

Bryant University

## Bryant Digital Repository

---

Bryant Business

---

Summer 1998

### volume 1, no. 2 (Summer 1998)

Office of University Advancement, Bryant University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.bryant.edu/bryantbusiness>

---

#### Recommended Citation

Office of University Advancement, Bryant University, "volume 1, no. 2 (Summer 1998)" (1998).  
*Bryant Business*. Paper 7.  
<https://digitalcommons.bryant.edu/bryantbusiness/7>

This Magazine is brought to you for free and open access by Bryant Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Bryant Business by an authorized administrator of Bryant Digital Repository. For more information, please contact [dcommons@bryant.edu](mailto:dcommons@bryant.edu).

# Bryant BUSINESS

A RESOURCE FOR THE BRYANT COLLEGE COMMUNITY

SUMMER 1998



COMMENCEMENT ISSUE



COMMENCEMENT ISSUE

1

President's Message

2

Undergraduate  
Commencement Speech  
Tom Taylor, President &  
Chief Executive Officer  
Amica Mutual Insurance  
Company

4

Graduate School  
Commencement Speech  
Robert L. McCabe  
Chairman, retail  
subsidiaries of New  
England Electric System

6

Undergraduate  
Commencement Speech  
Sean T. Kenny '98

Publisher  
Bryant College Office  
of Institutional  
Advancement  
Laurie L. Musgrove,  
Vice President

Managing Editor  
Joyce G. O'Neill '84

Editor  
Margaret Currie

Design/Production  
Halla Motawi  
Paul Rosenberg  
Arnie Fishman

Photography  
Patrick O'Connor  
Dave Silverman  
Keith Anderson  
Richard Howard

Produced by  
Lipman Hearne Inc.,  
Chicago

Officers of the College  
Ronald K. Machtley  
President

V.K. Unni  
Vice President  
for Academic Affairs

Joseph R. Meichelbeck  
Vice President  
for Business Affairs

Laurie L. Musgrove  
Vice President  
for Institutional  
Advancement

J. Thomas Eakin  
Vice President  
for Student Affairs

Marc Furtado  
Executive Assistant  
to the President,  
Trustee Liaison  
Officer, and Secretary  
of the Corporation

Postal Permit #462-970

**August 1998, Volume I, Number 2**  
*Bryant Business* (USPS 462-970) (ISSN 1097-444X)  
is published four times a year in March, August,  
November, and December for the Bryant College  
community. Publication offices are located in the Office  
of Institutional Advancement, Bryant College, 1150  
Douglas Pike, Smithfield, Rhode Island 02917-1284.  
Periodicals postage paid at Providence, Rhode Island  
and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send  
address changes to Bryant Business, Bryant College,  
1150 Douglas Pike, Smithfield, Rhode Island  
02917-1284.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On May 16, 1998, Bryant College sent its 135th class of undergraduates into the world. One day earlier, our graduate students received diplomas in reward for their hard work.

Commencements always are a time for milestones and new beginnings. But this year, Bryant celebrated especially dynamic and forward-looking milestones: we held our graduation under a tent and we became one of the first colleges in the world to broadcast graduation ceremonies live over the Internet. For the first time ever, friends, family, and alumni from Boston to Beijing, from Providence to Peoria, had the opportunity to watch as Bryant graduated the Class of 1998.

We have every reason to be immensely proud of this year's graduates. In the phrase popularized by Tom Wolfe, they have "the right stuff." I'm confident that we'll see members of this class become presidents of corporations, thoughtful leaders who care about their employees, and successful entrepreneurs.

How can I be so sure that our graduates will contribute mightily to the future of business and society? For one thing, I have watched during the past two years as they have grown and matured. I have gotten to know many of them personally, and they are an impressive group. We know the world is eagerly awaiting their gifts: in this year alone, for example, *more than 300* corporate recruiters came to campus in search of Bryant graduates to hire.

Our graduates are entering a competitive world, one that demands more productivity and more rapid change than ever before. This new world calls for a wide range of personal skills and qualities — the kind of Renaissance education once expected only of astronauts and inventors. To best prepare Bryant students to tackle that world, Bryant last year re-articulated its mission: we are student-

centered, focused on excellence, preparing students to achieve their personal best both in life and in business. We now have incorporated, within both the academic and the student life programs, the skills and the qualities that successful leaders must possess, besides business knowledge.

This year's graduates demonstrate a wealth of diversity. They hail from 24 different nations — including India,

Switzerland, Russia, Germany, Egypt, and Panama — and 21 different states. They come from many different backgrounds, but they are all linked to one another and to the world through modern technology — e-mail and the Internet. And I hope that they, in common with all previous graduating classes, maintain their links with Bryant College.

A recent letter from the mother of a graduating senior captures the essence of this Commencement:

"I have watched my daughter in the past four years become a responsible, dedicated and ambitious young woman. I was proud of her prior to Bryant but I am brought to joyful tears to see her as she is today. Bryant offered her a first-rate education — and she grabbed it! But it didn't stop there. She took advantage of the whole Bryant

package, which included learning about commitment, poise, confidence, and most important — self."

We couldn't be prouder of the Class of 1998 — and I know that you will join me in welcoming these new Bryant alumni into your ranks.



**We became one of the  
first colleges in the  
world to broadcast  
graduation ceremonies  
over the Internet.**

Ronald K. Machtley  
President, Bryant College





**...consider  
what I believe  
will be one of  
your greatest  
responsibili-  
ties — to make  
this world a  
more ethical  
and honest  
place.**

*Excerpts from Bryant College Undergraduate Commencement Speech, May 16, 1998*

## STEWARDS OF OUR COMMUNITY

*In its 135-year existence, Bryant College has distinguished itself* as a world-class organization, dedicated to excellence, thanks to its outstanding faculty and talented students.

It is with a profound sense of pride that I stand here before you as a member of the Class of 1963.

But as you prepare to leave this institution and assume a wider role in our society, I would like you to



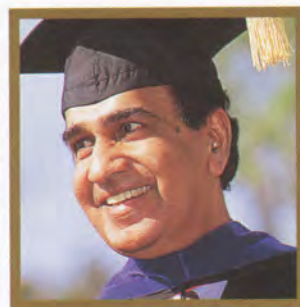
consider what I believe will be one of your greatest responsibilities — to make this world a more ethical and honest place.

It is sad that in the past 25 years there has been significant erosion in the level of confidence we place in our

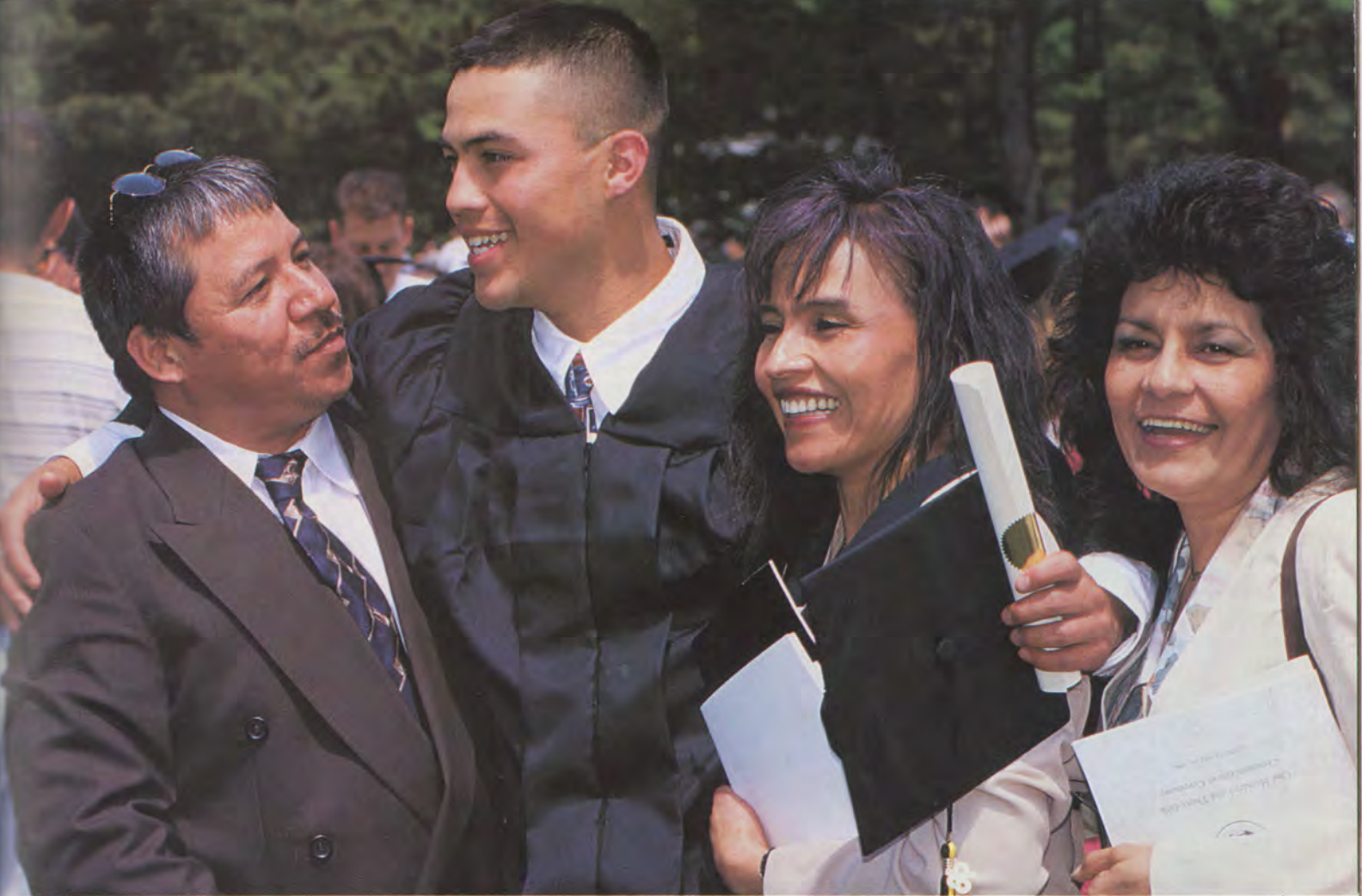
political, spiritual, and business leaders. And there seems to be a growing inability on the part of business leaders to separate ethical rights and wrongs as they seek to gain market share, enhance shareholder value, and aggressively compete in a dog-eat-dog world.

Integrity in a business is the beginning and end of all policies, procedures, practices, programs, and people. Integrity equals strength, and that is good business.

Ethics is a human activity and, as with most activities, we can improve our performance with practice. Just as those in business or education need practice before they become competent, we need to practice







ethics, too. The purpose of ethics is to help people make better decisions.

You are about to become the stewards of our communities, our nation, and our world in extraordinarily critical and exciting times. In such times, the well-being of our society requires an involved, caring citizenry with good moral character.

Business executives often assume that ethics is a “soft subject” — hard to define, difficult to reach consensus on, and impossible to quantify or measure. But ethics and integrity are really just about being one person — the same person you are on the job as you are when you’re with your family and closest friends.

I implore each of you to reflect on the values that are most important to you and take those values to work with you. We all share the responsibility.

It is my fervent hope that you will discover that ethics and integrity are not just nice words. They are the essence, the sum and substance of all that is worthwhile!

Thomas A. Taylor '63, '98 H  
*President and Chief Executive Officer  
 Amica Mutual Insurance Company*







**...don't look  
back with  
regret at  
the end of  
your career.  
Be dedicated  
to your  
profession,  
but not  
at the  
expense of  
your family.**



*Excerpts from Bryant College Graduate School Commencement Speech, May 15, 1998*

## THE BALANCING ACT OF LIFE

*This is one of those days when you know as soon as you wake up that there's reason to rejoice.* For today is a commencement, the celebration of a new beginning.

On most mornings, we can't imagine what lies ahead. Sometimes, even by the end of a day we don't know what the day held. On July 4, 1776, for example, King George III wrote in his diary: "Nothing of importance happened today." He had no idea of the events that took place that day in Philadelphia.



In our world today, of course, we are virtually eliminating that lag time. It took five months for Queen Isabella to get word about the voyage of Columbus. It took two weeks for Europe to hear

about the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. But it took only 1.3 seconds to get word from Neil Armstrong that man walked on the moon.

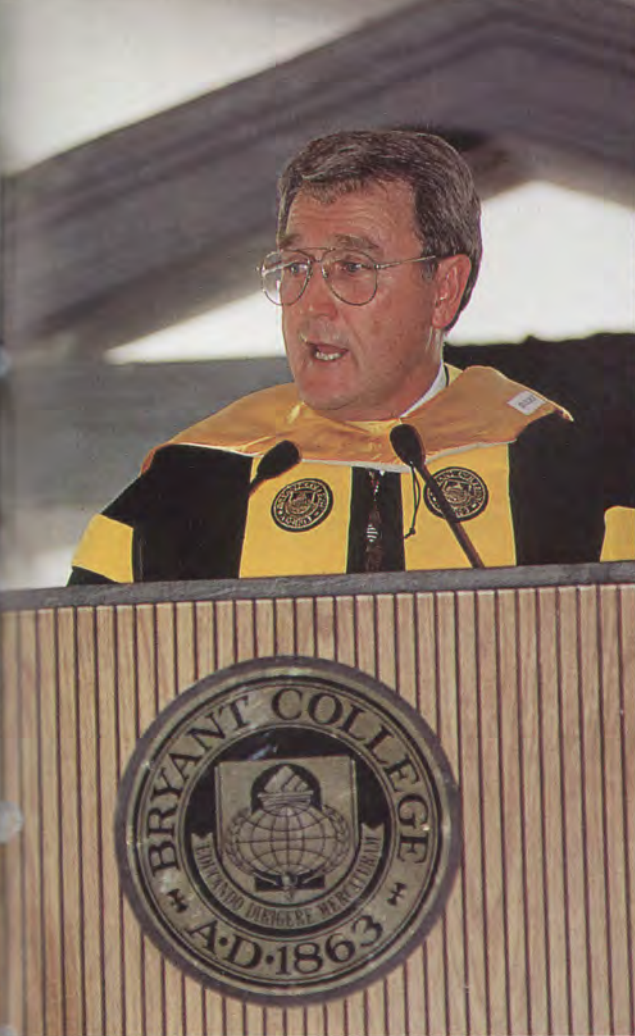
You graduates may be among the best surfers in this wave of change, but to be successful, you still have to keep your balance. And "balance" is what I want to talk about today — the balancing act of life.

By earning advanced degrees, you have already proven that you could balance school with family, friends, work, sleep. And the lessons we learn in achieving that kind of balance are pretty basic.

I'd like to mention some of the basic lessons we learn that are not as obvious, but are just as important for success.







The importance of family and love cannot be overstated. I tell employees at my company: don't look back with regret at the end of your career. Be dedicated to your profession, but not at the expense of your family.

**A**nother basic lesson is the importance of enjoying our work. And the indicator is as simple as: Do I want to go to work? Money can make a difference, but it doesn't answer the question — not in the long run.

Another basic lesson is very old. And that is the practical value of the Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Many businesses continue to be caught up in the preoccupation with profits at the expense of long-term growth — including the long-term growth of their own employees. But today's focus on earnings and stock prices must be balanced by concern for the community, for employees and their families.

Even when we are dedicated to a lifetime of learning, we are going to be constantly surprised. We are even going to rediscover the basic lessons we thought we had already learned. But that's the joy of life: learning. And — along with love — it is the meaning of life, because it's the way we find fulfillment, and the way we grow wiser.



**Robert L. McCabe '98 H**  
*Chairman, retail subsidiaries  
of New England Electric System*





**It is now  
up to us to  
realize that  
leadership  
is not a  
place; it is  
a process.**

*Excerpts from Bryant College Undergraduate Commencement Speech, May 16, 1998*

## **NOW BEGINS OUR FLIGHT**

*Today is our Alpha and Omega*, our beginning and our end. We conclude the college chapter in our lives and begin to record our own professional history. As Nietzsche said, "Before one can fly, one must learn to crawl and to walk." Now begins our flight. We have been educated as the business leaders of tomorrow. It is now up to us to realize that leadership is not a place; it is a process.



I come before you today to deliver the charge to the Class of '98 and put forward this challenge: To operate at our best, we must be leaders. And to be the best leaders, we must live by these five fundamental principles.

### **CHALLENGE THE PROCESS**

Leaders are pioneers — willing to step into the unknown, willing to take risks, to innovate and experiment in order to find new and better ways of doing things.

### **INSPIRE A SHARED VISION**

Leaders have a desire to make things happen, to change the way things are, to create that which no one else has created before. Leaders cannot command commitment, only inspire it. For the respect of our colleagues will be earned, not demanded.

### **ENABLE OTHERS TO ACT**

Exemplary leaders enlist the support and assistance of all those who must make a project work. This sense of teamwork goes far beyond a few close confidants, especially in





today's "virtual" organizations. We must include all those who have a stake in the vision. Leadership is a relationship, founded on trust and confidence.

#### **MODEL THE WAY**

Leaders model the way through personal example and dedicated execution. Leaders are supposed to stand up for their beliefs, so we had better have some beliefs to stand up for. Eloquent speeches about common values are never enough. Leaders' deeds are far more important than their words and must be consistent.

#### **ENCOURAGE THE HEART**

The climb to the top is a long and arduous journey. People are often tempted to give up. Leaders can encourage the heart to carry on. Genuine acts of caring can uplift

the spirits and draw people forward, to show people they can win.

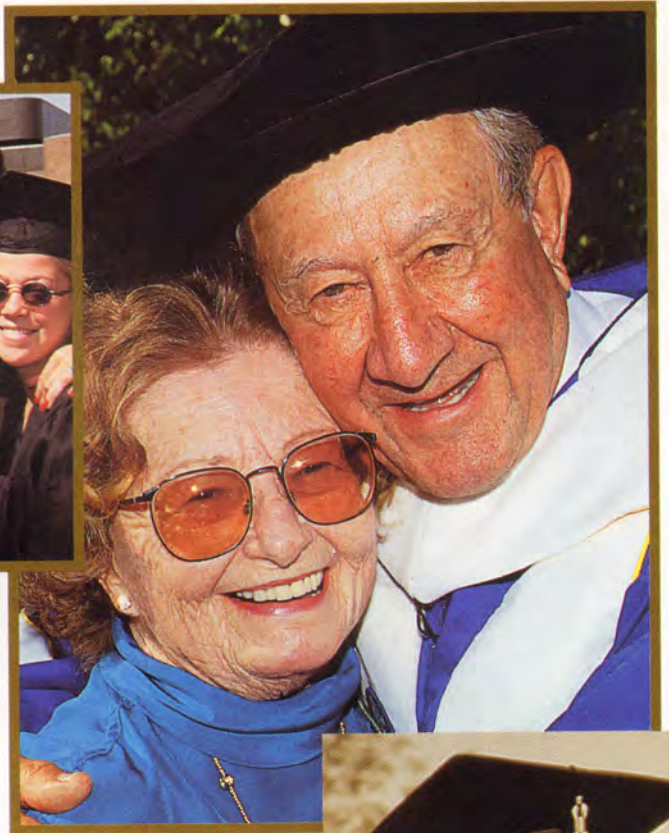
Encouragement is a serious business. It is the essence of how leaders link rewards with performance.

As baseball great Jackie Robinson said, "A life is not important unless it has affected others' lives." So *challenge* the process, *inspire* a shared vision, *enable* others to act, *model* the way, and *encourage* the heart. Be the very best of leaders.



Sean T. Kenny '98







# BRYANT COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT 1998

## *Schedule of Events*

### *Friday, May 15*

|                                       |           |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| ROTC Commissioning                    | 1:00 p.m. |
| Graduate School Commencement Ceremony | 4:00 p.m. |
| Baccalaureate Service                 | 6:00 p.m. |
| President's Reception                 | 6:30 p.m. |
| Honorary Degree Dinner                | 8:00 p.m. |

### *Saturday, May 16*

|                                      |            |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Annual Commencement Breakfast        | 8:00 a.m.  |
| Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony  | 10:00 a.m. |
| Undergraduate Commencement Reception | 12:00 noon |

## HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

### *Graduate School Commencement*

Morris J. W. Gaebe

*Chancellor and Chairman of the Board, Johnson & Wales University*

*Doctor of Humane Letters*

Robert L. McCabe

*Chairman, retail subsidiaries of New England Electric System*

*Doctor of Business Administration*

### *Undergraduate Commencement*

B. Jae Clanton

*Executive Director, Urban League of Rhode Island (retired)*

*Doctor of Humane Letters (awarded posthumously)*

Ernest E. Stemple

*Director and Advisor, American International Group*

*Doctor of Business Administration*

Thomas A. Taylor '63

*President and Chief Executive Officer, Amica Mutual Insurance Co.*

*Doctor of Business Administration*



One Hundred and Thirty-fifth  
Commencement Ceremony

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 1998





# Bryant BUSINESS

1150 DOUGLAS PIKE  
SMITHFIELD, RI 02917-1284