me, I got a text yesterday from one of my friends and was like your little is like possibly the most beautiful person I’ve ever seen in the world, is she still dating her boyfriend? And I was like ooohhh I’m just not gonna respond to that like why would you tell me that? Its just like I don’t know its something so annoying and yet like people aren’t strong enough to do something about it. Cuz like I would love I have huh I talk to like some of the girls on the suite about these things and I have these ideas but I wouldn’t have enough support behind them to like what if like every girl on this campus just decided I’m not gonna hook up with anyone, I’m just not gonna do it. I kinda decided that this year and I’ve been very happy just going out with the girls and having a good time and like if I see a guy that I talk to and have a connection with and that we’ve hooked up before something happens, something happens but like freshmen year is just so crazy and everyone’s like incest like Bucknell-cest is like the biggest thing here and sophomore year its kind of like dies down and then by junior year you kind of want that something consistent I just have been like I don’t want to hook up with anyone unless I think it will go somewhere and like I’ve had a great year I’ve absolutely, I’m proud of myself for doing it, but what if like every girl on this campus did it? What if every girl was like I’m sick of putting up with this bullshit I’m just gonna go and like have fun with the girls and I’ll dance with boys but I’m not gonna give them that satisfaction knowing they had that conquest for the night, I’m not gonna do it, I mean that would be like the most powerful movement, that could like make news. I feel like something like that would make like somewhere national, that would be a huge stand. But I think girls are like hooking up with people gives them that confidence that they’re lacking otherwise and people aren’t strong enough to stand up against that kind of thing and like that’s sad but it’s reality.

I was on the airplane going home for summer vacation this past year and I was wearing my carpe diem dance showcase shirt and on the back it says dance showcase like April whatever Bucknell university but I was like getting my luggage down and I’m like, the plane ride had ended I’m like about to get off the plane, we’re all waiting in the isle and this guy behind me like tries to take his luggage down and almost hits me in the head and
he’s like oh I’m so sorry I would never want to crush that little Bucknell head of yours and I was like what? And he’s like sure her parents pay plenty of money for her to go there like wouldn’t want to wreck her brain, and I was like this is so random, but he had read my shirt and he like knew what the university was and knew like what um I guess what it cost to go here, but he was like I wouldn’t want to hurt her, she’s gonna do good in the world or something and I was like yeah I am you’re right and it was like so cute and he’s like what year are you? And we got into this discussion and he’s like that’s a great school like you’re really lucky to go there, you’re gonna do great and I was like thanks random person who almost hit me with their suitcase haha.

27. Freshmen Woman

Uhhmmmm, I was a junior in high school and I was visiting with a tour, I think it was the first college I actually visiting, and I mean it’s a beautiful campus and I think that in the tours they really play down certain things and play up certain things if that makes any sense. Like the tour isn’t really that much of a great representation of the college, I mean like I am so happy to be here and I am so happy that the tours convinced me to come here, but I don’t really think it is the best accurate representation of it. But the college itself like you get a pretty good idea of what the students are like because a lot of the talk to you.

There definitely was a difference. Uhm, I mean obviously you’re older and a college student now so you’re looking at it through different eyes, but I think its much more of a party school than they seem to let on. Uh, which I mean can be good for people or bad for people, depending on what you want. But because it is in such a small town there is really nothing else to do besides party, and everything closes really early downtown so what else are you really going to do besides go to a frat house or a downtown house? So I think that I was surprised because I didn’t really think that I was going to a party school, and it turned out that I was.

Most important challenge…. Hmmm…I think the most challenging thing will be trying to manage my priorities and figure it out that, because I want to do as much as possible, especially being a theatre major it is really hard to get everything done and do everything that I want to do, be in other group as well because I really want to do a lot more on campus than I am right now, so I think that’s my goal and a challenge, is to like get more involved and be more involved in things

Mmmmmmm, so far the theatre department because that’s really what got me here. Was the community feeling and the lack of competiveness in the department and how welcoming everyone was and I was completely right about that as a perspective student because that’s exactly how it is. Uh, so I think that would be the thing that I most cherish about the school so far.
The first party I went to was, oh this is actually funny, it was when there was that activities fair where they had fried Oreos and everything like that and I had just met a group of girls in orientation and there was like 5 girls and they met this guy who was a freshman on the soccer team, and the soccer guys told him that he could come to the party if he brought like 10 girls or something, so he like met all these girls and the girls that I had become friends with were some of the girls, so we all went to the soccer house, and it was the most awkward party that iv ever been to because you literally just walked in and it was just a ton of freshman girls, just a ton, like I’ve never seen so many girls between the age of like 17 and 19 in one lace in my life. And, uhm, all the guys were just behind the bar and not talking to anyone, so its not like they were even taking advantage of the fact that there were a ton of girls in their house and there weren’t really that many of them, it was just the most awkward thing and I felt like I was, I don’t know, I felt like I was in like a museum, like being watched….it was very weird. That’s why I left, I hated the soccer house. But that’s the first party I went to at Bucknell (laughs)

Hmm, ooh that’s an interesting question. Hm, Uh, I don’t think I’ve tried that hard to fit in at Bucknell yet. Uhm, probably mainly because like being in the main stage play, I kind of already was in a group that I didn’t really need to work to be in, if that makes any sense. Uhm, and I don’t, it kind of, making friends as a freshman, you know, came pretty easily, and it’s really not that hard to meet new people. Uh, now it is, but in the beginning it wasn’t hard at all to meet new people. Uh so I don’t think I’ve really tried to fit in or anything, uh, I know I’ve talked to people who are trying, especially like what you wear and stuff like that. People have really tried to fit into, like I guess, the Bucknell dress code. Uh personally I haven’t really bought into that, at least not yet, uhm I do think though that next year will be interesting when I’m a sophomore and thinking about rushing because never in a million years, last year, if you talked to me would I thought of joining a sorority, ever, and now I’m really, really considering it because its becoming more appealing and I don’t really know if that’s because I genuinely want to do it or if its because that is the way in which to go about your social life from sophomore year on..soo…

That’s such a hard question…Well there is the whole, you know, idea of sexual assault on campus, which I think people do really talk about a lot, but I don’t think people actually take it seriously. Like its not a secret because its been prevalent on campus and there have been lots of charges in the past couple of years on it and I’ve heard about that from different students and stuff, so I don’t think its necessarily a secret that’s not talked about but I think it’s a secret in how much it actually means in the campus, if that makes any sense.

Most memorable…ummm…. I know! Me and my best friend here and a bunch of girls and actually a couple of our guys friends, uuh, went to DU this past weekend and we had a lot more fun than we have had in the past, because they, um, the fraternity was letting in freshman guys and, which was really interesting because the freshman guys are so much
more apt to having a conversation with you and getting to know you as opposed to the upperclassmen guys who are just going to come up and not even ask your name. So, uh, I think that was a lot more fun because we knew a lot more people at the party that we were at, which was also nice. So, I think that says an interesting thing because obviously every guy was at one point a freshman guy, but I think that as a freshman guy, you are just more apt to like talk to girls and actually have a conversation, which I think was very refreshing.

Hm.. That’s a good question. Uh I think it’s very different, it’s a very very different experience and I think the interesting thing about it is that um we tend to, especially as freshman girl. We tend to appreciate being a freshman girl because it means we can really go wherever we want and we can you know. Its nice to be able to feel like we can do whatever we want to do and not have to worry about not getting in places, all I have to do is smile and get in. which is nice, because its super fun, but if you really think about it, like, why can we get in anywhere? Its because we’re girls and its because we’re young and um new and interesting to the upperclassmen guys who want to meet the freshman girls, so obviously we can get in anywhere um and I think I am having a really different college experience than um my guys friend that are freshman because I think they appreciate going to parties a lot more than we do because I think its more second nature to us now because we are so used to it, and we can go to a party whenever we want to but getting into a party for them is really exciting and fun and new, um so I think the freshman girls are going to become jaded to the party scene a lot quicker than the guys. And you are also very targeted from the very beginning. Like guys don’t really want to be your friend here at all, which I’m not used to at all because I’ve always been really close to a lot of guys. It’s a little offensive to come in as a woman and to not really feel like that many guys really want to be your friend, at the least in the classic Greek life social scene, they aren’t really interested in like what your major is and what you’re interested in, they’re just trying to you know hook up with you, so I think there are pros and cons but its been interesting

Um, I would probably say that there is a lot more to life than what Bucknell perceives to be social, if that makes any sense. Um, the social scene here is, for a lot of people, based on partying, which is ok, like, I go out and party like I have fun and like the party scene here. But um I think when you have conversations with people here its generally based around that like you have a convo and you will talk about what happened the night before or what you’re doing the next night. You wont ever really talk about like the here and now and um how what you think about things and what’s going on in the world. Like I have no idea what’s going on in the world right now, we really are in the Bucknell bubble. Somebody needs to start sending us news because I went home and had no clue what was going on. March on Wall Street? I had no idea, I didn’t even know that was happening. Um so I think people at Bucknell need to realize that life goes beyond Greek life and the social scene, and its not like people aren’t intelligent because this is a very
academically challenging environment but I think people forget how intelligent they are when they’re here a lot of the time

Yes! Actually. Um so, this is actually the same night I was talking about before when were at um DU for the night. Um a friend of mine who didn’t go out with us but you she does sometimes and she is one of our close friends um went out with another one of her friends and her friend ended up disappearing and um like leaving her in the middle of the party and so um my friend went to walk home because you know she didn’t know where she was going and um she’d had a couple of drinks so um you know she was a little nervous like didn’t really know what was going on, had to walk home to her dorm by herself in the dark at night and a guy um jumped out from behind somewhere the story is kind of a little unclear I don’t know where he came from but he jumped out and you know kind of like grabbed her and um was like you’re going to come to my room like you’re coming back to my room and she was like no no no I’m not I’m not coming back to your room like I don’t want to do that and he was like no I’m taking you back to my room like come back to my room with me and he was like grabbing her and like trying to fight with her and she ended up I guess pushing him away and like kicking him away and then running and she called one of our other guy friends in tears and had him come pick her up and take her back to the dorm. Um and that’s just one of those things that a) her friend never should have left her in the first place especially as a woman like we have every responsibility to watch out for each other and be there for each other as a fellow classmates as a friend as a whatever that is our job as women on this campus is to watch out for the other women and b) it was so shocking to actually hear a story first hand because you come in in orientation and everyone talks about um you know how it’s a risk how you need to be careful how you know buddy system don’t take a drink that is put down all that stuff but its not actually real and hearing that story from her I was petrified and it finally became real and I was really ashamed to be a Bucknellian at that point.

28. Freshmen Woman

Um I think time management plus like making the right decisions um because before I came here I you know I chose my classes so I had no idea what my timing was going to be like or what I was going to be like when I got here or anything like that and uh I took like a very strenuous course load for a I think a freshman coming in trying to figure everything else out and I had no idea I just kind of picked random things that sounded good and were fulfilling requirements and like now that I’m here my next course load is going to be a lot better because I know but like I’m taking like astronomy psychology ancient Greek and its just its killing me so time management is something that’s been like really important um and I have not been excellent at it yet.

My friends. Orientation was interesting because um you know I live on an all girls hall and I wish I didn’t pretty much but for some reason I was extremely lucky and I met like my three really solid friends that first night so um by the end of orientation I already had
like my group of friends and its like iv realized over time that its not a group of like convenience because I feel like they’re the people I’m meant to be friends with like even though they live on my hall like um its not just because they live on my hall.

Yeah, um. (laughs) um we got all dressed up and we were like really excited and everything because we had well like I had absolutely no idea what to expect because I come from Santé Fe that’s like a group of like max of 30 people that will get together and like just kind of like sit around and um so I had no idea. So we went downtown and there was a party at one of the houses and um we went in and like it was just like really dark and smelly and really sweaty and we were all like “okay” and then my friend like looked down on the floor and was like “oh they have carpet” and I was like “that’s not carpet, that’s dirt” and she was like “oh my god” and then um we like just kind of stood there really awkwardly for a really long time and people were like playing flip cup and we like considered playing but I didn’t really know how to play and I didn’t really want to and then all of a sudden this kid that um went to my school like and you know that’s rare came out of nowhere and was like “hey!! What’s up” and I was like oh my god and like yeah, he was like a part of that frat and so yeah that was pretty cool. So that was fun but like on the whole I don’t really like downtown parties I like the registers a whole lot better but yeah that was my first experience. It’s just like, I like the dance party thing and I just, no one like really talked to us or anything so it wasn’t like we were mingling. For the whole it was just kind of stinky and sticky and not really worth it.

Um not a lot when I’m with like my friends and everything like its like a perfect fit. Um not much like iv had the opportunity to just be myself which is really nice but sometimes I get like nervous so I’m not like fully myself or I’m just like more reserved and everything like I feel like um my group of friends are probably the only people that have seen like the true extent of how like ridiculously strange I am but um like I love it like I don’t feel like I have to act like a different person around some people or anything like that and I mean there are like obviously people that I don’t mix well and that’s probably been established by now like there are definitely a few but um I don’t have any issues with that though.

Uhh..proud to be a Bucknellian.. I think I mean this is really lame but like in Orientation when we had the pep rally I like I was very insecure around that time because you know like things were just like starting out like I knew some people like I knew my friends but like we weren’t really like extremely close by then and like you know like you never knew what was going to happen and we went to that big pep rally and like everyone was surrounding you and like everyone was orange and blue and I was just like screaming and I don’t know like at that moment I felt like I was really a part of something and that I had never felt that way before like at my high school like no where before and I thought that was like the coolest thing ever and I don’t know how often like that might happen at every college but like I think with a school that’s not too small but like just the right size I mean for me personally I thought that that was extremely cool and I I mean that’s
probably why I’m so happy to be here. And embarrassed to be a Bucknellian? Um (long pause) well sometimes at a frat party you see like a girl like half naked like on the floor and you’re like she goes to this school….but other than that nothing has really like hit me like that before but I don’t know.

It’s interesting. There is definitely a difference, like not during like daily life but I think for social life especially going out like um guys will get to be warm in the winter and girls still have to go out in like tiny clothes to parties I mean you don’t have to but you do. And its I don’t know I think going to a frat party is a very different like a register it’s a very different culture thing like it was a cultural shock to me like totally different from even going downtown because I had never need to anything like that before like iv never been to a club iv never done anything like that but all of a sudden like I walked in there and I was being touched by like 8 different people at once like just by walking into a room because everyone is so close to each other and like I have so much fun at those things but its still its very different and you can see the difference between boys and girls that way too just because of the way like people are dancing and stuff like that like how you’re approached um like because girls like don’t really approach guys . Guys approach girls and its very different but like other than that during the day like I don’t its fine. There are a lot of perks to being a girl here, there isn’t anything bad.

Um yeah like I literally was alone at one time and it was very scary. Um I was walking back from a frat party and my friend had left me and um a guy came out of nowhere and tried to like pull me away and it scared the crap out of me because I was alone and I like at that moment I did not know what to do because the first instinct was like call my parents like after he finally went away um but I couldn’t because like what are they going to do? But um I think it’s the fact that we’ve been here for like 4 months but we like we feel super close to everyone here like I consider people here my best friends but I still know people back home like for so much longer and I think that its still for me like if something really intense happens in my life its my instinct to like call one of my friends at home so in that moment I felt like really lonely and I didn’t know who to call and I ended up calling someone here and they took great care of me but like I think that there are some times when I like just sit and I like miss home.

Um that’s a really hard question. I don’t know id probably say like hi this is my name like come talk to me! I’m a nice person. Because I really want to know everyone but like I mean I feel like iv met a lot of people but then I swear iv not met like anyone in our grade like anyone and you know and I guess I just need to get more involved.

29. Freshmen Woman

Um the first time I walked on Bucknell’s campus I didn’t really know what to expect. I hadn’t researched the school I didn’t know anyone who went here I just kind of plucked it out of nowhere and decided to visit because I felt like somewhat compelled by just like
stuff I had read but I like didn’t know that much so I was surprised by how pretty it was when I got on campus. The architecture was very like a little preppier than other schools I had looked at I had looked at like a lot of like gothic kind of styled schools so that like sort of preppy vibe um really like stuck with me as like my picture of Bucknell. And yeah I don’t know I didn’t really get a good feel for the student body and I visited twice and I didn’t in either of my visits well the second time I visited I think that I got a perspective that was um inaccurate because of just like the nature of like the people I was surrounded with, was like a very narrow like aspect of the Bucknell community but, yep, that was my first experience on campus.

Academics. Um but I don’t know. Challenge not as in like really the hardest thing but I think developing um well I’m a writer and I’m here to write and I’m on scholarship to write so if I’m not writing and I’m not attending the like poetry events and like keeping in contact with professors and like bettering myself as a writer I feel like I’m kind of here in vain and that’s what I need to be focused on so that’s my challenge.

Um, definitely the friends I’ve made. I wouldn’t say that iv like made a wide range of friends and that like I go out with different people all the time and like I’m constantly meeting new people but I feel like the friends I have made are very genuine sincere and caring and interesting people and like they’re kind of like what keeps me going because they’re great. Um yeah.

It was a frat party. And it was our OA’s frat and so he had invited all of us on the hall um and it was like at the beginning of the year so it was like a downtown house and like I didn’t know what to expect. Um I don’t think I took shots before it or I probably took like 2 and then all of us girls and boys included like walked down to the downtown house and then waited outside and obviously the girls were let in but they like stopped the guys and were like “sorry but like we just cant” and um our OA came out and tried to like persuade them and it like didn’t work and I like felt bad because I was really close and like I still am I was really close with the guys on my hall and I didn’t want to like leave them like that was like such a weird concept so I like stayed out there for awhile and then my OA was like “ill get them in through the back like go in” so I like went in and like found my friends and like it was cramped and like obviously not as like glamorous as I had like thought college parties would be and there was like a keg but it was like crowded and you like couldn’t get to it and there was mixed drinks but I was like so scared I was like no like I don’t know what they put in that like because I didn’t know like the nature of the frats like different frats have different reputations and like at some like the coolers are totally like safe and at some you’re kind of like don’t know if you want to be drinking that. So I don’t think I mean I probably had like a beer inside and so I wasn’t like really drunk and there was like one table of flip cup and like people were just like standing and not dancing not hooking up it was just like really like a stagnant party and I was just like not having the best time and I left I think after like an hour because like the guys from my hall got in and then they got kicked out again and I was like well if they’re not here I
I don’t want to like be here and like I felt very unattended not having like a like male presence there because like I didn’t know how safe or unsafe this frat was like I didn’t know if should be there without like a guy like making sure I’m okay so I like left with them and like went back to my hall at like a decent hour and we like ordered pizza and like went to bed (laughs).

Hm. Um. I think going out is a big part of it um not necessarily going out like more than 3 times a week but just like people who stay in on the weekends aren’t common. Um people who don’t drink aren’t common. Um and the thing is that I don’t want to stay in and I don’t want to not drink so like I don’t feel like I’m compling to s standard but I am like fitting in to that norm. Uh I think sorority and fraternity life is really big on campus and I never thought I would do one but I like talked to my friends who are older and a couple of them aren’t in sororities and its like their biggest regret in regards to like Bucknell and like social life and if you like after being a freshman girls like where you're let in wherever you want and you go wherever you want its like harder to socialize and like have places to be if you're not affiliated with a group like that.

Hm. (laughs) okay! Um I think its kind of disturbing the amount of like casual hookups that like…it’s okay…essentially that like a lot of girls just like give out blowjobs to like whoever and like you can hook up with someone once and just like go for it and like that’s not only like normal but expected like from guys. And like I think its gross and I think its degrading because honestly a guys would never be expected to go the same like distance for a girl like on a first hookup so I don’t know why girls feel the need to like submit like that I mean if they want to and they’re down for it and they’re down for it like go ahead great, do what you want to do but I think that it’s a little gross and a little degrading to just do that with whoever.

Um. So. Was it my first register? I think. Ok it was like register weekend. First register. Um. Sig Ep. America. And like most of the people I talked to were going to go to the 80s and like had all their neon stuff on and it was, the frat that I mentioned before, Phi Si, like that first party with my OA where I was just like this wasn’t fun and like I had gone to Phi Psi a few times after that and like I just didn’t want to go to Phi Psi like I was like over Phi Psi but like one girl on my hall is like seeing a guy in Phi Pi so like she always makes everyone go to Phi Psi and like all her friends go to Phi Psi but I was just like I like saw the two events and I was like America. And they had like a really funny description on Facebook and I was like I want to dress like America. I want to go to America. America sounds like fun so like I got my friends together, we went to America, we bought really funny t-shirts from Wal-Mart and cut them up and looked great and we went to America and I walked in and it was like this is what I thought college parties would be like like sweaty and beer everywhere and a dj and grinding and like hooking up and like darkness and I was like yeaaaah this looks like fun! And like so we like I had pregamed pretty hard, I mean not like that hard like 3 or 4 shots, and then gone and like drank a lot of beer with my friends and like danced a lot and like hooked up with people and like I was with my friends like in the beginning of the night but then like I went off
with this guy and like it was really fun, it was a very memorable night and like the music was fun, the dj was good we like stayed towards kind of the end and its like weird to be at a register when its ending um but yeah, it was a fun time.

Um…hm. Proud to be a Bucknellian? I think Take Back the Night really. I was really proud of that. Um my Acapella group sang at it and I thought I was really um like a powerful message and I was really proud of everyone who showed their support and all like the different groups who like gave performances um and also like I went to like a LGBT meeting with one of my friends and um it was really like it was well attended and there was like everyone had like a lot of ideas and I was really proud of it and like when I am involved in like causes I feel really proud to be a Bucknellian but I feel like most of the time like that’s not the case or the norm. When I felt not proud to be a Bucknellian, um probably like going to one of the like sleazy downtown houses where like you don’t know what they’re like giving you and like people don’t have like your best interest at heart and like you realize that there is like some sort of malicious intent with like guys trying to hook up with you that just like it kind of like grosses me out and you don’t want to be involved in that.

Um. To be a woman at Bucknell is to be constantly assessed by everyone around you. Like I think it’s a uniquely Bucknell thing to just be like walking down the quad and just like have guys just like check you out like not even try to hide it just like look you up and down and like at first I was I mean I’m still like flattered by it I guess because like the attention is nice. Its funny like I go home or like I go visit another school and the same thing doesn’t happen and like I’m like oh maybe I don’t look good today or something but it I think its just like Bucknell is like such a sexually charged atmosphere that like everyone just kind of is always on the prowl like always looking (laughs) so like, yeah I think being a girl is just being looked at and like surveyed and like checked out all the time.

Yeah um definitely I go through like periods of feeling really lonely in regards to a lack of intellectual stimulation with my peers I don’t find people who are as inspired by their academics as I’m used to. Like at my prep school it was like people were very engaged with what they were learning and wanted to learn it and wanted to talk about like art and music and current events and a lot of that is lost here. A lot of it is just about um getting through your class to get your degree to a job to get paid and so I feel like kind of isolated in that like I have a legitimate passion for something and I want to like relate with people who have a similar fervor but that’s kind of in short supply here.

Uhmmmm, man. I would say (laughs) I would say wake the fuck up, no (laughs) just like just like kind of get out of your own like circle your own world your own like its like a lot of people were raised in an environment that’s like similar to Bucknell and they are surrounded by the same people but like iv kind of moved around different groups and different areas and different schools so like I’ve found that often what people think is the
norm is just like what they’ve always known and they assume that like every school functions this way but like it doesn’t and you don’t have to like comply to a standard that has been set by your environment you don’t have to do that you don’t really have to do anything you don’t want to do you don’t have to like go out if you don’t want to go out like you shouldn’t feel compelled to do something because everyone else is doing it and like that sounds kind of clichéd but I think there is meaning to it and I think I think people should just do what they feel and not what they are compelled to do by those around them.

30. Senior Woman

My most important challenge at Bucknell is fitting in to the social dynamics, I feel like or trying to find a group of people to connect to has been difficult I found I feel like I found people but um for me I mean I guess I don't know how to say this it's just like I think the biggest challenge was just to find people to connect with connect to on this campus um to say in short I guess... I was trying to find the right words...

Well I feel like Bucknell has um academic wise Bucknell um has been very valuable to my experience I don't think I would've been I would've seen myself at a prestigious college like this had it been any other way so academics for sure and then what else.... I don't know I can't say Bucknell has done a lot otherwise for me I feel like a lot that Bucknell has had to offer is... has also... but there's also been like challenges for me to overcome while being here and I think overcoming those challenges at Bucknell has made my experience one that's also memorable.

So my first frat party I didn't go out at all my first semester here at Bucknell I stayed in my room a lot during the weekends I went to after... when second semester started I started going out with my hall and I remember my first party was I don't even remember the name of the frat that we went to but I remember going into... waiting in line ... waiting in line to get into this party and um having the guys at the door check on a list to see if you were on this like VIP list almost and I wasn't sure what the list was for and they said like oh if you are Greek you have preference to get in front of the line or to get in first and if or if you're a freshman girl you might be able to get in and even like the very first moments of me not even before I even went into the basement I could feel like oh so they're going to judge me and then let me in or like they're gonna like basically discriminate not discriminate but put the guys on one side and the girls on the other side so if you were a girl you were more likely to get in and like just seeing the way people were dressed to go to these parties I was very shocked because I think it was January it was cold out and like just seeing the way that girls would wear really short skimpy dresses um trying to I don't know if they were trying to impress people or if they were just you know wanting to feel sexy that night so just like seeing that even before I got to the frat and when I finally did get in I kinda asked myself oh so what's this party all about and um basically went down into this uh humid basement with sweaty people loud music
and oh I remember this really clearly it was actually funny cause I was just you know getting on the dance floor and dancing with my friends and one of my hall mates was like okay let's go um get drinks lets go get some beer and I was like ok so I went and I was like oh but I don't really drink and she was like ok you should just hold it and I was like why do I have to hold it and she's like oh if you hold it you look cooler if you hold a beer and I was like ok I mean so I held the beer in my hand and I was trying to dance and like you know while I'm balancing this beer and I'm just like I guess I feel cool but like haha I was just like is this what it means I felt at that point this is what I'm gonna try to do to try to fit into the scene because um apparently everybody drinks beer or like everybody drinks at these parties um I mean I couldn't tell if there was even a sober person at the place I feel like um I don't know maybe that's one of the goals is to go to a party to drink to the point that you don't remember to you know dance and also let yourself uh like I feel like when people were dancing it wasn't so much dancing for fun but like dancing to try to have somebody else notice them somebody of the opposite sex usually notice them and it was like oh like a huge um not reward a huge like you won something if by the end of the night you were able to dance with another guy or like to make out with a guy and then you come out with like a bragging story for the weekend or something that was my experience.

Um hm to try to fit in at Bucknell that's very interesting ok um I think I've been doing everything to not really fit in so just to look at it the opposite way if I were to want to fit in uh I mean its stereotypical to say like oh Bucknell has a preppy style you know girls wear black leggings Ugg boots whatever um I mean in terms of dress there seems to be a certain style to the Bucknell look um another way to fit in is to um I feel like I don't know having to agree not agree hm its hard having to agree or just talk to you know talk to people when I find myself when I'm talking to people it's like and I'm providing a different point of view that's not of the majority I'm not sure how to explain it but I feel like even in class or just like giving a different point of view that is not of the norm I would say is looked upon on as like oh well because my idea is not in sync with like the norm it becomes like disregarded in a way um I can't think of a specific example yeah.

A secret? Can it be an incident? It's an incident that occurs that people don't really mention I guess you could say um what if its like a story that I heard but its not one that I was there for um well I've heard stories that there's been cases where girls um is it politically correct to say like oh Caucasian girls I don't know so Caucasian girls um uh sometimes um there's been a story that I heard like oh a Caucasian girl hooked up with a black guy or something at a party or like after a night when she's been drinking or something like that and um cases like that I don't know if it's the culture or like the aftermath of it when the girl realized what she did or she knew what she was doing the whole time but then the story got around to her friends and then her friends judged her because her partner was of a different color but like um so basically what happens after the incident the girl reported the scenario as a rape a rape to public safety and um charges were pressed against um the male character and I mean yeah there was drinking and yeah
if you don't give consent its considered rape but its also like gray lines where you don't
hear about are people opposed to the bigger idea of like um people being with other
people of different races I guess.

Good or bad? My most memorable night at Bucknell... weekend? weekday? Alright um,
one of my most memorable nights at Bucknell I guess you could say was a weekend night
uh and I did go out with my friends and we did drink but it wasn't to the point like
excessively I think um what I find most difficult is that people drink here to an excessive
point where they want to get drunk or like or like to blackout I feel like in other cultures
like when I was abroad in Europe whatever people drink casually so it's not as big of a
deal and um so that night basically we drank but we also I don't know I just remember I
was with some seniors and um it was their last year and I was just a junior but um and I
was of age and everything so it was just hanging out and drinking casually and also
having a conversation like we were just talking for the whole night it just wasn't like the
typical weekend it wasn't a typical Bucknell weekend like we didn't go to a frat or
anything like we ended up you know hanging out at a playground swinging on the swings
and like talking about our like you know like our past experiences or like memories and
like I feel like I really wish there were more nights like that where I was able to just talk
to people and connect with people and share your stories like you know it could be stories
of personal life it could be things you're passionate about I feel like a lot of times we
don't engage in these conversations um and I felt like coming to college one of the things
I was looking forward to about coming to college was to meet people with diverse ideas
and I feel like with things going on during the with our academics going on during the
weekdays its difficult for people to sit down and really have those conversations so I
really felt that oh I would meet people on the weekends and we would really sit down and
chat about these ideas and you know really you don't have to bring forth change or
anything you just have to like I don't know I feel like I would've learned a lot more from
other people's ideas had we had those opportunities as opposed to what we usually do
here.

Hm moments that I do feel proud to be a Bucknellian are I guess you can say I really do
feel that Bucknellians a lot of them bleed orange and blue and a lot of them do are willing
to uhm alumni especially are willing to make extra time or are willing to put in extra
effort to help out another Bucknellian and um like in my case I had the luxury of going to
this new york trip with my the art department and work and seeing alumni who are
willing to take time out of their busy you know schedules their work schedules and just to
talk with us take us around their work places so like I think the Bucknell connections
have been have made me proud oh I guess no I think I found another one Moments that I
was proud to be a Bucknellian have also been I guess recently I've seen students really
start engaging in causes or um topics that they're passionate about and bringing public
attention to these topics um I'm very proud of even like the current strides that we've
made I'm really proud of the Common Ground um project and how its grown in numbers
over the years um I'm actually to be honest I think seeing the for colored girls
performance has also been one that was campus changing seeing things like that really gives me more hope that Bucknell is beginning to make moves for the better uh embarrassing moment? There are so many... haha I think I can't think of a specific moment but I know for sure that the embarrassing moments have to deal with times when people have made ignorant comments um whether in class or um in public. Like I think so we all can see that diversity is something that Bucknell um lacks in a way or we are working toward getting more diversity but I feel like its not as much its not as much we don't have as much right now I feel like some comments that people make I mean embarrassing for me to see people make assumptions about things that they don't know um being in class sometimes I'm the only I can be the only Asian person you can say in there and um just having them I don't know whenever a topic comes up about like some Asian country or like you know I guess people aren't not everyone is educated in their geography and they don't know that some continents like Asia is made up of different countries and it's not only like you know like Asia there's China Japan Korea Vietnam there's just like a lot of different countries that people don't think about and they often assume that they're all the same and I feel like its not just with Asia its the same with Africa its the same with um south America I mean when people introduce themselves they're like oh so um you know where what's your background where's your family from and someone can say my family is from Europe or whatever um or something like that and people don't often times ask oh what part of Europe if someone says oh they're from Africa they're like oh okay they don't really know that there's different parts you know what I mean so um in terms of like being ignorant about um geography or things like that culture.

Umm it's so weird for me to see, haha cause like thinking about the way its set up I don't know being a woman a lot of times I feel like its hard for people to take you seriously um not to take you seriously but especially like on the weekends I can see women being portrayed as objects not objects but I feel like its they're like less seen as people sometimes its more about the physical its more about appearance um being a woman sometimes I feel like for Bucknell especially you have to almost like live your life you wanna be a well balanced woman you want a woman that does okay academically goes to the gym everyday or like is seen at the gym you know but also goes out to party and stuff I feel like there’s certain expectations if you want to be like the ideal Bucknell girl I'm not even sure but I can see like that as a as a trend here being a woman also entails hmm um that's all I have for now.

One night haha I was surprised by I'm trying to think hold on um I guess it was a good surprise but it was also freshman year um well its the first thing that came to my mind so I was surprised by I mean it was my birthday as well but it was also um I think it was the day of my birthday and my hall had decorated my room or something and I was surprised to come back to my room and to see that it was all decorated even though I didn't spend a lot of time there.
Anything else you'd like to add: This is so hard... *sniffling* I think I had most difficulty answering the being alone part cause (crying) I still feel like that sometimes and I know I'm not the only one and I know I have my friends I've made friends here but I just... there are times when everyone’s out and you decide not to go out or something and like its just like sometimes thinking are you the only one who doesn't you know who doesn't want to basically spend their weekend like that or like haha yeah there's more to it I just don't feel like saying it that's why.

31. Junior Woman

I think my most important challenge would probably be academics. I don't really care about whether or not I make lasting friendships here. It's like, it's like high school you have your friends while you're in school but then once you graduate what's the likelihood that you're actually gonna remain friends with them. So I feel like the biggest challenge is making sure that I'm doing well academically, cause that's really why I am here.

What's most meaningful to me? Well this is gonna sound really contradictory given the last thing I said but I feel like the friends that I have made are the friends... are the type of friendships that will definitely last past long after we've graduated from Bucknell and that's really meaningful to me just because a lot of people perceive Bucknell as this like very homogenous place, but I found there's like unique people within that so...

Wow, I don't even remember. I just (pause)... well I think my first party, there was just beer all over the floor and I was just like I don't understand what's going on and I had been to high school parties and like people drink whatever and it was fine but people weren't like swimming in beer and you didn't have to wear a particular type of shoe or for fear of ruining a really cute pair of shoes and it was just if I could describe it it would just be a hot mess.

Ahh, ok so I'm gonna answer this question in two parts because I'm real different um so I feel like the majority of the Bucknellians that aren't typical Bucknellians tend to try to fit in by either uh changing their appearance or joining Greek life or uh I guess that's pretty much the two major things and for me it's a little different because I had been accustomed to the... these type of people or this type of people before just because I grew up in a predominantly white neighborhood I like went to a predominantly white school, most of my friends are white so I kinda had that I guess like cultural advantage that way so coming to Bucknell I was able to have conversations with people that weren't of my race without feeling like I was inferior to them or feeling like I had to pretend to be someone else because I kind of just been accustomed to that my entire life. So I didn't feel like I had to fit in in a particular way or that I had to do anything to fit in like I thought about doing Greek life struggled with it for a little bit and then was just like no I love all my friends that are Greek but I'm not Greek and that's not me um I think that’s pretty much it I don't think I feel like I've changed myself drastically to fit in at Bucknell.
Well I feel that's kinda difficult, I feel like before the climate whatever report campus report people didn't really talk about the hazing that occurs in Greek life I feel like that really wasn't well talked about I guess it was kind of a well kept secret but I mean after that I feel like everything's pretty much out in the open but I guess we still, or a lot of the administration and faculty, even a lot of the underclassmen don't really understand how intense some of the hazing is or was so I feel like I won't go into names but I feel like there's certain organizations that like thrive on hazing and that's just silly.

The night? The night that is most memorable to me (long pause and yawn sorry) I don't feel like I have like THE memorable night, you know what I mean, I feel like there have been tons of nights that I just had really really great times with my friends and then there have been other nights where even if we just don't go out because sometimes we'll just have a really good time but I don't think that there's been one night in particular that stands out either negatively or positively um that stands out more than the others um but I guess this was most recent, homecoming the other night was fantastic it was wonderful I really enjoyed myself um but there really hasn't been one shiny night for me.

Well this one I feel like, I feel like it you know falls in both categories uh going to dc going home over spring break last year and like hanging out with a bunch of Bucknellians that were alumni or current students that were all in dc for uh march madness for the NCAA tournament was I think one of the most amazing moments and just like made me really proud to be a Bucknellian cause we're all there in our Bucknell gear and its like we're in the middle of a hooters and we're watching this game against UConn and people are just like you guys are losing terribly and none of us cared because our team had made it there so that was like a big accomplishment and I feel like whether or not you were comfortable at Bucknell you could relate to that.

Hmmm, I don't know it's kind of it's an interesting experience being a female on this campus um there are times when I feel like I have a lot of power as a female and then there are other times where I feel like I am just like an object on a shelf in a store and so it's kind of I know it's a really interesting dynamic being a female on this campus cause there are moments when I'm just like, I feel like I'm being judged by other females and by males and it's just stupid and I don't understand why I need to dress a certain way or why I should have to look a certain way for me to be accepted and then there are other times when I'm just like well I'm a girl so I could get in here or I can just say something and get away with it so then I guess, I guess I kind of actually really been in a mixed world so I guess I don't know it's an interesting experience.

Oh yeah all the time, um but I mean that could be just me and how I am in general cause I mean I have a great group of friends and I feel like I can come to them with a lot of things but at the same time it's just like sometimes you do feel alone you know maybe it's just like there've been moments when I'm overwhelmed with work and I just like want...
someone to talk to and I can't find anyone and I just feel so alone but those are you know like everyone's really busy and you have to understand that and uhm it's really not like a I don't feel like I can't relate to anyone type of thing it's just times where I feel like wow I really wish that one of my friends was here right now so I guess it's I do feel alone but it's not as profound as some other people.

One night (pause) One night I was surprised by a conversation that I had with someone that I was not prepared for at all um I was just like hanging out with this guy and was just like hanging out and talking and our conversation just got like really serious and we started talking about his parents and his life and it was just like I didn't think that was the turning point in my relationship with this guy and I really really appreciated it and then I felt like I felt really honored that he was able to share that with me and it just really surprised me cause like we'd always joked around and stuff and we were really good friends but we had never really gotten into that territory of like home life or childhood or anything like that and it was just so out of the blue cause we were watching a TV show and then all of a sudden he just like turned to me and he was like you know this is how I'm feeling right now I don't know what to do and then we stayed up for at least another three hours talking about it and it was just very surprising but in a very positive way.

If I could shout out to all of Bucknell, faculty and students? or just students? all of Bucknell, what would I say? hmm that's... I feel like I would say a lot of different things haha um but I'd probably just say stop being so ignorant ha and I you know I don't mean in terms of race I just mean like I said before Bucknell is pretty homogenized people need to understand that there are a lot of different socioeconomic statuses out there that a lot of people come from different cultures there a lot of people that just like if you just went to Ashland that's like an hour away from here like you would see that what main street America is really like like I feel like a lot of people here come from these really privileged backgrounds so they don't understand that people have hardships and people have to sacrifice and I feel like a lot of the professors forget that too because they are at such a prestigious college that they sometimes forget that there are people out there that want this education and can't get it and so sometimes there's sort of a slack in departments where they're just like you know its fine we're all here at Bucknell being happy and cheery and I just feel like people need to understand that they need to get educated about what's going on in the real world like someone took a quiz today for this world food program and there were pretty simple questions that I feel like had you just read a newspaper maybe even last month you would've gotten them they were questions just about uh the horn of Africa and the the poverty level there and just like how many children are starving there pretty significant numbers and some people were getting one out of five correct or zero out of five and I just feel like people need to poke that Bucknell bubble and start getting educated.

32. Junior Man
Yeah, I mean I liked it a lot I loved it it was pretty it looked nice uh it looked like a
college that I could see myself at it resembled Howard university a lot um in the sense of it has a lot of bricks um and its structure um I'm a very classical person old fashioned kind of in a lot of ways very conservative so um I mean the brick buildings the the uphill and downhill it was elitist in a way and I like elite things um or I liked to feel like I could have ownership over something that's elite so I think I fell in love with it at first I did I was with ten other people when I came and I knew ten other people and we kind of we embraced the campus quickly and we felt like we belonged here just because we knew each other and that really helped initially uh but later on we realized that we started to not grow apart but just you know do our own things and uh that kind of that made the campus a lot bigger a lot more scary and you started realizing how uh how it can separate people but when I first came I was in love with it because its so beautiful and its and I thought that it was a close knit community because its so isolated from everything else.

My most important challenge at Bucknell ohhhh, it's supposed to be academics right? Yeah I mean we are supposed to be here and be academically challenged and I feel that uh time management was always another big challenge especially because while we're here there's so little to do we create a lot of crap to do and then we notice our schedules are filled with a whole bunch of crap other than that I don't know it's for me... it's also fitting in finding out where I feel comfortable um who I felt comfortable around why I felt comfortable with them um and not just being not I don't know people want to stand out and people want to be noticed and people want to uh feel like even if just among their close circle of friends that they're cared about and appreciated and acknowledged and um I felt that way too um there were times when I was with like I went into arts res first cause we're here to branch out and uh be with I don't know what am I trying to say we're here to branch out and try to fit with people but it was hard to do that for me because like the people I was around were so different and um it was partly my fault I mean like even when we apply to the school we have to like mark off boxes of how we see ourselves and who we are and what can we bring so at a university where you're supposed to like discover who you are as well as um discover yeah I mean we're supposed to discover who we are at a university we're supposed to figure out our social identity where we want to fit in but so much of it of getting here is based off who you already are and what you've done in eighteen years of life or so some people less some people more but its hard to know that and when I was going through the application process and applying here it was like what's your race what's your ethnicity I'm black so you check that box like what's your sexuality you check if that's on there and it's not but they gear questions towards that and you check those boxes economic status how much are your parents making you check that box and it's nothing but checked boxes so by the time you get here you already know what the people are expecting of you and you want to give them what they're expecting because that's why you got accepted um but there's so much outside like those little boxes on the application and just yeah I can fit into a box quickly that's the easy part of being here being marginalized being told this is who you are this is how you see yourself this is what you must do here the difficult part for me was figuring out what I wanted to do here and not really caring about the boxes I checked off in the beginning of
the year um before I even got in because the most difficult thing for me here is just figuring out what I wanna do with my life who I wanna be and why I wanna do those things um I'm a poli sci and education major but I know I love theatre so I want to be an actor and like that's another box I created I keep restricting myself because of Bucknell um when I should be when you come to college to not restrict yourself but to embrace all the things it offers and that's the most difficult thing making yourself free to engage in a true liberal arts experience of mind body soul and everything else.

The people at Bucknell are most meaningful to me I met so many good friends that would keep me here every day if it wasn't for my friends I probably wouldn't be here um I'd probably be someplace where I had friends Bucknell forces people to form strong bonds which is nice uh you have to know who you're comfortable with uh and those people have to give you things as much as you give to them in the relationships that you form with them they seem true and honest to me because there's no time for bullshitting you know there's no time to keep people around that will fuck you up because if you do you only get fucked up and then the situation will get worse and you'll find yourself in positions where you hate being here and you feel alone but Bucknell has given me an opportunity to meet some of the most interesting dynamic understanding lovely beautiful real uh students scholars that I actually that I've ever met these people certain people not everyone the ones that I consider close I'd definitely wanna keep around me for a lot of time to come because they made Bucknell meaningful Bucknell has academics it has sports it has the arts it has all that but all those things you can find at another university but what you can't find are the people cause everyone's unique and that's what made me love the school the professors the students the faculty the staff cafeteria workers like its all that those people that make you feel like you're at home.

I was an incoming student um and I saw hahahaha I was a prospective student and I was at a fraternity house the only one that would let us in at the time cause we were prospectives and they... there was some junior was dancing with another prospective student in the most ridiculous way ever and its not new to me I mean honestly I've been to parties where worse things have happened not like not worse not even worse the stuff that goes on in these parties here did not its not that bad I mean the thing that’s bad about them is the fact that people feel the need to act foolish just because they're drunk prior to being here I've been to many house parties many basement parties I went to fraternity parties um the difference was that people were there to have a good time and they weren't there to fucking get some at the end of the night like they just wanted to go and party a party's purpose was to party and coming here I think its because coming here like the great thing about Bucknell is its so small but the bad thing about Bucknell is its so small and like in a city you might not feel the pressure or that social impulse to um to rush finding someone because there are so many people or just rush into these relationships just because there are so many people out there in the world um like or at least seem like there’s so many people in a larger city but Bucknell the person who's in your I don't know intro to American politics class is going to be the same person that you're gonna wanna
you know throw on your bed at the end of the night and do whatever god knows what you wanna do to them but that's the saddest thing about it and that's exactly what happened at the first party a friend of mine who was a prospective student as well we were here together um and she was completely just violated willingly at the first party that she came to here and at first you're like oh they're just dancing but then it just got you just sit there and watch like damn these people are really horny and haha I don't see ... I don't know horny people at a party is never a good combination like sure you can wanna get it on you might wanna be there but be there with... my thing about it is if you're gonna go to a party go to a party and find someone that you honestly know and maybe someone that you're dating prior and if you wanna be freaky then go ahead be freaky but the sickening thing is just being freaky with people you don't know its just like what the fuck is your problem.. its just disgusting.. I don't dance with people who aren't my friends just because I know a female or a male might think about the contact that you're giving them you don't want that to be misinterpreted and that's what happens a lot here at parties like things get misinterpreted um so its not like I understand rape but I can see why it might occur here um and that's hard to admit and its hard to cast blame but like all honest to god it goes both ways in my opinion like responsibility needs to be shared among two parties especially on the circu... any sexual experience.. yeah there's the brutal rape but I don't know for the kind that's not brutal the kind that's the person that you know or the mixed message one you need to make sure that everything is clear and straightforward and not misinterpreted because that’s why all the scary and disgusting things happen.

I have to not do a damn thing. I fit in here because I fit in with the people that I know and I fit in with my friends. People go out of their way to join fraternities and meet like all these people and I don't know I've never felt the need to like buy things or um falsely represent myself just to fit in its not necessary um and some people feel the need to do it here I never was in that position um yeah I do me all the time and anyone who knows me would say oh yeah well that’s him hahaha that's what he does and everything I do is honest to me so I'm not gonna go out of my way to fit in if I don't fit in I just don’t fit in with them but there is someone that you will fit in with.

House party weekend... wait hold on good thing or bad thing? Well how about I give you both this is kind of bad but house party weekend I was walking around um partying of course I had my drinks I enjoyed them but I drank a lot by the time I went back to my bed and crawled into it I had to get up and go to the bathroom but I had this long extended dream about getting chased by Psafe in my underpants and um running back into my hall and climbing into bed but there was someone in my bed that wasn't supposed to be there and I asked this person what their name was and they told me what their name was and then I climbed out of bed and went to my real room apparently none of this was a dream hahaha but I told myself that this was a dream because the next day in the cafeteria I was sitting around talking to people and then I heard someone over tell like talk about what happened to them and the stranger that climbed into their bed and I was like I was that stranger! hahahaha so that was the most memorable night and its unfortunate that the
most memorable night I really didn't remember until I was reminded of it.... The other memorable night that I had here was during common ground I really remember just the campfire after we were done talking about stuff this sounds all campy and stuff well it was a campfire so I guess it has to be campy uh haha and we just started singing random songs and we started laughing and then I and another person started talking about why we came here um and the reasons started off like oh they gave the most money and they did this and they reached out and I came because of my scholarship or I came because of the sports what it really turned out was that we realized that we were here because Bucknell kinda promises you success and it promises you the ability to move on and move up in your social class to a new place and the thought of that was really nice and this individual and I we're completely different and we know that in every sense of the word we're different that's what we are uh but the fact that we both had a dream to be better than who we are and we felt that Bucknell would do that for us um was really I don't know it was cute um it was quaint and it definitely put me at peace for a while to know that most of the students here despite how different they are are just here to be successful and learn to grow and I mean that was just... common ground was a memorable experience do common ground do it.

I don't really have any um yeah... I don't have any prideful stories… my experience makes me proud to be a Bucknellian... let me make that question more specific, my experience being a black Bucknellian makes me proud to be a black Bucknellian just talking with alumni who have gone here in the past and hearing what they've done to open up doors for us to make this place bearable to give us Seventh St house to give us I don't know just a minor in African American studies to institutionalize the African American identity and to socialize African American culture um on this campus there was a um there's a Bucknellian who always comes back she's a part of the black alumni association and she tells us about the shit they had to go through um they had to deal with being called nigger they had to deal with people wanting to touch and pat their hair because it was a different texture they had to deal with not getting into fraternity life because they looked a specific way and all this shit they had to deal with and to know that we have to deal with a lot of it still makes me unhappy and its something that I'm not proud about as a Bucknellian but there's only not a handful but the significant amount of black Bucknell alumni that don't return and don't want to come back because they feel like this place wasn't conducive to their growth and they had to get their social life and their college memories elsewhere I don't have to do that as much because of them and that makes me a little proud to be a Bucknellian and a black Bucknellian but it disappoints me that even still I have friends here who say the same things I don't know if I want to come back for homecoming or what the fuck did you know that event isn't for us because we're black um its disheartening but I mean we're growing which is nice but not quick enough in most people's opinions.

Oh god, fuck, well masculinity is a difficult subject to grasp there have been many times when I wanted to prove my masculinity here uh well honestly it started off because I am
bisexual um and like there was this I just felt a need to fit in with men which wasn't a need to fit in at home because I felt like I had more male friends but um for men here there's an emphasis placed on the competition there's not too much upon competition upon athleticism upon sexuality um and enticing females and that has always disturbed me all those things I'm not that I'm an artist I like beauty I find beauty in the most weirdest things and if I see it I want it if its beautiful I mean that's the way I've grown up and just being here there were points when I wanted to join a fraternity just because I'm a man I felt like that's what I had to do so yeah with the campus climate people are like oh no fraternity life doesn't rule everything but fuck yeah it does and its not sorority life that does it its fraternity life that does it they dictate the social experience here and other people try to but no one gives a damn that BASA is holding BASA bash on November 19 more than half the people will not even show up to that event or like for example a show you have to beg people to go to theatre? That would just not have happened at my high school people do more things men do more things and men were more comfortable doing more things and its not the case here at all you constantly feel watched you feel like you need to prove yourself you feel like you have something to prove when in all honesty no one has anything to prove um like there's no need I watch boys go through extents to be physically and sexually attractive and it doesn't work that way for me it really doesn't and being a part of the LGBT community life on top of it just constantly trying to find ways to prove who you are this is a little bit of a tangent that doesn't address the question but I'm coming from a black, my religion that I practice is not the majority religion here, um my sexuality isn't the majority, my understanding of I don't know of life I'm an artist it's definitely not the majority here, I am a social outcast in every sense of the word and being the only one which happens a lot here too feeling like you're the only one which I probably am until I cross the stage in 2013 the second that that happens I am going to I'd probably still be the only one but it was about learning that I might be the only one with all those characteristics but I'm not alone in being different at Bucknell there are a lot of people who are different and people who are different look for each other its quite weird like all my friends I'd say are pretty fucking weird and I love them I love weird people I love outcasts I love people who don't really fit into any one group on every single level people who can just go between worlds um and feel like comfortable with their identity in that sense that don't always have to be one thing and understand that they're black but they're also I don't know in love with math or something but finding connections on those levels really help me it still hurts knowing that I'm the only one when I know that I'm not the only one in the world uh and I would like to see someone else like me here in that sense so that I can just relate and connect with them because its hard for me to connect with people at first glance because everyone is just too different and I wanna connect to people who are exactly like me and there are people in the world who are exactly like me that I know back at home like here you just feel it hurts to be alone and sometimes you cry but fight back the tears because you don't want to seem weak it goes back to that idea of being a man but its okay to cry I guess and its ok to feel alone uh but just knowing that being alone here is different because there's no getting out of the Bucknell bubble unless someone comes in and no one wants to come in who's
exactly like me because they're not as stupid as me I guess so that means they're not exactly like me that’s cool I guess.

One night? Ah have you ever seen all the little niggas come to campus...oops.. hahah no I'm gonna say it... have you ever seen all the little niggas come to campus? just from Philadelphia Baltimore or new york and they come in groups clearly race is very important to me and seeing it here is very important to me that diversity is very nice to see every once in a while but I was really surprised by all these faces of color that I did not recognize and I was like wow I used to yell at tours that came by don't go here don't come here haha go back especially if they were like largely diverse you can tell they were from an inner city because this place is hard on you at first and I don't know I don't want people to experience that difficulty unless I know that they're ready to do it so uh that surprised me one night um to see that Bucknell is really trying to change Bucknell is changing every single day and its growing for the better I don't know if it's growing quick enough but it's happening and we just gotta appreciate that sometimes people don't wanna... people wanna focus on the negative so much and that's not gonna get you through life there are like for me personally times when I was battling with sickness with honest to god it was anorexia and I was focused on the negative like I'm gaining this weight and I can't gain this weight um and constantly focusing on that and not being able to wrestle all of a sudden and having to I was focusing on not wrestling and that was only making me hurt even more people are so bent on the negative like I can't go through life without smiling anymore because its addictive and that's good you need to focus on the good things um people think I'm a pessimist but I'm really not a pessimist I'm really one of the most optimist people in the world that I've ever met myself that's vain but its true I feel like there's good in everything and that you really just gotta look for it um even if its buried underneath the evils and the bile and like just the sickness of life there's good somewhere and in Bucknell appeared to me to be that way sorry it appeared to be beautiful at first but after I got past that and started experiencing things that happened to Bucknellians I was like this place hurts so much but there's still beauty and you just gotta find it and you gotta be willing to look for it a lot of my friends don't do that and that's why a lot of people leave its because they get so bent hindranced and burdened by these horrible things that when something good happens they don’t even realize it and to be numb to beautiful things and to life in that sense is scary but it happens to people here unfortunately because there's so much to get lost in Bucknell looses people you lose yourself at Bucknell but the people who make it find themselves and the people who don't make it stay lost um I think you just gotta help people hold on.

I'd shout anyways.... uh I don't know what would I say... something important.. well I'd shout out my name, I'd shout out that I was a part of them that I was I am proud of myself I'm proud that I made it this far and I would just shout out, I'd celebrate who I am I'd celebrate what I've done I'd celebrate where I'm going and I would just want people to know that I'm here and that I've contributed and that they can rely on me or trust me to acknowledge them and see what they've done yeah... people don't celebrate who they are
enough uh we're so concerned with hiding and masking our identities that we're not willing to share how beautiful we are which hurts honestly I'm thinking about a very specific person while I'm saying this uh (eyes tearing) but um we need to be comfortable proclaiming our hearts to the world um and if it starts at Bucknell for me that’s a perfect place to begin but it definitely won't end here yeah.
H. Consent Form

Informed Consent:
DOUBLE TAKE PROJECT
doubletakebucknell@gmail.com

Purpose:
You are invited to participate in an interview pertaining to the social scene at Bucknell University. The purpose of this interview is to gather various student stories related to parties, drinking, hooking up and so much more. The stories collected from this interview may be used in the development of a theatrical script that will be performed in various venues across campus in the academic year of 2011-2012.

Project Description:
Double Take Project is a senior theatrical independent study project produced by Christina Cody. If you could share one secret about the Bucknell social scene, what would it be? Is your weekend goal to black out? Are your friends just drinking buddies? Then you must be a typical college student. Or maybe just a typical college student at Bucknell? The Double Take Project is an exploration of the lives of students here at Bucknell using various experimental performance techniques known as 'Applied' and 'Devised' theatre. The project will also conduct anonymous interviews and post cards to gather real stories from Bucknell students on the social scene and use those stories in various theatrical endeavors. The Double Take Project will take a second look at a "typical weekend" at Bucknell through the student perspective to discover if binge drinking, lost clothing, and feeling alone in a crowded basement are all just a part of the college experience - or something more.

Procedure and Risks:
Your participation in this project will involve an interview where you share personal stories about your experience of the Bucknell social scene. The interview will be recorded, transcribed, and pieces may or may not be extracted to develop a script based off emerging common themes in the stories. The script will be used to develop a show that will be performed across campus throughout the academic school year. We will record the interview only with your written consent, and will ask that no personal identifiers of yourself or others to be used during the interview, to ensure your confidentiality and the confidentiality of others. Please understand that because of the nature of questions about the social scene, there could be violations of your privacy. To prevent violations of your privacy, please do not talk about any of your experiences that you consider too personal or revealing and avoid sharing information that you may not want others to know about you. Your participation in this interview is completely voluntary. You are under no obligation to participate and should you decide not to participate at any point, you will not be penalized or questioned. You may withdraw your consent or discontinue your participation in the interview at any time without giving any reason. You also have the right to refuse any questions posed during the interview session that make you uncomfortable and you will not be penalized in any way for exercising this right. There will not be collected or published research from this interview, just development of the stories into a theatrical script. The audio files will be destroyed after transcription. The length of the interview will be approximately 30 minutes.

Benefits:
It is hoped that the process of this theatrical experiment will benefit the Bucknell student community through providing greater insight into the social culture by hearing actual student opinions and sharing them, rather than making assumptions on the social environment.

Confidentiality:
All information collected during the interview period will be kept strictly confidential until such time as you sign a release waiver. Recordings and transcripts will protect your confidentiality by using pseudonym in replace of your name and others. If you agree to join this project, please sign your name on the following page.
If stories from this interview are put into a theatrical script, please check this box if you would like to be notified and sent the script for your final consent before performance and development of script is completed. If you check the box please write your email address below.

Email:_________________

Questions:
If you have concerns or questions at any time about this interview you may contact Christina Cody, at doubletakebucknell@gmail.com or cmc037@bucknell.edu. If as a result of participating in this interview you want to discuss personal issues, you may contact Psychological services to schedule an appointment (570) 577-1604.

****************************************************************************

Consent:
I have been fully informed about the purpose of this interview and my rights as a participant. My questions about the study have been answered, and I understand that I will be given a copy of this consent form. I give my consent to participate in this interview. In signing below, I hereby affirm that I am 18 years of age or older.

Participant Print Name _________________________ Date _________________________
Participant Signature _________________________
Class Year _________________________

Thank you for your assistance with this important initiative.
WE NEED HELP INTERVIEWING STUDENTS ABOUT THE SOCIAL SCENE.

SHARE YOUR STORY OR CONDUCT AN INTERVIEW

We are students making a theatrical piece about the social scene using real student stories collected through interviews!

Want to tell us a story about a crazy night? A time you felt alone?
Email Tina:
cmc037@bucknell.edu

TUESDAY
OCTOBER 25th
5 pm
LC CENTER ROOM

Interview questions, recorders, and info provided!
J. Interview Email Draft

Hi _____!
I am a part of Tina Cody's thesis project: Double Take Project. I was wondering if you could help me out? We has been interviewing students all over campus and the goal is to develop a theatre piece/script based off the stories from the anonymous interviews that will be performed in various venues across campus such as Take Back the Night, 7th Street, Uptown and more. We're looking for student opinion, stories, hatred, and love towards the social scene that will enlighten the campus on the truth and heart of social scene at Bucknell. I would LOVE to interview you, if you are interested? It would only take 30 min of your time and I would absolutely love your opinions and voice in the piece. I am free this (LIST TIMES YOU ARE FREE) Also, it is totally ok if you are uncomfortable interviewing, there is no pressure! Please respond if you have any questions or concerns! I attached the consent form, which has more information about the project!

Thank you!
Sincerely,

________

Draft to someone you do not know:

Hi______!
My name is _____ and I am a part of a group called the Double Take Project. This project is a theatrical thesis by senior Tina Cody. She has assembled a group of student conductors to interview students confidentially around campus about the social scene. The goal of the interviews is to develop a theatre piece/script based off the stories and share the script in various venues across campus such as Take Back the Night, 7th Street, Uptown, and more. We are looking for as many different student opinions and stories as possible in order to provide a full view of the social scene. We are asking as many students on campus as possible to interview. It would only take 30 min of your time and I would absolutely love your opinions and voice in the piece. I am free this (LIST TIMES YOU ARE FREE) Also, it is totally ok if you are uncomfortable interviewing, there is no pressure! Please respond if you have any questions or concerns. I attached the consent form, which has more information about the project!

Thank you so much!
Sincerely,

_______
K. Rage Behind Curtains Script and Film

DOUBLE TAKE PROJECT: RAGE BEHIND CURTAINS

Sunday December 4th, 2011

12 pm, 8pm, and 10pm Hunt Basement

Thank you so much for coming today/tonight to Double Take Project: Rage Behind Curtains. My name is Tina Cody and I am a theatre major at Bucknell and this is my senior thesis.

I need you to know:

1. I have been conducting confidential interviews across campus about the social scene
2. I will perform them as close to as I heard them from students and would like to thank them for sharing themselves with me
3. Throughout this semester I have kept an in depth journal of my own experience. I would like to begin with sharing a little bit of myself with you...

JOURNAL RITUAL: sit, pick up journal, stand up, bring journal to chest with right hand open left supporting bottom, open, read. Close, bring to chest, sit, place down on top of other journal.
MY JOURNAL: QUAD PIECE

October 31st, 2011

I just had this realization. This is it. Do you know you can’t schedule an event on the quad? You cannot do anything on the quad except matriculate during orientation and graduate. Did you know that? This is it. I’ve stumbled on it. Think about it…have you ever seen anything on the quad except people studying, tanning, and playing Frisbee? Ah I get this. It’s all clicking. It’s all about the quad. If you think about space metaphorically—what is the quad? THE HEART. If the quad is the beating heart of Bucknell, the center, if we as students or anyone can’t say anything at the center, the heart, what is it saying about us? The heart is frozen, “hollow” space as some people refer to it as. The center of our campus is hollow? If we can’t speak at the center of the University no wonder we are having trouble speaking to each other. That space shows the core of our University—by nothing happening there—our perfectly trim grass and plants—it’s all about image! This image of perfection on the surface! At this place we enter and exit the University and while we’re not doing that, we’re silent and quiet, looking perfect.
FEMALE CLASS OF 2013

1. I’ve never really…I mean Bucknell is filled with gorgeous gorgeous girls…it kind of…I’ve never really seen prejudice things against women or anti-feminist um things or um but I mean definitely like you definitely have to kind of um I mean you have to dress a little more revealing than you’d be comfortable with I guess to like stand out in like a party setting, its its like a strange dynamic between men and women on this campus I feel like, it’s artificially set up because…I can’t explain it, but its very like , I mean its almost like the people here like are trying to be congress men and looking for like congress wives and so that’s how I kind of see like people like putting on this façade but then…its like different. I mean it can get crazy but its not, its not the typical thing that you see in like a movie or something which I’m sure some campuses do get like that but we’re kind of like we’re raging behind curtains, I guess that’s a good way to describe it, it’s almost like everyone is trying to protect themselves, its like everyone thinks they are eventually gonna be a president coming out of this school so I mean like of course every president had tons of fun and got into tons of trouble but I mean….i think people here are very driven to having a good impression a good um, which is a good thing too because its going to make them not mess up their lives with their past um. I feel like this campus is very like, it’s two sided like outside of a house and inside of a house. Like outside of a house like…its put together-ness, like…people are discreet and then you step inside that doorway, as long as psafe isn’t inside, and then people definitely change. I mean its not just like walls but its like…its like the walls actually take on a protective role in the social scene, situation.
JUNIOR WOMAN

2. The first, frat party I went to, um, was Halloween–freshman year. (clears throat) One of my friends dressed up as a magnum XXL condom – taped together trash bags and wrote magnum down the side–yeah, absolutely loved it… um. which was really funny, and we went to…I don’t even remember which one, yeah, it doesn’t–it’s not relevant it’s a frat, um, not to stereotype, but they are all pretty much the same. Um. And we got in because of his condom, um (laughs on next line) which is a really awkward phrase. But. Um, there were just like people – there were so many people and it was just like, confined, sweaty bodies just touching each other and that just made me really uncomfortable. And there was actually a couple, like, with hands down pants and in shirts like, very, very, very, um, much… I don’t–I guess you would call it hooking up, but. they were like… seconds away from having sex on the dance floor and that is not an over exaggeration um, and it was just-it was gross. So…. Oh th,th-the frat party-the frat boys were really, um, excited about the condom costume. They were like (excited voice) “Oh my God that’s the coolest thing we’ve ever seen. Yeah come on in. All you guys you’re friends-You’re definitely cool if you’re friends with that guy.”
FRESHMEN FEMALE CLASS OF 2015

3. We tend to **appreciate** being a freshman girl because it means we can really go wherever we want and we can, you know? Its nice to be able to feel like we can do whatever we want to do and not have to worry about not getting in places, all I have to do is **smile** and get in. which is nice, because its **super fun**, but if you really think about it, like, **why** can we get in anywhere? Its because we’re **girls** and its because we’re **young** and um **new** and **interesting** to the upperclassmen guys who want to meet the freshman girls, so obviously we can get in anywhere um and I think I am having a really different college experience than um my guys friend that are freshman because I think they **appreciate** going to parties a lot more than we do because I think its more **second nature** to us now because we are so used to it, and we can go to a party **whenever** we want to but getting into a party for them is really **exciting** and **fun** and **new**, um so I think the freshman girls are going to become jaded to the party scene a lot quicker than the guys. And you are also very targeted from the very beginning. Like guys don’t really want to be your friend here at all, which I’m not used to at all because I’ve always been really close to a lot of guys. It’s a **little** offensive to come in as a woman and to not really feel like that many guys really want to be your friend so I think there are pros and cons but its been interesting.
MY JOURNAL: INTERVIEWS

November 27th, 2011

I have so much to say and I don’t know where to start. I think a lot about Anne Bogart who said—make violent decisions—just make a huge leap. So here’s what I’m scared of: I’m scared that the audience is going to think that I’m anti-Greek. I’m scared that the fraternity men in the room are going to feel blamed and hated. I want them to know that I never used the words Greek life, Fraternity, or Sorority in my questions in the interviews. Here’s what I asked:

1. The first time I walked on Bucknell’s campus I...
2. What is your most important challenge at Bucknell?
3. What is most meaningful to you about Bucknell or your experience at Bucknell?
4. The first party I went to I saw…
5. What do you have to do to fit in at Bucknell?
6. Tell me a secret about Bucknell culture that no one talks about.
7. Describe the night that is most memorable to you.
8. Tell me a story that made you proud to be a Bucknellian? Embarrassed to be a Bucknellian?
9. What is it like to be a man at Bucknell? A woman?
10. Have you ever felt alone at Bucknell? Tell me about a time when you felt this way.
11. One night I was surprised by…
12. If you could shout out to all Bucknell and all of the students would hear you—what would you say?

See students came up with Greek life and wanted to talk about Greek life all on their own. I’m not framing this to be hateful—just sharing what was said.
JUNIOR GUY

4. The first one is a kid I met at a register who who was a nice kid who was a freshmen it was the first couple weeks of school and um he came out to the backyard crying, clearly, or on the verge of tears and I gave him a cigarette and I asked him what was going on and he kind of tried to avoid it but sort of drunkenly let out somehow brothers were being mean to him and that they had maybe pulled him off a girl or something and kind of just let out in abbreviated statements that he had been, like he had lost confidence you know like coming into school he thought he was a good looking guy when he came here and things like that and now he doesn’t and um yea I mean I went through stuff like that my freshmen year there were times when you know, I’m like a skinny guy on a beefed up campus so that was ugh hard to come to terms with you know so I know I know how he feels to come here and have kind of bash your self esteem or whatever to have people be a dick to you so I try to be cool to him um and just tell him and I turned to him and said this is important you know I looked at him in his eyes and just prayed that he wasn’t too drunk to remember this moment cuz you know a moment where he might actually find himself high enough on the mountain to see the disaster you know and not join it so so I told him this is really important that you went through this and you should never forget that this happened because it’s so easy to people always forget the bullshit they went through when they joined a frat, but he didn’t he didn’t remember at all. I saw him a couple hours later and he didn’t remember um that was really sad.
5. I think nobody talks about perceptions of beauty. I feel like its very under toned and secretive you see people at the gym, you just assume it’s for athletic purposes or personal desires but I think that’s all bullshit. I think there’s a majority of people that do it for the fitting in in Bucknell culture. You have to be thin, you have to be I think you honestly have to be fair skinned, you have to have flat like nice straight hair um its just like so ridiculous but I were to just go wash my hair right now and leave it puffy and wavy and wear jeans and a baggy t-shirt and sneakers to a frat they would probably tell me that it is packed. Whereas if I were to flat iron my hair put some makeup on put the tightest dress I have on in my closet, maybe it will be easier to get in, but then again, I don’t have like the ideal skinny body that is idolized here by the male population or whatever but I think that’s the biggest secret about Bucknell. Nobody wants to talk about how they’re fat friends can’t get into the register or whatever, nobody wants to talk about how I have different hair, or different kinds of hair, nappy, kinky, curly, wavy, and that’s not really appreciated or thought of as beautiful. Which is that idea of Bucknell beauty, the Bucknell look.
JUNIOR GIRL

6. The **food** like um the binging after like the drunk eating I guess it’s a huge secret, girls will not admit that they just ordered **Doms** like that’s like **off** the table but I know I mean I lived in Roberts last year and I think there’s like 2 guys floors and all the rest are girls so we would rarely see a dominos car pull to the front of our building just because girls don’t order it **soberly** but you wake up on a Saturday or Sunday morning and you walk out to the trashcans and they are **filled** with Dominos boxes like the **eating** culture is definitely an **odd** one here, um I mean I mean we have like the smallest, I assume we have like the smallest percentage of overweight people in student population here at Bucknell I mean I’m I’m a small girl and I feel like I’m like just **average** here…people are so much more conscious of body image here and it makes **me** more conscious of body image whereas when I go home it’s whatever its like its like we’re going out to eat sometimes its not a question like… it’s almost like an **anti social** thing here, they don’t I mean like usually you think that eating was like a social time but a lot of people will not **eat** during social time, its like an opposite thing.

Dominos is just like the perfect example, you make Bucknell evacuate downtown and the only thing you see driving around is the dominos truck driving around at 10 o’clock at night 12 o’clock at night it kind of it kind of shows something.
CLASS OF 2012, MALE

7. This is a case where me and my team mates, that’s why I love being a part of the athletic scene here um we had a regular party at our house um great time a great party, a bunch of people, um nothing got really out of hand it was just an awesome celebrating time just purely celebratory and after it died down around 1 or 2 in the morning it ended up just being me and my classmates on my team, we stayed in the house and drank together, it was just us, no one else, no girls, no guys on the team, no outside other bucknellians, and I think we ended up going to hot diggity dogs and just fucking eating our faces off at 3 in the morning and ugh at one point we were walking down 6th street I guess it was a family that lived downtown they had a little plastic, one of those little plastic toys r us bikes and somehow during the morning I had sunglasses on I don’t know why but I grabbed the little toys r us plastic bike and one of these tricycle things and I think we pedaled down the entirety of 6th st taking turns, it was a night like that where like, we put the bike back we did, but in a way it was great to just get away from our sport and just be us.
SENIOR GIRL

8. it sounds really cheesy, but my sorority, cuz I never ever wanted to be in a sorority and I ended up having a really weird sorority experience because I joined last minute and then, um, right before initiation I got really sick and found out I was gonna have to pull out of school for the rest of the semester, and so they rushed and did my initiation. and then while I was at home they were sending me letters and there were people I didn’t even meet yet and it was really great, and then I came back to school and it was just this huge group of people who loved me and supported me and like I really needed that.
9. Today I was walking to class (inhales), and there were six boys and (large exhales) in their little like row walking in front of O’Leary and I was walking to Carnegie and like, they were taking up the entire side-walk and there’s like muddy grass n shit over here and I’m on the edge. Um. And he looked at me, like the guy in my, in my, line looked at me and then just kept walking – towards me, like, expecting me to walk around him? Like no, that’s not how that works. So I walked, and we, we like walked – and I didn’t move. And he like kinda, kind of like half-shouldered me, and was like what are you doing? And I’m like… take up less of the fucking sidewalk(!) and he was like (deeper voice) “ok, fine”. (one chuckle) Like no, be aware of what you are doing, you are not more entitled to this space – because he had a penis – I’m assuming.
MY JOURNAL: KILL BABIES

November 23rd, 2011

Making this is not fair. How do I choose the stories? In interviews, students tell tons and tons of stories. Some positive, some negative. How the hell do I decide what story is “worthy” for December 4th or not? In theatre we use the phrase, “sometimes you have to kill babies,” meaning sometimes as an artist you have to kill even the most brilliant idea if it doesn’t fit the piece. It is painful. This actually hurts me. I’ve done 34 interviews, have over 150 pages of a word document of their transcriptions and have done over 17 hours of interviews total. How can I possibly narrow all of that down into a 40-minute experience? Wanna talk about killing babies? A PLAGUE has happened to these stories. The only thing that gets me through is that this is not the end. All of these will be heard at one point or other—just not all at once. That would be insane.
WOMAN, JUNIOR

10. I was in a register and some guy stole my shirt and I was like, this was like last year, stole my shirt, he like took my shirt off of me, I mean I was wearing a little belly shirt but still he took my shirt and and then I lost my shoes in the basement so I was running around in just a bra and ran upstairs, luckily my friends like saw me and gave me a shirt and I mean its like little embarrassing things like that um but I was like so upset afterwards, I called 2 of my sisters and they immediately came and found me, I was like crying down by the gateways and two of my sisters came and just talked me took me back to their room, I slept in their beanbag and I had known them for about a week 2 weeks maybe, I mean, I mean registers are kind of like stuff happens but like everyone is drunk and everyone else is, which is I mean a lot can happen and people don’t notice it.
11. I think people need to understand how much **fear** happens around here, how how **scared** people are because the whole the whole model of Bucknell works in a way of offering **security** they they offer you a piece of **paper** that will supposed to somehow secure you a trajectory into the real world and they offer you all these nice social establishments, those **fears** that people have are what drive them to **participate**, it’s not the **joy of life** that that drives people to participate in things like that, it’s the **fear** what life could be if we **fail**… when you look at people around here with their nice you know the **perfections** that they pursue and their **smooth skin** you realize that ugh that people are very…….people are very stunted because they’re not allowed to be wrong around here you know, if you don’t join a frat you may not get all the **pussy** that you want you may not get all the **friends** that you want and you can’t be **wrong** you know? you can’t **fuck** up that’s the attitude around here so you join a **frat**. yea yea that’s just what’s bad about it, it’s the **opposite** of what we should be learning, and and you know people say things like people say things like this is my 20’s I want to **party** and I want to do that because this is supposed to be the time of our lives you know and later on is that safe secure shit where I settle down but people aren’t being **crazy** here people are being very **safe** and **pathetic** you know, there there doing the same **shit** over and over again and their making friends in the same ways over and over again and what people don’t realize is that they already have settled down, they forgot to live, they never did that stage um they they’re not acting like 20 year olds they’re acting like 40 **yr olds** who have already settled into a career and they’re calling it like the crazy life ugh its just what they do. And its **obvious** people are worried the sacrifices they made for that frat don’t actually mean anything you see it when people **kick** people out of a frat for a party when people are discriminating who they are going to let in you see the fear because the fear of that kid that kid who’s trying to walk in might actually be more **endearing** than you are and that kid might actually be more **fun** to hang out with then you are all so you know so you gotta protect your territory, why else would you kick someone out of a party?
MY JOURNAL: FEAR

September 29th, 2011

List of why I’m having trouble actually starting this project. On my Dad’s suggestion. He told me to make a list of why I put my senior project last on my priority list.

-Fear that it will fail. Nothing at Bucknell will ever change.

-It’s really hard, harder than I expected.

-I feel alone.

-No structure or deadlines, easy to push off.

-Scared of being confident and assertive.

-Intimidated by social change.

-Feel like no one else cares.

-Don’t have support from other theatre students.

-Tired.

-Not organized.

-DON’T KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN.

-I can’t make a decision.

-What am I going to do with these interviews?

-Fall into other people’s agendas rather than my own because I don’t have an agenda.

-Feel like everyone thinks I’m stupid.

-Overwhelmed.
SENIOR GIRL

12. Last fall we brought Dr. Lawrence Ross and h and h, national, nphe speaker for black greek like month we tried to put on with the BSU and um he spoke and granted his dialogue with the audience wasn’t very organized and it did run over time but literally with in the first 2 min. he started speaking people were just coughing and like at first I was like well maybe people are sick but then it just got to the point where it was just blatant like these people were blatantly coughing and being disrespectful throughout the whole entire speech and literally at one point I just had to leave and I just like call my mom and I just started crying and I was so upset because people these people were getting credit for it, it wasn’t like they were sitting there for no reason they were getting something out of it and granted you don’t have to take what this man says, you can take it with a grain of salt, move on with your day like you don’t have to care were trying to educate students because there are black Greek life organizations that are on campus that are for the most part aren’t really known about or people don’t know much about it or the tradition or anything like that so it was just I was just baffled at how rude people were for no reason, I was just like why did I come here like what how are these people my fellow classmates and my friends it was just mind blowing and then at the end of the event I was just thinking like are you kidding me like and then to talk to people about it they were just like oh they must’ve been sick like defending people’s actions when they were just out right being ridiculous I was just like wow it was a sad day sad day for Bucknell.
13. Oh you know what was really embarrassing? Doing downtown cleanup on Sunday. And (laughs) picking up 2, and ok you know those huge 10 gallon trash bags or something? I don’t know what they call them but they’re like the huge black trashbags. Well I picked up two entire, filled to the brim, of like natty light and keystone light cans that were in bushes (laughs). We picked up 65 pounds of like recyclables and all of that was alcohol related (laughs) like cans or bottles yeaaa (laughs). So that made me really depressed cuz like come on like, its not even like we were picking up you know, like if people left like a can, but it was like it was like we were picking them up like under the leaves, in the bushes, like there were cans just like stuck into a tree, like what? So that made me, that was the most recent thing where I was like, really? (laughs) we have to go and pick up like the streets of Lewisburg cuz you act so childish and cant even throw away your garbage? you can do better than that (laughs).
MY JOURNAL: DOUBLE TAKE TITLE

July 4th, 2011

I am having major trouble coming up with a title. I know I want it to be open, positive, negative, encompass the drinking social scene at Bucknell without being preachy and sounding interesting and provocative/cool all at the same time. I’m having high anxiety and tightness about this. Especially because it is due tomorrow. I’m thinking ______ Project presents at Take Back the Night. Double Take. I’m literally thinking of words and words hoping something will click. Double Take. I like it because Double Take Project: Reexamining how we behave. Not sure if I like the word “behave” but Double Take seems to kind of fit—vague, not too aggressive, while still asking something of its’ audience. I also like Debauchery Project, but it might be too dated and chaotic to discuss/imply something like sexual assault. I really like it. How weird is that, I’ve been struggling with this all day and I start to write and all of a sudden It just comes to me. This is all about taking another look at what is considered normal about Bucknell and reexamining that. Omg! I may have just found my thread! What is “normal” about Bucknell? What events occur here on a normal basis and how do they affect us? This seems like a much more friendly approach. Defining typical behavior at Bucknell and looking at it again. It’s all bout what I’ve been calling conformity: not questioning what everyone determines as normal or accepted, just going with the flow because that’s what everyone else does. Everyone seems happy. So the goal of the group is to do a double take. Look at things that have been normalized to us not to look at. Ok. Now I’m excited.
There is a wave of relief flowing in and I can feel my body loosen. I just had an ice pop as a reward.

SENIOR MALE

14. One night I was surprised by…(cough) ‘cuse me, I was walking home from the, the bar and ugh, students were in the bushes outside of Larison cottage having sex… there’s one for yah aha haah yes and that’s another one of those embarrassing Bucknell moments, Um um well a couple of my friends, I’m like, I was... it was just disgusting but um a couple of my friends who are a little bit more ballsy than I am um, they started clapping and like yea they started clapping, “yea that’s right!” and I don’t know I was like let’s go, let’s go, omigosh. So its moments like that where I’m just like, this campus.
15. I talk to like some of the girls on the suite about these things and like I have these ideas but I wouldn’t have enough support behind them to like what if like every girl on this campus just decided I’m not gonna hook up with anyone, I’m just not gonna do it. I kinda decided that this year and I’ve been very happy just going out with the girls and having a good time and like if I see a guy that I talk to and have a connection with and that we’ve hooked up before, something happens, something happens but like freshmen year is just so crazy and everyone’s like incest like bucknellcest is like the biggest thing here and sophomore year its kind of like dies down and then by junior year you kind of want that something consistent I just have been like I don’t want to hook up with anyone unless I think it will go somewhere and like I’ve had a great year I’ve absolutely, I’m proud of myself for doing it, but what if like every girl on this campus did it? What if every girl was like I’m sick of putting up with this bullshit I’m just gonna go and like have fun with the girls and I’ll dance with boys but I’m not gonna give them that satisfaction knowing they had that conquest for the night, I’m not gonna do it, I mean that would be like the most powerful movement, that could like make news. I feel like something like that would make like somewhere national, that would be a huge stand.
SENIOR GUY

16. I don’t know it kind of gets you down after a while I remember sophomore year when I went home for thanksgiving I was just kind of depressed cuz like I felt like all that I was doing was just like going out drinking a lot blacking out maybe hooking up with some skeezy chick but never really having that many interactions like true interactions just kind of go out, party, dance, get really drunk, and then just pass out really drunk face down on your bed wake up maybe take 1 day off maybe 2 and then do the exact same thing again, you’re not going on dates with people, you’re not going to see movies with people, you’re not like not having, those interactions are kind of like, you know, define relationships, you just kind of going out and exaggerated stereotypes partying, excess, and it kind of you know weighs on you after a while guys don’t want to admit it but I remember I was all around miserable something that I lost like 20 pounds first semester joining a fraternity just from drinking too much, not eating a lot um so I was like really really really just like emaciated, I was just not feeling good and I was talking to my friend about it and they thought it was something like I was pledging and they were beating the shit out of me or something like that but I was like no honestly I go out way too much it’s not healthy and I don’t enjoy it that much and after that I kind of, after I realized that I pumped the breaks a little bit limited myself, you’d go out 3 or 4 times a week and especially if you’re in a fraternity and you’re a sophomore you kind of feel like you have to get as drunk as possible and it’s not always the best.
17. Um yes um I’m really proud of the LGBT community here on campus, seeing my fraternity present, ugh past president stand up in front of 90 guys as he as he confessed to a bunch of guys you know that had many times before um thrown out slurs like gay and faggot and homo and um that he was bisexual and seeing how guys kind of internalized that. 90 fraternity boys, frat boys, just sitting around you know emotional it was amazing, something you wouldn’t expect, something you couldn’t like I don’t think you could cast 90 of the best male actors in the world to go sit around and reenact this scene it was it was you know you could feel people’s hearts throbbing around the room, guys that you didn’t even know too well guys you had socially determined as the prowler in your fraternity or the non drinker, the abstainer you could you could just that all got washed away while you sat and listened to this one guy pour his heart out in something that was so relieving for him that he shook with tears.
SENIOR GUY

18. I was asleep at 2 in the morning I got a phone call from one of my very close friends a girl and she said that she was, completely in tears, just broken down, couldn’t understand her at all and tried to get her to settle down and she she said her boyfriend who I had known at the time, never really liked her boyfriend, and he either punched her or pushed her down the stairs, it was at a party and just he blew up and went off on her he was drunk and he just beat her I think pretty bad and um I ran downtown to see if she was ok but the problem with this school and I will say it’s a problem like.. there are guys who who seem perfectly normal perfectly nice perfectly gentlemanly and sometimes when they get alcohol in them and sometimes not but like they’re pretty violent in more ways than one, they’re aggressive, they’re power hungry in a way um they need to one up the guy next to them that’s for sure. Um well obviously she was a wreck, there were people there and here’s the worst part, there were people there trying to comfort her and they brought her to their house and I went along and was chilling there for a little bit I don’t know it was 3 or 4 in the morning, I don’t know, but um I made it clear that I wasn’t cool with what had happened and I was fully intending on either going to public safety and confronting the guy and all these all the other people in the room were trying to convince me not to do that. And my friend, the girl, she was on the fence, you know obviously did not want to draw attention to the whole thing but was pretty sooken, shaken up and ugh ultimately I didn’t do anything because she just you know ended things with
the guy, broke it up, she she didn’t want me to go forward with it but it was there was like intense. And the other people in the room knew the guy they were good friends, you know they’re comforting the girl but at the same time they were really trying to prevent me from doing anything about it and it’s like this whole cover up attempt it was really pathetic, really pathetic, and there’s obviously not a blind eye on the part of the faculty in this school public safety because of the task force committee and all that, they’ve made people aware, but there’s a blind eye on the part of the students where like students literally watch these things happen and pretend like they don’t happen or pretend like it’s ok and they make excuses for it. Bucknellians are really good at justifying their actions, good or bad, they find ways to justify them um usually alcohol related. They like live these honestly I don’t want to make it seem like it is worse than it really is but they live these double lives there they think, a lot of them think that they’re better people than what they are, it’s pretty sad and obviously this isn’t the whole campus, there’s really really good people, amazing people, this is the exception, but um there’s a habit among a small population on this campus to just pretend, just turn a blind eye from some of the shit that goes on.
MY JOURNAL: DRAG CAR

November 15th, 2011

This is one of the only dreams I’ve had in months and ugh I haven’t dreamt since the summer. I dreamt that I was dragging my car around campus trying to find a parking spot, my car had died but if I was gonna leave my car there, it was going to get towed. So I had to drag my car, I’m walking, hauling my car with a long rope over my shoulder and every parking spot I found in some way was going to be towed. I had to keep dragging it around campus. That’s kind of how I feel some days. I have these intense secrets and stories to share and I’m just hauling them around with me all the time. I don’t have a spot yet. I haven’t quite fit in on campus, I don’t know how I’m going to share this…but I need to share this. I’m not a therapist, I don’t know how to deal with the stuff people are telling me. I’m terrified of becoming numb to this all. If I’m numb, I won’t be able to share these stories with Bucknell the way they need to be shared. I’m tired and feel heavy with weight. I think I definitely need some kind of therapy; someone to talk to about all of this.
WOMAN, CLASS OF 2013

19. The night that my friend, um, told me…that… another man, on our floor, had drugged her and raped her. That made me really angry… Um - cause it was somebody I- we both lived with and that we-we had to share a space with. Um, and not only did he ‘assault’ her, um – and took her virginity, but. He – Thought about it. Spent money on it. Drugged her. Followed her around. And then raped her. –And then played it off like it wasn’t a big deal the next day… like… It takes A Special Kind, of,...Douchebag… I just- I can’t even an-and I see him from time to time and he’ll be like (higher voice) “Oh, Hey!” and I’m just be like, (Lowered voice, threat) You. Really. Don’t. Want, to talk to me. Because, I really, cannot, trust myself, to not, like, throw you in a dumpster, (breathy laughs) that’s like my, my favorite phrase, someone’s being silly and I’m like, “well shush, I’ll throw you in the dumpster.”
SOPHOMORE WOMAN

22. There was um just one story comes to mind I had a particularly bad night one time and it was like a Friday or Saturday night like 1 in the morning and um and I just went um running around campus and when I went back to my dorm I didn’t get to my hall yet I just like sat down on the stairs to like catch my breath, and I just kind of sat there for a while and this girl was coming up from doing laundry and she stopped and put down her basket and was like are you ok? And I was just like yea I’m fine, thank you for asking but like like I appreciate your concern and she was like ok and she continued up the stairs and like then I was like I would say I would be proud to go to this school if something like that can happen but I haven’t really experienced anything really like that since.
WOMAN, CLASS OF 2012

20. Anything else you'd like to add?

This is so hard... *sniffling* I think I had most difficulty answering the being **alone** part cause (crying) I still feel like that sometimes and I know I'm **not** the only one and I know I have my **friends**, I've made friends here but I just.. there are times when **everyone's** out and you decide **not** to go out or something and like its just like sometimes thinking are you the only one who doesn't, you know, who doesn't want to basically spend their weekend like that or like haha yeah there's more to it I just don't feel like saying it, that's why.
I guess I feel really alone. I don’t know where to go with everything I’m hearing. People are putting pressure on me like, “well, you’re doing this project, so what is gonna change?” And some days, maybe it’s theatre people because we’re used to a final product, you know? But there’s no endpoint to change. You know? Yes, it’s frustrating to think that nothing may work and that’s OK and that is just as valid, and all it may be is like one person having a conversation with somebody and that might be enough for this whole project…right?
WOMAN, CLASS OF 2013

21. My grandma actually came here um she didn’t get to graduate though because she um had like siblings and cousins in World War II so she had to leave after a year and a half but um it was very cool coming back here and like you know feeling her presence here and she she’s alive still but she um it was just that I felt like an instant connection. And then she actually got to come back here, um when was it um my freshman year she surprised me on my birthday and she and my grandpa got to come back here and he saw it for the first time and she hadn’t seen it for 67 years and she started crying like she walked on the quad because she was just like it just looks exactly the same. Yeah so that was very cool to have that connection yeah. Her best friend got to graduate um and she didn’t but her best friend Katherine and they live like 5 hours apart and they’re 88 now so they can’t really like see each other too much but they like talk on the phone everyday. um my grandpa passed away this summer and my um my grandma’s best friend came to like the funeral and the wake and the entire she stayed with my grandma and held her hand and it was just like the coolest thing between two Bucknellians like they 67 years after they graduated and they’re still best friends and they’re still there for each other and they still have Bucknell as their common thread.
JUNIOR MAN

22. I would definitely say something. Um what would I say, I would say um...huh.......i would say I think we should all...um..i think we should all take a shit on the academic quad all at one time, and not out of disrespect to Bucknell but because I think that would do a lot for our community if we all shat together once cuz that’s I you know that’s shits like you can’t you can’t fake that at all, you know ? you really gotta be you’re dirty self, that would be great...I’d take a shit in front of everyone on this campus (laugh) yea I think people just need to be more real with each other you know I think people just should realize that they’re saving can actually be in their hands in a positive way you know? you don’t have to be afraid to live life the way you want to live it you can actually do that.

Look up and smile.
Thank you so much for coming and listening to Double Take Project. I also want to thank again, the students who boldly shared their experience at Bucknell. I deeply deeply appreciate it. This will conclude the monologue portion of tonight. Thank you so much.
Stand and bow.

FREE WRITE:

Now I would like to invite you to please free write on this experience with me. When you entered you received a piece of blank paper, please pull that out. Going around will be pencils, please take one and pass it. For the next five minutes, if you feel comfortable, please free write with me on this experience. Please do not put your
name on the top of the paper and if you feel comfortable, here is a basket and put your papers in the basket to share with me and give me some feedback on your reactions.

**MOVE TO WORKSHOP:**

**Affinities:**
- If floor is a map, where do you live?
- If this is the beating heart of the social scene where are you in relationship to it?
- If this is the beating heart of the social scene stand in relationship to how you judge it?
- If this is a community you associate yourself with, stand in relation to how close you actually feel towards that community.
- If this is what others think of you, stand in relationship to how actual you matches up to what they think
- If this is all the expectations you had about Bucknell before you arrived, stand where you are now.
- If this is stereotypes at Bucknell, stand in relationship to how you feel you perpetuate them.
- If this is ultimate harmony with yourself, stand in relation to it.

Think about your own personal experiences that remind you of a story in the piece or your reactions to the piece. In your group please sculpt the other members
- remember the order you did your image in
Bucknell Department of Theatre & Dance

DOUBLE TAKE PROJECT:
Fall 2011

A senior thesis theatrical experience by Tina Cody sharing real Bucknell stories gathered through interviews around campus about the SOCIAL SCENE.

SUNDAY DEC 4th
8 pm & 10 pm
Hunt Basement

Free tickets
A suggested donation
At the door
Limited seating

Tickets can be reserved through the Campus Box Office,
www.bucknell.edu/boxoffice, 570-577-3060
M. Rage Behind Curtains: Free Write Responses

*Rage Behind Curtains*
12pm Performance
Free Write Responses
You are an amazing asset to us and I hope you consider putting these interviews of your reflections on them in some from for publication and your performance. Congratulations. I was very touched by the story of the one of which you performed them for us and your change doesn't have any ending point but it has many important moments and I'd say that your presence is one of them.
It seems that students do have a lot to say and feel strongly about Bucknell and the life here. But so few people are engaging them or asking the questions needing to be asked. Thank you.
I find it interesting to think about what the one great kid told the freshman boy who was crying outside.

To stand on top of the mountain and look down at all of the shit below without being part of it, is something we don't get the opportunity to do all that often. When we do actually step back, when we get the opportunity to view what we are a part of every day, more often than not, we find one way in which we are ashamed of it—we are disappointed in ourselves and what we've allowed ourselves to become a part of. I hope the one thing I can get out of this is to take more chances to stand at the top of the mountain and evaluate what I'm a part of every day.
Fear. The act of being afraid. Afraid of choice. Indecisive. Fear of the consequences. Not being confident. Reveling in the confidence of others. Other people. A family. Feeling supported. Needing or someone. What does it mean to be truly independent? Is it even possible. What consequences does it all. Is that happening. FUCK... This is hard. Impossible... I hate feeling this way.
I'm sitting inside. It hurts so much to hear the pain and loneliness in so many of the stories. I'm so proud of you for your courage and I think your work is vitally important. I know that it is hard to grow and put up with the students' pain that you shared with us. May be something that leads to blossoms of finding themselves, but so much of it is not fertile soil for positive growth.

Thank you for making me more aware. It leads me to want to open my home to students who need a safe space and a shoulder to cry on and someone to put their back and tell them they are good and will survive this.
Wow. That was just cool. And sad. And heartbreaking. But also happy and just wonderful. Hearing everyone's stories and how different they all are, whether positive or negative, really affected me. I completely agree with some of what was said in the interviews and, if nothing else, it made me feel less alone and less weird for feeling and thinking those things. There are obviously a lot of problems more and change isn't always an easy thing. It's a long process, but I think you're definitely on your way to making a huge change and statement.
Booze is the root of many disappointing aspects of Buckney.
Excess, irresponsibility, disregard for self, people, property.
True friends can be with you dead sober or tipsy and everything is just as fun & memorable.
I feel like I have so many incidents that could be in your piece, but they aren't really standing out to me until I hear what other people are saying.

A boy who I live with is in a frat and one time we had a mixer w/ this frat and everyone of his fellow pledges just kept patting him on the back- congratulating him. I found out later that at the frats "pledge bonding event" before the mixer they were given the task to kill 2 handles alphabetically. This means - A-Z ordered w/ last names. 2 handles and twenty something guys- my friends last name starts with a Z. He cradled the last of the handles and is now a "hero" among his pledge class- who I will have to watch out for the rest of the night.
morgan cody

I really like how you tried to sound like and talk like the people you interviewed! I LOVE YOU CHRISS.

love,

morgan

your little sister?
The views are mostly from the junior and the senior class. I think that you need sophomore males and freshman. Nevertheless, you get a really good set of stories.

Because we both struggled this semester trying to bring our projects to life I could relate a LOT with your journal entries. I truly can’t wait to see the continuation of it... 😊

My only suggestion would be to reevaluate how the questions are set up and even how you introduce the project because that affects how people think of what you’re asking and the response they will give you.

Continue Rocking

Ana.
A wonder if these stories are typical and fear they are. What struck me most was how shallow the students sounded. I'm not as surprised by the stories as I am with a lack of insight. Maybe that's not quite fair, but really. The biggest secret is how many pizza? I also wonder how affected students are by this project. I would think it would be really powerful to think about these issues and to hear what other students are saying.
I wish the whole campus could hear these stories and talk together about the issues they raise. We don't talk enough in public about issues like fear, conformity, what's normal behavior, both around alcohol and relationships (sexual and non-sexual). It sounds like many students are unhappy with the social scene but don't feel that they can play a role in changing it. In fact, the social scene is created by the students and the choices they make every day. They are the only ones who can change it, and if they talk more about it and support each other's attempts to make it better, they can make a real difference. Thanks for opening the conversation.
I wish I had been more honest about myself during my interview, but when Tina asked me those questions, I only played it safe. I didn’t talk or even mention that thing that really bothers me, even though I was thinking about it throughout my entire interview. I played safe. I am not ready to share this with anybody yet... not yet, at least not at Bucknell with Bucknell people.
This project makes me want to reach out. Hearing these stories makes me feel like there is something else to this whole "college experience" than just doing work and getting grades. It's about connection with those around you. It's about sharing your life with everyone. Not so much as telling everyone your whole life story or anything like that, but just relating to someone. I want there to be a new feeling on this campus. I want there to be a definite sense of unity. I don't want anyone to feel alone because they aren't, as simple as that sounds.
FREE WRITING

* This is an Important Possibility

An Adaptation of Lysistrata → An Update in which Bucovia Women Refuse to Hook Up..... Follow the Plot of Lysistrata

What's the War?

What's the Ending

Should be Very Funny

By the way, I'm crying.

I don't know why... I think because people all just create such suffering.
First of all, what an impressive undertaking. This young woman shows so much talent and self-knowledge and power and vulnerability, she is the kind of student I work here for. This is the part of Bucknell I adore.

I work in Development's Alumni relations. I was raped in college. I struggle with the ways my work—the work of the administration overall—sometimes contribute to this facade—two need for one Bucknell image. How do we encourage allegiance & loyalty? Your encouraging blind faith is your encouraging the double life? How do we foster more reflection & honesty in our students when there isn't space for it amongst ourselves?

These issues of climate exist for the grown up on campus too. Women dress a certain way more are more powerful because they control the space—literally & figuratively. We need to expand the discussion to include all of Bucknell, not just our students. If we don’t change, how can they?
I'm a bit surprised to hear from you inquiring about my health. I hope you are well and that your present health is improving.

reg. your question

sent to everyone

[...]

In a hurry, I hope you understand. I'm sending this to you as a reminder of our previous correspondence. Please let me know if you have any further questions or concerns.

reg. your letter

[...]
I can relate to the double life that came thru the stories from students. The fact that we are human and tend to put on masks in order to get along and survive. The other point of fear came thru to me: how in so many ways we are afraid to really just be who we are. Afraid of judgment and failure. Keep up your work. It creates awareness. That's what counts.
Wow, I am so fascinated by what people really think. I could just listen for hours. I don't have time to be part of this scene. Not that I want to. But something I really wish I could tell Bucknellians is that they should question everything. That's what my Bucknell education is teaching me. Why does everyone party the way they do? Why are we okay with rejecting people in Recruitment? Why do we only have mixus that exclude the campus? And many more. Why is that normal? I had something else to say, but I lost my train of thought...
Preactive thoughts provoking, how is a community
do we combat these issues? we are all responsible
for the future generation, alcohol, sexual assault
pressure to conform who's how do we
change, with limited time and interaction,
how do we empower students to make
really decisions, it needs to start at
the top, it needs to involve all of us.
What you have created is a beautiful construction/representation of student experiences. Thank you!

I also feel a sense of relief — I was on the OCTF, and what you selected mirrors our experiences talking to students, who are (in general) both simultaneously proud and enlightened of being “Bucknellians.”

Questions remain — what do we do about it? How do we fill this room with people willing to change and step away from the status quo?
Very powerful interviews — and the stitching together of different perspectives resolved in a distinct voice. Coming from the different angles (different questions), the answers ended up echoing each other, exposing acceleration, desire for connection, as well as the persistent, soft, subtle, voice of wanting to matter.
- These stories give me confidence that Bemwell students already know that something on this campus is terribly wrong.

- I wonder why you chose to share mostly the responses to the questions that would elicit negative responses... or did you?

- I liked the interplay of the panel entries so you had your own voice and we could trace your methods + process.

- You are strong.

- I like the unifying on the quad idea. Only maybe think a symbolic way to do it so no bees are broken ;}
Liberating. I feel free,
I feel like it's ok to reveal
who and what we are.
Honesty comes to mind.
Being honest of what's going
on is such a gift that
we should all carry + hold in
& every day + moment. Much
easier said than done. How do
you not give a shit about what others
think. You have to go to that
place inside of you, that place
where fear is more comfortable
than change. And change
is feeling that feeling of
awkwardness, unrest, like
it doesn't feel right, but
uncomfortable. It's time to get uncomfortable.

Change is coming my way. I am ready to grow in my uncomfortableness.

Thanks for the awareness.
I'm impressed with the bravery of your performance and of the students who shared with you.

Do you think you'd have the exact same types of responses at every other private liberal arts college? Is Bucknell different? If you went to Lehigh, Colby, or Emory, would there be similar experiences? Do you have friends at other schools who describe a different social scene?

And did anyone talk about their classes or professors?
Rage Behind Curtains
8pm Performance
Free Write Responses
This was an amazing experience.

I mean, how else could one person see the thoughts of so many others in such a moving and provocative way? As a freshman, I have a lot to learn and experiences while at Bucknell. I just hope I can make it a better place.

Thank you, Tina Cody.
I'm emotional... I'm angry, I'm confused, I don't know. This just makes me want to scream and cry and be alone and be held. College is such a weird thing. I consider myself an optimist and I try to look for the best in everything, so I guess that's why I get so disappointed in people, including myself, when we do the wrong things.

I don't want to be stereotyped. I don't want to be like everyone else. I care about my image & I hold standards for myself that I have had instilled from growing up in my family. I want to be liked, sure, and I want to stand out, so I try to be shrewd yet responsible for the decisions I make.

Still like three days left here. Bah. Oh well. I love my school. I love my school b/c I feel that I've surrounded myself w/ people like me. We have the same values.
Most of what was said did not surprise me at all.

I feel like most people on campus know that these kind of things happen, not these things specifically in the project, but in general. It is just not spoken about.

We all should be proud of being Berkeley's no matter what but the only way things can change is if we work as what we are: One.

We are all Berkeley's and we should not rely on administrators to force us to change.
Greek

- Alcohol
- Sexual Assault
- Parties

- Sexual Assault
- Parties
- Alcohol

- Parties
- Alcohol
- Stupid Shit
- Sexual Assault

NonGreek

- Host your own
- Shit, no one
- Joke alone

Everything stems from here because it's the only option. You can't do shit if you're not Greek. They say it's not 'live'. They say you can choose to "do other things" but you can't actually. You make the choice between Greek (parties, take-purchased support systems, alcohol supplied free on a regular basis, hookups, 'friends' who support you/also participate in that lifestyle) or NonGreek (fewer friends, no connections based on specific tribe, no access/limited access to parties/alcohol, very few non-Greek friends)

Greek life is it. And it SUCKS.

Thanks for giving us a voice.
It's really amazing that girls and guys have put up with this social scene. They're just too afraid to admit that the parties they go to aren't meaningful, fun, or cool. I'm really excited that some students have enough self-respect to say that they have a serious problem with the social scene on campus. When I first came to Bucknell, I was terrified of the frats; I thought I was going to get eaten alive. I only went because my friends thought it was the cool thing to do. But, I never went back. It was repulsive. Bucknell is too great a school to have all of these social problems.
I've really identified with many of the pieces, on many levels. I HATED Bucknell my first semester. I had never seen so many teeny tiny girls, been around so much privilege, and I missed authentic friendships with guys. None of the guys on my hall were even nice to me, and I thought it was because I was fat. I took their rude, judgmental, and sexist behavior, and ultimately blamed myself for their attitudes. AND SO MANY GIRLS DO THAT HERE! At one point during my freshman year, I had a drink that was spiked. Luckily I had friends to take care of me and get me help, but my first thought was that drink was meant for someone else. Come on, I'm fat.
I don't really know where to begin. What was just presented was actually truly incredible. I don't really know how to define the word change or how to truly make a change, but you have made me want to be a part of your movement. The stories you have are like little keys and each one fits into the huge keyhole of a project you have been developing - an unbelievable project. Two words come to mind: trust and passion. You have to trust yourself. Everyone that speaks is instilling a huge amount of trust in you. And passion. Passion is what drives change, drives a reason, drives life. You have passion that is hard to come by.
I'm tired of being a show. I am a freshman girl and I am bisexual. I want to be able to go to a party with my girlfriend & dance with her & kiss her without having a crowd of guys watching & cheering. I remember the first night we went out. It was a Wednesday & my friends & I were going to a downtown party. I invited her along & was so excited when she agreed because I thought she was gorgeous & I really liked her. So we got to the party & we were play some games & then we went to dance. While we were dancing she turned me around & kissed me. I was in heaven! This gorgeous girl was kissing me! I never wanted it to end... but it did when a frat guy came up, pulled us apart, & said, "Can I join?" All we were to him was a form of entertainment. This was something real & he took that away from me. My first kiss with this amazing girl will always be tainted by that jerk.
Doing a freewrite using my actor's log.

How symbolic! Oh, my what stories I've read before are nothing comparing to ones I've read now! Tina, it was just amazing to see & hear so many people at once, without judging, pre-judging anything... just everyone at once. I'd be just amazing to get to know these people because it all seems behind the curtains. Why cannot these people meet each other? I mean, I'd love to meet them & share my experiences. I'd love to be friends with them. Because the thing is not that someone feels like "the only one," the thing is that that person doesn't know others like him/her. Therefore, it's necessary, no it's an obligation, to try to get to know as many people as possible. In this way, people wouldn't feel lonely when trying to be who they really are instead of following the crowd or trying to fit in the various types' society/ Bucknell type. Bucknell has open the trekked just hidden! So, let's open the 'windows' and meet the visitors.
I have nothing and yet so much to say. The only thing that I care well say is the images that these feelings present. Like I'm in the centre of this giant whirlpool and everyone else's stories are swirling around me finding their relevance to me. And I understand, I know, I know, I know what's happening, I just can't figure out whether we are swirling upwards or downwards.

I have always been a lonely person. I recently have come to this realization that I can't retain anyone for long and I hate it, why can't I keep the bridges I build? I'm like a perfect storm, I come in shake shing up and bring a person's life into perspective, connect, change their landscape and then leave disappear, the quick perfect harmony after the storm - I disappear. I DON'T WANT TO DISAPPEAR.
This was beautiful, absolutely wonderful. I'm so glad that I was able to come to this and hear you speak.

The questions you asked, they really made me think and consider what my own answers would be. Of course, I'm not going to write them all down; that would take far too long. Instead, I just want to leave my own message to the campus. Drinking isn't everything. You don't have to drink to fit in. I do so many things each weekend and only 1 night this year has involved drinking. I still have plenty of wonderful friends. I hope that one day people will realize that there are alternatives to drinking.

Thank you once again. This has been an eye-opening experience. I think that you made a difference tonight.
It's sad that this is the way so many students feel. The party scene isn't really my thing, so maybe avoiding that is what has changed my experience. I feel supported and loved, especially by members of my sorority. I do not miss out on relationships with boys though. Why is it so difficult to just be friends with members of the opposite sex?! I love Bucknell. There is room to grow, but I think that if anyone can change it,
Wow. Well done, Tina.
People do care. We’re evidence of that.
I think this project gives us a platform
for having conversations + continuing
the dialogue.
I want all of campus to hear these
stories. If I could shout something
to campus that everyone could hear,
it’d be “Go to Raging Behind The
Curtain!"
This is very important. Thanks for
your courage, vision, dedication, +
honesty in doing this. The Double
Take project has easily been the
most effective + coolest way to
have real discussion about the
real Bucknell— all its problems,
heartaches, + brokenness.

Thank you.
Between being a Freshman (or is it Firstyear now?) and being openly gay, I feel a different sort of pressure than I have in the past. I’m an athlete, so it’s not a social pressure, but more a pressure to make my mark, to let people know that I’m here and that I won’t let any prejudice stop me. I’m about half-interested in joining a frat next year, mostly as a way to show those that will follow who are like me that you don’t have to fear being open, fear being yourself. I know that we are capable of being better people than we have been, and I want to see that change take shape...
This might seem odd but the idea of shitting at the quad is brilliant perhaps not exactly what but do something that we all do and watch each other. It would be a great way to get our this crap off the way. Be real this animal in you or for once let that child in you come out. Everyone could use this. Boys and shitting could use this.

In this community, on the other hand, as it pertains to the social scene on campus, stories like we have to build border character's shane to hold border character's among people - an event succeeds as a rap should not go unpunished, as a rap should not go unpunished. It is this failure to stand out andspread out that results into continued violence.
I wonder about the bubble - vs. the city - Safety - Security - Money - questioned much of this student had a student sit in front of me and say she was robbed - she had a Latin king - the guy who was a Latin King. I wondered if she knew what she was saying. I am aware of the pressures. I am proud of those who were willing to dig in and explore the possibilities of the other - I wonder about parents - support - expectations, role models - entitlement - spectacle. I wonder if people can dress their lives to wear as short skirt or tight pants - how they want to wear - is it a brand to fit? Do we want to fit? Do we want to be the trend - or feel good - or pay the price. I wonder about the

Need to entertain - does it drive to escape or fit? Do I lose control to have an excuse? It's an uncommon phenomenon - a dead men alive - then it comes back again - they are experiencing a throwback - why only 34 interview of people felt mocked, embarrassed, empowered accessible. Who are our alumni and what do they do - to support this. Two noted life style - do we have faculty support it - isn't faculty support it - isn't something we start to pull folks in?
I am really glad that you are doing this project because I believe that all it takes is one person to stand up against the Bucknell culture to begin a change. I agree and can relate to a lot of the frustrations students expressed in your dialogue and wish I had the confidence to be as vocal about it as you are so thank you for doing this.

I have a large problem with the social scene here at Bucknell and desperately want to do something about it. I hate walking outside of my gateway at night hearing girls encourage each other to "go get some," or "you better get it in tonight." I often feel alone because I don't agree with that type of encouragement.
Great project came with a friend and didn't really know what to expect but once you started, I didn't want you to stop. In a way, you have made me to think more about my experience here and what legacy I want to leave. Most of the things that were said I can identify with not fitting in, feeling alone, and feeling that you have to alter some essential components of yourself to fit in. It is weird of like selling ones soul. I guess I appreciated being read more after this project and am kind of sad that I'm leaving Bucknell in a few months and my biggest fear is that I'd leave without having made some real friends. There's still time though.
I'm speechless. I know I'm not actually speechless but I feel like I am. Honestly? I need some time to digest what just happened. How can I react to something when there is so much to think about? I feel like you on October or whenever it was and how you said you needed to talk someone about all this or you need a therapist. I wonder if you actually did... that'd be pretty cool.

I really like the dream you had. You really seemed to decipher that one. I thought that was awesome and I was like "wait what if every dream actually means something?" Maybe one day we'll have some sort of device that will do that.

Really nice job. Great acting and I learned something. There is no endpoint to change.
People think that they are living when they go out and party but, "Making friends in the same way," that's not living. I'd also like to say that the stories about assault really affected me, but I think what really got me were the stories about people feeling alone. Because that's how I feel all the time. Alone and caged in here. And second to that the stories about people fitting in and following the "norm". It just disappoints me and makes me mad that people are conscious of this but are too afraid to do anything to break conformity. I wish people didn't care so much what others thought... because college is a place to meet those great people. And I have met amazing inspiring people but... I think its limited.

This project will stay with me forever.
I thought this was absolutely amazing. I find myself thinking about these kind of things all the time. And there is a lot going on that’s just completely looked over. So many things have become normal that really aren’t. I have confidence to be myself and I really wish other people did too. I wish more people would just do what they want and feel is right regardless of what other people think. This something that needs to be talked about.

We really do need to do a double take. I think the faculty community is really trying to do something, what with the campus climate thing and all, but nothing’s really going to change until the students start speaking up. If only we could get everyone to come together who felt this way, maybe we could make a change. Because I think there are a lot more of us than people realize.
I've said for the past four years every day since orientation finished in August that I would NEVER EVER EVER tell my children to come here. I've said that because as a parent I would hate to see my children suffer and go through some of the terrible discriminatory injustice and despicable experiences that I've gone through myself. However, it is people like Christina Cody that challenge this statement. The Double Take Project is just what this campus needs. An honest, innovative, creative, and inspirational journalist or broadcaster. Chance will come over time, but the lovely Christina and her diligent efforts will definitely mark the beginning of a new movement for change. This was an amazing and unforgettable experience.
400
Just before coming tonight I was watching lists about young women. They're on a street in Washington, D.C., six blocks away from the White House. The first few stories tell about some girls who are babies of British or German and American. The cloaks worn by these girls were often in bright colors, often smiling to the story about young women being flooded into prostitution.
I appreciated the inclusion of things that were just humorous since it seems that most of the responses were more on the serious side. I would have liked to hear more stories. I wondered why some students were referred to as "guys," as opposed to "men," and "girls," as opposed to "women." The various annotations of the characters were very effective and reflective. The story about Phil Kain was particularly memorable.
This was/is an amazing project. Thank you for an amazing insight into the real world of BU.

I have been watching you perform for yrs. here and I have a very high opinion of your work. I hope to one day say "I knew her when."

I hope tonight, sharing all this with us, lightens your burden.
Yes, this is what I’ve been craving.
That metaphor of shit because it’s dirty
but EVERYBODY does it. So I
want to know if that dirty thing
you do & feel b/c I do and feel
them too. We all have
created images for ourselves that we
are afraid to mess up somehow. Like
I remember coming in as a freshman,
thinking I had a new slate, everything
is possible. I can be whatever I want,
I can have conversations with everybody
on this campus b/c nobody has established
relationships yet. What if every day was like this?

A space of freedom without
preconceived notions of who I
can talk to or how I fit in at
Berklee. Every day, every moment
is in your power to create
new relationships. Rid yourself of old
"roles." So yeah, I’d like to

shut up the guard and let people
see that it doesn’t matter.
It doesn’t make us messed up
to share what’s behind the curtain.
It brings us together.
people but I'm missing you. I don't want you an the reason is, you don't show me that I'm no. I'll be ill no. I'm stuffy but it's not... We just need to work the comes. My friends give in to this society and just forget that it exists. I'm working against it. I don't have a girlfriend because of this. It's too does. The best thing someone in a committed friendship keeps you always want more. My friends but I know some you too.

I stay in front of the TV. We don't interact. I'm not
doing anything more can't think of anything. The
time is wasted. I don't like. I just think of myself. I do, however, get in doing things. I won't care.

I don't care as much since I don't get the chance. I'm sorry to hear you're going on a tough but... I can only be here. I'll know.
I need a moment to take in the stories and experiences that I heard tonight. Thank you, Tina, for giving these students a voice on campus. Not everyone is comfortable "being real" at Bucknell, but these stories reveal a sense of realness in each person. Tina, you have done an amazing job in conducting the interviews — not everyone is comfortable sharing their experiences especially to a stranger. The stories/excerpts that you chose tonight were well-balanced in that they captured Bucknell in both positive and negative ways (ways that we need to change), the humor, the seriousness of these issues. Also, thank you for sharing your journal entries — this allows the audience to trust you as a person, too.
Being my normal self I tried to find a connection w/ every story. I feel like I've read on all around Bucknell experience, I've been the party girl, serious shopper, laid back non-drinker, devout christian, LGBT ally, friends + roommate w/ a girl from Ethiopia in a black sorority. If I could, I would have a comment for every story. The ones that really stuck out though were:

1) Self-image, gym tarry hair (My mom always tells me to leave my hair frizzy, which only begins after I came to Bucknell. Until this year where I really became comfortable as an individual, I always laughed her off, but honestly I've straightened my hair 3 times, yes I know the exact # and I've never been happier)

2) Shitting on the quad. While I do not exactly agree w/ a pile of crap on the quad I do agree w/ the idea when I contemplated writing a "This I believe", I decided mine would be everyone needs to pee in the woods j-
You really can't pee alone in the woods unless you're comfortable with yourself.
Double-Take. This project, this phenomenon is... incredible. Hearing people's stories, hearing Tina's personal reflections and struggles is so incredibly moving. I just want to scream. SCREAM. So many people are on the same page with regards to the bullshit on this campus. So why doesn't anyone do anything about it? I want to cry and laugh and tell everyone who's hurting that I understand. I understand and I want to do something. When I was in high school this guy teased me a lot. I remember expressing similar frustrations with society and the world like those reflected in these monologues, and he distinctly told me, "You can't change the world." He'd told me plenty of other awful things; how ugly I am, how stupid I am but that statement hurt worse than all of it. I can't change this shit? Maybe I
Can. Maybe Tina’s renewing my hope and faith in humanity. Maybe I can scream and be heard to once

female
2013
Even after hearing all of those stories and living through my 4 years at Bucknell, I am SO PROUD to be a Bucknellian because of the 88 yr old ladies that are our sisters, my collaborators, lovers, friends, and family. THAT is Bucknellian.
I wish that the people who needed these stories most came to see this. You are so brave. I will be there for you when we are 88. Love, Julia.

Great job! Thank you for doing your thoughts justice. That's really awesome. I wish the rapists and bullies were not feared. But it happens everywhere. Does it?
I think we need to consider this more. Maybe wake up every morning and say “Man, I'm grateful to be here,” and then go on with your day. Give love, I don't know. Just be there for one another, be real because you only get one chance to be you, so fucking go do it. And for us girls, you don't need a man to make you feel worthy. Your time will come before you meet someone—everything and everyone else is fluff, maybe even wasteful, harmful.
and hurtful. I've been hurt more than I cared have bargained for this semester. I was searching in all of the wrong places for something I wanted so badly to exist.

For now, I think I'll wait, enjoy myself those around me, and the opportunity to study and experience at Bucknell. Have fun, but remember who you are. That's one thing you don't want to ever lose.
I feel in limbo.

Half + half. Part of the problem
- part of the solution. Talk +
talk + talk + talk + do?

what do I do? I'm leaving.
where am I going? Was I real
here? yes.

The people who need to be here aren't
here. Isn't that always the case.
I just want to know what everyone else is writing right now. La la la la let's bond and love each other yer!
I want to say, first, good for you that you did this. Letting students say what they need to say, taking interest in them, listening to them, getting the word out. You're right. There's too much silence, conformity, pressure to be.

I want to do what I can to support students in being who they need to be. Life is a struggle sometimes, we know this. Why not help each other out, by listening, by supporting, by being real yourself too? So we can all be real.

Clearly, there are lots of different voices at Bucknell. I just want to be a voice for good, help my friends be likewise, and thus make a positive contribution. I can.
be responsible for everyone, just me. And, I can influence my friends.
Hearing other peoples thoughts always interests me. However, hearing stories about personal feelings or social life at Bucknell always makes me sad in some way. I really want people to be happy here and comfortable with themselves and their decisions but I don't think I know one person on this campus that hasn't at one point been frustrated with their experiences while out at night. That says something. I agree with a lot that was said and it certainly made me do a little take on things I have had. Moments I love to most are times when I just sit and talk to people. I wish that people did that more here. I love that you are daughters and I really do think that people are supportive and want to see change. It is
Helpful to know that there are so many common experiences. When people know they are not alone, that leads somewhere and provides confidence.
Great presentation

covered lots of aspects

- thought there may be more about athlete's for viewpoints
- things do need to change
- sense of entitlement is too great at Bucknell
Rage Behind Curtains
10pm Performance
Free Write Responses
I was expecting something a bit different - I thought the stories would be darker and more negative, like those at “Jake Black the Night.” But there were a lot of similar themes and nothing surprised me (unfortunately). Really great acting.

I was considering doing this, but thought I didn’t have my special stories and just participate in beach life (and I was just plain forget about it).

She’s going to go on a quick rant, and it’s going to sound very strange, but I wish more people would watch and take in the messages and positive role models of My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic. Weird, right? Just go with it. But it’s such an obvious, non-gender show, and it really seems to influence people.

It shows that women are real, complex people for girls, too. People, esp girls, we can be so much more. We need to do better.
Powerfully stirring. I heard the heavenly voices from people at church together. I felt like the stones resonated with me even though my feelings are sometimes more aggressive. I think for the first time, I almost feel proud to be a Buddhist. Strange now that happens now but there was something about this that made me appreciate in a way the community here. Not only did it inspire pride but I feel jolted for action. I have felt lonely and I have felt crazy just deep myself in campus and now I want to do something. I never thought I would care enough but I might. I want to be the damn clear that makes the people here from their slumber. I want to shit (or do some serious in the quick key dog what you're doing don't don't yourself. 5 minutes up
Sometimes it sounded like you were reading a page from my journal. I am really impressed at the honesty you were able to capture in your interviews. The sincerity of your monologues was excellent. It makes me hopeful that I am not the only one here who has made certain observations, and maybe a change is actually possible. Good job Tina! You never fail to impress me!
The Double Take Project was completely eye-opening. As a participant in the interview process, I kind of had an imagined perception of what the show would look like or how I would react. However, I was wrong. I have never felt so connected to Bucknell before, or felt that there were truly beautiful, open people on this campus. I laughed, cried, got pissed off, and nauseous, just from hearing the stories of unknown Bucknellians. Sometimes I forget how powerful words can truly be or how they can bring a group of strangers together. This project is remarkable and I can't wait to see what's next!
I think the question that really got me thinking the most was what am I ashamed about. All the other questions like my first party could basically be the same as everyone else. But I think if any one could share my answer with the campus it could be you. I am ashamed of all the greek judgement that goes on at this school. It's like if you wear certain letters it means you're a certain person. I hate that people think that way because it is ridiculous. It's like we're back in the civil rights movement and judge people based on their friends or their Fraternity or sorority. It's ridiculous and no one should care. Judge a person on their character not their letters.
Hearing the stories was like hearing an echo of my thoughts. I feel alone at Bucknell a lot of the time and sometimes I think it’s easy to forget that you aren’t the only one that feels that way. Listening to the uncensored voices of my peers was a real awakening to the fact that I am not alone in my frequent discomfort, uncertainty, and awkwardness. I’ve had a tendency over the past 5 years to hide myself away. On a small circle of people, your stories were a reminder that there are people thinking at Bucknell and its north seeking those people out.

Let the seeking begin.
This is incredible. One person taking on this huge project and starting something big. And all she did was talk. Now, I'm not trying to undermine or downplay what she has done. I'm simply pointing out how crazy it is that having honest conversations is so rare and difficult. All of the interviews she read sounded sincere and were so powerful. Why don't people have those conversations more?

Why are the issues on this campus shut behind the mask of perfection? Clearly people have something to say. Why are we all waiting?

The power and determination of one woman is worth so much more than this campus gives credit for.

You have made a difference in my life.

Thank you.
The experience was interesting...

* However I feel like I wasn't accounted for, not just being black, but because I'm a minority... with very different experiences than that of the homogenous greater Bucknell majority. If there was an opportunity to expose Bucknell for what it is, that would be good tonight. I although this double feature project was intended to do so, in some way it failed. I knew it wouldn't be perfect, I'm just a bit disappointed - as if it didn't exist. Why not think about the experience of everyone and Bucknell supposed to be about diversity? However I do applaud you.

This was very courageous of you. You gave me more insight to the typical lifestyle of the average Bucknellian.
It's not all bad, of course there will be bad experiences, and I understand the point that was intended to be conveyed. But it's not all bad. I thought about my own answers to your interview questions and realized that my bad experiences introduced some of my best ones. When's the last time I felt alone? When my boyfriend dumped me and I realized I had completely ostracized myself, I had no real friends. However, my sisters were there and helped me through. I made new best friends because we were sisters, they were there even if I had pushed them aside before, without buckling and my sorority I don't think I would have had any friends. For a while, I wish that could be highlighted more. The bad has dramatic effect and catches someone's attention. I understand that. But if we want change, we have to start recognizing and publicizing the good. That'll bring change. Good behavior occurs when it's acknowledged. So why don't we do that instead?
Although I truly enjoyed the stories, I feel like they are a misrepresentation about Bucknell. I agree w/ a quote from one story-something like there are exceptions. I am not saying there aren’t problems, but I know there are, but we are going about change in the wrong way. By talking about ALL of the issues at once, people cannot digest it. We need to introduce one problem at a time, acknowledge it, and do something about it. Change is continuous and it won’t happen all at once. So why push all of the issues at once? People are too focused on being perfect to accept that they may have that many flaws. Sometimes the most impactful story will be the shortest.
I am very surprised at Buckhill's social environment. I expected it to be a
bottle, so for the abstinence, but there is literally no tea apart from coffee.
I would mind this, except what is there to do on campus? A room full
of people talking is much more fun than a room of drunk people talking up. It
is against drinking, except when I feel like I'm getting nothing out of
it.
Recently, I will love to actually spend weekends just talking to people instead
of just drinking a little or nothing, and then going to a party party where
you eat more beers and things.
This experience was very enlightening and open my mind to all of other experiences.

It would be nice to have experiences of people of color on Bucknell's campus.

Interview some minorities: people of color, LGBTQ, internationals.

The social scene is different for all of these groups.

Please be inclusive of all when you do projects like these so the message is not perpetuated that all of the Bucknell community is not limited to being White, straight.

But I LOVED it. YOU DID AMAZING!
I would say WAKE UP BUCKNELL. Realize your worth as a person sooner. I never experienced those sad stories. About rape or drugs or danger. And yes, I joined a sorority and wouldn't have at another school but I gained a lot from it. It's ok to be part of something.

So maybe my Bucknell experience wasn't typical. Maybe many people have really awful nights but I've just floated, floated around picking up friends who think I'm great. Never really wondering how we're going to stay friends after school. Because it doesn't matter that much. Knowing people are somewhere in the world loving you is enough.

I still don't know what I think about Bucknell. I'm a tour guide and I don't know. What is a typical student? I'd say successful. However, that individual defines success. I'm not typical, but I'll be successful in the typical way.
This was PHENOMENAL. As far as the having an end product goes - screw it, you just totally aced it! Also, I can't imagine how hard it must be to figure out all the babies. Oh well, that must suck. And my FAVORITE question is "what would you scream to everyone?" I also loved that you interjected with the journal entries. That was great. I hope there was a great turn out at the other shows too. People really do want to hear. You know how girls like to bond when they finally talk about like (ed) abortion questions? Because no one really wants to ask or tell? I feel like it's that same feeling, coming out and hearing the stories is that flood of relief. I love your project!!
Conceptions of beauty at bucknell are so skewed, every girl on this campus is beautiful. Everyone has something to offer, something of value that should be shared and enjoyed by the world, and she shouldn’t be ashamed of that. The bucknell culture tells women to hide their true beauty, to close themselves up and present a fake self, one that’s the exact same as everyone else. Not only is there so much wrong with this attitude, but no one is benefiting from it. We are losing beauty. We are being told that our uniqueness, our beauty, is wrong and not worth fighting for, but it is. Girls need to see how much value they have, and guys need to man up and realize it too. They’re too scared of being different and sticking out to stand up and say “you are beautiful,” and not in the romantic sense, just in the sense of “you are valuable, you have something to offer. you are amazing, don’t change.” I’m sick of being called “hot” and “sexy” and everything else objectifying. Every girl is beautiful and deserves that needs to be recognized.
Tina,

I’m really proud to know you.
(Just wanted to start there).

While I was listening to your compilation, I thought of nothing but those stories - not my homework, my personal responsibilities... but the experiences behind the words & what it must have been like. Some stories were familiar, because I or someone close to me had experienced them, others were enlightening, new.

Either way it gave me a fresh perspective, a broader one, of this campus & life here.

Honestly, after hearing the stories, I just want to tell my own & listen to more. Even though some were depressing or "too" close to home, I feel like this is the best thing we’ve seen on a weekend this semester.

Thank you for letting us see behind the curtain.
This experience has taught me deeply. I have really been struggling lately with finding my place at Bucknell, finding my voice. I find it really challenging to assert yourself as a strong, assertive female on this campus. The structure of this social scene fosters male dominance and female subservience. And what gets me too is that there is so much of me that is kind and wanting to help others in any way that I can. But sometimes I feel like that compassionate spirit is punished rather than rewarded here. And I have to emphasize the structural component of this because that is key. There are so many beautiful, unique motivated people that enter this campus and get sucked into conforming without even realizing it. It's tragic in a way but not in a way that is unchangeable. The best thing this campus can do is be self critical, take a hard look at itself. Change can be the best thing and not something that is feared.
This is seriously the coolest project I have ever seen. Some of the stories make me want to cry and some make me want to throw up, but I think it is awesome that we're hearing them. We need to look at this stuff, we need to start taking care of each other and of ourselves. If we honestly do a double take and listen to what is actually going on all the time, I think we will change things. It might be small at first, and probably slow. But how could we not? If we really care about each other and Bucknell, this will make a huge difference.

So don't get discouraged, Tina. And thank you.
When I first heard about the project, I really wanted to join. But like many things at Bucknell, I was just too busy to make it a priority. But I definitely have a lot of strong feelings about the social scene. I hate frat parties. Sorry, I do. I pretended to like them a little bit sophomore year when mixers started, but now I know I hate them. I like to drink a little, but I've known multiple women who were raped, and their rapes could have been prevented w/o alcohol. Rape is almost passé here, and that's scary.

When I heard more about the project, I was interested. Then I saw one of the names on the list of students involved. I've only had one meaningful relationship with a man here at Bucknell. The girl whose name I saw on the list was the reason it ended. I'm not saying this to air anyone's dirty laundry. I mean, I suppose it was my boyfriend's fault for more than it was hers, but it sucks— that is my biggest pet peeve with the social scene, the lack of meaningful relationships. She was never apologetic for it to see her here. But I really, really hope we both can learn and grow from the project.

Great job Tina ☺
Tina,

This was absolutely amazing. You think that you know what goes on—because word spreads so incredibly fast on this campus and it seems like everyone shares everything. But really, there's so much more to it. Happier things, but also things that are seriously so much more fucked up than you can even imagine. I think this project will make a difference. Even if just a few people decide to drink less or stay in more. It could help reduce the number of bad stories and increase the good. You are absolutely phenomenal and we are so lucky to have you in our presence. Hearing stories out of someone else's mouth makes them so real.

Thank you for doing this.
What a refreshing thing to hear that many of my feelings toward the social culture at Bucknell were shared. Why has this become the NORM? It's like we're in our own little world where people are so prone to pretending. Pretending we're okay. Turning a blind eye to the things that continually happen to our friends and also neglecting to address ourselves in a way that is real. The image of perfection is rampant on this campus. No one seems—well that may be an exaggeration—willing or even capable of showing their true selves & being vulnerable with others because THAT would mean their perfect image would be shattered.
I think the way you addressed sexual assault on campus was extremely disappointing. You made it a male predator issue and you made the men in those stories evil. If you're going to include a story like that — wait for the story from the friend of a rapist. Don't just leave it at this is how rape happens here because it's not the only way. I know for a fact it's not. You did such a good job at making everything else fair — why not that?

Where are your stories? You're one of us and I want to know what you have to say as well. Otherwise you seem like you're better and I know or assume that's not how you mean it but sometimes it felt that way.

Thank you for sharing what you're trying to say — finally making it clear made me less prejudice against your piece. I could finally open up to it and I truly enjoyed it. You might want to consider asking for people to respond with stories to the read stories. After all, aren't you hoping for a dialogue amongst Bucknell students?
I think this project was amazingly valuable in that it revealed what everyone knows/thinks but I am afraid to say. It helped me to gather my own thoughts & forced me to think about the fundamental questions you asked & what my response would be. I can't help feeling that as sad as it is I will still keep perpetuating these stereotypes/behaviors just because everyone else does. The story about the girl who asked the other girl if she was OK shows something I and others can do that's so small but so meaningful — showing others that you care. I wonder what else can be done to stop these horrible issues at Bucknell. Your project was really amazing so thank you.
For me, the best part was hearing the male perspective. It's really good to learn that they aren't totally happy with the Bucknell scene either. That's good.

I hope this starts conversations, you should try and do something to make this stuff available. You've got gold. I think if students realized other people felt this way, they would talk about it, and might not feel alone.

Email out that 150 page document. I would read the whole thing.
I heard the presentation this morning but got different things out of it the second time. Totally different crowd, huh?

After being sad and emotional all day from a break up, what I got out of this is that I want a super-emotional relationship. The story about not hooking up as people unless there is intent to go somewhere got to me. If we did this, as women, men would have to be better, less sexual beings in order to get into our pants—there’s social change.

I want this project at Bucknell to continue after we graduate... someone else take it on next year?
Yeah so I thought that was pretty dope 

All this year, thought pretty much everyone was content here, just going about their same shit day in and day out, I thought I knew all the Bucknell history, so to speak, and then a lot of my friends graduated, and I've been really, really glad to see other people that aren't ok with what's going on here, were supposed to be a liberal arts school but all we learn is how to reproduce: class, family, gender norms, all that shit. I think the more people that are confronted with the idea that Bucknells got problems, or the more that know there are others like minded to them, the better.
Well! What an interesting thing to hear. I related to almost everything that was just read to me and that's so refreshing because I thought I was alone in the way I feel about the social culture here. And the way people articulate what they say was so spot on. I kept thinking to myself, "If she interviewed me I don't know how I would have said everything I have to say."

Bucknell is so great, but seriously fucked up. I didn't go out last night and I sat in my room, decorated, listened to music, danced, and it was great. Yes, I was by myself on a Saturday night when tons of Froshers were having formal... and it was great!

Yet, still today one of my guy friends teased I didn't go out and sarcastically said, "heard you had a fun night." Well, you know what? I did! I had a great, tickin' night, sober, alone, and lovin' life.
Tina,

This was great. I'm thinking about your "What is this project going to do?" question. I think even just sitting here, listening to these stories, talking with you at 7th St. has done something for me. I can't really describe what though. Just something. I think what your doing here seems so obvious, yet so powerful.

Let's start a quad revolution.

If you want to talk again, let me know.

Love,
This project is absolutely wonderful—a way to talk to the Bucknell community, a way to reach out to students and let them have a voice. A way to let them reflect on their experiences. Given what has happened on campus climate especially, it is important to talk about it. Then we can make necessary changes. Bucknell is a fantastic place—a lot of the issues are college issues, but we need to bring them to light to continue the change. Tina - this project is so unique and special! It can be so beneficial. You are so brave for doing something so new and scary. Congratulations on a great idea and execution!!!
Touching.
Absolutely touching.
Change starts with one step, and even if it feels like this project is small and not doing anything, it is. It's setting the wheels in motion for good things to happen on this campus.

It was interesting to hear that some people feel the same way I do about Bucknell. Sometimes you just feel so small on this campus. Thank you for making people's voices heard.
You are so brave.
What does my brother think about this?
How does he perceive the social scene?
This work is so important.
Don't stop, keep pushing.
You are so loved and
motivated and
not alone. Keep going -
Every boy on
campus should see this.
How many guys v. girls
interviews did you share?
Did you interview as many boys as you did girls? Because I feel as though I got much more of the female perspective. And not necessarily in a good way. I see why guys may be less likely to do something like this, but they need more of a voice. The drunken girl at a frat party thing is fine, but I felt like the female was the "victim" and that men have issues with register and party life too. Are all guys gonna steal a girl's shirt? No. What about the people that do have relationships? What about those of us, like me, that are perfectly comfortable being sober or drunk at a party, because
I know I am not alone in that. That is not uncommon, though you make it seem that way.
I really liked the breadth of experiences that the project captured. I thought the collection was both moving and powerful, and one of the most significant aspects is that underneath it all, people wanted to share. I think that Bucknell needs a good dose of clean, honest sharing, just like the atmosphere in this room tonight. It would be amazing if these stories could be broadcasted throughout the campus, to make everyone listen. Change is difficult and tricky, but I think that to really move the effect of the project beyond this room, you just have to make them listen. Make them face the issues, don’t give them a chance to justify or make excuses. Because then they’ll be forced to recognize the issues, experiences, and emotions that bind the campus together. - Jen Weber

P.S. This was amazing 😊
Ok, that was fantastic. I know this sounds like a lot, and you know, it is, but could you do this again next semester? Hell, appoint someone else to do it if you don't want to. This needed to be done. Someone needs to just be real and open like this. I never took how many people talked about he need to be less artificial all the time. You did a great service with this project. Thank you. I'm kicking myself right now for forgetting your name. Jesus, you've got me ranting now haha. I guess I just took this presentation a bit too far. It made me laugh it made me cry, and it made me come down near close to crisis. It was therapeutic just to listen. But now think about it, it inspired me to do something. It inspired me to step up out through the bullshit. Just try to be myself each and every moment. Thank you.
you mentioned the difference between how we try to be perceived and who we actually are.

A moment after that, I was about to cry first about the woman getting raped & then the 88 yr. old in Bucknell & then I thought, “don’t let them see you cry, don’t be that good girl.”

Thanks for the reminder that it’s okay to be that person, because that’s who I am, and one of the best things about this was getting to share it with a group of peers.

Wonderful job, Tina. Thanks.
Free Writing:

Well, I've heard the stories before. Not these last others. What got to me more was the journals thinking about having all this in your mind. Knowing and having all these stories. Mind-blowing, overwhelming, hard to deal with. Those are just some words that came to mind. And thinking about how many people at Bucknell feel the way what we are doing. I loved the one about how the "crazy" people aren't be crazy at all. They are normal people, not living their 20s. I am. Geez. I'm living life. And loving it. So why can't others. No lie. It party. Duh.

But, I do other things as well. Like go stargazing. Walk through the cemetery. Take naps between the bookshelves in the library. This is what I'm

Take chances.
Do what YOU WANT to do.
And stop pretending that's where you are now.
That was so real.
I'm so emotional.
I heard my voice through you
You made my words important.
You made all of our words important.
This is change.
WE ARE ALIVE

WE ARE ALIVE

. . . I am thankful
N. Rage Behind Curtains: Email Feedback

“Hey Tina! I was SO INCREDIBLY moved by the double take project last night. What you shared NEEDED to be shared, and I am so excited to see where this goes, because, like you said, it's not over. This really hit home, because I've been thinking about this A LOT lately. So I'd like thank you, this means a lot, and I'm happy that someone is doing something about it.”

“Hi Tina, i want you to know how much i respect and admire this incredible project you have created. it was so honest, thoughtful, well-crafted, staged with elegant simplicity and became a catalyst for real and serious dialogue. It is an incredible and powerful thing.”

“We were moved by your performance and your 'research'. Equally touched by your courage.”

“Just wanted to let you know that I really enjoyed your performance last night. You are AMAZING, and I feel so fortunate to have been able to experience your project and work with you as you brought it to life and shared it with the campus in so many valuable ways.”

“Hi Tina, I offered your event this past weekend as an extra-credit for some of my child development classes. I wanted to share this little snippet from one student's essay: "I went to Tina Cody’s senior thesis project with high expectations. I was not disappointed and took away more from her monologues than I ever expected."

“It was perfect. Don't change a thing. The commentary I will share is simply an opinion that may or may not help you at all. Please take them with a grain of salt. I would like maybe one or two more freshmen/sophomore perspectives because I think I heard plenty of juniors and seniors. However, it makes sense to have stories from the upperclass students because they've already been through so much in the social scene that their stories would evoke positive social change on this campus. My favorite part of the whole experience were your journaling moments because they made the experience real. Not only were you sharing secrets and stories of others, you were portraying your own vulnerability in an open and honest manner. I LOVE YOU. THANK GOD people like you exist in the world.”

“Tina, thank you for a very thought provoking and, yes, entertaining evening. You've got the right balance for this work. You are clearly so sincere and caring as you share these sensitive stories. You are an engaging performer. You tell these stories without comment other than your excellent observation as you recreate them and we listen, we laugh, we feel things. A large part of the balance is that you share your journal as well as
other people's stories with us matching the sensitive material with which you have been entrusted with your own honesty. I look forward to your work next semester.”

“Hi Christina: I wasn't able to make it to the performances last night, but wanted to send a short note to you thanking you for your work on these issues. I can only imagine that it was very powerful; these are timely voices for our community to hear and I appreciate the risk it took for you to gather the information and then set it to drama.”

“Hi Tina, We don't know each other, but I just wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed your presentation tonight. The conversations that you have initiated are exactly what this campus needs. I also appreciated the fact that you were able to conduct a discussion with no set agenda. It takes a lot of courage and dedication to tackle the issues that Bucknell faces and you have done an amazing job. Congratulations on such a successful project!”
R. Take Back the Night Script

Mary-Anne: I remember in my class we talked about some incident I think it was like a register party or somebody’s party where some girl like basically like got brought upstairs and was sexually assaulted and literally people were there in the party just like watching this girl be dragged upstairs and nobody said anything.

Rachel: This is the most sad memorable night. It was freshman year, it was middle of first semester and I'm gonna tell you all the details I remember about this.

Rebecca: Um, well the drink is definitely a secret, what they have at like parties is definitely a secret I’ve experienced a bad time with mixed drinks.

Jenny: Um I get a little frustrated sometimes with the boys here like from like a women’s perspective with that because I feel like like the fraternity scene makes boys view girls as more like objects…boys getting ass you know?

Rob: Now at parties I feel that a man automatically becomes sort of like a predator.

Emily: And there were 2 girls who were there who I knew were dating and they were dancing together and I'd heard the frats were really homophobic.

Rachel: I was wearing a, like my favorite blue dress from urban outfitters and it was like really cute, I got rid of it because it was old but anyway so it was my favorite dress and it was really cute, whatever, it was pretty, dark blue and it thought it looked really good on me.

Rob: And I was thinking about this the other night when I went downtown like I played pong for most of the night I didn't really interact with people unless it was like you know some guy friends but um like just noticing how guys would like scope out chicks (girls?)

Rebecca: Just last year I started to drink mixed drinks and um I was at one party and I was assume I was roofied because there was like 4 hours that I just like had like it was I stepped off their porch and then 4 hours later I snapped to in a really random location

Mary-Anne: I’m just like so many people can just shove things under the rug and just pretend like something’s not happening just for the sake of keeping everything like cool or having a good time. It’s so frustrating. Like why wouldn’t you say something?

Emily: That was one thing I had considered in coming to Bucknell and I was like oh gosh like you know what’s gonna happen and there was a huge ring of guys standing around watching them and chanting
Rob: And chicks would look around almost scared and it was like almost watching something from the freakin animal planet or discovery channel.

Jenny: I just hate how there’s not a dating scene here really, I don’t like that I feel like I would be such a good girlfriend and I’ve never had a boyfriend here and I know that they are here its just like where are they? Where are they? Um so I get a little frustrated sometimes.

Rachel: So I wore that blue dress to this register and I don't remember who I went with but I ended up being kind of alone on the dance floor which happens sometimes and like people were just you know whatever just freak dancing and stuff so I don't know I'm assertive and stuff and I just went up to this guy and was like hi do you want to dance?

Rob: Cuz it was this big group of girls all like packed together, like the herd of buffalo and here are the lions kind of just scoping it out and getting ready to pounce.

Rachel: And he was like yea and so I like started like freak dancing with him, grinding with him, ha this is really weird to tell and he like started kind of like feeling me like holding your waist and then starting feeling like my stomach and he just like backed off and was like "no". And I turn around and I was like what?

Rebecca: luckily people pieced together my night but just snap to at like 4:30 in the morning and be like at that point like if it scared me like so much and so I assumed I was roofied but no one believed me.

Mary-Anne: I just don’t understand why Bucknellians are so ok with just letting everything go. Just being like oh its fine whatever, it happens.

Rachel: he's like no never mind and he had already taken out his cell phone and was texting somebody when I turned around and what, I don't know, and he wasn't even looking at me and was just like "no," and I was like are you serious?

Emily: these two girls were going out you know to be together and you know cuz their dating and they like each other and these guys were acting like they were there putting on a show for them.

Jenny: And I know a lot of my friends do too like where are the boys? Where are the boyfriends? And there are all of these statistics about Bucknellians marrying Bucknellians and like oh why do people do that? I know that they’re out there.

Rob: And and so I attempted to go up to and actually talk to a girl, ask her out on a date, and they were weirded out by it and of course a lot was probably cuz they didn't know me, or they didn't know me very well or they were kinda just like why is he asking me on
a date? That’s really weird and I was kind of like yea.

Maryanne: I think for me that was just an all time frustration like Bucknell’s campus and it’s just like complete ignorance of the reality of what’s going on.

Rebecca: um and so I don’t know they just said it was the drink but I don’t know it was like weird, but I mean I’ve heard a few girls say that they were roofied but girls just like they’re very unbelieving of that.

Rachel: and I slapped him across the face cuz I was like so mortified so embarrassed like like he was telling me that I was too fat for him to dance with and I was just like completely devastated and that is still I still think about that when I go to registers and stuff.

Maryanne: like when our campus is like 1 in 3 which is higher than the national statistic and people are just like oh whatever she’s wearing a short skirt, she deserves it, things like that, there are nights like those where I’m just like I don’t, I don’t get it.

Rebecca: they just assume that you were just like black out which I, I don’t black out I know that like when I do forget massive hours of my night I know that its usually something more than that.

Rachel: I had no idea, I could never tell you what he looks like, if I saw him on this campus I would not know.

Mary-Anne: and its those nights that I just remember and I’m like this campus, there’s something wrong with this campus, something completely wrong. I don’t know why.
My short skirt is not an invitation
a provocation
an indication
that I want it
or give it
or that I hook.

My short skirt is not begging for it
it does not want you
to rip it off me
or pull it up or down.

My short skirt is not a legal reason
for raping me
although it has been before
it will not hold up
in the new court.
My short skirt, believe it or not,
has nothing to do with you.

My short skirt
is about discovering
the power of my calves
about cool autumn air traveling
up my inner thighs
about allowing everything I see
or pass or feel to live inside.
My short skirt is not proof
that I am stupid
or undecided
or a malleable little girl.

My short skirt is my defiance.
I will not let you be afraid.
My short skirt is not showing off,
this is who I am
before you want me to cover it
or tone it down.
Get used to it.

My short skirt is happiness.
I can feel myself on the ground.
I am here. I am hot.
My short skirt is a liberation
flag in the women’s army.
I declare these streets, any streets,
my vagina’s country.

My short skirt
is turquoise water with swimming colored fish
a summer festival in the starry dark
a bird calling
a train arriving in a foreign town.
My short skirt is a wild spin
a full breath
a tango dip.

My short skirt is
Initiation, appreciation, excitation.
But mainly my short skirt
and everything under it
is mine, mine, mine.
V. Confessional Picture

![Image of a woman holding a sign that says, "Tell me a story about the social scene"]