

Microfinance Initiative at Bucknell

New student group strives to do big things on the micro level.

By *Julia Fuchs '09*

Bucknell's commitment to establish bridges with the world has taken a turn with the creation of the Microfinance Initiative at Bucknell (MIB). The new student organization was inspired by a thesis pointing out the power of microfinance in developing countries, written by **Anistasia Sofianou '08**.

MIB has partnered with Kiva, a microlending organization started by **Jessica Jackley Flannery '00**. Interested parties can loan a minimum of \$25 to entrepreneurs from the Kiva website (Kive.org). The money will help them buy supplies to start businesses and get out of poverty. Lenders will receive regular updates of progress made. After a certain period, entrepreneurs will repay the original loan.

"We don't realize how much \$5 over here can mean to someone in Africa. It can actually help someone start a business," MIB President **Jessica Sturzenegger '10** says. "Every little bit counts. With Bucknell's support, we can create a sustainable aid to alleviate poverty in the world."

LEFT: TIMOTHY SOFRANKO, RIGHT: BLAINE STIGER

