

**Bucknell Theatre & Dance
Presents**



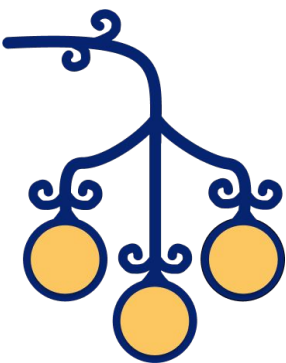
Can We Talk About It?

Directed by cfrancis blackchild

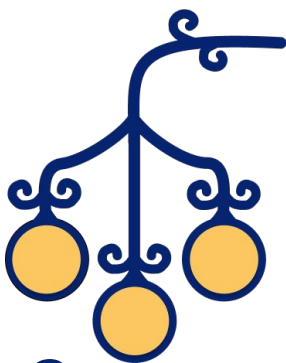


Tustin Studio Theatre

Bucknell
UNIVERSITY | Theatre
& Dance



LOUISBURGH
UNIVERSITY



Can We Talk About It?
Recurrence

Presented by
Bucknell Theatre & Dance

Conceived by

THEA 390- Fall 22: Maddie Buckley '24, Bethany Fitch '23,
Azhani Duncan-Reese '23, Bethany Fitch '23, and Isaiah Mays '23

Developed by

cfrancis blackchild and the Recurrence Ensemble

Recurrence Ensemble: Ariel E. Ulrich '25, Brynn Withey '26.
Azhani Duncan-Reese '23, Jazmin Ramirez '23, Kaitlyn Carduff
'25, Maya Gurung '26, Twity Gitonga '24

Directed by
cfrancis blackchild

Director
cfrancis blackchild

Stage Manager
James Howe '23

Assistant Stage Manager
Grace Lostak-Baker '23

Lightboard Operator
Grace Lostak-Baker '23

Sound Board Operator
Seb Vidal '23

Graphic Design
Clea Ramos '25

Sound Design
Heath Hansum

Scene Design
Elaine Williams

Costume Design

Isabel Abt '23, Bethany Fitch '23,
Lauren Morelli '23, Delaney Oak '23,
Elisabeth Penafiel '23, Abi Platock '23,
Maddie Sanders '23, Morgan Sohosky '23,
Isabel Steinberg '23, Ariel E. Ulrich '25,
Kyla Weil '23, Olivia Witzmann '23

Publicity

James Howe '23, Libby Hoffman '24,
Clea Ramos '25, Aisling McGrath '26,
Katie Schadler '26, Jennaye Pointer '26

Thank you

Students THEA 390 Fall 22, The Recurrence Ensemble, Dr. Davide Rojas, Dr. Bill Flack,
Dr. Hannah Holt, Dr. Erica Delsandro, Dr. Meenakshi Ponnuswami, Dr. Jaye Austin Williams

February 18 - 7:30
February 19 - 2:00

Facilitator

Ariel E. Ulrich '25

Hope

Maya Gurung '26

Leilani

Twity Gitonga '24

Zara

**Azhani
Duncan-Reese '23**

Jaimie

Kaitlyn Carduff '25

Cam

Brynn Withey '26

February 17 - 7:30
February 20 - 7:30

Facilitator

Maya Gurung '26

Facilitator

Kaitlyn Carduff '25

Hope

Jazmin Ramirez '23

Leilani

Twity Gitonga '24

Zara

**Azhani
Duncan-Reese '23**

Jaimie

Ariel E. Ulrich '25

Cam

Brynn Withey '26

Stop! (In the Name of Love)

Following the principles of Forum Theatre, a theatrical technique pioneered by Augusto Boal, *Can We Talk About It?: Recurrence* was conceived and developed by Bucknell University students under the guidance of cfrancis blackchild over two semesters. The play explores social issues germane to the Bucknell Community and invites the community to join the conversation in search of a more productive outcome.

Forum Theatre is one of several techniques that falls within the Theatre and Social Change designation. In Forum Theatre a short play representing a community concern is shown twice. The first performance unfolds in the familiar Aristotelian mode, where there is an invisible “fourth wall” between the performers and audience. In Forum Theatre there are no spectators. Instead, the audience are members of the community who both observe and have the potential to act (spect-actors). After the first performance spect-actors participate in a talkback with the play’s characters to better understand their motivations. At the conclusion of the talkback, the play restarts. During the replay, spect-actors are encouraged to enter the narrative and work to improve the situation. With a cry of ‘Stop!’ a spect-actor steps on stage and intervenes in the action in pursuit of a more productive outcome. The process is repeated, as time permits, to allow as many spect-actors as possible to intervene. Perfection is not required of the spect-actors’ solution, only a good faith effort. The entire process is guided by the ensemble’s facilitators.

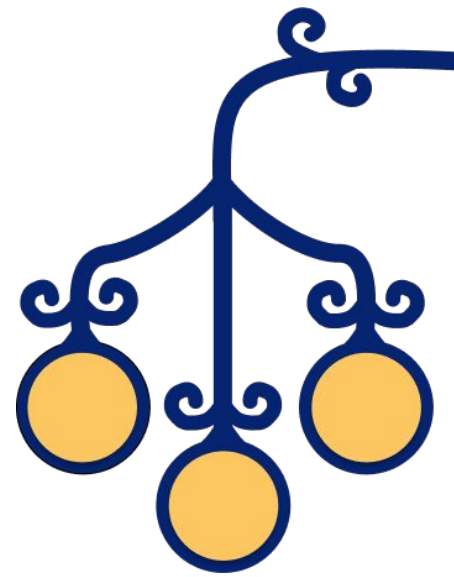
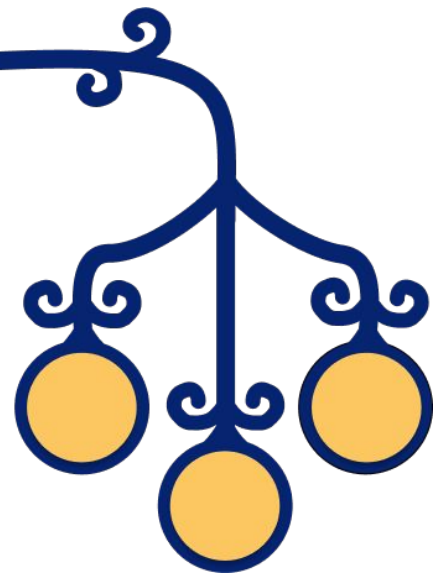
Recurrence is one of two plays conceived in THEA 390 last semester. Both plays look at persistent social problems that were identified in Bucknell University 2011 College Climate report that persists today. They used national data, the research of Bucknell scholars, Drs. Flack, Delsandro, Holt and Dr. Rojas, as well as student input.

This semester the *Recurrence* ensemble and I continued to develop the script. The students of THEA 390 had given us a strong foundation to build on and members of the performance ensemble were extraordinarily generous with information about intricacies of life at Bucknell University. The title *Recurrence* refers to the persistence of anti-black incidences in Predominantly White Institution (PWI) particularly during Black History Month.

Instead of sitting back and relaxing, which is an appropriate posture for an Aristotelian audience, I ask that you lean forward and listen, and look out for that moment when you can yell ‘STOP’ (in the name of love) and enter the play to work toward a better outcome.

cfrancis blackchild, Ph.D., M.F.A., M.A.

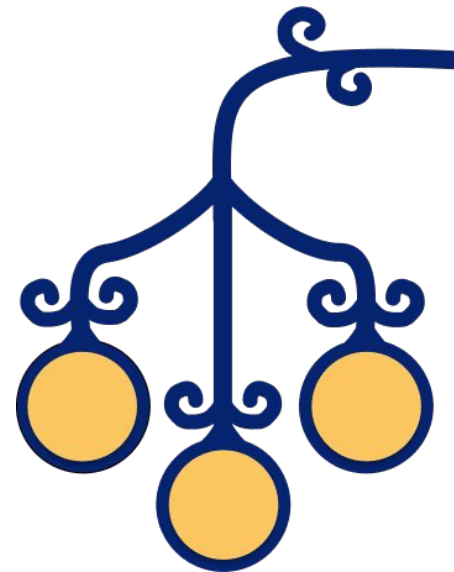
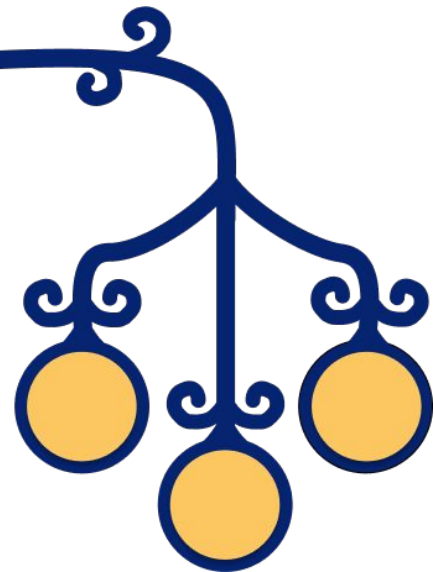
Biography: cfrancis blackchild, is the Consortium for Faculty diversity (CFD) Postdoctoral Fellow in the Theatre and Dance Department at Bucknell University. She has a PhD in Theatre from the University of Missouri, and an MFA in Playwriting from the University of Texas-Austin. She teaches acting, Applied and Interactive Theatre, African American Theatre History, and playwriting. cfrancis serves as the Theatrical Intimacy Specialist for the department. Cfrancis directed *Electra* in Tustin Studio Theatre spring 2022



Ariel E. Ulrich '25

The forum theater process was so rewarding. I knew something about forum theater what it was going in, but I created a lot more than I thought I would. Being able to go so in depth with the characters allowed for some really good questions to be asked. I am so grateful that I was granted the opportunity to be a part of this ensemble amongst these other wonderful actors.

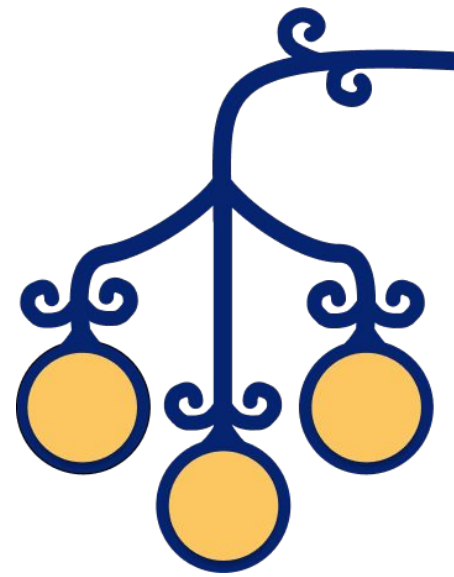
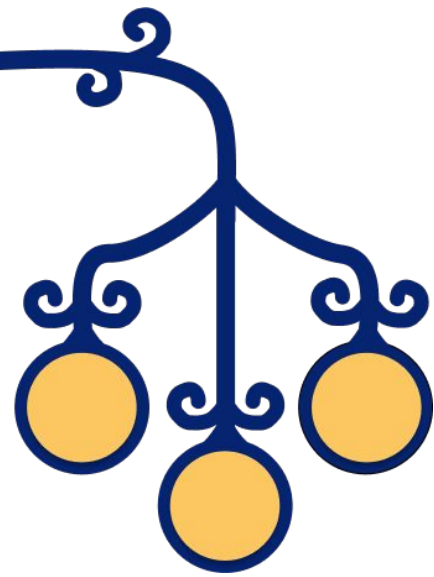
Previous credits at Bucknell: *Anxious People*(N); *About What Matters*(Dogged Woman)



Azhani Duncan-Reese '23

Being able to participate in all the various roles in Forum theatre has allowed me to work authentically to make change. I loved being involved in the writing, editing, research, and performance of the script and that experience has definitely helped me view my role in society in an entirely new light. My work in Forum theatre so far has been as difficult as it is fulfilling.

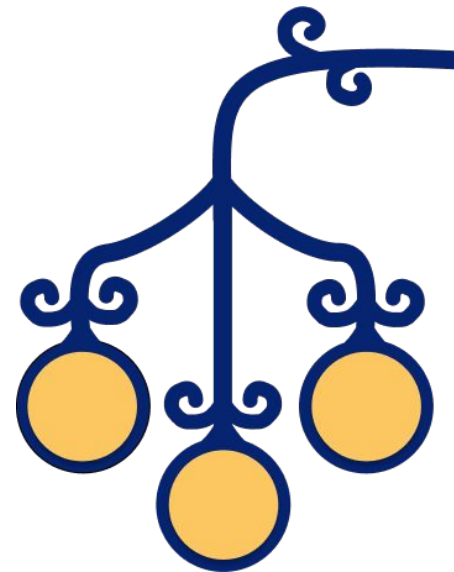
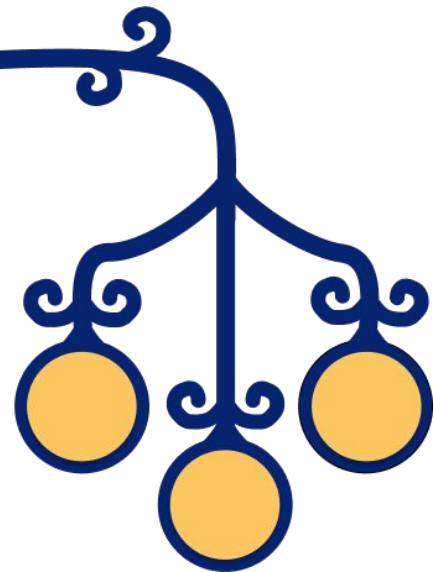
Previous credits at Bucknell: *Love and Information*(Various Roles); *Cocktails 2019*; *Bliss*(Cassandra Understudy); *As You Like It*(Duke Senior); *Crumbs from the Table of Joy*(Ermina)



Brynn Withey '26

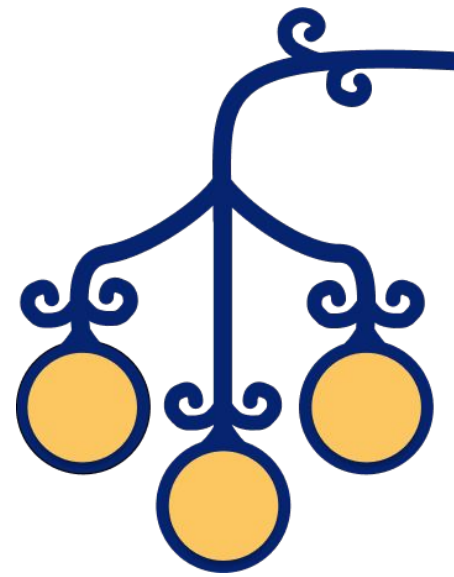
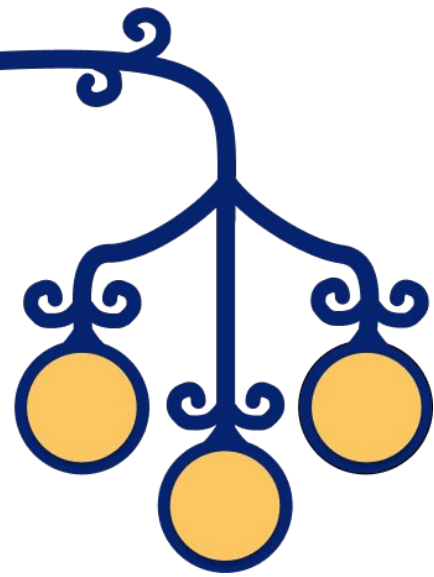
The experience of being in forum theater is different from what I'm used to, but definitely not unwelcomed. Rehearsals and the use of improvisation were unique and allowed me to truly understand the characters.

Previous credits at Bucknell: *Kodachrome*(Waitress & Marjory/EMT 1)



Jazmin Ramirez '23

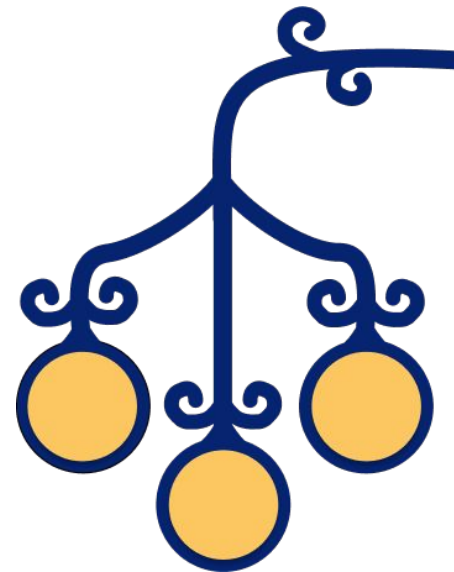
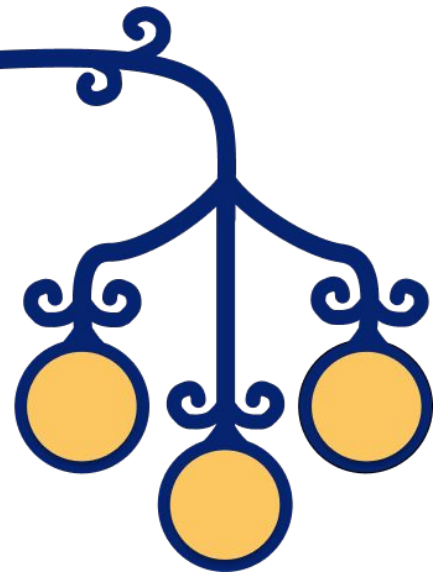
Forum theater is a very interesting process since characters in the play are able to communicate with the audience. As a first time actress, it was very fun to participate in the forum theater process since it allowed for creativity and engaging conversations with the cast. Additionally, it was fun being able to build the character and change the script to include personal experiences of the cast.



Kaitlyn Carduff '25

The entire forum theatre process was very interesting for me personally. I have never been in a show before where I had played the character outside of the scene and was able to voice intentions I have due to things that happen outside the scene.

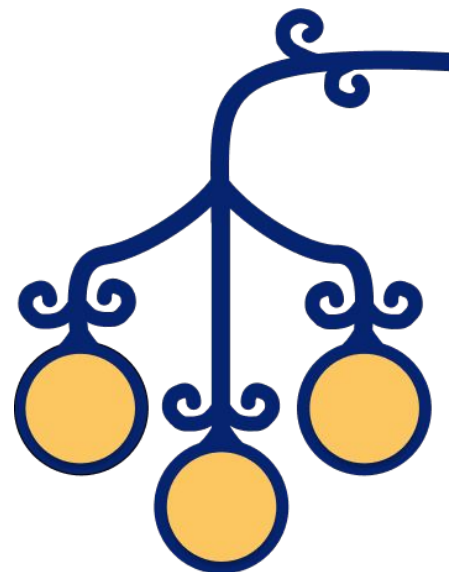
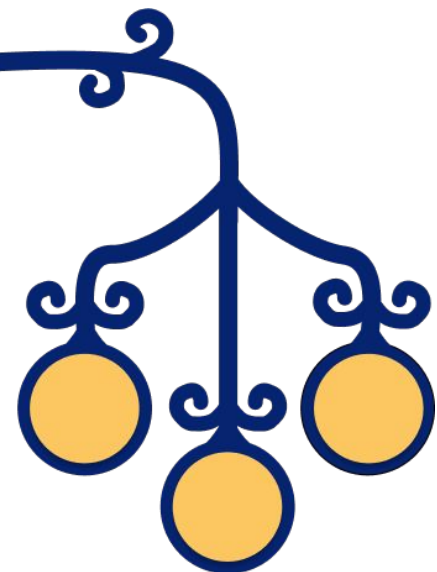
Previous credits at Bucknell: *Ever-Fixed*("woman")



Maya Gurung '26

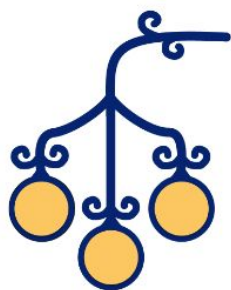
The Forum theater process was a new experience for me. It was eye-opening to be able to help create the characters and a plot that addresses important social issues on campus. I am glad to be involved in a process that will hopefully spark meaningful conversations and encourage positive changes.

Previous credits at Bucknell: *Kodachrome*(Suzanne); *Best Friend Territory*(Gabi); *The Perseus Event*(Celeste)



Twity Gitonga '24

My name is Twity Gitonga and I am a junior majoring in Computer Science and Engineering. I am an international student from Nairobi, Kenya. Being part of the cast and the team has been an enlightening journey in my career at Bucknell because I got to meet different people, had new experiences, and learnt so much about myself along the process. It pushed my boundaries and allowed me to grow. writing the script, doing improv, and being on stage has been amazing.



LOUISBURGH
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Similar to but definitely not Bucknell

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & DANCE

cfrancis blackchild.....post-doctoral fellow
Jack Filpi.....entertainment technology assistant
Katie Hanes.....academic assistant
Heath J. Hansum,co-director of theatre..... lighting and sound design
Carly Holzwarthcostume design and history
Er-Dong Hudance technique and theory
Anjalee Deshpande Hutchinson,acting, directing, devising
Mark Hutchinson,co-director of theatre.....technical coordination, stage management
Kelly Knox, director of dance.....dance technique and theory
Jennifer Lippert.....assistant costumer
Dustyn Martincich, chairtheatre and dance technique and theory
Sierra Pete.....costume studio manager
Bryan M. Vandevender.....theatre history, theory
F. Elaine Williamsscenography

THEATRE AND DANCE AFFILIATE ARTISTS

Dr Jaye Austin Williams
Dr Benae Beamon
Dr Meenakshi Ponnuswami

Generous support by the Bucknell Association for the Arts, Richard A Klein Theatre and Dance Endowment, the Lisa Lu Foundation, the Skvarla Family, and the Benson Fund have made guest artists' residencies, master classes and workshops for our 2022-23 artistic season possible.

Theatre and Dance respectfully acknowledges and recognizes our responsibility to the original and current caretakers of this land, water and air: the Susquehannock peoples and all of their ancestors and descendants, past, present and future. We live and create our art here within the Bucknell community and we strive to honor those caretakers of this homeland in our presence and work

Taking photographs, and the use of recording devices are strictly prohibited. Please turn off your cell phones and other electronics before the performance begins.

Thank you.

2022-2023 Theatre and Dance Contributors

Laurie Aburdene P'98,'00, Robin Adams, Georgia (Lenfest) Armstrong '69, M'92, P'89, Chuck Arnao '69, P'14, Justine Bailey '10, Emma Battle '22, Jill Baumbach '14, Ashley (Elder) Bishop'98, Nancy Boo P'25, John Bravman and the Board of Trustees, David Bristol P'16, Isabelle Bristol '16, Marcie (Baria) Bristol '81, P'16, Jamie Brouse, John Brunner '15, Helly (Schwalm) Bullwinkel '72, Katie Cantagallo '20, Phyllis (Horine) Carlson '64, Leslie Carney '00, Stacey Carpency '16, Tyler Chadwick '13, Kim Cipolla '90, Kyle Cohick '20, Patrick Cook P'25, Lexie Corcoran '22, Shirley (Parker) Curry '58, Eleanor (O'Connor) Dallabrida '72, Emily Delanty '16, Thomas Delanty P'16, Megan (Blamble) Dho '95, Sydney Dickinson '22, Chelsea Dieck '13, Anthony DiFazio P'24, Rich Dionne '96, Brooke Echnat '21, Mimi Elder P'98, Gillian Fabijanic '22, Sara Fenstermacher '08, Gail (Wade) Firestone '67, P'89,'93,'94, Pam Fornero P'24, Erin (Braun) Froelich '96, Abigail Garrett '17, Ilene Garrett P'17, Evan Gingrich '15, Kourtney Ginn '12, Karen Gregory P'18, Mackenzie Gross '21, Brent Guenthner P'22, Greg Hart '10, Meg (Frye) Helsel '98, Margi (Pew) Hill '74, Richard Hoffman P'24, Margaret Hoffman P'24, Karen Hoyle P'04, Brittany Hurley '17, Hope Hutchinson, Richard Johnson '84, Megen Karakelian '93, Faith (Hunter) Kimberling '92, P'23, Robert Kittell P'22, Richard Klein '69, Joseph Koletar '60, M'61, Cheryl (Klinger) Lease '84, Millo Lazarczyk '21, Lisa Lu GP'24, Sarah Lynch '81, P'14,'16, Bob Mandel '67, Jane Mandel, Bethany (Haines) Martin '08, J Sueni Massaquoi P'19, Eric Molitor '01, Kristin (Dite) Monty '97, Deb North P'04,'06,'07, Lisa Olson P'24, Cara O'Neill '22, Dana Pardee '22, Edward Pierce P'25, Jack Pyper GP'16, Pam (Martindell) Rank '75, Lauren Scott '17, Rachel Sherbill '09, Andrew Sidman P'08,'11, Brian Simon P'18, Kurt Skvarla '10, Trey Snow '16, MB Sodini '90, Donna Spinweber '81, P'08,'10, Mary Ann Stanton '89, Mallory Steffey '19, Elizabeth Suczewski '17, Melanie Taylor '99, Christine (Francello) Van Benschoten '72, David Vosbikian P'22, Richard Wagner P'94,'01, Linda (Ensminger) Welch '67,