

“NEWS FROM THE DECK”

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SWIMMING & DIVING PROGRAM



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A NOTE FROM HEAD COACH DAN SCHINNERER



Greetings from Bison Country and the deck of the Kinney Natatorium!

Welcome to another season of Bucknell Swimming and Diving! Both the women and the men are coming off another successful season. In the pool, the 2010-2011 campaign saw both the women and the men place third in the Patriot League. Over the course of the season over 70 new top-ten program times or scores were set, school records were broken on eight different occasions, four NCAA “B” standards were met, and one diver qualified for the NCAA zone meet. In addition, our success in the pool did not diminish our continued success in the classroom. The women’s team once again led the Patriot League in the number of student-athletes named to the Patriot League Academic Honor Roll and both the men and the women were recognized as CSCA Academic All-American teams ranking amongst the Top-20 cumulative GPAs in the country for Division I swimming and diving programs. Our program’s success did not end with the school year either, as the team turned in a great summer as well. Six Bucknell swimmers attended the USA Swimming Senior National Championships this summer and two of our current freshmen qualified for Olympic Trials while competing at the USA Swimming Junior National championships. To top everything off, we as a collective community of Bucknell Swimming and Diving supporters established a new fundraising record total by

surpassing our set goal and bringing in over \$90,000 for the program last year.

Clearly, as we begin the 2011-12 season, we have made great progress in many areas towards achieving our ultimate goal of making the Bucknell Swimming and Diving program one of the premier programs in the East and obtaining a position of national prominence for doing both academics and athletics the right way; however, there is more work to be done and more progress to be made. Both the women and the men realize we cannot be satisfied or complacent if we are to achieve our goals for the season and beyond. With this in mind, we started the year hungry for success and with a good understanding of the challenges ahead.

Classes started at Bucknell back on August 26th and official practices for the swimming and diving team began on August 29th. The team quickly showed that as a collective group they were in great shape and we were able to get into some quality training very early in the season. This strong start has translated into a very successful first half of the semester both in and out of the pool. We have a great group of men and women this year with a strong mix of returning contributors and talented freshmen classes.

As September turned to October, the Bucknell Swimming and Diving team began its competitive season with our first meet where we took on UMBC. While the meet was not scored, we knew we were facing strong competition as UMBC is defending champions in the America East conference for both the women and the men. Overall, several outstanding performances were turned

in by both the Bison women and men. As with the last several years, the format of our competition was a nontraditional triple distance format with swimmers competing in a “category” of butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke, sprint freestyle, distance freestyle, or individual medley. The three swims in each of these categories were coupled with either the 200 medley relay or the 400 freestyle relay in an effort to make our swimmers get up and race a lot in short period of time. Our divers competed in the normal format of 1 meter and 3 meter springboard and also posted some great performances, especially for this early in the year.

On the women’s side of the meet, the team won nine of the twenty-two events contested.



Our team was led by strong performances from both upper and underclassman. Sophomore Kelly Pontecorvo picked up where she left of last season claiming event wins in the 1000 and 500 freestyles. Classmate Emily Wright also continued her winning ways from last year taking the 50 freestyle. Senior Kaitlyn Sweeney took the 100 fly and junior

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Marisa Taddeo took the 50 back to score some wins for the upperclassmen; however, several first year student-athletes made their mark on the program record books in the very first meet of the season. These efforts were led by Katie Hetherington's two victories in the diving events and school record in the 1 meter board of 264.68. Follow frosh diver, Tara Boyle, finished runner-up on both diving boards and also made the program's All Time Top Ten List with her performances, placing 9th all time in the 1 meter and 6th all time in the 3 meter. Steph Koziol joined her classmates by making it on to the program's all time top 10 list in the 400 IM going 4:29.44 in her runner-up finishing and placing 8th in Bucknell history. While not placing on the top 10 lists yet, Lauren Perry rounded out the great performances by the female frosh with victories in both the 200 freestyle and 100 freestyle.

On the men's side of the meet, the team captured fourteen of the twenty-two events led by some familiar faces and some new names. Sophomore Mike Nicholson claimed the three events in the IM category and junior Christian Treat swept the three events in the sprint freestyle category. In the sprint stroke events, senior Eric Sokolosky claimed the

50 fly while classmate Taylor Harris snagged the 50 back. Like their female classmates, the male frosh made an impact right away as well. Freshman Ben Seketa claimed victory in the 100 and 200 breaststrokes and was just nipped by classmate Timmy Perley in the 50 breaststroke. Collin Greene grabbed another win for the freshmen when you claimed the 500 freestyle.

Since the UMBC meet, the team has been focused on putting in a great stretch of training leading up to our next competition against George Washington on Homecoming Weekend, October 22nd at Kinney Natatorium. Our goal continues to be improving each and every week and I feel we have made some great strides in a short amount of time. We are excited to get into the second half of this semester and to the heart of our dual meet season. Following our meet against GW, we will face our first Patriot League competition when we take on Navy, Lafayette, and American in Annapolis on November 5th. This meet will be of particular interest because we will be conducting it in long course meters as opposed to short course yards or meters. After the Quad Meet in Annapolis, we will host the Bucknell Invitational on November 18-20th. This meet will be in the three day champion-

ship meet format with preliminary and final sessions and serve as a great dry run for our championships later in the season.

We hope to see many of you at these various upcoming meets. On behalf of the entire coaching staff and team, we appreciate your continued interest and support for the Bison Swimming and Diving Program!

GO BISON!



Dan Schinnerer
Head Swimming and Diving Coach

SWIMMING & DIVING ANNUAL FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Our fundraising goal as we begin this year's annual drive is set at \$90,000 by the Bucknell Administration; however, our "personal best" has been set at \$90,205 from last year's fundraising efforts. In order to continue to improve our program it is crucial that we meet this goal. We continue to need to be able to train and compete at the highest levels of our sport. Experiences like attending Nationals in Palo Alto, CA are great opportunities for our student-athletes and we look to continue to provide these kinds of experiences through a training trip this December to Boca Raton, FL and by having a group of Bucknell Swimmers at the Olympic Trials in Omaha, NE this coming summer. Furthermore, our team's geographic diversity continues to grow with swimmers and divers from Southern California to the Long Island and from Texas to Michigan. It is important that we continue to be able to recruit from the entire country in order to build the most successful program.

We will continue our annual "fundraising challenge" to the decade groups and once again see which "generation" can be the biggest supporters of the program both in money given and in number of gifts. As a reminder, in last year's challenge, the 1980s came out on top in terms of total dollars given and the 1970s claimed the hotly contested title for greatest number of gifts by just eking out the 1980s and 2000s. Thank you again to all of you who helped support our team this past year, and we hope for your continued support this year and beyond.

Methods of Giving

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

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

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

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

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

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



KAITLYN SWEENEY Senior, Sprint Free/Fly

Vince Lombardi's quote, "It's not whether you get knocked down, it's whether you get up," is the perfect description of the team's reflection on Patriot's last year and the goals we have going into this season.

We were not satisfied with our team placing or with some of our performances at Patriot's. At the beginning of this season we reevaluated last year's results, realizing that the league is much more competitive than ever before. We used this assessment as motivation to set our goals for the season so that we can be stronger and more confident. So far, I feel that we have put in a tremendous effort to accomplish our team goals by building relationships, supporting and encouraging each other, and focusing on the present with the bigger picture in mind. Our freshmen have made a huge impact on our team dynamics. They have brought excitement and enthusiasm, which we really needed after our assessment of Patriot's. After being on the team for three years, I can feel a new energy within the girls, giving me a positive outlook for our season.

We are already off to an exceptional start to the year with one meet under our belt against UMBC. Traditionally, the meet is un-scored, but it is a great way for freshmen to experience their first college meet and for upperclassmen to shake off the cobwebs from the summer. Normally, most of us have mediocre performances at this first meet, but this year was quite different. I was impressed at how competitive and confident we were and how well we raced against UMBC. These were elements that we were missing last year, and I was so pleased to see the change. On the boards, our divers posted impressive scores, with the freshmen leading the way. The divers performed so well, that one of our freshmen, Katie Hetherington, even set a new school record.

With the sign of early success and continued motivation and perseverance, I believe that we can have one of our most successful seasons.

CAPTAINS CORNER

STEPHEN McMILLIN Senior, Distance Free

What a great start to a season it has been after a strong summer for the Bison. After sending several guys to U.S. Nationals along with a few first-years competing at U.S. Junior Nationals a week later, the men's team is poised for a spectacular season. In my four years here, I cannot remember a season that started off with everyone in as good as shape and swimming as fast as we did at UMBC. The team is fired up and looking forward to a great season. With only losing two seniors last season and bringing in seven first-years, the team is as big as ever and faster than I can remember. Training has been as hard as ever, and I, personally, am in better shape than I was this time last year. I think this can be said for the majority of the team as well. The first-years have adjusted well to the training schedule and have been a great addition to the team. Several have been taking the lead of lanes during practices and pushing the older guys to go faster than they normally would have. This will only lead to good things as the season progresses and we have chances to race and demonstrate our speed.

The talent this season's team possesses was only partially showcased during our meet with UMBC at the end of September. Some standout performances were Billy Krause and Mike Nicholson in the individual medley events and Christian Treat in the sprint freestyle events. From the new guys, strong performances were seen from Ben Seketa in the breaststroke and Collin Greene in the 500 free.

Overall, I am very excited to see who will step-up once we get further into our dual meet season. I think we have a great team this year and are in a great spot to do great things in the Patriot League. I am looking forward to our first scored dual meet at the end of October against George Washington, and our first Patriot League action at the beginning of November. It is a privilege to be able to say that I am one of three men's captains this season. They truly are a great group of guys and I am excited to see what this season will bring.



FROM THE BOARDS & COACH CARTER

Hello Swimming & Diving Alumni, Family & Friends,

Greetings from the far end of the pool. This year is already proving to be more exciting than last year's season. I'm counting on getting great leadership from our returners and continued improvements from seniors Jen Kokoska and Morgan Popple. Junior Lisa Bolle is abroad this fall, but classmate and standout diver Dave Magaro is back this fall. We're looking for him to improve upon last year's performances, and hopefully get back to the NCAA Zone diving meet so he can do even better there.

What has really gotten us excited about BU Diving this year is our team has doubled in size. We have four new divers to add to the mix, beginning with Jon Jones to round out the guy's team. He's from Uniontown, PA and comes with great potential to help grab more points for the team. On the women's side we added standout divers Tara Boyle from Winnetka Ill, Katie Hetherington from Houston, TX, and Tori Molchany from Coplay, PA. So far this class has shown in practice they're ready to compete and our first competition proved it. Katie has already broken our women's 1-M record, capturing 1st place on both boards. Tara finished 2nd on both boards, and Tori placed 3rd on the 1-M and 4th on the 3-M. Please stay tuned. I think this is the beginning of a special year for diving. Take care and hope to see you soon.



Errol Carter, Diving Coach

JOIN US FOR HOMECOMING WEEKEND EVENTS



John Hoffman '05

With Homecoming Weekend fast approaching, I wanted to take one more opportunity to remind everyone of our home meet against George Washington at Kinney Natatorium on Saturday, October 22nd at 1:00 p.m. This meet will have special significance as it will also be the date that we dedicate our new Patriot League Banners in Kinney Natatorium which were given in remembrance of John Hoffman '05 by alumni, family,

and friends. We will have dedication ceremony during the first break of the dual meet.

In addition, following the meet we will be hosting a reception for all Bucknell Swimming and Diving alumni, friends, and family that are in attendance at the meet. The reception will take place in the Sojka Classroom immediately across from the swimming and diving stands. In order to properly plan for the reception, we ask that you RSVP to Athletic Administrative Secretary Kelly Pastuszek at (570) 577-1233 or pastuszk@bucknell.edu. We hope to see many of you there for the special day.

JILLIAN HANCOCK JOINS COACHING STAFF



Jillian Hancock

A native of nearby Danville, Jillian Hancock joined the Bucknell swimming and diving coaching staff in June 2011.

Hancock graduated from Williams College in 2011 with school records in the 200 free and 800 free relay. She participated in the NCAA DIII National Championships all four years with the Ephs and earned six career medals, five coming in relays and one in the 500 free. Additionally, Hancock posted top-16 finishes at the NCAA Championships in the 200 free as a sophomore and the 500 free as a junior and senior.

Named a Scholar All-American four times by the College Swimming Coaches Association of America, Hancock earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Williams. She was a teaching assistant in the biology department and was a Junior Advisor, serving as a live-in mentor to first-year students, while maintaining an impressive 3.7 grade-point average.

The Valedictorian of the Danville Area Senior High School Class of 2007, Hancock, a four-time all-state selection, was swimming team captain as a senior and was a PIAA AA state medalist in the 50 and 100 free events in 2006 and 2007, when the meet was held at Bucknell's Kinney Natatorium.