

**ISSUE: VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTER SHORTAGE**

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**DESCRIPTION: Since 2000, the number of volunteer firefighters in Pennsylvania has dropped from 60,000 to 38,000, the Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute reported. That's about a tenth of the total the state had in the 1970s, when its firefighting ranks measured at 370,000, yet Pennsylvania leaders do not have a reliable listing of all volunteers. Last semester, Bucknell students Alec Sanders and Donovan Coleman worked with the Bucknell Small Business Development Center to build a database through an online management tool to document volunteer firefighter details to try to make state towns safer.**