In the last 30 years, Bryant has grown dramatically - in the number of students, faculty, and staff; in academic offerings and experiential opportunities; in campus size and facilities; in student life; in athletics and wellness; in diversity and international programs; and in its sense of community.

I’ve had the privilege of serving as Bryant’s president for much of this period. It’s been a joy — and adventure — to get to know countless students and alumni. And equally, it’s been a great honor and pleasure to work with numerous faculty members and staff, all very knowledgeable, talented, and genuinely devoted to our students.

Bryant is a compilation of many stories — an institution that has changed the lives of tens of thousands of students who, after graduation, have gone on to exemplary success in work, service, and life. It’s mind-boggling to realize that this is all so exponential — tens of thousands affecting hundreds of thousands ...and ultimately millions. And so it is that Bryant is inexorably changing the world.

This book is a tribute to the students, faculty, staff, administrators, trustees, alumni, and families who have supported Bryant these 30 years.

It is a sequel to Bryant College — The First 125 Years, a pictorial history from 1863 to 1988 written by Valerie Quinney and edited by Peter Mandel and Elizabeth O’Neil.
Since Bryant has become much more complex in recent decades — evolving from a regional business college to a nationally-ranked university — this book does not attempt to provide a full, chronological account of the many changes in programs and personnel. Rather, as former Bryant President William T. O’Hara wrote in a foreword to the first pictorial history, it’s meant to be “a book which will make Bryant come to life every time you pick it up.”

So, this book has a lot of great pictures and allows you to freely explore Bryant by chapter topic:

- Academics
- Student Life
- Community
- Campus and Facilities
- Athletics
- International

I’d like to thank Bryant’s communications team for creating a wonderful book, one that gives us new insights into our history and new appreciation for what Bryant provides students of today.

As much as things have changed in the last 30 years, some important things have not changed, such as our shared values as a learning community, and our vision of Bryant as a unique institution with a vital mission.

In reviewing our history recently, I came across a “President’s Message” that I wrote for the then-graduating Class of 2001 ... and realized that I still feel what I expressed on that occasion:

“As a surrogate parent of sorts, I have watched our undergraduates grow intellectually and socially over the past four years. Here at Bryant we have tried to provide them not only with the academic subject matter but also with the life skills and qualities they’ll need to be successful in life and in business.

“As Charles Silberman once wrote, ‘Education should prepare people not just to earn a living but to live a life — a creative, humane, and sensitive life.’

“As my wife, Kati, and I have watched these young people grow, we have marveled at how successfully they have navigated the challenges of holding part-time jobs, playing sports, excelling in challenging academic programs ...and still making the time to have fun. We’ve been their neighbors for four years, and it’s been a great experience.

“Our advanced degree students, too, look forward to remarkable futures. In this time of intense global competition, when the demands on every entrepreneur forces him or her to be something of a scholar — and when the demands on the scholar force him or her to be something of an entrepreneur — their degrees are valuable indeed. I salute their determination, their ambition, and their success.

“I and the entire Bryant community feel almost as proud of these graduates as do their own families. It has been a tremendous honor to be part of their lives, introducing them to new ideas, unleashing their potential, and becoming their friends as well as their mentors.

“I won’t say goodbye. Instead I’ll say, see you soon. Come back and visit us. Share with us your successes. Whether for a class reunion or to recruit future graduates, come back as often as possible — for each of you will always be part of our prayers and our Bryant family.”

RONALD K. MACHTLEY

‘Education should prepare people not just to earn a living but to live a life — a creative, humane, and sensitive life.’