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Thirty years ago, Bryant was widely viewed as a commuter school, lagging in its “student life.”

In the late 1990s, the new president, Ron Machtley, and a new Vice President of Student Affairs, J. Thomas Eakin, were determined to change that. Their vision, shared by trustees and other leaders, was to make Bryant a truly residential campus, change the idea of extracurricular activities to cocurricular activities, and make Bryant a student-centered community.

That vision has been largely fulfilled, but it wasn’t accomplished easily or quickly. Indeed, the success story is still unfolding.

In 1998, President Machtley announced the appointment of Dr. Eakin as vice president of what was then called Student Affairs. In that role, he was responsible for career services, residence life, multicultural student services, health services, counseling, and student activities.

Arriving at Bryant, Eakin brought with him 25 years of experience as associate vice president for student affairs/student development at Penn State – a much larger university – so he came with extensive knowledge of how to create a residential campus, with needs that must be met 24/7.

In 2001, Eakin explained, “Everything we do in Student Affairs relates to our institutional mission of being student-centered and focused on excellence. We work closely with Academic Affairs to emphasize the education of the whole student by developing the skills and qualities identified in the strategic plan (The New Century Plan), designed to prepare our students to do their personal best in life and business. “Throughout the College, we are working to 1) develop a distinctive campus climate built upon sound community principles that support the development of intellectual,
physical, and spiritual dimensions; 2) build campus-life programs that engage students and develop personal effectiveness skills and desired personal qualities; 3) create an effective and efficient program of student services; 4) review and improve the quality of campus life; and 5) assess and expand student internships and enhance career and employment opportunities.”

Eakin went on to accomplish what he had set out to do, retiring in 2013.

During his 16 years of service to Bryant, Dr. Eakin made substantial and enduring contributions. He helped launch distinctive programs such as the Sophomore International Experience, diversity initiatives, expanded services for women, and Bryant’s award-winning career services center. He also helped create innovative programs integrating coursework with an array of cocurricular opportunities, ensuring that the Bryant experience was 24/7. In recognition of the many contributions made by he and his wife, Marj, the University dedicated the Tom and Marj Eakin Student Leadership Suite on the Fisher Student Center’s third floor.

In 2013, President Machtley announced Eakin’s successor, John Saddlemire, D.Ed., formerly vice president for student affairs at the University of Connecticut. Saddlemire brought great leadership and management experience to the job, having served for 29 years in a variety of complex roles at public and private universitiesties, and more than 25 years of continuous teaching. Under Saddlemire’s leadership, the quality and quantity of Student Life programs continued to improve, with more activities and resources.

In 2015, President Machtley was awarded the Region I President’s Award by NASPA, Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education. The award is given to a college or university president or chancellor who, over a sustained period, advanced the quality of student life on campus by supporting the institution’s student affairs staff and initiatives.

In 2016, the Center for Higher Education Enterprise selected Bryant as one of the “most promising places to work in Student Affairs.” Saddlemire said the national recognition reflected the department’s impressive work on diversity and inclusion.

The dedicated staff in Student Life continue to work night and day to ensure the safety, well-being, and personal growth of Bryant’s students.
RESIDENCE LIFE

Over the last 30 years, Bryant transitioned into being a truly residential community — no longer a “suitcase school” with the students leaving on weekends.

Bob Sloss, Associate Dean of Students, recalls how things have changed during his time at Bryant, “When I got here in 1985, we only had the suite style-buildings 1 through 13, Hall 14, which was a freshman hall, and townhouses A through E. Back then, the school policy was to house all the upperclass students and only about 450 of the incoming freshmen, which worked out OK because the bulk of our students were from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. But it was very difficult for the kids who couldn’t commute from home and had to get apartments at 18 years old in nearby cities. And I’m not sure how we retained those people. But with the help of other senior Student Affairs people, to be more industry-standard with other colleges, we were able to guarantee freshmen housing and eventually add even more housing to accommodate students.

“We built Hall 15, then Hall 16, Hall 17, townhouses. We added H through M, then O and P and then N. So we were able to retain a lot more students. Housing went from under 2,000 beds to more than 2,800 in 2008. Bryant now has much more of a residential campus feel.

“We understood that a resident student needs a lot more than just a bed. There needed to be athletic facilities and workout facilities and dining options, evening events and weekend events. As our residential population grew, all those things had to grow along with counseling, public safety, our student activities people — as they were called back then — and our international student staff.”
John Denio, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs, observed, “I think we’re unique in the sense that all four class years are predominately represented on the campus in residential living. At most institutions, you are on campus for your first couple of years and then move off into the community. We have some of that, but for the vast majority we retain all four classes. So it brings a nice blend to the community, having a majority of seniors living on campus along with first-year students. The full-time residential population is around 86 percent; it fluctuates depending on the year and the class size.

“We have more than 600 beds in the townhouses, and that’s a very popular place. It’s seen as kind of a culmination of your residential experiences. We have had students in recent years move into Providence, but the vast majority of each of the classes is represented on campus. And I think that brings flavor to the social aspect of campus. It has added to the sense of community over the years and to the strong Bryant pride.

“Part of it, too, is the physical nature of the campus. It’s a very nice setting and the University has tried to maintain the residential facilities so they are attractive and appealing to students. The other big piece is convenience and accessibility.”

Sloss agrees that convenience is one of the many benefits to residing on campus. “There are so many more activities and resources now. Students can just swipe their card to take buses anywhere for free in Rhode Island. And there’s the option of car-sharing.

“There are great athletic events with a Division I institution. And we have many kinds of entertainment — movies, dances, comedians, bands, gaming nights. They might set up 100 easels in the rotunda area for a paint night, and participants get a painting at the end of it.

“And there are six or seven places to eat on campus, including late at night. On weekends, one is open until 2 A.M., in Hall 17.

“One of the biggest draws is our health and fitness facilities. There are numerous kinds of exercise equipment. Plus, there’s a strong intramural program, which students love. So all of those activities keep students active on campus, nights and weekends.”

Kristin Ridge, Director of Residence Life, joined Bryant in 2006. She explained that even students who live near campus and could easily commute usually choose to live on campus because they appreciate the many benefits and advantages. “Making friends is easier, acclimating is easier. And it’s convenient to have a job on campus if you live here. It’s a financial commitment, but it’s part of the investment in the overall educational experience.

In 2018, the Village Renaissance program began. In this three-year project, the University is investing $30 million to upgrade the residence halls — changing entrances, adding new fixtures, and improving the aesthetics.

Some students venture into Providence a bit more than they used to, since car services have made the city more accessible to them. “But if students don’t leave campus,” explained Ridge, “it’s because Bryant is the social epicenter. There is this sense of what students call FOMO — Fear of Missing Out — that if they leave the campus, they’re missing whatever parties and activities are happening over the weekend. Some freshmen will get dressed up like they’re going out for the evening, but they’re leaving their hall to go down to a party at the townhouses. So that’s ‘going out,’ even though they didn’t actually leave campus.”

RESIDENT ASSISTANTS

“Bryant’s 64 Resident Assistants are wonderful. They are my favorite thing about being here,” adds Ridge.

“It feels like they are responsible for everything under the sun. They do a lot of programming in terms of introduction to the campus if they have freshmen students — social diversity, different religions, different celebrations. They answer a lot of questions: How do you get an internship, how do you study abroad, how do you do Sophomore International Experience, how do you do laundry? All those basic things. And for seniors, the question often is: what else should I experience at Bryant before moving on to other places?”
“RAs receive a package where their room and board are covered by the institution in exchange for their year-long position. And they have to go through a rehire process every year.

“A huge part of their role is crisis response. Every area has at least two RAs on duty every night, even when we’re on school breaks. And they do rounds to deal with any policy violations they come up against. They are also the people who students will go to if someone needs medical attention or there’s some sort of emergency. And RAs are 19 when they start this job. They complete about 200 hours of training to be able to hold this position. They learn how to handle all kinds of situations, including the nuance of being an authority without being aggressive and unintentionally escalating a situation. It takes massive leadership skills. It’s often something that will set them apart for jobs later in life because they can work with people in the most challenging of circumstances.”

In 2014, Emily Socha ’16 posted a brief explanation of “The Life of a Bryant RA.” She wrote, “Sometimes we get a bad reputation on campus for ruining a ‘fun night,’ but on other nights residents are happy that we saved their friends from what could have been a horrible disaster. As an RA, we wear many hats. We’re students, friends, athletes, club members, family members, and more. It’s tough to balance all the roles at some points, but we definitely find a way to manage the huge responsibility we’ve taken on. Many times we’re put in situations that include helping with homesickness, the loss of a loved one, policy violations, and crisis management. At the end of the day, the job is all about connecting with residents and establishing a safe and fun community.”

Bryant has 64 Resident Assistants— each responsible for about 40 students. Before students show up for the academic year, all RAs return to campus 10 days early to be trained and retrained for the position. Head RAs return even earlier to learn additional responsibilities and prepare for the coming year.
Extracurricular activities and sports play a big part in Bryant’s culture. Students sign up for intramural sports for two main reasons: to get exercise and meet new people. Fitness and friends!

**SOCCER** continues to be one of the most popular intramurals on campus. Games are played at night at the Turf Complex.

**SOFTBALL** is also a popular sport. There are usually over a dozen teams, playing two nights a week.

**FIELD HOCKEY** is played in Bryant’s new indoor field facility, offering 6 vs 6 competition.

**FLAG FOOTBALL** draws a lot of players. It’s an exciting game, so it’s not too hard for organizers to find another 12 students to form a team.
The Chace Athletic Center offers tremendous variety: a state-of-the-art gym, with equipment ranging from weight lifting to elliptical machines. There’s a lap pool, basketball and racquetball courts, yoga studios, and dance classes.

For fun competition or exercise, Bryant offers many non-varsity sports activities, including: Badminton, Bulldog Dancers, Bowling, Cheerleading, Cycling, Fishing, Hockey, Karate, Mixed Martial Arts, Rugby (men’s and women’s), Running Club, Ski & Snowboard, Spikeball, Squash, Tennis, and Women’s Crew.
Bryant students have many opportunities to influence day-to-day student life. Some of the campus organizations that attract and develop leaders:

- Bryant University Student Government
- Commuter Connection
- Bryant Pride
- Greek Leadership
- Hillel
- International Student Organization
- Interfraternity Council
- InterVarsity Christian Fellowship
- Multicultural Student Union
- Panhellenic Council
- Student Programming Board

The Fisher Student Center is a hub of campus activity. It is home to the Center for Student Leadership and Involvement, the PwC Center for Diversity and Inclusion (which includes the Intercultural Center, Women’s Center, and Pride Center), the Office for Student Event Services and Orientation Programs, and the University Bookstore.
Convocation is one of the oldest academic traditions, with stirring pageantry and profound meaning for the entire academic community. Every year, Bryant Convocation celebrates the first gathering of students, faculty, administrators, and staff and reaffirms a commitment to the shared values and purposes that distinguish Bryant as a University.

In 2006, Bryant’s Convocation address was delivered by the Reverend Jewelnel Davis, chaplain at Columbia University. Her theme of “centering down” drew from Quaker concepts of authenticity and grounding. Rev. Davis emphasized the importance of self-knowledge to help one focus on essential priorities. She cautioned students about the notion of “waiting for life to begin” until a goal is reached or a possession, credential, or status is attained, and urged the audience to find joy in the process of “getting there.” Rev. Davis advised, “Enjoy your ‘now!’” In 2011, Bryant’s then Vice President for Academic Affairs and Professor, José-Marie Griffiths, Ph.D., challenged students to “stretch in new directions” by trying on “new ideas and see how they fit.” She told the future graduates, “You will be challenged by different people to integrate multiple perspectives – social, cultural, ethical, spiritual, intellectual. You will collaborate with peers and mentors, and, in the synergy of those interactions, you will discover abilities you didn’t know you had, stretching to take on new roles and expand your accomplishments.”
“The program challenges students to trade easy certainty for life-changing curiosity.”

In 2012, Robert Shea, Ph.D., then Bryant’s Director of Faculty Development, explained, “The First-Year Gateway Experience welcomes Bryant’s newest members into our scholarly community, sets the foundations for academic and personal success, and cultivates the qualities of character vital for leadership and for the health of a democratic society.” José-Marie Griffiths, then Vice President for Academic Affairs, said, “The aim is to produce graduates equipped not only with the professional skills to succeed in a global economy but also with the critical-thinking skills needed to succeed as citizens of the world.”

A unique part of the First-Year Gateway is integrating student life experiences with academics. In 2011, Student Life staff, collaborating with faculty, identified cocurricular programs aligned with Gateway outcomes and designed materials for faculty to incorporate in their courses. The goal is to help students connect what they learn in the classroom with what they do and think as members of the broader Bryant community.
CLUBS AND STUDENT-RUN ORGANIZATIONS

As Bryant has grown over the years, so has the number of its student groups and activities.

In 2018, Bryant had more than 100 clubs and student-run organizations, including the following:

MEDIA GROUPS:
- The Archway student newspaper
- HerCampus
- Ledger yearbook
- WJMF radio station

PERFORMING ARTS:
- aDvANCEd Evolution Dance Team
- Bryant Singers
- The Bottom Line a capella group
- Bryant Jazz Ensemble
- Chamber Ensemble
- Bryant Improv Troupe
- Bryant Players
- Pep Band

CULTURAL GROUPS:
- Bryant University Spanish Cultural Organization
- Global China Connection
- Dragon Dance Team
- Franco BU
- International Student Organization
- Italian American Association
- Multicultural Student Union

ACADEMIC ASSOCIATIONS:
- Accounting Association
- Actuarial Association
- Association of Latino Professionals for America
- Bryant Debaters
- Bryant Economic Student Association
- Collegiate Entrepreneurs’ Organization (CEO)
- Communication Society
- DECA
- Enactus
- Finance Association
- International Business Association
- Management Association
- Marketing Association
- Mock Trial
- Model United Nations
- National Association of Black Accountants
- Pi Sigma Epsilon
- Psychology Association
- Supply Chain Leadership Association
- Technology and Applied Analytics Club

Bryant’s IDEA (Innovation Design Experience for All) is an immersive program in January, right before the start of the spring semester. IDEA is a unique forum for experiential learning – 72 intensive hours, where first-year students learn the process of design thinking and the dynamics of teamwork. Teams are charged with devising creative solutions to real-world challenges in everything from the arts to social services to business.

In 2011, Bryant’s radio station went multistate in a partnership with Boston’s WGBH. Classical music is broadcast to Rhode Island, Connecticut, and southern Massachusetts.
The range of student interests is amazing – from psychology and accounting on the academic side to the Outdoor Adventure Club, where they organize a bike ride, hiking, or going away for the weekend for whitewater rafting. Whether it’s figure skating or fishing, students enjoy the camaraderie of exploring new interests and discovering new talents.

Some clubs have a great many members, while others have the minimum required 10 people. John Denio, Associate Dean for Student Affairs Administration, said, “We tell students: if you have a passion or an interest and you have nine or 10 other people who have a similar one, you can come together and present that to the student government. Often you can get funding to endorse or support your activities and events.

“We have 3,300 undergrads, and 100-plus clubs and organizations. If you went to an institution twice our size, you’d probably find fewer student activities. For the size of our institution, we have more opportunities and options. And that’s another Bryant trait – we maximize what we’ve got and provide as much opportunity as we can with our resources and our people.”

President Machtley kept his promise to the Class of 2009: He took the plunge. With a down economy, he gave students an extra incentive to contribute to the Senior Class Gift: he promised to jump in the campus pond if participation reached 50 percent. Students exceeded the goal; 51 percent participated. Before making the leap, Machtley quipped: “Next year I think the goal will have to go up to 75 percent.” The Class of 2009 presented the University with a Senior Gift of the two bronze bulldog statues that greet visitors when they enter the stadium.

CLUBS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:
- Arts & Culture Club
- Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Bryant
- Bryant University Gamers
- Bryant Marketing Association
- Bryant Outdoor Adventure Club
- Bryant Pride
- Bryant Psychology Association
- Bryant Veterans Professional Network
- China-Bryant Connection (CBC)
- Collegiate Entrepreneurs’ Organization
- Fashion Forum
- HEAL health awareness
- Legal Studies Society
- Panhellenic Council
- Student Alumni Association
- Student Experiences Abroad Club (SEAC)
- Student Programming Board
- Student Senate
- The Podium
- TV/Media Production Club
- Velocity Dance Team
GREEK LIFE

Greek Life provides leadership, philanthropic, and service opportunities to students whose GPAs qualify. Bryant’s Greek organizations use a deferred recruitment system: first-year students must wait until their second semester to pledge or accept a bid from a fraternity or sorority.

Managing groups include: GAMMA (Greeks Advocating for Mature Management of Alcohol); Order of Omega – Greek national honor society; Interfraternity Council – governing body for fraternities; Panhellenic Council.

Sororities
Alpha Omicron Pi
Alpha Sigma Alpha
Delta Zeta
Sigma Sigma Sigma

Fraternities
Delta Chi
Delta Kappa Epsilon
Sigma Chi
Tau Kappa Epsilon

In 2010, Bryant’s Dragon Dance Team celebrated the Chinese New Year. At that time, the University boasted the only collegiate dragon dance team in the United States. To commemorate Chinese celebratory events, including the Chinese New Year on February 14, the team brought the body of a dragon alive through an elaborate dance routine.

The Preservation Jazz Band performed to a sellout crowd in Janikies Theatre. Acclaimed as “miraculous” by NPR and “the past and promise of American music” by Rolling Stone, the group carries on the great American art of New Orleans jazz. The concert was part of the President’s Cultural Series, which brings world-class performances to campus to enrich the entire Bryant community.
CAMPUS SERVICES

Over the last 30 years, Bryant’s dedication to being “student-centered” is reflected in the expansion of its many campus services and academic excellence programs. Those services and programs are designed to encourage the personal growth of each individual student and help ensure their well-being.

COUNSELING SERVICES

Students commonly experience serious challenges in their academic and personal lives. That’s to be expected, since change and uncertainty often create stress. Some of the issues students struggle with are: adjustment, anxiety, depression, relationships, academics, loneliness, alcohol/substance use and misuse, identity, sexual assault, family matters, eating concerns, grief/loss, overcoming test anxiety, performance anxiety, roommate issues, sexuality, time management, self-esteem, and body image. Counseling services are free, and the professional staff follows strict codes of confidentiality.

HEALTH SERVICES

Bryant University’s Health Services staff strives to help students develop a healthy lifestyle that includes eating well, getting enough sleep, exercising, and reducing stress.

On-site medical care is provided by nurse practitioners and a physician. Visits are free to all full-time students. In case of an emergency, EMTs are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Clinical components of the program include treatment of illnesses and injuries, women’s and men’s health care, laboratory services, immunizations, support services for students with physical disabilities, and referrals as appropriate.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Bryant’s Department of Public Safety (DPS) is a branch of the Student Affairs division. Full-time, well-trained DPS staff members help enforce local, state, and federal laws, as well as campus rules and regulations. DPS is responsible for monitoring security activities 24 hours a day on University property. The officers patrol the campus on foot, bicycles, motor vehicles, and at fixed posts such as the Entry Control Station at the main...
entrance to the campus. All reports of crimes, minor or major, are reported to DPS, which serves as the campus liaison to the Smithfield Police and Fire Departments and works closely with both.

DPS officers are the first responders to campus emergencies. A major component of this service includes Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) who respond to all medical emergencies on campus and are licensed by the State of Rhode Island. Officers also are responsible for parking enforcement, fire safety, and a variety of ancillary services including personal security escorts.

**COMMUTER STUDENT SERVICES**

The Commuter Connection helps oversee “a home away from home,” the Commuter Hub. The Commuter Connection also sponsors events to help commuters meet other students and more readily participate in campus activities. On the second floor of the Fisher Center, The Hub has comfortable couches, a flat-screen TV, refrigerator, microwave, study areas, and lockers.

**ACADEMIC ADVISING**

The Undergraduate Advising Office provides academic advising and services, as well as program and policy information, for all undergraduate students. Academic advising is a collaborative process between students and their advisors to meet essential learning outcomes, ensure student academic success, and plan for achieving personal, academic, and career goals.

Professional academic advisors work with students to help them plan their educational careers, learn how to access campus resources, and “claim their education.” In addition, the Undergraduate Advising Office is a resource for advising students on course selection and degree completion; academic planning for curricular opportunities such as internships and studying abroad; providing students with information about available resources and services on campus; defining academic goals; and monitoring academic progress. Bryant’s Academic Success Programs offer access to learning specialists who provide individualized assistance, group workshops, and learning disability and ADHD services.

For student-athletes, the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE), in partnership with the Department of Athletics, provides tailored assistance for the unique needs of student-athletes. Students in Division I athletic programs have challenging schedules and often require additional help finding a balance between the demands of athletics and academics. ACE provides these students support with general study skills, time management, and overall organization.
The Amica Center for Career Education helps students achieve that confidence by assisting them in choosing a major, discovering their career goals, finding an internship, shadowing alumni, preparing their search tools, learning about graduate school, and interviewing for employment opportunities.

These services help produce a great statistic: 99 percent of Bryant graduates are either employed or in graduate school within six months of graduation.

In 2018, a typical four-year plan for a student’s career education included action items like these:

- Meet with a career coach to create a plan and set it in motion
- Take a career assessment to clarify interests, skills, and values for personal goals
- Enroll in career planning courses, such as “Exploring Major and Career Options” and “Search Strategies for Internships, Jobs and Graduate School”
- Participate in the Shadow Program, which matches students with alumni for a day on the job
- Write your résumé, create a LinkedIn profile, and learn about cover letters
- Attend career fairs, which attract more than 100 employers in a variety of areas
- Find an internship
- Practice interview skills in a mock interview
- Start connecting with alumni using the Bryant Alumni Career Link

“Student Life” is far more enjoyable when students feel confident about their future.
In 2012, Bryant held its first Fall Career and Graduate School Fair. Kathy Clarkin, then Manager of Recruiting Programs and Employer Relations, said, “Employers increasingly want to interact with students and promote their opportunities early in the school year. A fall fair gives students early exposure to fall recruiting opportunities and competitive summer internship programs.”

In a 2016 posting, George Ossei ’17 recounted some of his experience with Bryant Career Fairs: “If someone had told me that I would be interviewing for a corporate audit internship position with Fidelity two weeks later, or that I would go on to interview with employers from Liberty Mutual, Indeed, IGT, and Providential Partners, I would have laughed. If they had told me that I would meet the CEO of Amica Mutual Insurance, get to the final round of national advisory interviews at PwC’s New York office, or receive numerous offers from many well-respected employers, I would have laughed at them for thinking so highly of me. They would have had the last laugh. This year, it was not necessary for me to attend the fair because I have post graduate plans, but I wanted to attend anyway. As usual, the prestigious firms had swarmed the building: Fidelity, Big 4, Grant Thornton, Dell, Boston Scientific, L.L. Bean, Hasbro, and IGT to name a few. I went over to the PwC table first, and it was a great feeling to be able to engage with the reps there who I had met during the summer barbecue.”

In 2018, the leaders of Student Life included: John R. Saddlemire, D.Ed., Vice President and Dean of Students; Stephen M. Bannon, J.D., Director of the Office of Public Safety; John Denio, MS, Associate Dean, Student Affairs Administration; Jennifer Edwards, MS, CP, Executive Director of the Amica Center for Career Education; Mailee Kue, Ph.D., Assistant Vice President of Student Engagement, and Executive Director of the PwC Center for Diversity and Inclusion; and Robert Sloss, MS, Associate Dean of Students.
In recent years, John Saddlemire, the Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, broadened the definition of diversity, expanding it beyond culture and ethnicity to include sexual orientation, geography, and socioeconomics. To that end, Bryant created the PwC Center for Diversity and Inclusion, comprising several programs to foster a supportive community:

The Intercultural Center (ICC) is a hub for international and domestic multicultural students and organizations. The ICC produces culturally enriching programs and educational workshops that focus on culture, ethnicity, and social justice. The ICC also coordinates 4MILE (Multicultural and International Leadership Experience), a cultural and leadership program for first-year international and domestic multicultural students.

The Gertrude Meth Hochberg Women’s Center provides a forum for all students to discuss issues facing women, and works toward full participation of women in the life of the University. The Center’s programs have raised awareness about domestic violence, sexual assault, body positivity, empowerment, healthy relationships, and other gender issues.

Pride Center is a safe space for Bryant community members to explore lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, ally, and related issues. The Center also serves as a resource for information, hotlines, and organizations dedicated to LGBTQ causes.

Disability Services staff support and advocate for students who self-identify with disabilities, ensuring equal access to all University programs and services.

The Campus Ministry team helps nourish the spiritual development, religious identity, and faith practice of all Bryant community members. Campus chaplains are available to participate in programs sponsored by faculty, Resident Assistants, and campus groups. The Machtley Interfaith Center is a place where all members of the Bryant community can explore their spirituality, practice their faith, and learn from one another. Throughout the academic year the Interfaith Center offers services and events representative of diverse faith traditions and religions. It is also a resource to students, faculty, and staff of all faiths interested in initiating programs and creating opportunities.
COMMUNITY SERVICE

There is a long tradition of Bryant students contributing their time and effort to help others.

“We’ve seen a groundswell of students creating their own community service events,” said Kati Machtley, the president’s wife and a strong advocate and mentor for Bryant students.

“The students organize Relay for Life to raise money for the American Cancer Society, and have also planned Up ‘til Dawn to raise funds for St. Jude’s Hospital,” she notes. “The whole student body gets behind Special Olympics, with students mobilizing all the volunteers and coordinating the events.”

“The increase in community service represents a significant shift over the years. Today’s students are very socially conscious. Our students have management skills and a knowledge of technology, so when they work with a nonprofit organization, such as through the Management 200 service learning class in sophomore year, they ask what they can do to help.”

“Our Management 200 students work with Make a Wish on an initiative called Project Playhouse, where children with serious illnesses are presented with custom-built playhouses. Bryant students enlist teams from area vocational technical schools to build the playhouses, and they help raise the funding and bring the project to fruition.”

“Bryant students often do fundraising for Big Brothers and Big Sisters,” says Mrs. Machtley, who is the advisor for the group. “Once each semester the Bryant Big Brothers and Big Sisters will invite the “Littles” and their “Bigs” to campus. Our students provide games and activities, such as a pizza lunch and dodgeball.”

“The fraternities and sororities also raise money for special programs. For instance, one year a mother of a student in a sorority was suffering from a rare disease, so the students in her sorority held a spaghetti dinner to raise funds to help with her medical expenses. When our students hear about people with needs, they are motivated to help.”

“The YWCA needed a way to introduce technology to and STEAM to underprivileged girls in middle school,
so we created a workshop a few years ago called the Fantastic Girltastic Code Company. It’s held at Bryant, and we teach coding to the girls to develop their interest in technology.”

“When Ron and I first came to Bryant,” Mrs. Machtley says, “mandatory community service became part of the orientation for new students. We did that for about five years, and then there were other important things—like addressing safety, alcohol, and health—that the orientation program needed to address.”

“The curriculum also started to evolve, including the Management 200 course and interest in social entrepreneurship.”

Bryant’s community service efforts include: Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Bryant; Bryant Habitat Club; Circle Club; Colleges Against Cancer; Community Activism and Leadership (CALO); Enactus; Giving for Good Marketplace; ONE Campaign; Love Your Melon; Raise Your Voice Week; Relay for Life; St. Jude’s Up ‘til Dawn; Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program; and Alternative Spring Break (organized by Campus Ministry and the Center for Student Involvement).