



HARD WORK PAYS OFF

Grant Palmer '86, an economics major at Bucknell, was recently named managing partner and CEO of the law firm Blank Rome LLP, which has 13 offices and more than 600 attorneys and principals who provide comprehensive legal and advocacy services to clients operating in the United States and around the world. Based in Philadelphia, Palmer is nationally recognized for his pro bono activities – using his knowledge and time to help others in need and ensuring that everyone has equal access to legal representation.

1. How did Bucknell shape your career?

Bucknell challenged me academically and taught me that success requires hard work.

2. What class opened your eyes the most?

Economics with Professor Stephen Stamos opened my eyes and my mind to the excitement of learning new things. In addition, electives like acting, music and dance expanded my view of the world by exposing me to new concepts and experiences.

3. If you could go back to college, what would you do differently?

Slow down and truly soak up every moment and experience. College and life go way too fast.

4. What fun moment at Bucknell is the most memorable for you?

Hours spent around the piano singing badly and listening to **Chuck Johnson '86**, a member of the Bucknell Jazz and Rock Ensemble, entertaining us all.

5. What lesson did you learn at Bucknell that you still carry with you?

Anything can be accomplished with confidence and a positive attitude.

Please send an update about the happenings in your life. – C.R.T.

1986
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DEVIN WARD is the 2019 Walk Hero award winner for the ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) Association's Golden West Chapter, the largest chapter in the country. The award is presented to an individual who is making courageous and inspirational efforts in the areas of advocacy, fundraising and public awareness, while living with ALS.

Devin settled in Arroyo Grande, Calif., in 2000 after living, working and studying abroad in Germany and Japan for 15 years. He earned his California teaching credentials and was employed as a first- and second-grade teacher in Santa Maria Bonita School District until his ALS diagnosis in 2015.

I'd love to say "congrats" to Devin on this award except that you have to be a person living with ALS to win it, and I wish that were not the case. Devin has a ventilator and tracheostomy and can no longer eat, walk or talk. He manages to still raise money and awareness for ALS research. He communicates via an iPad, and we chat on Facebook.

I know not everyone is on social media, so feel free to send me an email for the next column. – J.D.C.

1987
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On March 9, **KATHY NECZESNY FORD '88** and I celebrated Founders

Day for Delta Gamma. We had lunch in Edison, N.J., with Epsilon Psi-Rutgers and Delta Gamma alums of the Central Jersey and Summit-Westfield alumnae chapters. Since Kathy was my big sister at Delta Gamma and roommate after Bucknell, it was wonderful to celebrate with her. **SUZ LINDSLEY STILES '85**, the alumni adviser for Delta Gamma at Bucknell and Rutgers, was also there. Suz still serves on the Delta Gamma National Committee as vice president of finance and was honored with a lifetime achievement award for her service and dedication to our sisterhood.

Kathy and I still reminisce about the two amazing years we lived together in Avon, N.J., six houses from the beach. Our rent was only \$435 each for a three-bedroom, one-and-a-half bath (utilities included) house. We miss those days. Kathy and her husband, Rick, will be married 26 years in July. Son Jack will attend Gettysburg College, where he will play football. Nick, who is one year younger than Jack, was in the college tour process.

I also had the opportunity to catch up with **JON SERPER**. He is vice president of sales at Keyon Software in NYC. Jon and his wife, Carole, live on Long Island and have been married for 21 years. Their son, Brett, 19, is a college sophomore. Their daughter, Lauren, 16, is a high school sophomore.

Please email me and keep us posted with any news. We would love to hear from you. – L.S.W.

PROFILE

LEARNING INTO STEM

Michelle Beck Tucci '11 provides inspiration for female scientists

by **PATRICK BROADWATER**

Michelle Beck Tucci '11 had just embarked on a career with Lexmark, a Kentucky-based manufacturer of laser printers and imaging products, when she read Sheryl Sandberg's landmark book, *Lean In*. Tucci immediately recognized in herself what Sandberg called "the imposter syndrome."

It was a defining moment for Tucci, who recalled struggling to believe she was worthy of her accomplishments, despite excelling academically and co-curricularly. At Bucknell, Tucci majored in mechanical engineering, a field in which women comprise just 7.9 percent of the workforce, according to a 2016 National Science Foundation report.

"I read that and shut the book and thought to myself, 'This is the feeling I've been experiencing – that I've been fooling people, and they're going to figure me out one day,'" says Tucci, who recently relayed her experience to female students at a Women in Science luncheon at Kentucky's Elizabethtown Community & Technical College. Upon asking the students if they had ever experienced that feeling, a majority of the hands went up. Not one student had heard of the syndrome. "Research shows that feeling affects women more than men, but it's the elephant in the room that nobody wants (or knows) to



Photo: Klara Cu

Michelle Beck Tucci '11 says her employer, Lexmark, encourages community involvement with a focus on STEM outreach.

talk about," she says. "Once you know that it exists, it has a lot less hold over you."

Tucci now chairs the Central Kentucky Young Women LEAD Conference that annually draws nearly 1,000 student attendees. The conference aims to empower high school girls and encourages them to embrace their strengths, grow their confidence and seek inspiring role models.

"Seeing the power that is unlocked in these young women after a day spent at Young Women LEAD is life-changing. It makes it all worth it," Tucci says. "Hopefully, we'll be able to make an impact on the next generation that's going to stick with them."

1988
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I'm excited to say I attended Commencement May 19 for oldest daughter **JULIA '19'S** graduation. I am so grateful I was able to indulge in a few more years at a place I love. Now my son, **JACK '22**, is adding a few more years to my streak. I love putting P'19 and P'22 after my name.

In other news, the de la Parras will host the Bison gathering in July for all incoming students in the Class of 2023. Thanks to **HEATHER GEORGE FRENZ '90** who preceded me with hosting the event for three years. Anyone in the class remember our welcome in 1984? It was at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association in Oakland, Pa. I remember it well.

STEVE "MEL" BLOUNT, guest columnist, writes: "It was an unusually

quiet two months on the Bucknell front. I made it to one of the Bucknell hoops viewing parties in New Jersey where we caught up with **MATT DELOCA**, **ANDY MURRAY**, **DAVE MILLER** and **MIKE MILLER '87**.

"Congrats to the Lady Bison hoopsters on their second Patriot League title during the last three years. They played a great final game vs. Florida State. "And a sincere and heartfelt 'ray Bucknell to the Class of 2019. Welcome to the proud alumni club." – S.V.P.

1989
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BETH JACOBS is now vice president, digital strategies, for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB). According to CPB, Beth will help "accelerate cultural transformation,

innovation and content creation throughout the public media system." She has spent more than 25 years creating, developing and scaling profitable, new digital and mobile businesses for companies such as Cox, AOL, The Weather Channel and *The Washington Post*. Most recently, she was senior director for personalization and distribution strategy and operations at Choice Hotels. Previously, Beth was vice president of product management and strategy at 3Pillar Global and the executive lead managing 3Pillar Labs. Mobile Marketer website named her a Mobile Woman to Watch in 2012. Beth has an MBA from New York University's Stern School of Business. She has been active in several industry associations including the Mobile Marketing Association and Women in Technology as a mentor. – R.L.B.

'90s

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REUNION

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Time to start making those hotel reservations for next June because our 30th Reunion is right around the corner.

MARCIA MORGAN MURPHY earned a master's in counseling from Eastern University in Philadelphia with plans for a career in addiction counseling. She still plays bells in the Philadelphia Bronze bell choir. They perform biannually in the national Virtuoso event in

Raleigh, N.C. Congrats, Marcia. Keep those updates coming. – L.M.O.

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