

The Student Voice of Bryant University since 1946

THE ARCHWAY



2013 COMMENCEMENT ISSUE



From the President



Dear Graduating Members of the Senior Class:

As you walk through the Archway en route to receive your degree, our entire community celebrates the completion of your undergraduate work at Bryant University. We call this event Commencement because it is not just an ending, but a new beginning as you enter the world ready to apply your knowledge, skills and talents to make a difference and lead a life of character.

When you arrived at Bryant four years ago, you experienced many changes: a new place to live, exposure to new ideas in the classroom, a new group of friends, and a broader outlook of the world as your mind opened to new opportunities you never dreamed possible. Now you will experience a new set of changes as you leave campus to begin your professional life or continue your education in graduate school. Always recognize that change is a constant in life and you must embrace it and remain flexible in your approach. Most of you will have several jobs – some multiple careers – over your lifetime. Even the concept of retirement has changed with many people working well into their seventies – some beyond that. At Bryant, we have tried to instill this message into your undergraduate education, so that you remain open to the world of opportunity and achieve your success over the long run, always seeking your passion.

Graduation is also an inflection point in your relationship with your alma mater. In the years ahead, there is a shared responsibility between you and the institution. At Bryant, we will continue to push ahead with ambitious strategic goals to enhance the value of a Bryant education and increase the brand equity of your degree. As new programs and courses develop, we will maintain our commitment to academic quality, which will always remain the foundation of a Bryant education. And as you return to your alma mater, the campus will always be welcoming and beautiful.

For you as a new graduate, you will become a member of the Bryant Alumni Association. As such, you will belong to a powerful network of more than 40,000 accomplished individuals working throughout the world in a variety of roles and industries. For 150 years Bryant alumni have attained high standards of distinction, and they proudly pass that tradition on to you. We ask that you remain engaged with the life of the University, by providing financial support to our strategic priorities, employing Bryant students as interns and employees at your workplace and more generally by serving as ambassadors of the institution in your new roles. We hope that you will return to campus often to help support our trajectory of excellence, since your relationship with Bryant is meant to last a lifetime.

Kati and I, and the entire Bryant community – our trustees, faculty, and staff – are extremely proud of your achievements and potential. You have been a very special class and as you leave campus and move ahead in life, I know that you will build upon the extraordinary foundation the Bryant education has provided. We thank you for all of the richness you have contributed to the University, and we extend our very best wishes for a lifetime of success and fulfillment.

Sincerely,

Ronald K. Machtley
President



The Honor of the Commencement Issue

In order to celebrate the 150th Undergraduate Commencement, *The Archway* has created this commencement issue for the 800 students who will graduate on May 18, 2013.

Following tradition, we have compiled reflections from students who significantly impacted Bryant during their undergraduate career and have a memorable and insightful story to share. Choosing only fifteen students to write a reflection was difficult, but with the help of a committee of junior students from all walks of college life, the recipients were selected for this honor.

In addition to the students, we selected one faculty and one staff member to write a final message to the graduating class. This year's contributors are Dr. Lori Coakley and Toby Simon, Director of The Women's Center. These two

individuals were chosen because of the lasting impact they have had on the lives of many of the graduates of the Class of 2013.

It has been an honor to put together the Commencement Issue for the Class of 2013. The experience has been particularly meaningful as I have gotten to know and admire many members of the graduating class. It is my hope that this, your final issue of *The Archway*, will help you to remember four years of great memories and experiences.

This issue is dedicated to each of your college experiences, from the moment you first stepped onto campus until you finally passed under the Archway. I wish you all happiness as you start the next chapter of your lives as graduates of the Class of 2013.

Kelsey Nowak
Editor-in-Chief

Archway Editors 2012-2013

Editor-In-Chief

Kelsey Nowak

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Walking through the Archway... a Commencement tradition

In addition to receiving diplomas on Commencement day, students have another way of symbolizing the completion of their Bryant education: walking through the Archway.

The story of the archway dates back to 1905. Isaac Gifford Ladd, an associate of Charles Schwabb 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 newlywed wife.

However, his wife expressed hatred for the structure which was named after her. Taking this as personal rejection, Ladd took his own life. The building remained unoccupied until Thomas Marsden transformed it into Hope Hospital, which was part of the Bryant-Stratton College, renamed Bryant College. To provide more space for classes, an addition was constructed and Hope Hospital was renamed South Hall.

In October of 1967, Earl Silas Tupper, inventor of Tupperware, donated his 392 acre hillside Smithfield estate to Bryant College 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. 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 Delmoncio, then Vice President for Business Affairs, and Robert Hillier, architect of the Tupper campus and designer of the sign for the front entrance, relocated the Archway between the two ponds en route to the Unistructure.

After the archway was transferred from the old campus, students immediately began to avoid passing through this out-of-place structure. As rumor had it, walking through the Archway before graduation mysteriously jeopardized chances of graduating. Since this is quite a large price to pay for not following tradition, most students opted not to take the chance, which resulted in worn dirt paths around the arch.

After 17 years of worn paths, the graduating class of 1987 donated a brick pathway built around the sacred arch. This tradition has shaped the behavior of thousands of Bryant University students on Tupper campus for the past 42 years.



Student Class Charge: David Hurley

Welcome Mr. and Mrs. President, administration, faculty and staff, parents, family and friends, but most importantly the class of 2013. Before we leave this beautiful institution, I have one final tour of Bryant! You don't have to take any notes; there won't be a quiz. Even though I'm sure the ambassadors in the crowd will be testing how accurate my facts are. Today we are going to learn some of the 150 year history of Bryant, a history that we are and always will be a part of as the sesquicentennial class! Bryant University was founded on January 14, 1863, 150 years ago. Back then, Abraham Lincoln was filling his top hat with notes of gossip and vampire tales, long before he would be the face of the penny and the \$5 bill. When this institution was founded, the mission statement was written on quill and candlelight because pens and the light bulb still hadn't been invented yet. Look at us now, 150 years later our class of 731 undergraduates, about to cross the stage as we tweet 140 characters off of our smart phones, HD cameras flashing in our face, there is even a live video feed of this commencement online and being shown throughout campus. So if I do something embarrassing, more likely than not I'll be the laughing stock of youtube tomorrow.



That brings us to this white commencement tent. The tent that we have all been avoiding for days, weeks, months, even years now becomes our final Bryant destination on our tour. The tent that certifies we are the dawn of a new era. When we entered this institution, it was consistently growing as a university. We expanded from business specific to offering majors such as statistics, politics and law, and even environmental science we grew as an institution and our class is the most diverse to date.

We have been at the forefront of the most change and we have steadied the rocking boat as it floats through the currents. Our senior class is the first to graduate fully participating in a year of Division 1 athletics. We were the first set of freshman to be offered a major in entrepreneurship and human resources management. We are the 150th class to try to master the math of how many hours to study and how many hours to celebrate the studying we just did.

Now we leave our townhouses and round the corner to home plate of graduation. But we are far from done. We are the class that surpasses the mass and sets the bar higher than any gymnast has ever jumped. We have tied our loose ends with network connections to excel in our professions. We will dress to impress as the characters of success that lets the world know proudly that Bryant is our alma mater. We will make posters perfect to ensure our presentations are urged to emerge as the top tier amongst our peers. We will mentor other Bryant students who choose to follow our paths and pass along the gratitude that those before us chose to match. We will use our efficiencies to fulfill deficiencies and eventually make others match our levels in proficiency. We are extremely well oiled machines. Every paper that may have seemed extreme is the whipped cream and the cherry on top of this excellent education sundae we have earned.

Earning this diploma shows that there is no glass ceiling over our dreams. Our education leaves us made in excellent condition. We are Bryant billboards. Ready to advertise to every company and organization how capable we are at accomplishing every job or overcoming any conflict. Four years at Bryant we have been able to live the dream. Work hard, play hard, stay up late hard, write a paper hard, still have school with three feet of snow hard, black or white out the entire basketball court hard, compete nationally for business or tax competitions hard, pet Tupper and take pictures with him outside of the Rotunda hard! You name it we went hard.

Putting forth anything but 100% wasn't worth it in our books. That will continue. We carry 150 years of spirit in our back pockets. Every resume we carry with the Bryant logo is a folded crease on every page we read in the Douglas and Judith Krupp Library. We are the piggy back of a fantastic foundation and we spread the name of the great school which we came from. Excellence rests in the seats before me. Today, we begin to paint our professional picture.

We are capable of the impossible. We can achieve what others wouldn't fathom. We have been given all of the tools to use to build our own buildings. So let's build archways for those after us to walk under. Let's scream for our Bulldog team in our own backyard when they host a conference championship in the future. Let's ignore the voices that said we couldn't and remember the classes, clubs, and community that told us we can. Let's not forget the professors who extended their office hours to meet with us at our convenience. Let us not forget the staff who spent their nights and weekends working nonstop to make sure we have amazing events to attend and services to support us. Let us not forget each other. Let us never forget Bryant. Because I know Bryant will never forget us.

We are Bryant University graduates. We are Bryant University bulldogs. We are the class of 2013, and forever we will be the spirit that will appear as the 150th class to enter the real world, determined to prove Bryant is above and beyond the institutions around us. So congratulations Bryant University class of 2013, and may all of you characters of success succeed in your future endeavors. Thank you!

Wow I can't believe the day is finally here; I'm about to walk across this stage one more time and hear my big sister say "Let's Go Mikey!!" Every time I hear my sister say that, there's this happiness that just takes over me. As far I can remember my sister, Keisha, has been a part of this journey we call life. With her being my biggest influence in my life, especially after our mother's death when I was eleven and she was twenty-three, she has played a major role in me coming to Bryant. This happiness reminds me of the process I took to get to here, from the beginning of my senior year of high school to my verbal commitment and even now.

I feel this way for several reasons; I made all my supporters proud, and I'm the sixth or seventh grandchild to go and to finish school out of over 30 grandchildren, with me being one of the youngest by several years. Also I'm setting the blueprint for my two little brothers to follow. I'm also happy because the pressures of everyone saying I have to graduate on time are gone.

Do you feel that creeping up on you? Are you feeling the same feeling you get before your first college game. Are you feeling the speeding of your heartbeat like you're about to perform on stage. Are you feeling the butterfly feeling you get in the pit of your stomach before your college presentation. I am. The nervousness coming out gets me wondering what is in store for me after college. Where will I end up? Who will I meet? How can I impact the world? Questions probably all my fellow graduates are asking.

"The world is yours" they always say, getting you to think: wow what is really out there? Finally, the

thought arises of you not having that consistent support system that you had through your entire college career. Wow you're growing up!

When I do think about this moment it also brings up sadness, about me leaving a wonderful campus environment that helped groom me into the man I am today. It helped me to become more accepting of others and to understand individuals' differences. Also it brings up the fact that my mom never saw any one of my brothers or me graduate from elementary school, high school, or college. I never got to see that smile from my mom when I looked out to the audience to make sure my parents were watching or even the hug after I got off the stage. It's a heartbreaking moment when I think of all the things I've done and never got the chance to share with her. I do know that even though she's gone, she's proud of the man I became here and will continue to be after I leave.

But the emotion I'm feeling the most is fulfillment. I feel like I did everything I wanted to do in my college career; starting with playing Division I football to receiving two spirit awards to creating bonds with friends here that will last for a lifetime. I look back on all the events I help organized or was in. It's fulfilling to see how much you can accomplish here if you have the right attitude. I hope any of the current students will follow my lead and enjoy their time, because you don't get it back. Finally to my "2013" classmates: I love you guys, and I wish all the best for you. Congratulations to the Class of 2013, and on the occasion of Bryant's 150th birthday. We worked really hard to get here with all the emotion good and bad, like another famous Michael sang:



In My Trials
And My Tribulations
Through Our Doubts
And Frustrations
In My Violence
In My Turbulence
Through My Fear
And My Confessions
In My Anguish And My Pain
Through My Joy And My Sorrow
In The Promise Of Another Tomorrow
I'll Never Let You Part
For You're Always In My Heart.



Gregory Chocheles

The first day of college; it's a whirlwind of emotions, and one day that most students never forget. One half the students jump for joy, the other half usually have some hesitancy in moving from one chapter of their lives to another. For me, I can't quite decide which side I would have fit into. Growing up in a small town community on Long Island, New York I always sought something more in life. I wanted to study in a diverse community, and after one tour at Bryant; I'd found my new home. After a long summer, I'd taken the three and a half hour drive up to Smithfield in order to start my four year journey.

I'm not going to lie, but the first few weeks were a bit tough. I didn't quite know where I fit in at Bryant, and there were most definitely days filled with homesickness. Moving forward from that time I did eventually establish myself in the University through extracurricular events and academics. Little did I know, however, that the most meaningful source of involvement and sense of guidance for my personal development would come from a highly unexpected source.

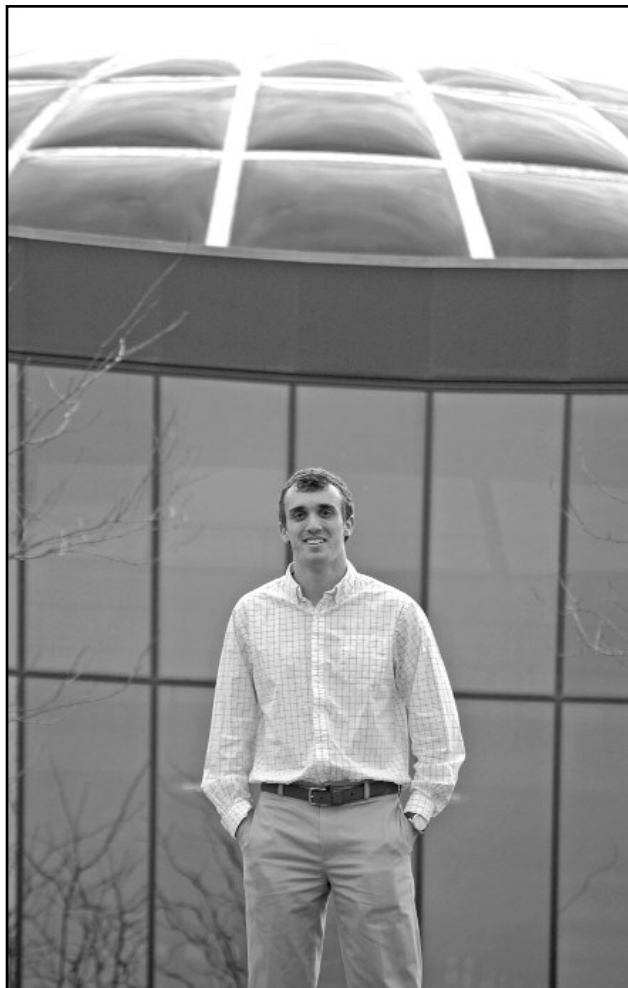
A friend of mine that lived below me in Hall 15 at the time had approached me one day and strongly encouraged me to meet some of the brothers of the Sigma Chi Rho colony at Bryant. Due to some pre-conceived notions, I had zero intention of ever joining Greek Life. I didn't quite know much about it, but yet with the accompaniment of that friend one by one I met the brothers of the colony. Before I knew it, I was rushing and, soon after, I was pledging. There were many long hours spent learning the history behind the Sigma Chi fraternity. However, no experience was as impactful as the pledge retreat that we went on to Cape Cod. Until that point, I didn't quite understand who I was as a person, my values system, or where I saw myself in the future. I learned a lot about the lives of the other men that I would soon call brothers. Their families, achievements, personal struggles for self, and their outlooks on life at that moment became a part of me. From that moment on I was definitely a different person in every sense of the word, and I felt that this change would only lift me to a higher meaning in life, as well as at Bryant.

After finally becoming a brother of the Sigma Chi Lambda Eta chapter, I quickly noticed how large of an impact the Juniors and Seniors had in the community. In particular, I took pride in all of the brothers that had been Orientation Leaders here. In my sophomore year, I decided that I would apply for this elite position on campus. I was thankful to find out after a rigorous interview process, I had been selected as a member of the seventeen student team.

After having had a personal revelation myself, I wanted to encourage others to be themselves and to further contribute to the community that was established at Bryant. At orientation I was fortunate enough to have given a speech regarding being civil and inclusive on Bryant's campus. It gave me great pride in knowing that through my speech I might have made a small yet monumental change in someone's life. Through this position there were some good times as well as some bumps along the road, but overall I will cherish the people and moments that occurred over that month long period. Despite the personal connection that I'd developed with Bryant and its inhabitants, I was about to embark on a journey far beyond my expectations.

Majoring in International Business, studying abroad had always been a dream of mine, and in the fall of 2011, I was off to Granada, Spain. The trip was everything that I could have imagined; and more. I went to Spain with a few expectations and all of them were thankfully accomplished by the time that the four month span had come to a close. I wanted to perfect my Spanish, and with the help of my home-stay mother, Ana, I was able to come close to fluency. Another goal was to travel and experience as many cultural backgrounds as possible. From impromptu trips to North Africa and Eastern Europe and cliff jumping (on more than one occasion) I can say that I've experienced some unforgettable events as well as given my mother a heart attack on more than one occasion.

Now as I stand here less than a month away from graduation, I find it incredibly difficult to try and compile all of the beneficial experiences that I've had here at Bryant. Yes, there have been situations that have tested me both mentally and physically, but without having chosen to study here I don't quite know if I'd be the same person today. It's been a true pleasure knowing that I've been able to call Bryant University not just a campus, but a home. I know that it will be a huge adjustment leaving after graduation. However, if there's one thing that I'm positive about it's that with the four years spent at Bryant I now have the tools to move forward in creating a meaningful life, as well as being able to make a change in whatever community I become a part of.



I remember the 20 steps it took walking up to the Bryant Women's Basketball Office for the first time on September 4th, 2009, freshman move-in day. Immediately after settling into Hall 14, I took a chance. I had played basketball for four years in high school and was looking to stay connected with the sport I had grown passionate about. The coaching staff put their faith in me that day, and I was given the opportunity to be a part of something much bigger than myself.

What I've always appreciated about being a Student Manager was contributing to the success of those around me. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of the long road trips, practices, games, and securing a playoff spot in our very first Division I season. I was fortunate enough to play a part in the program's success and watch Bryant Athletics flourish during my four years.

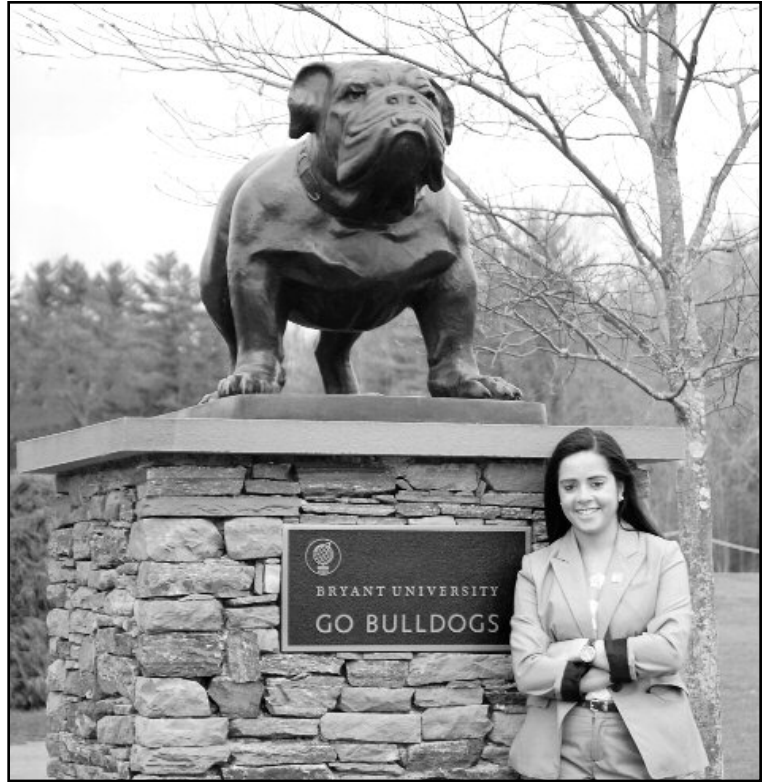
I remember the 12 days of Opening Weekend that I participated in. On that same move-in weekend freshman year, I was greeted by bright shirts and large smiles. Those Bulldog Leaders were the very first people who motivated me to make an impact on campus. From that point on, I wanted to give every incoming student a warm welcome, just as I was greeted on my own move-in day.

I started both my sophomore and junior years welcoming the class of 2014 and 2015 as a Bulldog Leader. I became Top Dog as a senior, organizing and leading all training activities for the program. I learned to be an effective leader by acting as a role model for my peers. Not only was I able to assure incoming students an amazing four years, but I made a difference in their transition to college. Welcoming every new class to campus since I've been at Bryant has been an extremely fulfilling experience.

I remember all eight Fall and Spring Open Houses of speaking to and leading tours for prospective students. It's hard to imagine that I was the student speaker at this year's Fall Open House. I thrived at the chance to tell prospective families about what makes Bryant my home. I know the experience was worthwhile when I get to see students I toured with finally become members of the Bryant community. It was truly rewarding to know that I had an impact on their decision to join Bryant for the next four years of their lives.

Every organization I have been a part of has touched my life in different ways. Of course, I'll remember the 20 steps up to the basketball office, 12 days of training, and eight open houses, but the relationships I've formed with people along the way are what I'll cherish forever. The 14 Women's Basketball players and four coaches who believed in me and gave me the opportunity to follow my passion. The 22 Bulldog Leaders who taught me how to create and develop a group of people to come together as one. The 100 Student Ambassadors who shared my similar love for Bryant University. My college experience would not have been half of what it is today without the people who've influenced and molded me to get to where I am now.

To all the faculty and staff members who pushed me through last minute assignments and planning events: I will always value your determination and hard work. Your positive and personable attitudes encouraged me to continue in my endeavors. Thank you for being the



shoulders I could count on during good and bad times.

To my roommates: you'll never know how much you taught me about true friendship. Each one of you is special to me in different ways. No matter where you go, the five of you can always count on me. I treasure the memories we've had and look forward to making many more. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for everything. To my friends: we have been through more than we ever thought possible. I could not picture a better group of people to have by my side. Thank you for sharing your laughs, smiles, and college experiences.

To my parents and family: your guidance and love will never go without acknowledgement. I would not be where I am today without you. You have instilled in me the ability to reach my dreams and persevere when any obstacle comes my way. Thank you for your unconditional love and constant support. I love you!

Four short years ago, I never thought any of this was possible. Bryant University has changed my life. I am truly proud of what I've accomplished here and the path I've created for myself. Remember to surround yourself with positive and supportive people. The people who make you reach higher than you thought you could. I've learned that every day you should reach out and touch someone. Sharing what we are given in life is much more important than having the things we're given.

Today, remember the 15 steps you take across the stage as you receive your diploma, but more importantly remember the people you are surrounded by, the Class of 2013. Fellow graduates, Congratulations! I am proud to look out at you all, amazed at what we have accomplished. Continue to push yourself beyond limits and remember to thank the people who have helped you reach each stop along the journey.



Jeanette Ferraro

College. Totally unpredictable and you don't realize everything it meant and all the ways it has changed you until it's almost over. I'd like to share what these past four years have meant to me, and what I will forever carry with me because of Bryant University and the Class of 2013.

To begin, I wasn't able to attend orientation so move-in day was my first time back at Bryant since Admitted Students Open House. Initially, I didn't like it as much as I thought I would. There was so much hype about going to college and starting a new chapter in life, but after classes started and the excitement of newness went away I found myself asking, now what? The campus was beautiful and the people were wonderful, but I still didn't feel like a part of anything yet. I didn't know how to be a part of it. I was highly involved in sports and clubs in high school, so I was happy to learn a little bit about this thing called "free time" first semester. Free time was fun for a little while but I found myself needing something more to do (and Pinterest didn't exist yet). To fill some time, I got involved on campus. I became a general member of SPB and a DJ for WJMF. At the time, I didn't realize that these small involvements and the people I met through them would be the foundation of my Bryant experience.

Now that I had this foundation, it was time to build the house. Sophomore year I took on new leadership roles and began stepping outside my comfort zone. I was a Chair for SPB, on the Board of Directors for WJMF, and an RA with ResLife. I was integrated in the Bryant community, and I found what I felt was missing in the beginning of college. When I talked with others outside of school I no longer just went to Bryant. I was a Bulldog! For those of you who know me, you know that with each year I got involved more and more on Bryant's campus. I could tell you about everything I did and the classes I took, but I'd rather tell you everything I learned.

For me, there are three lessons I learned through my Bryant experience that shaped me into the person I am today and set me up for what I know will be a successful future personally and professionally. First, love what you do. I came to Bryant a finance major hoping to make big bucks someday. I didn't enjoy numbers or formulas, and I didn't like going to class. I converted to what some might call the dark side of Bryant, liberal arts. I took communications courses, loved them, and I knew I should continue with this major.

"To be successful, the first thing to do is fall in love with your work." –Sister Mary Laurretta

I've always heard that you'll never work a day in your life if you love what you do. Getting ready for graduation

and grad school, I know I'll be happy with a career in communications. College is much more than academics, however, and there are many ways to enhance your studies. You can't just go through the motions though. You have to invest yourself into what you do to get the most out of it.

"Excellence is not an act, but a habit." – Aristotle

I learned at Bryant the importance of putting 100 percent into everything you do. Make a habit of giving your all and take pride in what you do. When you're proud of what you do and are positive about your experiences, you can make an impact on others. Everyone that has motivated me to become the person I am today has inspired me to try to do the same for others. Recognize your own potential as well as your peers'. Recognizing your highest potential and going for it means leaving your comfort zone.

"Twenty years from now, you'll be more disappointed by the things you didn't do, than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."

–Mark Twain

Bryant gave me the opportunity to try new things. If you don't think you can do it, you're wrong. There were times when I didn't think I could do it, but there were plenty of people that motivated and guided me along the way. Friends, faculty, and staff in the Bryant community have pushed me to do more and do better because they knew I could. After four years in the Bryant community I'm confident that I can do anything I put my mind too. I'll carry this with me forever because believing in myself and others has become a part of my character.

Bryant University and Class of 2013, thank you! Thank you for the memories, the life lessons, the friendships, the community, and for being an amazing group that I will forever be proud to identify myself with.

Explore. Dream. Discover. Every day of your life. And never forget your time at Bryant, I know I won't!



Most people at this school do not know who I am. I'm a relatively quiet person who has made a few close friends while committing myself to a few things that are very important to me. So I was surprised when I was asked to write this reflection piece on my time at this school. As I thought harder about it, though, I think that's a very important kind of reflection to have, because it's the perspective of most students, and it's not a bad way to go through college.

Most of my focus over the last four years has been Army ROTC. I came to Bryant with a scholarship that committed me to the Army for a total of eight years after graduation. I had originally decided to join simply out of a sense of duty. I thought it was my obligation to serve at least some amount of time for my country. After a few short weeks here, however, I found myself fully immersed in the program, participating in all the extra activities related to it that I could.

I was a member of the Ranger Challenge Team that competes against other schools in the Northeast in basic soldiering skills, and senior year I got the opportunity to captain the team. Sophomore and junior year I marched the Boston Marathon with a rucksack as part of a group of cadets fundraising for the Wounded Warrior Project. The summer after junior year I travelled to Rwanda with a group of cadets for a month to teach English to their soldiers. Finally, this past semester I was able to lead our group of schools as the Battalion Commander.

Bryant University's ROTC program typically has about 15 cadets every year -- 3 to 5 per class. We are grouped as a part of the Patriot Battalion in Providence, but our small group has its own culture. Nearly all of my personal and professional development has been the result of the close mentorship of a few older cadets. Everything I have strived to instill in the current underclassmen cadets has been what I learned from them.

There are only four of us seniors in ROTC at Bryant, and we have a bond unlike any other I've experienced. When I mention them as friends, they often joke, "We don't count, we're forced to be your friend." But that is what makes our bond unique. We all committed our lives to something bigger than ourselves. We've relied on each other to make sure we wake up at 5 a.m. for morning workouts or to make sure that we have enough socks for a gear inspection. Maybe we didn't have a choice about whether to be friends, but I wouldn't rather have spent the last four years beside anyone else.

Despite my commitment to ROTC, I've been able to enjoy the civilian side of Bryant as well. Just as I am a part of a small organization on campus in ROTC, I have had a small new major at the school; Politics and Law. I find the same advantage in my major. The small group of professors is very committed to building the program and they have created curricula that I have always found fascinating and never boring. They reach outside the classroom to engage their students in the subject of their expertise -- whether by holding panels of students and professors at night, or going on WJMF on election night. President Machtley told us our first year that we should leave Bryant with at least one professor as a mentor, and I'm glad to say I have a few.

I'm a believer that a few close friends are better than hundreds of acquaintances. I am very thankful for all the people who have been able to break through my shell over the years to count themselves among my friends. It is through all these people that I've been able to develop into the version of myself that I am today. I'm just as thankful for my family and friends from home, especially my parents, who have stayed a close part of my life as I have moved into the next phase. And I think all these sentiments can be echoed by all members of our senior class.

All the people that I have written about have played a critical role in my growing up, which is really what college is about. As I close my reflection, I would like to quote a Rudyard Kipling poem introduced to me by one of these people: "If you can fill the unforgiving minute with sixty seconds' worth of distance run, yours is the Earth and everything that's in it, and -- which is more -- you'll be a man, my son!" My hope is that we all have filled the unforgiving minute, and will continue to do so for the rest of our lives.





Brian Gowen

“Two roads diverged in a wood, and I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference.” - Robert Frost

My journey to Bryant was indeed a road less traveled, and my experience here has been no different. First, unlike most of my fellow graduates, I am not a business major, nor am I from New England. As graduates of a private Catholic school, a majority of my high school classmates were funneled into the same bunch of east-coast Catholic colleges. For many back home, Bryant was barely on the radar, and, to be honest, early in my college search it wasn't on the radar for me either. Anyone who really knows me knows that I like to have a plan., I like structure, and I am logical and practical, perhaps to a fault. As one of the last schools I visited, Bryant wasn't a big part of “the plan.”

But as my selection process narrowed, Bryant kept making the cut. In my logical and rational breakdown of my “important college criteria,” Bryant seemed like a pretty good fit. I could have my liberal arts major, but learn about business along the way. Bryant is small and has a tight community. Like many, I felt that I could be more than just a number here. However, given where I had come from and what I wanted to do, Bryant didn't seem like the logical choice to many who I talked to. Looking at the other colleges I had to choose from, even my high school guidance counselor was probably a little puzzled.

Given all of this, I was nervous about making the decision to do something against the “conventional wisdom.” This was a big step for me, and I probably couldn't have taken it without the steadfast support of my Mom and Dad. They made me feel comfortable with my choice and reinforced their pride in me for making my own decision. I felt that same sense of pride knowing that I was doing what I wanted, not what anyone else had thought I should do. I could make that hard choice. They say college is a time of tremendous personal growth and learning. In making the choice to come to Bryant, I learned so much about myself before even setting foot on campus.

Looking back at the past four years, I could not be happier with my decision. These 900 words cannot even begin to describe the impact my college experience has had on me, both personally and professionally. I have had more opportunities than I ever dreamed of, from traveling abroad to interning in Washington, D.C. As a double major in Economics and Global Studies, my academic experience has been unique. While it wasn't the conventional path of a Bryant student, I would not trade it for anything. The experiences Bryant provides outside of the classroom are equally as valuable, and I learned just as much from them as I did in any class. From Enactus (formerly SIFE) to the Senate Ways and Means Committee to my job at ACE as a writing consultant, I learned the importance of leadership, patience, dedication, time management, teamwork, and making tough decisions.

Some of my proudest moments will come from the opportunities I had to give back to the place that has given me so much. I was humbled to be chosen to serve on President Machtley's Senior Advisory Council and on Dean Lux's Advisory Council for the College of Arts and Sciences. From speaking to prospective students at open houses, to talking to

underclassmen in the Honors Program about the Capstone project, to serving as an IDEA program student mentor, I have loved sharing my Bryant experiences with the hope that it will help others find their own path in the way so many people here have for me.

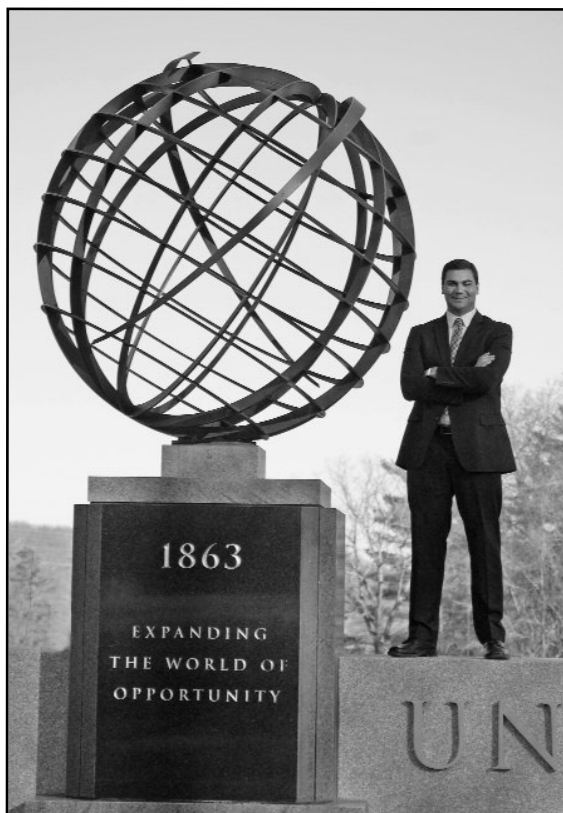
As I reflect on my Bryant career, the one thing that sticks with me most is how much I have learned about myself over these four years. I am more comfortable with myself than I ever have been. I am more sure of the person I am and the person I want to become. I owe as much of this to Bryant as anything else, and I cannot even imagine my life without Bryant.

To all the professors, staff, and mentors who shaped me along my journey, I want to thank you for helping and guiding me as I walked my own path. Your wisdom, encouragement, and support mean more to me than you could ever know. You are part of what makes the Bryant experience so incredible and so unique. I firmly believe that the character of success starts with those who instill it in each student that walks this campus.

To five great guys – you know who you are – I couldn't have asked for a better group of friends with whom to share these past four years. You are part of some of my best times and most cherished memories.

And to the Class of 2013, my friends and classmates, you will forever be a part of me and the person I have become. My hope is that you too will not be afraid to carve your own path or take a road less traveled. I hope you test yourself. I hope you will not be afraid to blaze your own trail, do something different, or challenge the conventional. It may be one of the best decisions you ever make.

Four years ago, I chose to carve my own path. I chose to come to Bryant. I chose to take the road less traveled, and that has made all the difference.



Four years sounds like an eternity when you start considering where you will be spending the 1,460 days of your college career. This time frame sounds like it will last forever, but when it comes full circle it is clear to see that the days pass by way too fast! During junior and senior year of high school you start to learn that college is the place where you discover yourself; branch out, test your limits, learn lifelong lessons, and develop both personally and professionally. Having the opportunity to spend this journey of discovery and development at Bryant University has been a blessing.

As I reflect on my experiences, I will start with the college search. I was considering a number of schools, but as the time to make a decision came closer, there was one thing that set Bryant apart from each of the schools I was considering; its vibrant and welcoming community. I came to watch my older brother Eloma, a freshman football player at Bryant (at the time), play in an opening game. As I walked into the stadium, a group of girls stopped me and simply said “Wow, I love your shoes, they are so cute!” As silly as it may sound, this was a life changing moment for me. It is one thing to admire from a far, but this group of girls went out of their way to compliment me, a complete stranger. Although this experience took place four years ago, I still remember the exact pair of shoes I was wearing! That moment is one I will never forget, it made me realize how close knit and genuinely nice the community is at Bryant. Ultimately, Bryant had all of the things I wanted for my college experience: academics, athletics, reputation, community, and much more. Once the decision was made, the journey truly began.

Freshman and sophomore years were a blur, just a collection of making friends, being involved in countless clubs and organizations outside of the athletics programs, and doing an exorbitant amount of school work and group projects! What’s most memorable about these two years was my ability to function so well off little to no sleep. I can assure you that is no longer the case! My junior year gave me the chance to slow down a bit, and truly examine what direction I wanted to take my college career in.

Junior year was all about change, I made some of the most difficult decisions of my life during this year. The largest of these decisions was the choice to join the Resident’s life program or continue being a student athlete. After a considerable amount of reflection I chose to leave the athletic program and turned to a new chapter in my college journey. Joining the Res Life program allowed me to gain key characteristics of leadership, problem solving, relationship building, and several other transferable skill sets. This leap of faith, led me to several other opportunities I had never envisioned in my future. Throughout my junior year I began to challenge myself further and took on a double major of marketing and management. I also began to pursue professional experiences that could be tailored towards my majors by applying for internships and working closely with organizations within the classroom. I was able to gain an internship with MetLife Insurance in their marketing department and remained there throughout my junior and senior year. Similarly, my senior year was an extension of the change imparted on my junior year endeavors. I became involved in more leadership position by taking on the role of President of the business professional fraternity Pi Sigma Epsilon, was selected to serve on the Bryant Senior Advisory Council, and represented the senior class as the marketing and branding co-chair of the Senior Class Gift Committee, in addition to selected prior involvements.

Throughout my four years at Bryant I have been exposed to a number of experiences and opportunities that have been an integral part of molding me into the person I am today. The largest thing I have taken away from my college experience is the fact that the opportunities are endless with an investment in Bryant University. I am happy to say, I am faced with options; choosing to continue my education in Bryant’s accelerated MBA program, or choosing a professional career from a number of offers. The companies and grad schools who have approached me with opportunities have taught me how valuable my education at Bryant truly is. Others view me, a soon to be Bryant Graduate, as a unique, well rounded, and capable individual. Needless to say, the experiences I’ve had have thoroughly prepared me for the next stage of my life and I have Bryant to thank for that.

In life fortune and money come and go but education is the one thing that no one can take from you. This quote speaks volumes on the value of education, and the value of my education has been augmented through my experiences here at Bryant. For this reason, I owe a great deal of thanks to a number of professors, mentors, and organizations for making my Bryant experience what it was. My Mother, Marie-Rose Johnson, has also been my rock and foundation, my entire existence here at Bryant is because of her hard work and sacrifice. For this, I cannot thank her enough. I am forever in her debt and know that all that I have gained throughout college has been because of her. Thank you and I love you.





Lori Coakley, Ph.D.

Having just returned from New York City, where Bryant's Enactus organization participated (and won) in the Regional Competition, I had the pleasure of listening to a short presentation by Kees Kruythoff, President of Unilever, North America. He was the opening speaker for the awards ceremony, and was commending all of the competing teams for their contribution and commitment to changing the world for the better. He underscored the need for such change agents; those who would not only do well for themselves but do well for others first.

It struck me that this is what Bryant has prepared all of you to do. More impressively, many of you have been committed to helping others and being change agents since you first arrived on campus. This class is comprised of students who not only want to have more, but be more. It has been an enriching experience for me to personally know and work with many of you and see all that you have accomplished. The impact that your concern for the communities in which you've worked has had on others ensures you great success as you embark on working in a global economy.

Your professors, your peers, your parents, and the staff at Bryant have worked tirelessly these last four years to invest in your potential, mold you, motivate you, and simply give you the best that we have to offer. The results have been astounding. You have become what Adam Grant refers to, in his new book *Give and Take*, as "Givers" – the ones who "give without

expectation of immediate gain; the ones never too busy to help, the ones that share credit actively and mentor generously." You have exemplified "prosocial motivation – the desire to help others, independent of easily foreseeable payback." These actions, these commitments, and these extreme efforts will, according to Grant's research, lead you to achievement and success. Your energy, your spark, and your desire to leave a footprint behind confirms William James' claim that "the greatest use of a life is to spend it on something that will outlast it."

It may surprise you to realize the impact you have had on others already: the young girl who was granted her wish due to your fundraising efforts for the Make-a-Wish foundation; the five year old boy who didn't want to leave your side as you helped him finish his homework at the afterschool program, because being with you was so much better than the alternative of going home; the senior citizen who cried as you graciously danced with her at the holiday party your Management 200 team organized at the senior citizens center, simply because you gave her your time and some attention. You have built homes, gone to Haiti to assist in the aftermath of a devastating earthquake, and have given hope to children when no one else would. You have become change agents, and the confidence you exude is unparalleled. It has been a privilege to be a part of this with you.

Bryant has provided you not only with a great education, but more importantly, with the opportunities to engage in such events and grow through immeasurable experiences. You have seized these opportunities with gusto, and have flourished in your accomplishments. I compel you to continue these endeavors, as you have all become experts at squeezing more than 24 hours out of one day! You have studied, you have worked, you have organized events, you have engaged in myriad presentations, you have volunteered, you have mentored, and you have succeeded. These traits will take you far, and I encourage you to continue to focus on being more rather than simply having more. When I was asked to write the faculty reflection six years ago, I stated that, for me, one of the greatest joys of being a professor is receiving that phone call or email or text from a former student who has graduated, and hearing about the opportunities embraced, the risks taken, and the challenges conquered. Today I would add the pleasure I will receive from hearing what you have given, and how you have done well in life by doing good for others.

I hope, as we celebrate your passage to the next exciting chapter of your life, that I have contributed to your confidence, your passion for excellence, and your desire to embrace all the possibilities that await you. More importantly, I hope all of us at Bryant have instilled in you the value and the privilege of being "givers" as you now proceed toward all that you will become.

It has been an honor to be your professor, your colleague, and your biggest fan.

Best of luck, Class of 2013!



Wow! Four years flew by. I remember your arrival on campus in late August 2009. I remember thinking you looked young and that your parents looked way too young to be sending a child to college.

And now I see men and women, college graduates who are ready to be launched. You have grown in so many ways during these past four years. Some can be attributed to the experience of undergraduate life: living in the residence halls, working on group projects, pulling all nighters, helping friends who have had way too much to drink, asking for psychological help when you are hurting, being a good listener to the drama around you, dealing with an unhealthy relationship, studying abroad, figuring out who you are and what you need. Yet as I prepare this reflection one month prior to your graduation, I'm struck by how much of your growing up also has to do with life outside our sheltered Bryant community: natural disasters, wars, politics, elections, gender issues, gun violence, and most recently, the horror that happened at the Boston Marathon.

These four years with you, the class of 2013, have been among the best of my 10 years at Bryant. My relationships with you are varied and even though I direct the Hochberg Women's Center, I've had the great pleasure to get to know and work with men as well as women. You have been my FFL students, sexuality series followers, co-presenters at professional conferences, RAs seeking advice, sexual assault survivors, LGBTQ students, AWA members, and enrollees in classes in which I've guest lectured. We've performed together in I2I scenes, run 5Ks together, and worked collaboratively on group projects. I even let some of you convince me to kiss a pig! You've graciously given your time to speak on my radio show on college life at Bryant. We are Facebook friends and Twitter followers. You—the members of the class of 2013—have taught me EVERYTHING I know about computers, iPhones, Prezis, Instagram, Pinterest and Voxel. And for that I am eternally grateful.

Reflecting back on your arrival in late August 2009, you made a great first impression. At the new student orientation, a group of students and I presented an interactive theatre piece about sexual behavior, consent and communication. I distinctly remember being extremely impressed with your class as you posed very thoughtful questions to the student actors about what transpired in the skit. You demonstrated a willingness to engage in difficult conversations on sensitive topics. I remember thinking "Wow. This is going to be a great four years with this bunch!"

And you haven't disappointed. In January of your freshmen year a devastating earthquake struck Haiti, killing 300,000 people and displacing over a million Haitians. Many of you sprang in to action to start an initiative in which Bryant students could respond to the disaster. In your class there are students who come from Port-au-Prince and who lost family members and friends. In just two months you raised over \$6000 to send to two organizations in Haiti doing sustainable development work. It was an honor to work with you on this project, to see your immediate and heartfelt concern



for a country in need.

Some of my best experiences with members of the class of 2013 have been through international service learning courses. Together we have traveled to the Dominican Republic and to Haiti. While in the Dominican Republic, I watched with enormous pride the ways in which you conducted yourselves: introducing young children to computers, engaging with local residents of a small fishing village, and teaching English to kids living on former sugar plantations. Our evenings were spent eating together and talking about what we learned. The "no computer/no cellphone" rule turned out to be the best part of these trips. We actually spent hours talking with each other and bonding over cold showers, the lack of electricity, incessant barking dogs and 'muy saporoso' rice and beans. The experiences in Haiti were comparable and it gave me great pleasure to watch members of your class teach young Haitian teenagers about sexual health, self-esteem and gender issues. Your ability to adapt to numerous challenges we faced as well as your comfort with a "Plan B" was impressive!

By your good deeds and hard work during the past four years you have demonstrated your desire to make Bryant and beyond a better place. In my role on campus, I've had the privilege to talk with you often about important issues: gender equality, social justice, race relations, human rights. Through discussions and debates I have seen your ability to listen, to reason, and to respect one another. Now that you're launched, keep up the great work! I leave you with two requests: stay in touch and heed the advice of the great Dr. Seuss:

"Out there things can happen, and frequently do,
To people as brainy and footsy as you.
And when things start to happen, don't worry, don't stew.
Just go right along, you'll start happening too"



Remember when...

Orientation - 2009:

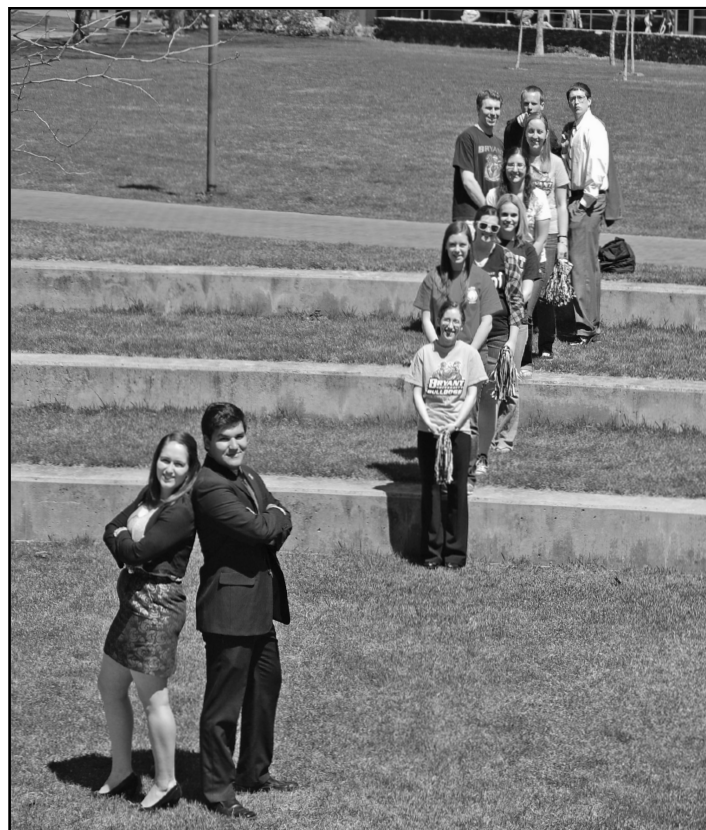
- When all the Orientation leaders thought our favorite song was "Sandstorm"
- Experienced the beginning of an obsession with Freshmen lobby ping pong
- Pots and pans were used as alarms to wake you up at 7a.m.
- You were "impressed" with Salmo

Freshman Year - 2009-2010

- You posted pics on Facebook of your newly decorated cribs...we mean dorm rooms
- You won a fish at the Freshmen Block Party, and it died 4 days later
- You awkwardly left your door open with the hopes of making new friends
- You spent all of your printing money on the Business Plan
- Parading through the Human Walkway for Convocation was awesome until we realized that we were just being hazed by the Upperclassmen
- The first time Marge swiped your ID for Salmo...the beginning of a beautiful relationship
- Why does no one remember going Around the World? Hmmmm
- Yankee fans were infected by the muskrat in the pond after they jumped in to celebrate another World Series win
- GTL
- Bryant Men's Basketball 1-29

Sophomore Year - 2010-2011:

- Ironclad Tupper I became your new best friend
- We partied with L.M.F.A.O. before they were famous and enjoyed the first outdoor concert in years
- You were special if you bought an "I <3 Marge" T-Shirt
- You never realized how good you had it until you had to clean your suite bathroom and common room for the first time
- No more "Undecided" status, time to declare your major
- Some of us got our feet wet in worldly travels by participating in the Sophomore International Experience
- You thought it ended with BUS101, but soon learned that your Bryant career would be filled with group projects and surveys
- Cal Ripken Jr. himself came to speak to us about the "Keys to Perseverance," which is based on his award-winning book
- We finally appreciated being on a hill because we weren't flooded by the river that destroyed the Warwick Mall
- The newly opened Interfaith Center was dedicated to President Machtley and Mrs. Machtley for their outstanding contributions to the Bryant community
- The rivalry between Bryant and Boston Barstool began



Alejandro Barbosa- Perez and Sara Larrabee

Class of
2013



Junior Year - 2011-2013:

- CHEEKS 2012 #doitforcheeks
- #ThatAwkwardMomentWhen you realize your school mascot has more followers on @Twitter than you do
- Patriots fans remain sore losers after the Giants win Super Bowl XLVI #ouch
- The Archway publishes an article on “Rate My Professor” rankings in response to concerns over professor and course evaluations #StirringThePot
- The student body came together to petition for the Bryant Center renovations #doingbigthings
- Division 1 here we come!
- Half of your friends disappear because they actually went around the world...to study abroad #seewhatwedidthere?
- Bryant Memes became a thing #geeseproblems
- You went “house hunting” to get a feel for the neighborhood you’d be living in next year #creepin
- WJMF goes digital and partners with WGBH on Boston airwaves #bigthings
- Big Sean came to school and for a while the most frequently used word by Bryant students... rhymed with SASS
- #SpringWeekend2012

Senior Year - 2012-2013:

- Those Freshmen year pics that you thought were super cute actually come back to haunt you
- We worked together as a community to brace and recover from Hurricane Sandy
- NEMO - best snow day EVER!
- Our beloved Thursday night destination went bankrupt R.I.P. Effins
- You heard rumors of a new fancy restaurant on campus... inside Salmo?!
- Bryant Men’s Basketball completed the largest team turnaround in NCAA Men’s Basketball history and made it to the playoffs #PackTheChace
- After 16 years of service at Bryant, Dr. Thomas Eakin retires. We wish him the best of luck for the future!
- You were excited to cook in your townhouse for the first week until you secretly started craving Salmo
- You couldn’t go out without hearing the song “Thrift Shop” at least ten times
- If only finding a job was as easy as liking a photo on Facebook
- Senior Nights, Spring Break, Spring Weekend... but who remembers any of those?
- When President Machtley started signing his campus-wide emails “Prez”
- When you bought your cap and gown, received out graduation tickets, and realized you actually have to leave Bryant in a few weeks
- So...many...surveys!!
- Global Supply Chain was added as a new Major and 3 new Graduate Programs were added to the College of Arts and Sciences
- We Blacked Out, Whited Out, and Black-to-Whited Out the Chace
- President Machtley and over 100 students came together for a “Run as One” race to honor the memory of the victims of the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings
- The skunks came back...
- Taylor Swift bought a house in RI... too bad it wasn’t a townhouse
- That awkward moment when you realized “timeflies” isn’t just a band - it’s an actual thing
- We realized that what matters is not the grades or the group projects, but sitting around late with your best friends reminiscing about the past 4 years and reliving the best memories
- We walked underneath the Archway for the first time as the 150th Class of Bryant University...the historic CLASS OF 2013!!“Bryant University— the character of success”—when I first saw this slogan, it piqued my curiosity.





Xiang Li

What, exactly, is the character of success? Is it hard work? Is it setting and achieving goals? Is it becoming a great leader? I asked many people, but no one had an answer that satisfied me. So I decided that I would find the best answer by myself through my studies at Bryant. Today, I am a graduating senior and am about to leave Bryant. You may ask me if I found the answer. What is

‘You may ask me if I found the answer. What is the character of success? Now I can safely say that there is no answer!’

the character of success? Now I can safely say that there is no answer! Actually, I should say there is no best answer or even a single correct answer for this question, because everyone at Bryant has his or her own interpretation of what this question means. I believe that the character of success is multi-dimensional. It takes many kinds of character to achieve one’s goals. People can succeed in many ways and define success according to their own unique values. Such is the beauty and the strength of Bryant’s multi-cultural community. Bryant has never pushed me to become one kind of person or another. Instead, Bryant has inspired me to believe I can become the person I want to be. In my first marketing class, our professor asked us to write our dreams on our name tags. I thought for a while and wrote “Open a dessert shop”. The girl sitting next to me saw my name tag and looked confused. She asked me, “If you want to open a dessert shop, why did you come to Bryant?” Her question surprised me because I had not thought of it before and had no idea how to respond. After that class, I asked myself the same question again and again, and it took me a long time to figure out the answer. Then one day I met a policeman during an event who told me that he had graduated from Bryant 20 years earlier. Noticing my surprised expression, he explained, “I was a business major at Bryant. Bryant encouraged me to do what I wanted to do, and I am an excellent policeman now because I applied what I learned at Bryant to my job.”

Why did I come to Bryant if I wanted to open a dessert shop? Thanks to this Bryant alumnus, I found my answer. The answer is because I want to open a better dessert shop than anyone else, and Bryant can help me to achieve this goal. Actually, drawing on my experience at Bryant, I feel that I have gained an advantage no matter what I choose to do in the future. As a student majoring in marketing and minoring in communication, I not only gained professional knowledge, but more importantly I also learned how to become a better employee or boss. Bryant taught me that my character and personality are

ultimately more important than the knowledge I possess. At Bryant I have met many people, I have done many projects, and I have attended many events. I have laughed, I have cried, and I have screamed. I have learned to unleash my creativity and passion in whatever I do; I have developed a strong commitment to teamwork, and I have discovered my passion for learning. I believe what I have gained at Bryant will help me to succeed in all the fields that interest me.

There is an old saying in China, “Give a man a fish and he can eat for a day; but if you teach him how to fish, he’ll eat for a lifetime.” I believe Bryant has taught me how to fish, and I will benefit greatly from this lesson throughout my life.

Life has limitless possibilities. There are many ways to be successful. Bryant taught me that we can find many answers for one question and that we should respect diversity and difference. Bryant also taught me that by constantly working to make myself a better person I will gain the ultimate competitive advantage, and can overcome any challenges that life may present in the future.



Just four short years ago, I can remember it vividly. I was sitting in the family office at my house, analyzing in any way that I could all the positives and negatives of attending Fairfield University and Stonehill College. It is important to understand that with a deadline approaching this day was actually the last day for me to decide where I wanted to spend the next four years of my life. As these two institutions were juxtaposed in front of me on the computer screen, the phone rang. The caller ID said Bryant University; I was in complete shock and was unable to imagine what would come from the conversation. I answered the phone and on the other end was a Bryant University Admissions officer. I was on the wait list for Bryant, my number one choice for college. The Admissions Counselor told me I was off the wait list, and I would be offered acceptance. I didn't blink twice before I officially accepted my position in the class of 2013; I knew I wanted to be a Bulldog.

Coming into college I was like any other student, anxious to explore the ambiguity of the next four years. I can confidently say that freshman year Donald was excited about new experiences, the transformation into adulthood, and the friends I would make along the way. Entering Bryant I really only knew one person who had grown up with me from Kindergarten, Tyler Zahoruiko. Tyler was a great friend at that time and is an even greater one now. From sophomore year on we have been roommates, and we've learned and grown into successful young men together.

My experiences with two particular organizations, the Sigma Chi Fraternity and the aDvANCED Evolution Dance Team, have had the most impact on me and have made me into the person I accept and am happy to be today walking across the stage, shaking President Matchley's hand and accepting that coveted diploma.

From freshmen into sophomore year the Sigma Chi fraternity was in the process of becoming a full-fledged chapter on campus. I fell in love with the ideals and the beliefs at the root of Sigma Chi. I knew that an organization that is based on merit and stresses different temperaments, talents and convictions is an organization I wanted to be a part of. From birth you are taught to be unique, and Sigma Chi has allowed me to grow into the person I want to be regardless of what societal pressures tell me I have to be. My brothers have continually pushed me to achieve a higher success, celebrate the achievements, and learn from the failures. I would like to take the time to give a very deserving shout out to my advisor, mentor, and amazing friend Rich Hurley. He can attest to the transformation I have been through from a scared, confused freshman to a confident and strong leader as a senior. Without his undying support and constant words of encouragement, my four years would have been that much tougher.

Last year when I returned from Seville, Spain after studying abroad, I didn't think any experience could bring quite the same jubilation as that. Lucky for me, that semester I was able to get a "little brother" in my fraternity. A "little" is like a mentee that you help navigate the waters that you previously have gone through inside and



outside the fraternity. Ideally a big/little combo should be matched together because of compatible characteristics and similar interests.

As for my little, I truly can't express how close we have become in just two short but very meaningful and impactful years. From all those hours in the gym, on the soccer pitch, and enjoying all the laughter we've had, I honestly wouldn't have replaced any second of it for anything else. Tiago you have been just as much of a role model and inspiration to me as I hope I have been for you, and we will definitely continue this close connection in the future.

The other organization that has impacted my college experience was the founding and success of aDvANCED Evolution. Since our beginning, the amazing fact is that the majority of the team isn't professionally trained, but simply has a passion for dance and the desire to create and forge art through movement and emotion. From the long hours in the studio to the amazing performances, the team truly bleeds their colors of purple, silver and black. We have become a diverse family across different cultures and grades, and I am so happy to have had the opportunity to be a part of it. Dance has given me the outlet for creativity and increased self-esteem and confidence. This has translated into presentations, projects, and now in interviewing and networking with potential future employers.

To my beloved class of 2013, we have made it! Remember all those sleepless nights studying in the Unistrukture, those significant accomplishments and failures. All of these have made our four years at Bryant University into what it has been. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." Those hard times should be seen as learning experiences that have taught you valuable lessons preparing you for this day.

Well, it is that time: put on your cap and gown, steady yourself, feel elated, and get ready to walk through the archway into the next chapter of your lives!



Islindy Merius



“Life is a succession of moments, and to live each one is to succeed” – Corita Kent Succeed, meaning to thrive, prosper, and grow; to accomplish what is intended; to obtain success. Success began four years ago when I opened that golden portfolio containing the acceptance package to Bryant University. This success has only continued from there. As a freshman I immediately became involved here on campus. I wasted no time at all, which is not surprising being that I’m a very outgoing and vibrant person. I am not shy at all, and I knew from the very beginning that I would be able to SHINE and excel here at Bryant. I refused to be another number.

I started off by joining the Alliance for Women’s Awareness (AWA), The Multicultural Student Union (MSU), and supporting my friends as they started a new dance team at Bryant, known as aDvANCED

Evolution. Today, I am the President of AWA, and have served as the Vice President of African American Enterprises for MSU, for two consecutive years.

I have successfully planned and implemented cultural events to educate the Bryant community during Black History Month, and delivered two Extravaganza experiences, which many are referring to as “the best of all time”. I have also spread the knowledge of good health, women’s issues, and female empowerment.

I worked hard to create a strong and positive name for myself here at Bryant. As a result, everyone knows who Islindy Merius is! I always say, if you’re a Bryant Student, and you’ve never seen, met, or heard of Islindy Merius, then you’re NOT a Bryant Student after all! I’m everywhere. Besides, I’m loud; I’m loud so it’s impossible to not HEAR me either! Bryant also granted me two excellent opportunities to give back to the community by taking part in international service learning trips in the Dominican Republic, as well as Haiti; two countries which my parents have migrated from. In both countries I was able to engage in the experience of ecotourism, as well as to empower women who have been denied the right to an education; all the while learning about myself and my roots.

During this time, I formed strong bonds with Toby Simon and Sandra Enos, the bold and brazen leaders who were there every step of the way; preparing the students for the trip, then serving as excellent guides while in country. If it were not for these field studies, I would not have realized how passionate I am about Sociology and Service Learning, which I now believe is my true calling. I should have known this already, being that as a little girl, I always loved volunteering at soup kitchens within my community, but it took Bryant University to further unlock this passion and make me turn it into a soon to be career as a social entrepreneur. I became a sociology major and have thus been able to give back to the community every semester since then. I was also able to participate in the Sophomore International Experience, and explore Paris and London. Bryant has such excellent international programs, it’s impossible not to expand your global perspective.

No one said that college was going to be easy. I myself have experienced many trials and tribulations during my time here at Bryant; however I pressed on, knowing that my dreams of achievement were so close. Even through the toughest times I continued to strive, knowing that there were people who believe in me back home as well as here on campus. Having the most amazing friends here to catch me when I fall always made a difference. Mother told me that college is where you meet the people that you will spend the rest of your life with. I am certain that I’ve made the best of friends here: Annie Hou, Norah Justin, Danielle Chin, Ashley Garcia, Jasmine Safford, Nikita Smith-Gittens, Jalisa Cox, and Yeawoma Johnson. These ladies came in with me on day one at the 4MILE program, and we’ve been inseparable ever since.

I strongly feel as though I have what it takes to succeed within the next phase of life because I succeeded here at Bryant. Whether I go straight into the work field, go on to further my academic career by obtaining a graduate degree, or execute both simultaneously, the ultimate goal is always success. Failure is not an option. It never has been, and it never will be.

“Education is something that once obtained, no one can take away from you” – Kendra Goodrum, Bryant University ‘02. It gives me great pride to say that I am graduating from Bryant University, where I have thrived, prospered, grown, and achieved the character of success. Growing up in the urban community of Providence Rhode Island, many odds were against me, and, triumphantly, I have defeated them all.

Special Thanks to my favorite professors: Sandra Enos, Judy McDonnell, Eileen Kwesiga, Cileine de Lourenço, and David Ciliberto. They have all played a vital role in developing my intellect. Special thanks to Shontay Delaloue-King Francis and JoAnn Cummings for being excellent advisors during my reign as the Queen of BHM and Extravaganza, and best of luck to my dear successor, Wankelly Medina. Thank you to Nastazia Coirin, my sister and fellow founding mother of Haiti, as well as Toby Simon, for activating my feminism. Carolina Bogaert for having the kindest heart. Congressman and Kati Machtley, thank you for always being so warm and personable; making everyone in the Bryant community feel like a family. The year 2013, the 150th anniversary of Bryant University, will never be forgotten. Mom, this is for you.

It is hard to imagine that nearly four years ago I was on my way to Smithfield, Rhode Island to begin my college career. Car packed from front-to-back, my Bryant University gear on from head-to-toe, and my mom bawling her eyes out because I was the first of her children to go away to school. Sounds like a pretty typical move-in day for most students. However, the next four years of my life were far from typical and unique in every respect.

To be honest, I was unsure if I had made the right decision in coming to Bryant. Until my second semester of my freshman year this fear stood firm in my mind. Despite this concern, I strove to keep a positive attitude. My optimistic outlook steered me to enroll in the Linked Through Leadership program. Linked Through Leadership taught me how to be confident in my abilities as a leader. I learned that I had the skills and the charisma to be an influential figure on this campus, and I was instantly motivated to engage in other extra-curricular activities.

I soon became a Bulldog Leader, where I was given the opportunity to connect with incoming Bryant students and communicate with their parents, serving as a resource to them throughout Opening Weekend. I vividly remember an occasion where I ate dinner with a lone freshman student. Sitting down next to him I could tell that he was very nervous about Opening Weekend. After talking with him for over thirty minutes I was able to cure his nervousness, giving him the confidence to strike up a conversation with a random group of fellow students. Moments such as this are what motivated me to stay on a path of involvement and leadership.

Being involved on campus was truly the key to my success as a student. My various undertakings kept me focused on the importance of teamwork, communication, and leadership. Outside of my extra-curricular involvements the Bryant community has been equally influential in molding me into the person I am today.

To all of my professors, faculty, and staff members: it has been an honor and a pleasure to have been able to learn from you. I have enjoyed the unique relationships that we have built, and I will cherish those far beyond graduation. You have made it possible for me to achieve my goals and continue on my path to success. I say with great sincerity, thank you and I will miss you all.

To my friends: we have truly had an unforgettable four years in every aspect of the word. I will cherish all of the memories that we have created together. We have laughed, we have cried, we have shared our ups and downs. But one thing is certain, I am proud to say that I have been privileged to share the best four years of my life with such an amazing group of people.

Last but not least, I must thank my family. I have been blessed with the most supportive and loving family that I could ever imagine. My parents have been by my side regardless of the circumstances. Whenever I was on the verge of giving up my family never ceased to encourage me, giving me the confidence to fight the most uphill battles. Because of their tireless and endless support to help me succeed, I have approached every situation both inside and outside of the classroom with the goal of making them proud. Thank you for always believing in me and providing me with the guidance to get me to this point. I love you all.

Finally! Class of 2013, we have done it! All of the sleepless nights, group meetings, and research papers have finally paid dividends. Let this moment sink in. Take the time to reflect on all that you have accomplished, all of the people you have met, and all of the memories that you have made here in Smithfield. Today we walk through the archway, not as individuals, but as a student body, one that has endured a variety of challenges but has risen to meet them head on.

Throughout my Bryant journey, I have come to believe that attitude is everything. Be positive in every aspect of your day. Do not be afraid to take chances. Do whatever you can for whoever you can. Smile and say thank you at every opportunity. I want to share with you a quote by Charles Swindoll: "I am convinced that life is 10 percent what happens to me and 90 percent how I react to it. And so it is with you...we are in charge of our attitudes." As a result of this lesson learned I have created my own path to get me to where I am today. And at this moment we are all coming to the end of this path only to begin traveling on a new route that will lead us all to do amazing things.

My advice for you is to take a positive attitude into everything that you do, whether it is in your job, your family, or your community. Know that your Bryant experiences, coupled with positivity, will send you flying quickly down your own road to success, as it has for me. So now, after four years I find that I am on a different yet strangely similar path. My car is packed from front-to-back, my Bryant University gear on from head-to-toe, combined with my cap and gown. My mother bawling her eyes out, not because I am the first of her children to go away, but because she couldn't be prouder of the person that I have become.





McCall Peltier

When I arrived at Bryant as a freshman, I realized that I would be learning a great deal in the next four years. What I didn't realize, however, was that the lessons I would value the most would be taught outside of the classroom. I also expected to continue to remain in my comfort zone because Rhode Island is less than an hour away from my hometown. I didn't anticipate that my growth here would require me to stray outside of my norms. I was completely wrong in that thought, and I couldn't be more pleased about it.

During my time at Bryant University I was fortunate enough to have multiple opportunities that helped shape who I am. I learned a deep appreciation for diverse cultures when I studied abroad in Spain, patience when I mentored the first years in the IDEA program, diplomacy when I served on the Student Senate, and thoroughness when I interned at the John H. Chafee Center for International Business. However, I will always see my involvement with The Women's Summit as the defining factor in shaping my future dreams and aspirations.

For those of you who aren't aware, Bryant holds an annual conference directed at empowering and educating women in the work force. The Women's Summit enriches the lives of over 1,000 women each year— and I am happy to admit that I am one of those women. This conference improved my life in ways that I truly cannot put into words.

My sophomore year was my first year as an intern for the Women's Summit. At that time, I don't think I truthfully appreciated the opportunity that was presented to me. I was timid and lacked confidence the first time I sat in the Chace Gymnasium on March 10, 2011 to listen to the keynote speaker. That changed almost immediately after I spent the day surrounded by some of New England's finest businesswomen. They had a positive effect on almost every facet of life while still managing to raise children and volunteer in the community. That was a pinnacle day for me because I stopped looking at successful women with eyes full of awe. Instead, I realized that I was capable of success as well.

When Margaret Thatcher stated, "I do not know anyone who has got to the top without hard work. That is the recipe," she truly encompassed the greatest lesson that I learned while at Bryant University. Factors such as hard work and dedication are essential in the formula for success. The women I was surrounded by at each Women's Summit that I attended over the last three years are living proof that working hard is an irreplaceable quality. They took the initiative to change intention into action by diligence and persistence. While doing so they also paved a solid foundation for younger generations to do the same. It was a remarkable experience to have sat alongside women who are not frightened by difficulty and who did not stop when things seemed impossible.

I feel blessed to have had this revelation before my career has even begun. I don't know who I would be if I hadn't attended The Women's Summit, but I know for certain that I would not be nearly as motivated or eager to embark on success. I realized through the Women's Summit that I, along with every female that is graduating with me today, am capable of being the powerful and influential woman that I write about. I cannot deny the vast knowledge I gained in the classrooms here at Bryant, but it was in the Chace gymnasium during the three Women's Summits that I was fortunate enough to attend where I learned the confidence I would need to pursue my aspirations. Much like my lesson of hard work, viewing The Women's Summit as a young, female student gave me the realization that there is no elevator to success, you always have to take the stairs.



As I sit down to write this reflection, I am in denial that after today I will be considered a college graduate – a Bryant alumna, no less. To think that this all began on a whim is bewildering, because I couldn't think of a more perfect place to have spent my college years.

Throughout high school I wavered back and forth about what exactly I wanted to study and where I should go to receive that education. At the time, I was leaning towards a major in psychology; so when my dad continually urged me to apply to Bryant, which is just a fifteen minute drive from our home, I became frustrated. "Dad, that's a business school," I reminded him. It was true that it had been expanding, but I was unsure if it would be a mistake to attend a school that required its liberal arts students to minor in business administration. But I applied anyway, and I am so thankful that I did.

The first acceptance I received was from Bryant. As it turned out, no other acceptance package would hold a candle to that impressive golden envelope or the offer it contained. Nonetheless, I was still unsure up until Admitted Students Day, which was a turning point. Not only were my mom and I impressed by the personal attention we received, but also by the campus's beauty. That day, we both knew that I belonged here.

Unfortunately, there were some bumps in the road that led me to defer my start date to the spring. This caused me to miss orientation and the subsequent camaraderie that developed. Being a commuter only added to the difficulty of making friends. But thanks to my FFL class, I was forced to put myself out there and join organizations – namely, The Archway – and I haven't stopped since! I began as a staff writer, then became a copy editor, and spent my last two years as the business manager. I cannot express how proud I am of this organization and those who have made it all possible. In them, I have gained both mentors and friends.

During my sophomore year, I had a major breakthrough in terms of my career path. As much as I enjoyed psychology, I could not ignore the letter I had received from the math department after taking my placement test. They urged me to consider math as a major – something I hadn't given much thought to. After some research, I learned that I could major in applied math and statistics and use my

analytical skills in the health field. After receiving reassurance and guidance from multiple professors and administrators, I switched my major to math and declared minors in psychology and biology, along with business. Some thought I was crazy, but it all worked out very nicely thanks to some careful planning with my advisors!

Upon making this switch, I was asked to join the Actuarial Association as the Math and Statistics Chair. With this role I had the opportunity to spread awareness of this fairly new major in multiple venues as well as create close relationships with other math alumni. I also represented the major on the Dean's Student Advisory Council, which was an honor.

The relationships I have developed with professors and staff members (such as in ACE, the Amica Center, and OCE) are among the most memorable aspects of my college experience. They never treated me as a number and continually inspired me to be the woman I am today. I am forever appreciative of the invaluable skills they taught me in and out of the classroom, the advice and recommendations they happily gave me, the data analysis internship they provided me, and the assistance they offered with my Honors Capstone project. I do not want to name names for fear of leaving someone out or taking up too much space – yes, there are really that many! But please know that you all played a huge part in my life these past three and a half years.

From the beginning, Bryant pushed me miles out of my comfort zone. The group projects in my business classes that I once dreaded turned out to be eye-opening, and are now one of my favorite talking points during interviews! I will not say they were easy by any stretch of the imagination, but the dedication and teamwork that was needed prepared me well for the future. Making an impact on real-life companies and entrepreneurs is something I won't soon forget. An added bonus? I met some of my best friends through these groups!

Speaking of friends, it is difficult to face the harsh reality that we will no longer be seeing each other on a daily basis. I am so thankful for every friend I've made at Bryant, and I know that it will take more than graduation to keep us apart. But on a positive note, I have many friends who are not yet graduating; so this just gives me an excuse to visit Bryant often! Here is another big reason: my younger sister, Alyssa, will officially be a Bulldog this fall! (I swear I had nothing to do with this decision...) I would also like to take this moment to thank my family for always being my #1 fans not only throughout college, but my entire life. I would never be the person I am today without you!

Honestly, whatever I have given to Bryant has only been possible because of what Bryant has given to me. I cannot speak highly enough of my college experience, which I will cherish always. As a country we have experienced awful tragedies recently, so I feel incredibly blessed to even be here experiencing this milestone. Class of 2013, we did it, and I know we are destined for greatness! Let's promise to take time out of our upcoming busy lives to smile and be thankful that we have such busy lives. God bless you all and congratulations!





Alyssa Silva



With graduation day upon us, I'm finding it rather difficult to believe that the end of my college career has finally arrived. Maybe you could say I'm in denial, but I feel as though these last five years have passed in the blink of an eye. So much has happened to me during my time here at Bryant, I think it's safe to say I'm not the girl I was back in the fall of 2008. The girl who was once scared, confused, and afraid to take chances as a freshman is now leaving Bryant with the confidence in knowing she'll succeed if she believes in herself. Bryant has taught me so many great lessons.

Being confined to a wheelchair, the transition from high school to college was definitely a huge adjustment for me. Were the people going to accept me like they did in high school? Would I be able to handle the intense workload over the next five years? My first day as an undergraduate student didn't quite go as planned, and I remember it like it was yesterday. As I was getting ready to leave for class, my wheelchair suddenly shut down, despite its full battery, and wouldn't turn back on. After spending a significant amount of time trying to get through to the wheelchair technician, I ended up missing my first ever college class. On top of that, my assistant had to push my 300 pound wheelchair around manually for the remainder of the day as well. If you haven't already guessed, I was off to a horrible start. It was a complete disaster, and I was convinced that this was a bad omen for my five years to come. Luckily, I was very wrong.

My Bryant experience was unlike most other students. Besides keeping up with my everyday assignments, I also had to be proactive with my health, for I am very susceptible to illnesses. There were times when I was hospitalized, home sick, or undergoing surgery that forced me to put my academics aside for a while. It was quite frustrating at times, but my professors were always so understanding and accommodating with every

circumstance. This was always such a relief, and I couldn't be more grateful for their kindness. Through it all, with every trial and tribulation I faced, I somehow managed to come out fighting stronger than before. There were times when I would study for exams from my hospital bed, or have to teach an entire lesson on my own because of missing too many classes. Yet, with a little strength and perseverance, I was able to put my obstacles behind me and move forward on my path towards success.

When I had initially started at Bryant, I entered with the mindset that I was only here to receive an education and nothing more. People had told me that college was the time to discover yourself, and I only started to believe it during my second semester of my fourth year. I had figured it was time to finally branch out and meet new people, so I decided to join Her Campus Bryant, an online magazine for college women. I happily accepted a spot on the E-board as the Social Media Chair and was a contributing writer to the website whenever necessary. This was one of the best decisions I have ever made at Bryant. The girls involved in Her Campus are all smart, confident, and empowering young women, and I am so glad to have had the opportunity to be a part of this organization. In fact, it wasn't until I joined Her Campus that I realized my passion for writing.

From this point forward, Bryant continued to open so many doors for me, and I truly started to discover myself as an individual. What I have always loved most about Bryant is the feeling of belonging when you're there. The professors, the faculty, the staff, and the students are always so friendly and willing to help, which is something you don't find too often at many colleges. It is them who I have to thank for making my college experience so memorable. I have had the pleasure of meeting some incredible individuals during these last five years, and I really can't imagine how different my life would have been without them. They have supported me, believed in me, and given me the strength to tackle every obstacle I'm faced with.

Despite the fact that I'm graduating, I'll never forget all of the amazing opportunities that Bryant has given me over the years. Just this past semester, I was the first recipient to ever receive the Star Award, an award that is presented to someone who best exemplifies Bryant's mission of achieving academic success and demonstrating character and leadership. It is such an honor to be recognized for all my hard work at Bryant, and I can't thank the Bryant community enough for granting me this award. As I prepare to begin a new chapter of my life, I will always remember the time I spent at Bryant University. No matter where life takes me, the people, the places, and the memories will hold a special place in my heart for all of time. I will forever be a Bulldog.

Home. Home is where loved ones embrace you every time you enter the door. Home is where you are accepted for everything you are. Home is where you learn most about who you are and who you want to be. Put simply, home is where the heart is. I am so proud to say that Bryant University has been my home for the past four years.

As I sat at home in the spring of 2009 with all of my college acceptance letters in front of me, I never in a million years expected I would be where I am today. I felt lost – I had been told many times that where I decided to go to college would be one of the biggest decisions in my life. I didn't want to mess up and pick the wrong school. I felt so much pressure; I felt so confused. But as soon as I stepped onto Bryant's campus, all those worries faded away. I was immediately overcome with relief and clarity. I can't even explain or put my finger on what exactly gave me this feeling; I just knew. After attending Ladies' Night, I went home and sent in my decision to attend Bryant. I was so excited and couldn't wait to get back to campus as soon as possible.

After my mom dragged me away from Orientation, I knew that I wanted to get involved as soon as possible. I wanted to try everything and meet everyone I possibly could within my four years. But most of all, I wanted to be an Orientation Leader. I wanted to be one of those smiling faces in the front of the room at 7 a.m. welcoming the incoming class to Bryant.

I was overwhelmed that first weekend as I walked through the rows of tables at the annual org fair. There were so many different clubs and orgs that sparked my interest. I must have written my name and email down on a dozen email lists. I didn't know exactly what I wanted to join, but I figured when the right thing came along, I would know. I applied for every opportunity that was presented to me, but sadly, I was denied from almost everything.

I remember calling my parents, so upset that I wasn't able to do the things I wanted while at Bryant. But they kept pushing me and motivating me to never give up. Finally, I received an email saying I was selected to attend the LEARN Weekend Experience. I went on the weekend with a few close friends, but I also realized this was my opportunity to open up and meet other people who didn't live on the third floor of Hall 15. Although I cannot directly say what I did on the weekend, as it is kept sacred, I can assure you that it truly changed my life.

From there, it seemed that the train was rolling. I was selected to be an Orientation Leader for the Class of 2014 and was chosen again as an OL for the Class of 2015. Being an Orientation Leader taught me first and foremost that being a leader does not mean that you are the center of attention at all times. Being a leader means putting others before yourself and ensuring that their experience is the absolute best it can be. This lesson has been extremely valuable to me as I held other leadership positions from sitting on the e-board of the Student Programming Board for two years, to being a Resident Assistant for three years, and sitting on the 2012-2013 Leadership Council, among other things. Each of these experiences has taught me something different, but they have all taught me to be confident and true to myself.

Before I leave here today, I want to take the time to thank everyone who has made my Bryant experience truly unforgettable. Thank you to every member of the Office of Campus Engagement, thank you to every member of Residence Life, and thank you to the wonderful members of Admission. Thank you to my family and friends who have never stopped supporting me through thick and thin. And finally, thank you to everyone else who has made my life at Bryant amazing, including each of my fellow 2013 classmates.

If I have learned anything from my time here at Bryant, it is to always fight for what you want and to never take any moment, person, or day for granted. That one exam won't matter in 10 years. That one meeting (hopefully) won't haunt you for the rest of your life. And that one day you decided to sleep in a little longer than usual won't absolutely kill your GPA.

It's the interactions that you'll remember for a lifetime. The people you meet here, whether they are students, faculty, or staff, will always support you. Take advantage of every opportunity given to you, for you never know what you'll learn. Never be afraid of rejection, for you'll never be worse off. Every day has a valuable lesson to offer; it's up to you whether or not to accept it. Be proud of all of your accomplishments, for even those small wins matter. Congratulations Class of 2013! I'm so honored to be a part of such an amazing class. Best of luck in everything you do – I hope the "real world" can handle all of us!





Lindsey Wilson

“Will we think about tomorrow like we think about now? Can we survive out there? Can we make it somehow? I guess I thought that this would never end, and suddenly it’s like we’re women and men.” Vitamin C, in her song Graduation [Friends Forever], somehow found a way to say it best—to put into words the feelings that we are all experiencing today. How is it that such an exciting time in our lives also happens to be one of the most scary and uncertain?

Driving onto campus just a few weeks ago the sun was shining; I looked at the globe, and absolutely could not believe that nearly four years ago I drove onto campus to move in for the first time. Of course, I had it all figured out. I had a plan. I was going to be an actuary in four short years, and I was going to take the “fast-track” with all of my courses and pass as many actuarial exams as possible before graduation. I was well on my way as I breezed through my classes freshman year, and I was elated to find out that I would be a peer-tutor in the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) beginning in Fall 2010.

In September 2010, I moved into Hall 17, which would become my new home on campus for the next two years. Sophomore year was a big year for me. I secured an actuarial internship and passed two actuarial exams. I was successfully checking off the “to-do” list of my life plan. What was not in my plan, however, was falling in love with tutoring; more specifically, falling in love with tutoring economics. This inclination to tutor economics, along with how much I enjoyed my principles courses, led me to declare a concentration in the subject. At the end of my sophomore year, I was selected as ACE’s Economics Master Peer Tutor, a position I would keep for my junior and senior year.

If sophomore year was a big year for me, junior year was even bigger. I obtained an actuarial internship for winter break and began studying for my third actuarial exam that I was supposed to take in May 2012. When I came back from winter break, while continuing my work tutoring in ACE, I began working as a research assistant with Professor Edinaldo Tebaldi. It was then and with Professor Tebaldi’s guidance and support—as a second semester junior—that my whole life plan changed. Instead of completing an actuarial exam and internship that summer, I completed a summer in Washington, D.C. working as an economics research intern at the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. This repositioned my side love for economics to the forefront of my plan. It was about this time that I made the very tough decision to give up my pursuit of becoming an actuary and began a journey that will hopefully lead me to becoming an economics professor.

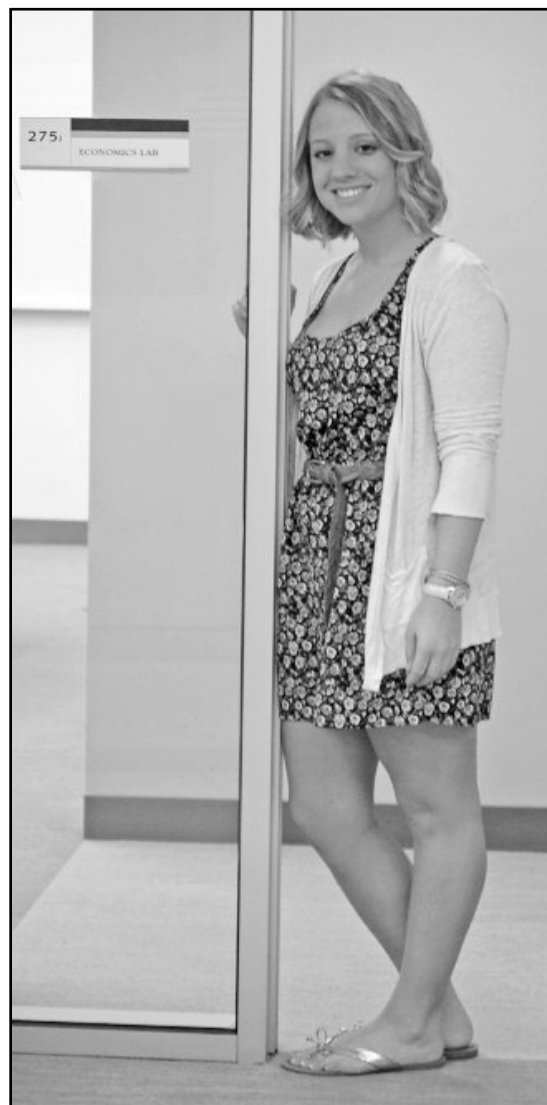
As I walk off the stage and leave campus today, I will be walking away from the place that has truly become my home. As I begin working as a full-time research assistant at Brown University and eventually enroll in graduate school, I know that there is no way I could have done it—there is no way I could be where I am today—without the support of the amazing faculty and staff here at Bryant.

I would like to thank all of the staff at ACE, and would like to take a moment to especially thank Peter Rutledge. Although Peter is no longer with us, I was fortunate enough to have worked closely with him and was able to learn so much from him. Throughout his battle Peter truly encompassed the definition of selfless; he always believed there was someone out there who had it worse than he did. I will never forget all that I learned from him, and I thank him for being such a loving, caring, devoted leader and mentor to me and so many others.

I would like to thank each and every professor that I have had here at Bryant, with special thanks to the Math and Economics Departments. Thank you for your time and dedication, and thank you for always being willing to go beyond what was expected and required of you to ensure the success of me and my peers.

I would lastly like to thank all of my friends here at Bryant—better yet, my Bryant family—for sharing so many memories over these last four years. I am especially thankful to my four best friends here who have put up with my crazy habits and schedule (especially my sleep schedule!) as we lived together the past three years. I can’t believe how much we have grown these past four years; I am so eager to see what the future has in store for us and for the rest of our peers!

Four years ago this day seemed like an eternity away. I truly thought that this would never end, but I am so thankful for all I have been given and the opportunity to learn here. I am absolutely ready for what this new world beyond school has to offer. If there is one life lesson I will take from my time at Bryant it is to always have a plan. Be ready and willing to change this plan and to take a risk, but always have a plan. Without dreams and goals you are putting years in your life, but not life in your years. Don’t ever let anybody tell you that you can’t do it—find a way to make it work and find a way to follow your dream. Good luck and congratulations Class of 2013! We did it!



Senior Service Awards

The Senior Service Award is a prestigious award presented to six deserving students from the graduating class. This award is designed to recognize those who have made a positive, lasting impact on the Bryant community through their outstanding service. A committee of peers, faculty, and staff, chaired by Student Senate representative Paden Sadler, selected this year's recipients.

Nominees were evaluated on numerous criteria, including their contributions to the overall Bryant community, their participation in student organizations, athletics, community service, campus employment, and/or academic/professional achievement, as well as any additional personal accomplishments throughout their time at Bryant.

The six seniors selected to receive this year's Senior Service Awards were among an exceptionally large, qualified pool of applicants. Each individual selected has helped to create a legacy of excellence on this campus. Each one of them exemplifies the award through their dedication and loyal service to the many committees, organizations, and projects with which they were involved. Congratulations to the 2013 Senior Service Awards recipients:

Gregory Chocheles
Raquel Cordeiro
Brian Gowen
Colin Heneghan
Racheal Pozerski
Lauren Wallace

Senior Class Flag

Bryant University extends its gratitude to the late George J. Kelley '39, '69H, Honorary Trustee Emeritus, for his generosity in providing ongoing financial support for the purchase and display of a graduating class flag.

This year's flag is dedicated to Samantha Bourque, a member of the Class of 2013 who lost her courageous battle with cancer last May. An Honors Program member, Samantha majored in Finance and minored in Sociology. A dedicated member of the Student Alumni Association, she will always be remembered for her infectious smile and love of ice cream.

The 2013 senior class flag was designed by Student Alumni Association seniors Sara Larrabee, Brittany Lischinsky, Michael Leonard, Jennifer Harding, Thomas Burke, and Stavroula Kalivas.

The Class of 2013 designed the class flag to reflect the celebration of Bryant's many traditions the class has come to know and love throughout their college experience. In the center of the flag is the 150th year logo which symbolizes this year's exciting celebration of the Sesquicentennial. The outside border of the flag depicts the brick pathways that the students walk daily, featuring special gold bricks which were chosen specifically for their impact on the shaping of the Bryant community over the past 150 years.

The senior class flag is a yearly tradition which leaves a lasting legacy for the Class for years to come. After Commencement, the 2013 class flag will join the other unique class flags designed over the years to be displayed in the Alumni Village at the Reunion @ Homecoming celebration each fall.

Senior Class Flag Committee
Student Alumni Association

Senior Class Gift

Every May, the graduating class walks under the Archway for the first time, beginning their journey into the world as Bryant Alumni. However something as equally important as what they gained throughout their time here at Bryant is what each student will be leaving behind. The legacy of each class is their echo throughout Bryant's history. It is that special something left behind that represents each club, organization, sport, memory, and friendship that was created during their Bryant career. This year's graduating class is well on its way to leaving its mark that will never be forgotten.

Each class leaves their legacy by raising funds through the Senior Class Gift Committee. The 2013 Senior Class Gift Committee plans on leaving a legacy that will not be lost in time. This group of 50 seniors who have worked tirelessly to raise upwards of \$38,000 to date and have obtained 54% class participation to date. Of course this feat has been accomplished by previous committees, but never has Bryant seen this done in such a short amount of time. By the end of the year, the senior class hopes to raise over \$50,000 and obtain more than 56% participation from the Class of 2013.

Each senior who donated to the Senior Class Gift casted a ballot for their vote on which legacy they thought would best represent our class as a whole. Selected with an almost unanimous vote, the Senior Class has chosen to leave behind The Class of 2013 Endowed Study Abroad

Scholarship. This scholarship will be awarded to a Bryant Student who has a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA, and has the financial need for study abroad.

This gift encapsulates the philanthropic spirit of this senior class. It also proves that Bryant students truly understand the value of the education and experiences they have had throughout their time at Bryant. The Class of 2013 Endowed Study Abroad Scholarship will be awarded every year from 2016 onward to one or multiple students. This gift is an amazing tribute to the efforts and generous spirit of this year's senior class.

As each member of the Class of 2013 walks under the Archway for the first time this May, let us not forget the legacy we leave on this campus. The reason each of us has had the opportunities we have had here at Bryant University is because of philanthropy from Alumni, family and friends. The Class of 2013 will soon afford students the education and experiences of a lifetime because the philanthropic spirits they themselves have shown. Thank you to the Class of 2013, you have done something truly amazing.

Kyle Dapkas, Jeanette Ferraro,
Yeawoma Johnson, and Courtney Tosone

Class of 2013 Senior Class Gift Co-Chairs



Seniors Speak Out

"My Bryant experience has been truly incredible. It has offered me the ability to exceed my highest expectations, meet individuals who have not only become my friends, but also have pushed me to become a better person, and have had the ability to learn from professors who truly care about their students. Bryant has offered me a community and I would not change it for anything."

-TJ Burke

"In my four years at Bryant, I have learned so much in the classroom and out. Not only am I prepared as I start a new job, but I am prepared to live my life as the person I have grown to be, an individual, and not what anyone else wants me to be."

-Patrick Decker

"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever. It's been a great 4 years here at Bryant! Good Luck and Best of Wishes to all of my friends and my classmates of the Class of 2013."

-Natalie Donoyan

"I have met so many great people, I have learned so much and I have made so many happy memories during my time here. I am not sure what life has in store for me but I know my four years at Bryant have helped to prepare me for whatever may come my way."

-Breanna Britto

"Being well rounded at Bryant was the best choice I made! My favorite times come from completing the Linked Through Leadership program, endless bins of laundry in the Equipment room, exploring Europe while studying abroad, continuous free fun, free food and free memories with SPB, impressive bruises from Rugby and the 2am shenanigans in the study rooms with classmates! So many good times and so many more to come! Class of 2013, "You will do great, you already are!"

-Simone Chuda

"Though my time here at Bryant wasn't always easy, I realized that I wouldn't change one thing about it. When asked why I wanted to come to Bryant before my freshmen year, I never really could give an answer besides "I just know I need to go there." I needed to come here to gain amazing new experiences, meet the people, and grow into the person that I have become. It just wouldn't have been the same anywhere else."

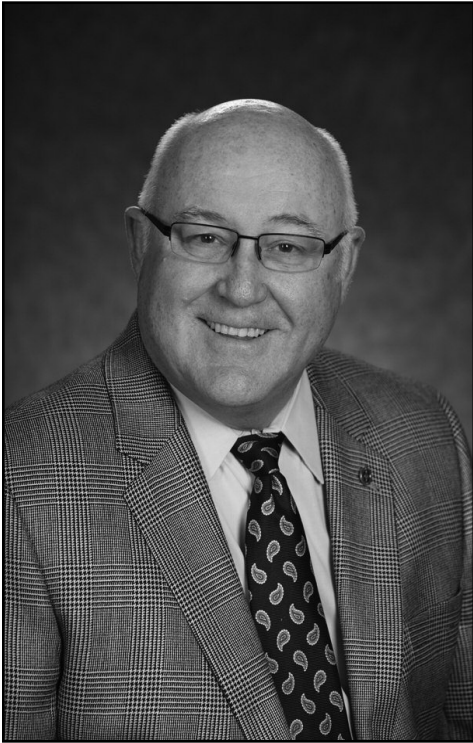
-Dana LoSasso

"Over one fifth of my life has been spent, living, learning and growing at Bryant. Today I can say that walking under the Archway is the culmination of 4 years in which I discovered the value of friendships, authenticity, hard work and mentorship. The memories may last a lifetime but the lessons will endure forever."

-Federico Roa Fuentes

From the Dean of Students

Class of
2011



Dear Graduates:

Congratulations on achieving the goal of completing your Bryant degree. It has required a huge investment of time and money and it is a real prize. You are individuals especially qualified to make a difference in your families, communities and professions.

This is also a great time to acknowledge one of the great realities of life; our best work is never ours alone. In most cases, there are others who assist us. Now is the time to say thanks and show your appreciation to all of those who have played some special role in your time here and in reaching this goal.

You came here one person and are leaving another, but you must continue to grow. Find friends and colleagues that will help and challenge you and never stop learning. The most successful people embrace each day for its opportunities. They also review their experiences for what can be learned to help them become even more effective.

As you leave, Marj and I are leaving with you. Our experience

here has been transformational for us as well. We are different because we came this way. We've learned a lot from our successes and mistakes. "I've told many students over the course of my career – that a person can make a very successful life by learning from their experiences, especially their failures."

As someone who has spent a lifetime facilitating student development, one of the great learnings has been – we often have ourselves to blame. I leave you with a closing thought drawn from a poem currently making the rounds. Our problems are often our own creations. We have ourselves to blame, therefore we need to play a big role in correcting things. Something to think about.

You have been at Bryant during an exciting time. Keep in touch. We want to know how you are doing and we want you to know what is going on here. The Alumni Association provides a means to that end through its publications, programs and events.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tom Eakin
Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students

Yourself To Blame

By Mayme White Miller

If things go bad for you
And make you a bit ashamed
Often you will find out that
You have yourself to blame

Swiftly we ran to mischief
And then the bad luck came
Why do we fault others?
We have ourselves to blame.

Whatever happens to us,
Here is what we say
"Had it not been for so-and-so
Things wouldn't have gone that way."

And if you are short of friends,
I'll tell you what to do
Make an examination,
You'll find the faults in you...

You're the captain of your ship,
So agree with the same
If you travel downward
You have yourself to blame.

