Dear Graduate,

Congratulations on all you have achieved during your years at Bryant! Your Commencement symbolizes an extraordinary academic accomplishment and substantial personal growth.

As you know, your Commencement is the last that my wife Carol and I will attend as Bryant’s President and “First Lady.” The wonderful relationships that we have developed with so many of you and our great respect for the brilliant array of talented 1996 graduates will make this Commencement a very special occasion for us.

During our years together, we have shared sorrows — the most painful being the loss of beloved Bryant colleagues — and we have shared many joys; we have disagreed and we have come to agreement on important issues. Together we have also experienced profound transformations throughout the world — in the former Soviet Union, from the demise of communism and concomitant hope for democracy to the sad regression to ethnic conflict and civil war; in the Middle East, from phenomenal peace accords to heartbreaking killings in southern Lebanon and northern Israel; and in South Africa, from totalitarian apartheid to the remarkably peaceful birth and maturation of democracy.

Now together we graduate from Bryant and seek innovative roles in a world replete with enormous challenges and new opportunities — sharing the quiet anxiety of facing an uncertain, though certainly, exciting, future. You have given richly to Bryant through your wonderful esprit de corps, your determination, and dedicated efforts to excel. The pleasing paradox is that as you have worked hard to develop your abilities and talents, you have also enriched Bryant as a learning community. Thank you for your unique contributions and splendid support.

I am proud of your achievements and confident of your success. I congratulate you on becoming a member of the world’s most distinguished alumni/ae groups — Bryant has nearly 35,000 outstanding Bryant alumni/ae engaged in business and public service throughout the world.

I hope that you will leave Bryant with an abiding love for education and a commitment to lifelong learning. All of your Bryant colleagues will be eager to learn of your adventures in the months and years ahead. We urge you to become an active member of Bryant’s worldwide alumni/ae organization so we can continue to be informed of your progress and together nurture the rich relationships developed during our Bryant years.

You are superbly prepared to become a leader in the world of business, in your community, and in your nation. Ours is an increasingly complex, interdependent, and technologically sophisticated world that will continue to value highly the competencies you developed at Bryant. We trust that you will use your competencies wisely and well.

All of your friends and colleagues at Bryant — faculty, staff, and trustees — join me in expressing our pride in you and extending our warmest best wishes for your continued success!

William E. McKinney
President

Dear Graduate,

Congratulations on your graduation. You have now achieved the goal of every good Bryant student — to become an alum. Commencement is a time proudly to note your achievements to date. It provides a ceremonial and momentous occasion to celebrate the attainment of a very worthy and difficult goal. The success you celebrate at Commencement, however, is not purely an individual accomplishment; there are no self-made men or women. We are all beneficiaries of the good will and nurturing of parents, friends, teachers, and in your case, an entire learning community dedicated to your growth and development.

You in turn, have lifted others around you during your education, either through formal opportunities to serve, or in the many quiet but significant ways friends care for each other. In my short time here I have seen the quality of your commitment to excellence, and the depth of your caring for each other. This year we experienced the loss of Mauricio Beltran, from your Class, Allison Ardito who graduated in 1995, and Penny Stone, a freshman well known to many of you. I have been deeply impressed by the graceful ways you as a Class have supported each other, and reached out as a community to families and friends affected by these tragedies. Besides obvious technical expertise and intellectual capabilities, there is also great character and compassion in the Class of 1996.

I applaud this character and compassion as well as your technical brilliance. We depend on you to continue to be a powerful influence for good as you assume leadership positions in the business world and the future’s global community. I wish you all good luck and thank you for the opportunity to have been a part of your Class and of Bryant’s rich tradition of excellence and service.

Jane Norton
Interim President

The Archway 1996 Commencement Issue
From the Editors:

In keeping with an important Bryant tradition, we are pleased to present the 14th edition of The Archway Commencement Issue. This task has allowed us to reflect on our four years at Bryant and remind all of you of the highlights.

"Remember when you couldn’t wait for your life to begin and then one day it did?" This quote from a recent movie suddenly seems very appropriate as we finally reach the long-awaited moment of walking through the archway. Leaving the security of our home away from home on Bryant’s campus and entering the real world that we’ve heard so much about is finally becoming a reality.

Symbolic of our four years of college, the theme of the four seasons permeates this issue. Like the changing seasons, we too have changed with every year and every experience at Bryant. We have all grown a lot while we were here and we must remember that those events are what got us where we are now.

As a class, we have learned a lot, both in and out of the classroom, about life - the good and the bad. We’ve also learned from each other and from the friendships that we have developed. Author Richard Bach stated, “That’s what learning is, after all: not whether we lose the game, but how we lose, how we’ve changed because of it, and what we take away from it that we never had before to apply to other games.”

We are all anxious to begin our careers that we have spent so much time preparing for. However, as we move on, we are not to forget the times we had here at Bryant.

Congratulations Class of 1996.

Colophon

The Archway 1996 Commencement Issue was produced in a production run of 2,000 copies using an Apple Macintosh Desktop-Publishing system and Linotronic output. Software used included Aldus PageMaker v. 5.0, Microsoft Word v. 5.1a, Calera WordScan and MacLink Plus v. 8.0. Photographs for “Our Days at Bryant” courtesy of the Bryant Senior Class. Front Cover photo courtesy of Bryant College Relations. Senior Reflection photos by Sonia Alders and Susanne Martone. All other photos courtesy of Bryant College Relations, Bryant College Athletics Department, The Archway, and the Bryant College Archives.
Tara Bourgeois

When they say: “time flies when you’re having fun,” they sure do mean it. I cannot believe how fast these past four years have gone by and that the time has come for me to reflect on them. They truly were the best years of my life.

As I sit at the computer in the Senate office, I feel as though I have spent half my college years here. As served on the Student Senate for the past two years, I grew more than I could have possibly imagined. I was fortunate enough to meet many of my classmates, several underclassmen, and some wonderful faculty. I was also faced with challenges that forced me to mature and carry on. I must quote from the movie A League of Their Own: “it’s the hard that makes it good, if it wasn’t hard, everyone would do it.” It was hard, often so difficult that I wanted to hang it up. I could never have done that though, I loved it too much. Besides that, Joe would have killed me! I will forever be grateful for my experience on the Bryant College Student Senate for it made me the person who I am today.

By the time you read this, Senior Week Event will have already come to a close. I just wanted to let you know that Missy and I worked very hard and did our best to make the week a success and we hope that your week was unforgettable.

Enough about that, I would like to share some more personal experiences. My mother has always said that everything happens for a reason. Of course she’s right (Moms are so good like that). I first attended the University of South Florida before coming to Bryant. Why? I was a kid who wanted to get as far away from Massachusetts as possible. After lasting one whole semester there, I returned home and decided to enroll at Bryant in the fall, the college that I had known I wanted to attend since I was a sophomore in high school. It’s ironic that I’m only an hour away from Mommy & Daddy now! Anyway, I just realized this year that I came to Bryant at exactly the right time. I cannot even dream of what college would have been like if I wasn’t with the special people that I am with now. The bonds of friendship that I have formed here are unbelievable. We have been through thick and thin together, all the while building our friendships stronger.

Freshman year brought with it some crazy times! Being free and happy was exhilarating! My roommate was a nut and she and I (together with some other fruitleeps) managed to get ourselves into plenty of trouble. Sophomore year continued to be insane. Living in a triple was not all it was cracked up to be, not to mention being in a suite of 9! Poor Bryan Reilly, having to bring all nine of us to his Wine-n-Cheese, what a guy! We again had tons of fun. Perhaps we should have done more schoolwork though because two of our roommates had to leave. I still think of them all the time. Thanks to Alicia, I got off my butt that year and started to get involved. She was also able to teach me that I didn’t need to stop partying to stay involved. I just had to watch less than 6 hours of TV per day. Now I’m lucky if I watch 6 minutes!

Junior year hit me like a ton of bricks. As chair of Parents’ Weekend, I was busy, busy, busy! I turned 21 in September though, so after a superb surprise party I was able to go to the Comfort. Did Audra and I think we were cool or what? Juniors being able to go to the “hot spot.” I think we went there more just to say we went than anything else. Once the others caught up second semester, it became even more dangerous (Karen?). I also experienced my first Rugby formal that year. I’ll just say it was a lot of fun.

Now for Senior year, without a doubt, the greatest year of my life. I was lucky enough to stay close with one special friend from freshman year, my roommate, Barb. We also met more people this year than all other three years combined. Since the day we arrived in September, I have met someone new almost every day. I have become closer with people who I thought I had nothing in common with. I have had the best times with my special friends here. Although our Comfort nights were limited, they were still a great time. And Larry & Dennis have helped to make Parente’s the substitute Comfort. The Bahamas was incredible, 80 of us from Bryant, God help the Marriott! Everywhere we went, we dominated that club, restaurant, or beach. I sure wish Ivan wasn’t such a bad influence! Every day since our return, I have tried my hardest to have the time of my life because I just don’t want to let go of Bryant and all of my buddies. I’d like to thank Sue for helping me accomplish that mission!

I love this place, it is my home away from home. I am going to miss it and my friends with all of my heart and soul. My mother told me that there was much more to be learned at school than academics. I know now what she meant. I learned so much from my experiences, my successes, my failures, but most of all, my friends.

Alicia Cipriano

When I first drafted this reflection, I began to think about various events that have shaped Bryant and that have helped me to grow, but these thoughts were all too serious. My initial thoughts centered around the life lessons we’ve all learned, personal triumphs and tragedies, and our education. Then I stopped and tore it up because I realized I’m supposed to reminisce, not give a lecture to the Class of 1996. So, I changed my focus and I’m going to think of friendships and other forces that have shaped my four years.

I remember “moving day” quite well, thanks to pictures. I have a special Kodak moment of my mother and I; she’s bawling and I have a grin from ear to ear. I knew she would miss me (even though I only live ten minutes from the College), but Hall 14 Room 304 was beckoning and I couldn’t wait to move in, meet new friends, and have a fresh start.

Making friends was easy, it has always been easy for me, and together we enjoyed our freshman year. There were whiffle ball tournaments in the grass pit, water fights in the hallways, long talks in the bathrooms, 90210 nights—all activities that bonded us. I guess I had too much fun that first semester because I caught mono over winter break. Unfortunately, I had to quit cheerleading but I found a new love - the Student Senate.

Housing lottery was, at the time, the most confusing process. We wanted the best suite; didn’t want Hall 16, but there were ten of us, so we had no choice. As it turned out, Hall 16 was the perfect match.

I’ve always said that Freshman year was great, because of the newness of it all, but Sophomore year took the cake. It was our suite, we could have guests and parties, and we had our own bathroom. We were psyched! I recall the many nights that Tara, Suzie, and I would hide down to Parente’s in blizzards, just to be out. We also hosted numerous “gatherings” at our suite. The most memo-
Senior year has been quite interesting. It has still been busy, but I finally learned to make time for myself. Townhouse life has been, in a word, phenomenal. I love cooking for myself, that is, when I have the time to eat, and I love having our own "home." When I moved back to school in August, I remember saying that it feels like we're freshmen all over again. The only difference between now and four years ago is that I've grown so much. I've learned many things from taking on higher responsibilities through Senate and job hunting, to fighting off drunken men with bad pick-up lines. I've learned that friends are very important and spending quality time with them is a key to happiness. I've learned to smile and laugh more and not to take everything so seriously. I've learned how to draw strength from within and help people in their times of need. Most importantly, I've realized that Bryant has helped make me the person I am today and I would never trade my "Bryant experience."

So thanks to all those who have helped me smile and laugh and who've been there through the good times and bad. To Steph, Cindy Lou, Danni, Yv and Lora, thanks for bringing the real me back again - Bahamian was a blast! To Tara, Bab, Suzie Q, Audie and Sof, I will never forget the wonderful memories we've shared in Hall 16. To Sean, Joe and Dale, you guys have always made me smile - let the smiles continue for years to come. Most of all, thanks to Bryant College. I will never forget the wonderful memories that came from this institution.

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Sean Connolly

When I came to Bryant four years ago, everyone told me that these would be the fastest four years of my life. Well they have been that and more. My time at Bryant has been filled with times of excitement and stress, happiness and tragedy, ambition and discourage. More importantly, it has meant relationships with people of all areas of the college. Great people have come into my life these last four years and the relationships will last a lifetime. My good friends Lottie, Carol, and March at ARA have always been so easy to talk to and I missed them this year. Professors such as Jan Smith, David Ketchum, and Jessan Dunn DeCredico, dedicated to serving Bryant and taking an active role in the community, have given me hope. Judy and Denise in Career Services, Linda in the Registrar's Office, Deb and Tim in Student Activities, Bill in Counseling, Dale, Matt, Joe, Rich, Ragnar, and Kevin, and countless others have also had a lasting impression, and I thank you.

There has never been a dull moment for me around here! The education I have received to include not only classes, but learning through knowing the people I have just described has been phenomenal and has enabled me to develop strong leadership skills in preparation for a successful future. As well, the organizations I have been a part of have had a strong influence on my career. As a member of ROTC, I am constantly fighting off SFC Pure in PT or seeking advice from CPT Granfield in the office.

Having been a member of Senate for four years, I have met wonderful people such as Ernie Almonte, an alum and trustee of Bryant, who I have learned so much from. If I have my way, all graduates of Bryant will be as dedicated to their alma mater as he is. On Senate, I have looked forward to our retreats every year, the high ropes courses, and especially winter retreats (which were a little less planned). Our conference trip to Florida was a blast! I apologize to Josh and Joe for Rob and myself. Elections, what a fun time as well. The stress of getting to everyone you know and waiting for your name to be announced as a winner. Some you win, others you do not. For those you do not, discouragement sets in for a time, but then you take on the next challenge all the more stronger.

The relationships I have built through living with friends has been a real treat too. Nick, sophomore year, leave that knife under your pillow. Joe, nice room! Guys, remember the party in 16 when we were surrounded? Or the fight just last week in Townhouse JB? Dale, do you need a bag? Joe, how about Jamaica that night? Just let Dale and I know when you will need the service. Dale, tell your mom that I would like some strawberry pancakes.

In addition to these events we have had to deal with hardship and sadness. Sophomore year, I felt so helpless and discouraged when Matt lost his brother. I was angry and bitter. This feeling returned to me a couple of months ago when the loss of our good friend Penny. At times there are
things that are so hard to understand, but these have made me realize the importance of relationships.

I leave Bryant with many fond memories which I will always carry. There are again many people who are a part of that. I would like to express my thanks and love to my family, especially Mom, Dad, Mike, Toula, Joanne, Joe, Kathleen, and Joe. The last year specifically, I have grown to appreciate all of you more and love just going home. Finally, thanks to all of those who have touched my life here at Bryant. I look forward to serving the school, which has given me so much, in the years to come. You will all be invited to the White House next century! Until then, May the road rise to meet you, May the wind be always at your back, May the sun shine warm upon your face, the rainfall soft upon your fields, and May your ship of love come safely into harbor, and until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of your hand.

Good Luck and Godspeed!

Shannon Finning

Summing up the past four years in a few paragraphs seems an impossible task. As I sit here debating what words to use to describe the best years of my life, I realize that it is going to be extremely difficult to find expressions that truly capture my real feelings.

When I first looked at colleges, I decided to attend a large university situated in a city, for a change of pace from my small hometown of Easton. After only one semester, I realized I wanted to be more than a number or a face in the crowd—I was looking for a place I could call “home.”

I transferred to Bryant for my second semester Freshman year, and can say with certainty that transferring was the best decision I have made in my 21 years.

Some of my fondest memories here are of welcoming prospective students to Bryant as an Admission Assistant, introducing incoming students and their families to their “new home” as an Orientation Leader, and assisting new students in their transitions to Bryant as an ASC Instructor. Also, serving as a Conference Coordinator and a Student Senator increased my awareness of my strengths, weaknesses, goals, and limitations. The students, faculty, and administrators I worked with in these capacities supported me in my pursuit of my dreams and encouraged me to “reach for the stars”—especially Jimp, Doc, Pat Keeley, Dianna L., and Dr. Lyons.

Without a doubt, the memories I will carry with me throughout life are with you, the Class of ’96. From all-night card games Freshman year to Parente’s nights (thanks Larry) followed by beer and bagel mornings, I have enjoyed every moment in between. The friends I have made—the true friends—have loved me unconditionally and supported my actions, whether or not they coincided with their own beliefs. They have willingly sacrificed for me over the past 3+ years and have shared their laughter, tears, sorrow, and fears—and for that I am eternally grateful. To name all of you that have touched my life would be impossible but—Mary, Jenny, Joe, Hotes, Kath, Jen, Jo, Tim K., Boogs, Ryan, Doug, and Zip—thank you, thank you! The strength I have derived from all of you will help me realize my dreams. Don’t be sad “Ghetto Girls,” this is not good-bye...it is only the beginning.

Most importantly, I need to thank the four most special people in my life. You always showed me the silver lining on the clouds and convinced me to strive to be the best in all I do. Your love and encouragement assisted me in the hard times and guided me in the good times. I love you with all my heart and soul, Mom, Dad, Lisa, and Caitlin! Words cannot express my gratitude.

Finally, I wish you all—the entire Class of ’96—the best of luck...we all deserve it. Somewhere along the line over the past four years we have all supported one another, whether as a close friend, a loyal fan, an acquaintance, a reassuring smile, a pat on the back, or a simple hello just when we needed it most. We are bound by the experiences we shared in our “little city” of Bryant. Take the memories we’ve made and go on to greatness.

And until 2001, peace, love, and happiness!

Michelle Jaccodine

It all started with Summer Orientation. Everyone was nervous and no one really wanted to be there. But, deep down it was nice knowing you would recognize faces in the fall. Who knew, one of them might be your roommate. One face I would not forget would be the check out clerk at a supermarket in Maine. I had just left Orientation and he was on his way...

We moved in in September, so excited to get away from home but nervous about laundry and campus dining. It did not take long to learn it was easy just to wash everything in cold or the number of the pizza place that would deliver. Nor did it take long to make friends. I was lucky to have a great roommate and Donna and Sonia next door. Plus, there were the guys on the other side of the floor. You could always find a good political debate or a talk through the night. Thanks Kevin for those long talks and green flowers. As for that check out clerk, he was obnoxious.

By the end of the first year I was a Senator, an Orientation Leader, and a member of the Student Programming Board. Here I would find my home and make the best friends of my college career. Joe, Todd, Jill, and Dianne, I never would have survived without you. How can a person go through college without living at Bryant for a summer, eating gravy, going to Hard Rock, and taking road trips? Jill, someday we will write that book!

My time here at Bryant seems short when I look back, but I certainly can’t complain. I have had great times on Spring Break in Disney World, night trips to Providence and Boston, weekends of skiing, and always being late to the movies. I will leave friends behind, but that doesn’t mean the friendships are over. To Marcie, Heather, P.J., Tom, and Bryan, I will be around, don’t you worry. Good luck next year and thanks for the memories. I will also be saying good-bye to friends as we go our separate ways. To the guys in K3, thanks for making me laugh and giving me a home.

It was not just students that helped me out while I was here. To Rich and Sandy, thanks for listening to me ramble and being a source of encouragement. To Deb, you are right, it is all
a character-building experience. To Marilyn, you are my mom away from home. You have helped me out in countless ways, thank you.

To my family, none of this would have been possible without you. Mom and Dad, you have always taught me to work hard and dream big. You have given me the greatest time and experience of my life at Bryant. No words could ever thank you enough. I love you. To my sister Kristen, Ginger, and Tom you are always just a phone call away and always make trips home an adventure. Thanks for keeping my chin up and supporting me.

I cannot possibly end this reflection without thanking the most important person to me. For the first year and a half, you were just an obnoxious check out clerk. Then you became a fellow Orientation Leader and a classmate. Before I knew it we were working together in groups and talking every night on the phone. Slowly, you were becoming my best friend. Ben, you have been my strength here at Bryant. You are always honest with me, can pick me up when I am feeling down, you hold my tissues when I cry, laugh at my silliness, and you give great hugs. I will always remember (or at least try to) the night after Recognition. Nor will I ever forget our trips to Boston, New York City, Newport, the coffee shop, the Spurs, the movies, my visits to Maine...I look forward to all the new memories we are about to create. Ben, there is no one else I would want to walk through the archway with because without you, Bryant and my time here would not have been the same. Thank you, I love you.

Good-bye Bryant. I leave today never to return as a student, but always to return as a proud alum.

Ben Jordan

So we decided to make the journey all the way to Smithfield leaving our homes in CA, CT, and Costa Rica. We had different reasons for packing the car. Some came to learn auditing, others to make new friends. Some even came to get better acquainted with the classics, JD, Mr. Beam, and Old Granddad. No matter why we came, when we arrived in September 1992, our diversity dulled slightly as we all became Bryant College students. As we leave and go on our separate paths, it is a pleasure to look back at the Bryant experience and know that we have grown up together.

Like all families, growing up is filled with growing pains, lessons, and good times. Our struggles began with Humanities and continued through the astronomically high pre-registration numbers. We had fights with our roommates and wished home was closer, occasionally. We lost friends and we lost family but we managed to endure. How else could we have made it through ARA to our senior staple of Ramen Noodles?

We learned so much in our four years: Whites and colors in the same load will tie dye everything. Snow days are just as relaxing as they were in high school. The Bryant College Library is the best place to sleep on campus. Not everyone likes Mr. Potato Head and the pond isn’t as warm as it looks. We all had a good time learning the lessons of college but most of all we enjoyed the friendship.

Friends are so often indicative of an experience. I thank the Orientation Staff of 1994 for the most fun I have ever had. The guys of K3, what good times. I will miss you guys in a sick, distorted way. Mike, I’ll remember you every time the microwave whistles its theme song. I must send out a special thank you to those professors that really pushed me: Dr. Pollard, Dr. Cookley, Dr. Deluga, Dr. Laurie MacDonald, and Professor Sousa. And a special thanks to Judy Farrell at Health Services. Without you, I wouldn’t be able to drag myself through the archway today.

As the rest of the Class of 1996, I had no idea that my supporters would be so generous with their time and energy during my stay here. Thank you to the entire Harmon side of the family, my twin, Abby, Dick, Chris, Sue and Jim, Ed and Irene, I thank you for your festive support. I thank the Rivers, Aunt Ellen, and Gramma Mac. A sincere thanks to my Grandfather Mills whose qualities keep showing up in my mirror.

An extra special thanks goes to Ma and Pa, who would do anything for me, and just the knowledge of this is worth a ton. I can’t thank my Mom enough. She understood the lessons learned at college are not always friendly ones and helped me through them. To my Dad, why is it you were so wrong in high school but now, four years later are always so right? You’ve learned so much

Dad, or is it me? To Sarah who I missed all during college and constantly thought about - you’re the best! Finally to my Michelle, I admire your abilities but cherish your character. Growing up we have become closer than I ever dreamed possible. I hope you need my help conquering the world. Thanks for the memories and the opportunity for more of them. As I look back, I am so thankful for everyone’s support. I love each and every one of you.

Now we walk through that wrought iron gate for the first time. I think we knew all along that the archway leads to that illusive dimension everyone calls “the real world.” Thank goodness we waited four years to walk through it. I hold Bryant and the Class of 1996 in the highest regard and will think about all the good times for years to come. As we leave, I hope that all of you are successful in finding whatever it is that makes you happy.

Susanne Martone

“So before we end and then begin
We’ll drink a toast to how it’s been
A few more hours to be complete...
A few more times that I can say
I’ve loved these days.” - Billy Joel

As the youngest of three kids and the last to go to college, I felt prepared for the four years ahead of me as I packed up all of my worldly possessions in August 1992. My brothers went to college, took some tests, graduated, and eventually got jobs. That’s what college was all about, right?

Hardly. Looking back now, I realize that nothing could have prepared me for all that I would learn and experience during my four years at Bryant!

As a hesitant and uncertain freshman, I attended Orientation in the summer of 1992 and met three people who would prove to be three of my closest college friends. We separated for the remainder of the summer, only to come together
Together all adjusted to college life and learned to dread classes like Humanities and Microeconomics. Our social life freshman year consisted of many ventures to Dorm 2 for TEP parties. (It was here that I met a guy that would make me happy for many years to come - Steve!!) These nights never seemed to be complete without a late night call to Ronzios, yet we couldn’t understand where we went wrong to make the Freshman 15 a reality. Spring Weekend rolled around, which meant that Vicki and I had to walk to Almacs and later treat our friends to the food we found in the dumpster.

We returned sophomore year and tried to give the Pit of 11 a good name. I began to master the art of procrastination thanks to the influence of my roommates. This often resulted in having to stay up all night to study for an exam (which sounds like hard work, but usually consisted of more snack breaks and talking than actual studying). We spent hours playing Trump, or later Pitch, when we were more advanced. Marianne led the Pink Ladies in a brawl that year and a fire drill at 6 a.m. became an unforgettable funny experience for those of us that were home.

The Pit remained our home junior year as we pathetically resorted to TGIF every week. Perhaps the biggest highlight that year was Heath’s late night shower! I became the editor of The Archway and learned the meaning of organization as I tried to balance a busy schedule. I was forced to make decisions that would affect many people and learned more from those choices, especially the wrong ones, than anything I could have learned in a classroom. Overall, I am pleased with our accomplishments. Sonia and I knew that with a little extra effort and a great staff, we would be able to get our work done at a reasonable hour each week...and we did. Thank you Sonia for being so patient and easy to work with.

Senior year meant yet another new home for us. We cooked, cleaned, and went grocery shopping...for a little while anyway, and then it got boring! Emmit kept us busy and could always brighten our days with that first early morning paste lick! We thought about getting jobs and then decided it was too difficult. Beth passed the phone that night EJ called and Lauren borrowed the trunk in L3. What started as a trip from hell, ended up being a great time when we went to the Bahamas for spring break. Once quiet, reserved girls somehow decided it would be a good idea to jump off a crane. We dealt with mice, in exchange for a $203 dinner. “So Sue, is it you that doesn’t like cheese cake?” We had mixed emotions about graduation but realized that it was time to move on. With a little bit of effort, we know that it won’t be hard to hold on to the friendships that have developed over the past four years.

I really believe that all of these experiences and more, coupled with the education I have received at Bryant, have positively influenced my life and prepared me to enter the “real world.” Everyone was right when they said that the time would go by quickly, but more importantly, they were right when they said college is what you make of it. I am glad I took their advice and made it the best it could be.

I need to thank my family, especially my parents, for their constant love and support. Words cannot express the comfort I felt in knowing that you were only a phone call away. Blake, thank you for all of the smiles that you’ve brought to my face - rhinoceros sneakers. And finally, to the girls in M4 and many others, thanks for the endless hours of laughter, the many words of encouragement, and for making college so much fun!

Donna Parchesky
Bryant College. I was a junior in high school when I first stepped onto its beautiful, modern-looking campus. I knew at that very moment it was here that I would be happy. And now— looking back on the past four years, I know I made the right decision.

With the start of Freshman year, nerves overwhelmed me. Would I like my roommate? Would I do well in classes? Would I fit in? Would I be happy? The year was filled with many learning experiences. I tried a variety of activities (ice skating anyone?). I learned what it meant to be a fixture on the wall. I found you don’t have to read every word assigned by your professor. By the end of the year, I knew I would be just fine during my stay at Bryant.

Sophomore year proved to be a true challenge. I found out who my real friends were, the ones who I’ll still have long after graduation. I learned how to balance three jobs, five classes, and all of my extracurricular activities. Public transportation became my friend. I was selected to be an Orientation Leader for the summer. I ventured down the ski slopes. And at the end of the year, I met Paul.

Junior year started as a nice surprise—

Townhouses as Juniors! No more ARA! Then...classes got harder, group work had a whole new meaning. Work got longer, sleeping in on Saturdays was a thing of the past. Freetime was nonexistent. Finally Spring Break hit and I was Disney World bound. As I pre-registered for my Senior year, an entire new set of ears emerged.

Resumes, suits, etiquette, and interviews were all I thought about at the beginning of this year. Thank God I was successful and by Christmas break I landed myself a job. That, and the end of my internship, has made my last semester at Bryant much more academically relaxed and socially active (skip-bo, horse shoes, TOC). As the year now comes to an end and the snow has finally melted, I have mixed feelings about graduation. I’m sad to see many of my friends move away, back to their home towns, yet eager to start a new phase of my life. College is what you make of it. I believe I have worked hard and have gotten the most out of my four years here. However, I could never have done it without the love and support of many people.

Paul & Gretchen, Michelle, K7, and everyone else who has been there as a friend to support me: thank you. The gang in Financial Aid: you have been my Bryant Family for four years, thank you for all of your advice and for always having time to listen to me ramble. Sonia: I can’t possibly put into words how special you are. You’re the best, best friend I could ever ask for. We have shared so much, thank you Paul: thank you for all your words of wisdom even when I didn’t want to listen. You have given me so much, I love you.

Finally, none of this could ever have been possible without the love and support of my mother. Mom, you mean the world to me and I wouldn’t be the who I am today without you. I love you. Best of luck class of 1998...See you here I come!

Jane Porter
My first memories of Bryant College began the summer before my college career actually started. I can remember the first time I talked to my roommate, “Hi, is Jennifer there please?” I said excitedly. When she got on the phone she replied, “this is Jenn, that’s with two ‘n’s.” From that moment, we have been roommates and good friends to this very day. Orientation was another memory I will never forget, meeting friends and sharing stories which still make me smile. Each of those reflections I hold dear, but it was during my actual four years on campus that I will treasure always.

With Freshman year came new faces, new friends, and all the opportunities one could ask for to do something other than study. I, however, did my share of studying as the first floor
David Suaviso

Looking back at my four years here, I have learned and experienced so much. I have been very fortunate at Bryant. I will definitely miss this place that I have called home for the past four years. I will always look back on my days here at Bryant and recall so many fond memories.

I remember first coming to Bryant at the Open House back when I was a senior in high school. I immediately fell in love with this school and knew that this is where I wanted to go. Knowing that I would be able to bowl on a collegiate level was a just a bonus. And after Orientation, I couldn’t wait to get on campus! I had already made some friends and I felt so comfortable.

Living on the third floor south in Hall 14 was the best. I met my best friends there and received my nickname too (Suavedog - Thanks Chief!). I learned that I didn’t have to live in a neat room for the first time (just kidding Rosko)! It truly was a great year. From the parties playing baseball stars and Tecmo football, freshman year was a blast.

Suite living! Once we got over our problem of deciding who was going to live with who, living in the suites was an awesome time. Living in Hall 13-320’s, we had a great view (isn’t that right Hoss?) of the pathway and into the campus. Playing pitch and hearts was an everyday occurrence, along with the nose game and five minute rule.

The parties got better each year, and we even threw a party ourselves; three of them for that matter (Rage I-III). The Hearts games got a bit intense at times (calm down Peteman), and we even killed our TV. Sophomore and Junior years went by so fast, it seems like a blur. I remember sleeping on the couch (my bed for a few months, I forgive you Ty), and realizing that Accounting was just not for me (then again it wasn’t for many of us).

And then there is Senior year. I really can’t believe that it has gone by so quickly. Living in the Townhouses has been a great time. Finally, what we were all looking forward to: living in the Townhouses, being able to cook and eat what you want, having a little more freedom, and just being a senior. And now that we have cable, I think we have enjoyed it more so (whenever we’ve had the time, I mean). Time has been something I have been searching for this whole year. I’m still searching for the 30 hour day. To be able to go to class, my internship, study, search for a good job, the whole interview process, to be able to have a good time, and sleep has been a struggle. Fortunately, I have learned the fine art of procrastination (sorry Mom and Dad). So far it has paid off, and I know in the long run that I will be better person (but when I graduate, I’ll leave the procrastination thing behind! - maybe). From going out to Providence to Parente’s, I’ll remember them all. From playing kickball in the courtyard to barbecuing late at night, I’ll remember them all.

But what I value most from my time here at Bryant is the relationships I have formed and all of the opportunities I have been fortunate to be a part of. Becoming involved here at Bryant was very important. I wanted to be a part of the school in every way possible. By being on the Orientation Staff for two years, it truly helped me grow as a person. Realized that by becoming involved, I could learn as much as I could give. Through the Student Alumni Association, I have made valuable friendships as well as made some very important connections. Bryant has given so much to me, I just want to be able to give back to Bryant.

What I will never forget are all the bowling trips and all the fun we had. I’ve traveled the whole country being a part of this nationally ranked school the past four years. I’m sure many of you didn’t know that the Bryant Bowling team was nationally ranked or even for that matter that we have a bowling team. That’s OK - I shook that off a long time ago. Being the first New England team to go to the National Championship my Sophomore year was an incredible feeling. Beating Sacred Heart University with a 300 game and a national team record was even sweeter. And even though things ended the way I didn’t picture it, I had an excellent time. May the “Fab Five” live forever.

And lastly, my friends and family. They have been an important part of my four years at Bryant. As an only child, I have learned to value friendships like no other. I’ve always tried to be there for my friends, and they have always been there for me. I know it’s easy to say, but I hope we all stay in contact through the years. And last but not least, Mom, Dad, Aunt Gerry, Uncle John, and Aunt Norma, without all of you, none of this would have been possible - I love you all.

To the Class of 1996, I wish you all the best, may all your dreams be fulfilled. See you at the Reunion!
~Freshman Year~

September, 1992. Our college careers began in the fall, a season of change. Sad to see summer go, but excited for what lay ahead, it was a very fitting time.

How are we possibly going to fit everything we need for our first year of college into one car? Our first dilemma and source of stress as a college student. The second stressful moment came when we arrived on campus only to realize that yes, we did have to carry all of those things we so desperately needed up several flights of stairs!

We met new friends, got ID's and ATM cards, and learned how to do laundry through trial and error.

Some of us pledged fraternities and sororities, while others joined different organizations. We were exposed to the party scene and learned to be careful of the punch!

As Freshmen, we also learned why so many students dread the Pre-reg process. Bad lottery numbers only added to the confusion of the whole ordeal.

UNhomecoming weekend came and went and Virtual Reality visited the Bryant Center. Many students ran in the Kristen Hatch Memorial Road Race and two new groups formed on campus - the Bryant Alcohol Peer Educators (APES) and BACCHUS (Boost Alcohol Consciousness Concerning the Health of University Students).

Student Senate decided to make election results public, while many of us voted for the first time and Clinton became president.

Many spring break plans were ruined by a blizzard but Spring Weekend was a "Shore Thing" with sunny weather and The Smithereens.

A bio-tech building was built across the street and Congress offered $2 million to fund the Center for International Business and Economic Development (CIBED).

The bombing of the World Trade Center shocked us all and AIDS claimed the life of Arthur Ashe. Other sad news included the fires in Waco, Texas and the war in Bosnia.

~Sophomore Year~

Sophomore year brought mixed emotions from many as some of us took time to decide whether our majors were right for us and switched if they weren't. Some of us also returned to find that some of our friends from Freshman year had decided that Bryant wasn't right for them and transferred to other schools.

The Grill was replaced by Subway and Melrose Place replaced 90210 as the favorite show. The Learning Center opened and a music program/chorus developed in the music room behind South Dining Hall. Bryant hosted their own version of Midnight Madness.

The National AIDS stamp was also unveiled at Bryant and the community
Bryant...

raised money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.
Mr. Potato Head starred in ads for the College and Route 7 was under construction.
New England experienced 18 snow storms which meant great frustration for car owners on campus.
The Board of Health closed the Country Comfort and students took part in a Sexual Assault Mock Trial.
In April, Bryant was honored with AACSB accreditation to attract students globally, help Bryant be more competitive, and increase the value of our diplomas.
A new track made for a difficult “Wet and Wild” Spring Weekend, where a mixture of cover bands played after attempts to get a big name band failed. Commencement was held in the parking lot and Bill Cosby kept it interesting.
The Bulldog became Bryant’s new mascot and both the softball and volleyball teams won the ECAC Tournament. The men’s basketball team finished one point shy of the NCAA tournament.
A tragic accident took the life of freshman John DeShaw and professor Jack Rubens passed away over the summer.
Around the world, NAFTA was passed and a terrible earthquake threatened Los Angeles. Figure skater Nancy Kerrigan was clubbed on the knee prior to the Olympics and her competitor, Tonya Harding, was proven to be related to the attack.
A random gunman took the lives of many passengers on a Long Island railroad and singer Kurt Cobain committed suicide.

~Junior Year~

Junior year was a year of rejuvenation, similar to spring, for many students. We began to take classes in our majors and get more involved through internships.
A new phone system had been installed at Bryant over the summer. Although it took some time to figure out and get used to, it saved us some money and made it easier to call across campus.
We also experienced the “new” Salzman Dining Hall and enjoyed being able to use points around campus. Many students worked to keep the yellow men and women employed and would not back down until their contracts were renewed.
We were all saddened to learn that a fellow classmate and friend, Omar Shareef, had died tragically in a car accident. A great basketball player, Omar was well-respected and is greatly missed.
BRYCOL marked its 20th year and the marketing team finished first in the nation while at a competition in New Orleans. We were also privileged to view a piece of the AIDS quilt and later learn more about domestic violence when the Clothesline Project came to campus.
There were many financial aid disputes and the Senate chose a student to serve on the Resource Allocation Advisory Committee (RAAC).
Bryant had its first Homecoming. Spring Weekend became more like Spring Week and Bryant welcomed the Digable Planets.
Outside of Bryant, many people became obsessed with the O.J. Simpson trial and a bomb destroyed the federal building in Oklahoma City. Jackie O and former president Richard Nixon died. Prince Charles and Princess Diana called it quits and Tom Hanks won an Oscar for his role in “Forrest Gump.”

Sports fans were riled up due to the hockey and later, baseball, strikes. The Celtics and the Bruins played for the last time at the Boston Garden.

~Senior Year~

There is only one word worthy of summarizing our senior year at Bryant. SNOW. After watching over 100 inches fall on the ground throughout the winter, many of us thought it would never end. Some wondered if we would have to hold graduation inside the MAC because of snowflakes.

Many of us were hesitant to graduate, but decided to make the best of our last year together. We adjusted quickly to life in the townhouses, enjoying our freedom but despised the “long” walk to class or to Career Services, which is where many of us spent a good portion of the year looking for employment.

We quickly learned of our responsibility as seniors to clean the townhouse area after outdoor parties. Once we were granted a few trash cans, it wasn’t really a bad job when we all worked together.

Not long after, we came together as a class again and worked to keep a friend and fellow classmate at Bryant with us. Though a trying time then, looking back now it proved to be a great example of the great things that can be accomplished with a little bit of teamwork.

Also in the fall, many of us sat in front of our televisions to hear the long-awaited O.J. Simpson verdict, while others took advantage of the newly renovated Jarvis Center and its improved offerings.

We welcomed President Norton for our senior year when President Trueheart went on sabbatical. It was great to see a new smiling face around campus. In March, the campus learned that the new president would be Ronald Machtley.

The Student Activities Fee increased in the hopes of providing students with more to do and the installation of cable made television more interesting. Many of us dared to break the rules by getting pets. A risky move, we knew, but it helped to liven things up and provided excitement for many of the townhouse residents!

Bryant was proud to welcome Maya Angelou this spring, whose performance sold out almost immediately after it was announced. Some were anxious to catch a glimpse of the comet, which also became visible in the spring.

Both on campus and off, various deaths saddened our community. The deaths of three Bryant students, Mauricio Beltran, Allison Ardito, and Penny Stone, made for a somber campus. Also, Gene Kelly and George Burns were among the few famous individuals who passed away this year.

The memories we have made at Bryant, both as the Class of 1996 and individually, were too numerous to be included here but mean a lot just the same. Each event that took place, whether good or bad, influenced our college experience and is not likely to be forgotten.

Good luck and best wishes to the Class of 1996!

written by Susanne Martone
Bryant Traditions Continue

In keeping with a tradition established long ago, Bryant students are careful not to walk under the archway until the day of graduation.

Other than receiving diplomas on commencement day, students have another way of symbolizing completion of their Bryant education: they walk under the archway.

The archway, located just over the bridge, may seem like merely a fixture to outsiders, but to students at Bryant, its tradition is legendary.

For years, as students passed by the Archway, they have walked around its iron gates. Even if they did not fully understand their behavior, no one wanted to break tradition.

The story of the archway dates back to 1905. Isaac Gifford Ladd, an associate of Charles Schwab and a famous U.S. Steel tycoon, constructed a $1 million building which contained the iron arch on Young Orchard Avenue on the East Side of Providence.

This building was meant to be a sign of his endearment to his newly wed wife. However, his wife immediately expressed her hatred for this structure in her name. Taking this as a personal rejection, Ladd took his own life.

The property remained unoccupied until Thomas Marsden transformed it into Hope Hospital. In 1935, Bryant-Stratton College discovered the building as a relocation site in their hopes of future expansion.

Upon arrival at Hope Hospital, Bryant-Stratton College was renamed Bryant College. To provide more space for classes, an addition was constructed and Hope Hospital was renamed South Hall.

Earl S. Tupper, inventor of Tupperware, donated his 220 acre hillside estate to Bryant College in October, 1967 for the creation of the new campus. To thank Tupper for his generous gift, Bryant named the campus after him and awarded him an honorary degree during the 1968 commencement exercises.

Four years later, in the fall of 1971, the campus moved to Smithfield. Prior to leaving the Hope Street Campus, the wrought-iron arch at the entrance to South Hall was transported to the new campus. Today, the archway remains the only physical link to the Providence campus.

Frank Delmonico, then Vice President of Business Affairs, and Robert Hillier, architect of the Tupper Campus and designer of the new sign for the front entrance, relocated the arch between the two ponds en route to the Unistructure where it stands today.

Immediately after the arch was transferred from the old campus, students began to avoid passing through this out-of-place structure.

As rumor had it, walking through the arch before graduation mysteriously jeopardized chances of graduating. Since this is quite a large price to pay for not following a tradition, most students opted not to take the chance, which resulted in worn paths on the ground around the arch.

After seventeen years of worn paths, the Graduating Class of 1987 left a brick pathway around the sacred arch. This path encourages students to avoid walking through the archway until their graduation day.

This tradition has shaped the behavior of thousands of Bryant College students on the Tupper Campus for the past twenty four years, and will continue to shape more in years to come.

As Bryant students, we will never forget all the days we walked around the archway, waiting for the day when we could finally walk through it.

Members of the Class of 1994 pass through the archway on the Tupper Campus in Smithfield during Commencement exercises.

Compiled by Sonia Alders
As Bryant College celebrates its 133rd Commencement Ceremonies, it continues to uphold the tradition of obtaining interesting and informative speakers for the exercises. Additionally, Bryant is pleased to honor various distinguished guests with prestigious awards.

This year, honorary degrees will be awarded to Wayne P. Yetter, speaker for the undergraduate Commencement, and Robert Holland, Jr., Commencement speaker for the graduate school.

Since the days of Bryant's first President, Harry L. Jacobs, the College has successfully invited the most prominent executives in the business and political world to speak at Bryant and receive the prestigious honorary degrees. Past honorary degree recipients include Henry Ford in 1930, James Cash Penney in 1953, Senator Claiborne Pell in 1962, and Bill Cosby in 1994.

In keeping with such a tradition of excellence, we present the 1996 Honorary Degree Recipients of Bryant College.

---Wayne P. Yetter---

Wayne P. Yetter is currently the President and Chief Executive Officer of Astra Merck Inc. The company, formerly a unit of Merck & Co., Inc., became a separate business entity owned jointly by Merck and Astra AB in November, 1994. Mr. Yetter was President of the Astra/Merck Group since 1993, and directed the creation of the new company in 1991, when he became General Manager of Astra/Merck Affairs. He joined the Merck organization as a Product Manager in 1977, became Director of Marketing Economics and Development in 1980, and was appointed Director of Marketing Planning in 1981. Mr. Yetter has also served as the Senior Director for Marketing Planning, Vice President for Marketing Operations in the Corporate Human Health Marketing Division, and Vice President, Far East/Pacific for the Merck Sharp & Dohme International Division. He is on the Board of Trustees of Wilkes University and the board of the Wharton School's SEI Center for Advanced Studies in Management at the University of Pennsylvania. Mr. Yetter is a member of the Board of the American Digestive Health Foundation, the National Pharmaceutical Council, and the Associate Board of the National Wholesale Druggists' Association. He was named “Man of the Year” in 1995, by the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America. Mr. Yetter received a BA in biology from Wilkes University and an MBA in Marketing Management from Bryant College in 1973.

---Robert Holland, Jr.---

Robert Holland, Jr. is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Ben & Jerry's Homemade, Inc., makers of Vermont's finest ice cream and frozen yogurt. Previously, Mr. Holland held the position of Chairman and CEO of Rokher-J, Inc., a New York based holding company that participated in business development projects and strategy development assistance to senior management of major corporations. Mr. Holland also served as the Chairman of Gilreath Manufacturing, Inc., a custom plastic injection molding company, and Chairman and CEO of City Marketing in Michigan. In addition, Mr. Holland was an Associate and Partner with McKinsey & Company, Inc. for more than 13 years. This position entailed a significant amount of travel and allowed him to help clients develop long-term growth strategies. Currently, Mr. Holland holds positions on the Board of Directors of Mutual of New York, TrueMark Manufacturing Company and Frontier Corporation. Also, he serves as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Spelman College and a Trustee of Atlanta University Center, both in Atlanta, Georgia, and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Harlem Junior Tennis Program. Mr. Holland received a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Union College and an MBA in International Marketing from Bernard Baruch Graduate School.
HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

~George E. Bello~

George E. Bello is the executive vice president and controller of Reliance Group Holdings, Inc. and a member of the company’s Board of Directors. Reliance Group Holdings is based in New York City and has major property and casualty and title insurance operations. Total revenues in 1995 were $10 billion and the company employs approximately 9,300 people at 250 locations. Other positions that Mr. Bello has held at Reliance Group include assistant controller, vice president and controller, and senior vice president. Mr. Bello is a member of the Board of Directors of Zenith National Insurance Corp., Horizon Mental Health Management, Inc., and United Dental Care, Inc. He also maintained controller, auditing and accounting positions with McCall Corporation, American Tobacco Company, and Continental Baking Company. Mr. Bello received a B.S. in Accounting from Bryant College.

~Fred C. Lohrum~

Fred C. Lohrum is the chairman, president, and chief executive officer of Rhode Island Hospital Trust National Bank, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Boston Corporation. He obtained this position in 1992, and was previously the chairman, president, and chief executive officer of Bank of Boston Connecticut. Mr. Lohrum was also employed by IBM, where he held various sales, marketing, and management positions, and Randolph Computer Corporation, which was later purchased by Bank of Boston Corporation. He served in many executive positions at BancBoston and his leadership enabled them to become the 4th largest bank lessor in the nation and the 14th largest U.S. leasing company. Mr. Lohrum is a member of the Executive Planning Committee for the Providence Foundation and a board member of various groups including RI Public Expenditure Council, Rethinking Government Group, Coalition for Community Development, and Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce. He has received the 1995 Encore Award for Business Volunteers for the Arts/Rhode Island and the 1995 Felix Mirando Humanitarian Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews. Mr. Lohrum received his B.S. degree in industrial management from the University of Cincinnati.

~Bruce M. Selya~

Bruce M. Selya currently serves as the U.S. District Court Judge at the U.S. Court of Appeals in Providence, RI. He is an Honorary Trustee at RI Hospital and a member of the Academic Affairs Committee. Mr. Selya is a director of both the Jewish Federation of RI and the Jewish Home for the Aged. He is the co-founder and first chair at the Jewish Community Relations of RI. Formerly, Mr. Selya was the RI Area Chairman of the Anti-Defamation League and the regional vice president for New England. He has received the Louis Dembitz Brandeis Medal for Distinguished Legal Service and the Justice Assistances Award for advocacy of crime victims. Mr. Selya received both his B.A. and L.L.B. from Harvard University.

~Marcy Syms~

Marcy Syms is President and Chief Operating Officer of Syms Corp., a chain of off-price apparel stores. Ms. Syms has been an important part of the growth of the company, which now operates 38 stores in 16 states and employs nearly 3,000 people. She is responsible for the development of the slogan, “An Educated Consumer is our Best Consumer” and was one of the youngest female Presidents of a New York Stock Exchange company when named in 1983. Ms. Syms serves on the Trust and Financial Management Committee of the Midlantic Bank in New Jersey and was Co-chair of the Commerce and Industry Division of Israel Bonds. She is one of the founding board members of the Sy Syms School of Business at Yeshiva University and has served there since it was established in 1985. Ms. Syms is a board member of the Fashion Roundtable and a past officer and current member of the Young President’s Organization, Gotham Chapter. She is a columnist for Family Business Magazine and wrote a book entitled Mind Your Own Business and Keep It In The Family. Ms. Syms is a graduate of Finch College and obtained a Master of Science degree in Public Relations from Boston University.
Senior Service

Student Senate Senior Service Awards are presented to six deserving students of the graduating class to recognize their outstanding service to the student body of Bryant College.

Recipients are selected by the Student Senate Service Award Committee.

Nominees are evaluated on five different criteria such as their willingness to work with clubs and organizations, their stature among their peers, their accomplishments of goals that enhance Bryant student life throughout their Bryant years, and their eligibility as a degree candidate.

This year's award winners are no exception to the norm. They went above and beyond the call of duty to put the need of the students first. Congratulations to each of you.

Alicia T. Cipriano
Sean M. Connolly
Michelle L. Jaccodine
Jane E. Porter
David Suaviso, Jr.
Christopher W. Warner

Class Gift

The Senior Class Gift has always been an important tradition of Bryant College. Through the class gift, the Class of '96 will be remembered for years to come.

On November 8, 1995, the Class of '96 came, in record numbers, to the annual Senior Wine & Cheese to hear the announcement of the Class Gift.

Approximately 250 seniors were present to hear Dr. Jann-Douglas Bell speak about the importance of leaving a class gift. This year's class gift is a Picnic Area between the new and old Townhouses, including picnic tables, horseshoe pits, and landscaping, so that senior classes of the future can hold functions there.

This will be a gift that will bring senior classes of the future closer together, as well as an excellent area for use by the College during the summer and the academic year. The Picnic Area symbolizes how senior year brought our class closer together, like the days when we were freshmen.

I would like to thank all of the seniors who participated in the surveys, attended the Wine & Cheese events, and pledged a donation, and also the parents who sent in donations. We have had an excellent year with the class gift, and my most sincere thanks go out to Nicole Lallier, from the Office of Annual Giving, for all of her help, and to the Senior Class Gift Committee for all of their hard work and dedication.

Written by Chris Warner
Chairperson, Senior Class Gift

Class Flag

The senior class flag is a little known tradition at Bryant. The late Dr. George J. Kelley '39 established an endowed fund, in 1989, to purchase a flag for each graduating class. Dr. George Kelley graduated with a B.S. in accounting and received an honorary degree in 1968. In addition, he served on the Board of Trustees of the College. Dr. Kelley believed that a senior class flag would symbolize the spirit of Bryant and, in addition, would distinguish the class from other graduating classes.

Each senior class flag has represented a unique aspect which made that particular graduating class special. For instance, last year's flag symbolized the importance of achievements, adventures, and leadership goals.

This year our senior class flag symbolizes our progression into the "real world." Designing the flag, we attempted to develop a universal concept that is applicable to each graduate. This year's theme, "Stepping to New Heights..." was selected after much consideration. The flag shows steps leading to the archway, with each step representing the various academic concentrations. The flag illustrates how the Class of 1996 is moving on to new challenges and future accomplishments by progressing one step at a time.

Our flag, along with the other class flags, will be flown at every Alumni Weekend. Following the Commencement Ceremonies, the flag will be kept at the Alumni House, where it will carry the legacy of the Class of 1996 forward into the coming years.

Written by Joshua Dickinson '96,
Anthony Silvestri '96, and
David Suaviso, Jr. '96
Be a Peak Performer

Success is getting what you want; happiness is wanting what you get. These are the words that I have lived by. I look out among the students, faculty, and staff who have been a critical part of my education - both in the classroom and out. Together, we have made ties that may last a lifetime, and memories that will carry us through the good and bad. Bryant College has pushed us to make the most of our abilities, and we should leave campus with our heads held high, proud to call ourselves Bryant College Alumni. Strive to succeed, and all the hard work and determination will pay off. Remember to look towards your happiness - for that is the most important thing in life. And while you are at it, strive to be a Peak Performer.

My Learning for Leadership class taught me that there are six basic points on how to be a Peak Performer. Charles Garfield developed the theory, and the points go like this:

1. **Have a sense of mission**
   * Look into the future with a bright outlook. Know what you want to do and where you want to go. If you have a defined goal, seek out ways to improve yourself, and make yourself known. Never settle for less than the best. And if you haven’t yet defined your goals, take your time. Make the right decisions - because the right job does exist, as does the right relationship.

2. **Seek results in real time**
   * What could be more realistic than a lifetime? Make a difference - Be remembered! Leave a mark of excellence - something significant to benefit fellow students and others who have impacted your life so greatly. But your milestones shall not stop here. There shall be new people to be influenced by your thinking - it is just a matter of time.

3. **Develop self-management through self-mastery**
   * When you have the capacity for self-observation and you align your personal goals with your mission, you have self-mastery. Turn your thoughts into yourself, and know when to speak up or to step aside. Mentally rehearse how things should be rather than tackle the world single-handedly.

4. **Be a team builder and player**
   * Susan B. Anthony speaking at the first National Loyal League Meeting, put forth this plea: “...I ask you to rise up with earnest, honest purpose, and go forward in the way of right, fearlessly, as independent human beings, responsible to God alone for the discharge of every day duty. ... Forget what the world will say, whether you are in your place or out of your place; think your best thoughts, speak your best words, do your best works, looking to your own conscience for approval.”

5. **Make a course correction**
   * Use your mental agility, your ability to concentrate, and your ability to learn readily from your mistakes to decide how to correct your course in life. Think about others, too. Bryant College students are known for the Senior Citizens Prom, Special Olympics, volunteer projects like soup kitchens, Tannerhill, and the Clothesline Project. Leave mistakes in the past. Move forward with a clean slate, but don’t lose your focus. And finally...

6. **Manage change**
   * Change is inevitable. But I know that if I had to do my four years all over again, there is very little that I would want to alter. Think back upon the laughter and tears, and know that each smile, each sorrow has helped to make you a better and stronger person. That’s what I do. We may not always be able to anticipate the changes, but at least we will be prepared for them.

Every student in this audience has changed greatly from the moment he or she stepped on this campus. Let us look into the future with a smile and even some tears. We are now leaving our childhood behind and moving into new territories...where we shall emerge victorious. Just know that our memories of Bryant are what hold us together and that shall never change. There is a Peak Performer in each and every one of us, and I have faith that we shall find our success - and our happiness.

One final point. I want to thank everyone for their laughter, support, and love. I shall walk away believing in myself like never before. And thank you to my parents. Without you, I would not be where I am today, knowing that I have found a place for myself and knowing that in spirit I can always go home.

The 1996 Senior Class Charge was delivered by Sejal Y. Chokshi
Omar Shareef will be remembered as a significant part of the Men's Basketball Team, as well as of the Class of 1996.
Joseph G. Finocchiaro, Jr.
The George M. Parks Award
This award is presented to the bachelor's degree candidate who has done the most to enhance the reputation of the College through the intelligent use of recognized leadership qualities.

Michelle L. Jacobine
The Roger Babson Award
This award is presented to the bachelor's degree candidate who has demonstrated excellence in Accounting. This award was inaugurated by the family of Roger Babson, Bryant Alumnus of the class of 1897, to honor his memory; his birthplace and home - the 1708 house; and the entire Emin homestead farm and airport - which has now become the campus of his alma mater.

Heather A. Stevenson
The Bryant College Award
This award is presented to the bachelor's degree candidate who has demonstrated excellence in Accounting.

Brian Quattrucci
The Kappa Tau Brotherhood Award
This award is presented to the graduate who has maintained a high level of achievement in Accounting. This award was inaugurated by the family of Leander Francis Emin, Bryant Alumnus of the class of 1907, to honor his memory; his birthplace and home - the 1708 house; and the entire Emin homestead farm and airport - which has now become the campus of his alma mater.

Joanna A. Powers
The Self-Reliance Award
This award is presented to a bachelor's degree candidate who has maintained a high level of achievement in Accounting. This award was inaugurated by the family of Leander Francis Emin, Bryant Alumnus of the class of 1907, to honor his memory; his birthplace and home - the 1708 house; and the entire Emin homestead farm and airport - which has now become the campus of his alma mater.

Jane E. Porter
The Bryant College Good Citizenship Award
This award is presented to the graduate who has demonstrated leadership potential in the military science program and in extracurricular activities.

Scott B. Kauffman
The Wall Street Journal Award
This award is presented to the graduate who has demonstrated leadership potential in the military science program and in extracurricular activities.

Brian J. Epro
The Henry L. Jacobs English Award
This award is presented to a bachelor's degree candidate who has maintained an outstanding record in the required and elective English courses that he/she has completed during four years of study at Bryant College.

Jeannette M. Landon
The Rhode Island Society of Certified Public Accountants Award
This award is presented to a graduate who, in the opinion of the faculty of the Department of Accounting, has demonstrated excellence in accounting studies and intends to pursue a career in public accounting.

Jeannine Rogers
Leander Francis Emin Endowed Homestead Award
This award is presented to a graduate who has demonstrated scholastic excellence in Accounting. This award was inaugurated by the family of Leander Francis Emin, Bryant Alumnus of the class of 1907, to honor his memory; his birthplace and home - the 1708 house; and the entire Emin homestead farm and airport - which has now become the campus of his alma mater.

Nathan J. Morin
The Reserve Officer Training Corps Achievement Award
This award is presented to a bachelor's degree candidate who has excelled in his/her military science studies and other courses and who has shown superior leadership potential in the military science program and in extracurricular activities.

Daniel R. Guilbert and Robert A. Kuftiak
The John Hancock Insurance Company Award
The John Hancock Insurance Award is presented to two students who have demonstrated superior achievement in the study of Applied Actuarial Mathematics.

Daniel R. Guilbert
The George J. Kelley Award
This award is presented to the graduate who has demonstrated leadership potential in the military science program and in extracurricular activities.

Andy Lipsky and Miranda LaPierre
The Scholar-Athlete Award
This award is presented to the graduating senior who has shown desire in fulfilling a career objective through work experience and extracurricular activities.

Christian J. Gadet
The CIS Award
This award is presented annually to a graduate with a concentration in Computer Information Systems who has excelled academically, has enriched his/her CIS education through meaningful work experience, and has demonstrated an unselfish attitude toward others through his/her active involvement in organizations, clubs, or events.

James A. Williamson
The Jack Rubens Leadership in Finance Award
This award is presented to a graduate who has demonstrated outstanding performance in academics, service to the finance department, and enthusiasm and leadership in extracurricular activities related to finance.

Michael A. Gurevich
Political Science Award
This award is presented to a graduate who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in the area of Political Science.

Vanessa L. Arpin
Psychology Award
This award is presented to a graduate who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in the area of Psychology.

Gal Josefsberg
Sociology Award
This award is presented to a graduate who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in the area of Sociology.