



Inside this edition



Business:
Wanna Hangout?



Page 5

Sports:

Morgan St. and Notre Dame manage Bulldogs on day two of Citrus Classic



Page 7

Opinion:

Campus vendors: A solution to Bryant's dining troubles?



Page 11

Variety:

Unique cars of Bryant University: 1987 Toyota Corolla FX-16



Page 13

RI native creates impactful global humanitarian project

By Allie Miller

Campus News Editor

Justin Bibee, a Rhode Island native now serving in the Peace Corps recently founded Global Human Rights Project (GHRP). Striving to establish global solidarity for the advancement of human rights, GHRP entices people all over the world to show their support of global human rights by sharing a photograph of themselves holding a sign that reads "Global Human Rights Project" followed by the name of their home country. Bibee started the project just one month ago and has already seen support from countries in every continent. Currently in Morocco, Justin recently chatted with The Archway to share his vision with the Bryant community.

Allie: Can you tell me about the mission of the Global Human Rights Project?

Justin: The Global Human Rights Project strives to establish global solidarity for the advancement of human rights. The two fundamental principles that underpin this initiative are universality and solidarity.

GHRP is first publishing a photography book with pictures of a person, or group of people, from every country in the world holding a GHRP sign to show their support. The book will be published into hard copies and money raised will help GHRP achieve its wider purpose and begin to implement human rights activities in every country in the world. This strategic plan will allow GHRP to expand and develop its human rights advocacy. This will also help in establishing GHRP as a viable and sustainable project.

Advocates, while passionate about their work, can be truly effective when they



Global Human Rights Project has had support from countries in every continent.

(Justin Bibee)

partner with like-minded individuals. GHRP is where, and how, we connect.

Allie: What inspired you to start the GHRP?

Justin: Peace –like war – is fought and won in the trenches. GHRP will train human rights advocates in every country in the world. Methodologies used to train and teach human rights advocates include three elements: learning about human rights, learning for human rights, and learning through human rights. In other words, people should be aware of the issues, concerned by the issues, and capable of standing up for issues. I needed a sophisticated strategy to bring together human rights advocates from every country; this photography book is that strategy.

Human rights are to be prized above all in the fight against underdevelopment. These obligations apply no matter the people, and irrespective of the location. Acts of human rights violations are criminal and unjustifiable, wherever and whenever, and by whomsoever commits them.

GHRP will become a global force of

advocates waging peace.

Allie: How were you able to connect with your global staff community?

Justin: Through social media. Many people don't know that internet access is a human right. We must use globalization in ways to serve humanity. It is important for everyone to be able to create, access, utilize, and share information and knowledge. This enables individuals and communities to achieve their full potential in promoting their sustained development and improving their quality of life.

Allie: You've received support from people in every continent, how does it feel to see your vision transcend borders?

I recognized that this vision was very ambitious. It's truly amazing to see people transcend their differences and mobilize for the promotion of human rights. The Global Human Rights Project is bringing together every race, religion, and nationality for the advancement of human rights.

See "GHRP", page 4

Senate constitution reform

By Christopher Groneng

Contributing Writer

During the February 24th Student Senate meeting, freshman Senator Joseph Rinaldi introduced a new proposal to the senate that would replace the current

Student Senate Constitution with the Constitution of the Student Government of Bryant University. Along with a presentation of the new constitution, a petition requesting the enactment of the new constitution, signed by over 100 students, was also presented

to the senate.

The process of creating this new constitution started in the fall of 2015, when Rinaldi read through the 27 pages of the current constitution and concluded that many of the senate's functions were "unclear and pathless to action." After a short, research-based presentation was made to Vice President Saddlemire by Senate President Brian Riordan, Rinaldi began writing the new constitution. He later sought the help of fellow freshmen Christopher Groneng in both writing and revising the document. Riordan also served in an advisory capacity to both Groneng and Rinaldi.

The new proposed Constitution, a more succinct eight pages, aims to make the entire university more cohesive. The students are given more access to the senators representing their class, and therefore have a more direct route to the university's administration.

Also within the proposal is the inclusion of major functioning bodies on campus to the proposed Executive

Cabinet, consisting of the presidents or chairs of the functioning bodies, as well as the Student Government Treasurer, Secretary, and Executive Vice President.

Another large change being proposed is the inclusion of a Constitutional Court, including two Student Justices and an administrator that is a part of Student Affairs. However, the most notable part of the proposal is the requirement of the university president to either confirm or deny any resolutions passed through the senate within thirty days.

Currently, Groneng and Rinaldi are increasing the signature count of the student petition, and are aiming for over half of the student body (roughly seventeen-hundred students) to sign it.

The proposal, having been introduced to the senate, will be discussed during the March 23rd meeting of the Student Senate. Voting on the proposal will be held either at the aforementioned meeting or the March 30th meeting, both of which take place at 4pm in the Heritage Room in Fisher Student Center.



Rinaldi presenting Senate Research Committee's proposal for a reform of the Student Senate Constitution. (@joepr2019)

Meet The Archway Staff

Black and Gold and Read All Over



www.BryantArchway.com



Jillian Gaudet
Organization Coordinator
jgaudet1@bryant.edu



Tim Levene
Web Editor
tlevene@bryant.edu



Allie Miller
Campus News Editor
amiller11@bryant.edu



Will Tondo
Opinion and Photography Editor
wtondo@bryant.edu



Brian Minghella
Variety Editor
bminghella@bryant.edu



Kaitlyn Graham
Sports Editor
kgraham4@bryant.edu



John Logan
Business Editor
jlogan3@bryant.edu



Molly Funk
Editor-in-Chief
mfunk@bryant.edu



Joel Moffit
Copy Editor
jmoffit2@bryant.edu



Hayley Wilcox
Copy Editor
hwilcox@bryant.edu



Anna Rodier
Copy Editor
arodier@bryant.edu



Kayla Sugrue
Copy Editor
ksugrue@bryant.edu



Ryan Harris
Copy Editor
rharris8@bryant.edu



NoraKate Doherty
Treasurer
ndoherty@bryant.edu



Shayan Ushani
Business & Marketing Director
sushani@bryant.edu

The Archway
Bryant University, Box 7
1150 Douglas Pike
Smithfield, RI 02917

Office Location:
Third Floor of Fisher Student Center

Meeting Times:
Mondays at 5:30pm in Room 3 of
Fisher Student Center

Advisor:
Susan Zarnowski

Technical Advisor:
Larry Sasso

Phone:
(401) 232-6028
(401) 232-6488
Fax:
(401) 232-6710

E-mail: archway@bryant.edu
www.bryantarchway.com

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Department of Public Safety Log

DISORDERLY (DISTURBANCE) Feb 21, 2016-Sunday at 11:05 Location: RESIDENCE HALL Summary: RDPS took a report of vandalism and disorderly conduct from a Residence Hall.	motorcycle.	(MVA) MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT Feb 25, 2016-Thursday at 16:30 Location: Faculty/Staff/ Commuter Parking Lot Summary: A staff member reports his vehicle was hit with damage to the driver's side passenger door as well as the lower molding.
LARCENY Feb 21, 2016-Sunday at 19:05 Location: Upper Class Student Parking Summary: A student reported her purse was stolen out of her vehicle that was left unlocked.	EMT CALL EMT CALL / MEDICAL SERVICES RENDERED Feb 25, 2016-Thursday at 21:50 Location: UNISTRUTURE Summary: MA staff member complained about pain in his left arm. EMS was activated. SFD Rescue responded to assist.	VANDALISM (SCHOOL BUILDING) Feb 27, 2016-Saturday at 00:18 Location: RESIDENCE HALL Summary: An RA called DPS and reported an exit sign was damaged with wires showing in a Residence hall.
LARCENY Feb 24, 2016-Wednesday at 13:57 Location: UNISTRUTURE REAR CIRCLE Summary: A report of a leather bag being stolen from a	VANDALISM (AUTO) Feb 25, 2016-Thursday at 22:46 Location: Upper Class Student/General Parking Summary: A student came into DPS to file a vandalism report. The student's reported his vehicle was keyed in lot D.	

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Editorial Correction

Dear Readers,

The article “Introducing: 2016 Senior Committee” featured in last week’s edition of The Archway shared some inaccurate information. Specifically the claim that “all money raised from the ticket sales are donated towards the Senior Class gift” is incorrect. All tickets sales from senior nights go towards lowering the cost of senior week overall and are not contribution to the Senior Class Gift. Seniors donate to the Senior Gift in addition to paying for tickets to events. The donated money is what goes towards a scholarship rather than money gained through ticket sales. The Archway would like to apologize for sharing false information.

- Allie Miller

We want to hear your voice!

By John Logan
Business Editor & Vice President of Student Senate

Do you want to serve as a bridge between the student body and administration? Do you want to help implement significant changes on campus? Do you want to help enhance the “Bryant Experience” as much as possible? If this sounds like an opportunity that interests you, the Student Senate is now accepting applications for the 2016-2017 year for both Executive Board and Legislative Body positions. The Student Senate is an elected group who represent the student body in various aspects of Bryant University. For instance, we work with administration to make changes in academic policies, enhance student life in anyway possible, oversee the formation and budgeting of clubs and organizations, and generate solutions to problems that arise throughout the year. Some examples in the past have been helping with the formation of the Fisher Student Center and creating a more efficient security system on campus – in other words, we do whatever we can to pro-actively advocate for the improvement of campus life inside and outside the classroom. Election Packets will be available on Monday, March 7th, 2016, however please contact John Logan (jlogan3@bryant.edu) for more information.

GOP candidates square off in Texas

By Evan Butler
Contributing Writer

Mr. Donald Trump, Gov. John Kasich, Sen. Ted Cruz, Sen. Marco Rubio and Dr. Ben Carson are the five remaining GOP candidates, and all took the stage in Texas last Thursday night for the final debate before Super Tuesday, where 11 states will cast their primary votes. Half of the delegates needed for the nomination are at stake. Donald Trump has won every primary and caucus except Iowa, which was won by Senator Ted Cruz. This gives Mr. Trump 82 of the 1,237 delegate votes needed for the nomination. Ted Cruz has won the second most delegate votes with 17. The debate was hosted by CNN and two smaller partners. CNN’s Wolf Blitzer was the main moderator. The first issue debated was immigration, which Mr. Trump says, “wouldn’t even be talked about if I didn’t bring it up”. Trump has been criticized for his plan to remove millions of illegal immigrants from their homes and deport them. He continues to say, “The good ones can come back.” Ted Cruz criticized that plan, calling it “amnesty”. Rubio went further, calling Trump a “flip flopper” saying he changed his position on the issue. The debate seemed to flow in that style; Trump would say something and a

Cruz-Rubio tag team would immediately attack his position. Governor Kasich weighed in saying “I would not break up families” when asked about the fates of children born in the U.S. from parents who came here illegally. The debate then swung to the importance of the Hispanic vote. A moderator representing Spanish broadcasting company, Telemundo, said “Mr. Trump, our polls show 65 percent of Hispanic voters dislike you”. In response, Trump said that is false and he has “not only won all but one primary, but won the Hispanic vote in those elections”. While on the lengthy topic of healthcare reform, Trump said “privatizing health care will create economic competition, and that market competition will benefit the American people.” The debate then changed gears and focused on Donald Trump’s tax returns. He had been criticized for not releasing his tax returns. Trump defended himself saying, “I am in the middle of an audit from the IRS. I have been audited for the past 12 years. It would be unwise to release my tax returns before the audit is cleared up”. Dr. Ben Carson added, “The IRS is not honest and we need to get rid of it.” When the subject switched to national security and defense, tensions ran high. Wolf Blitzer was constantly breaking up screaming matches between Trump,

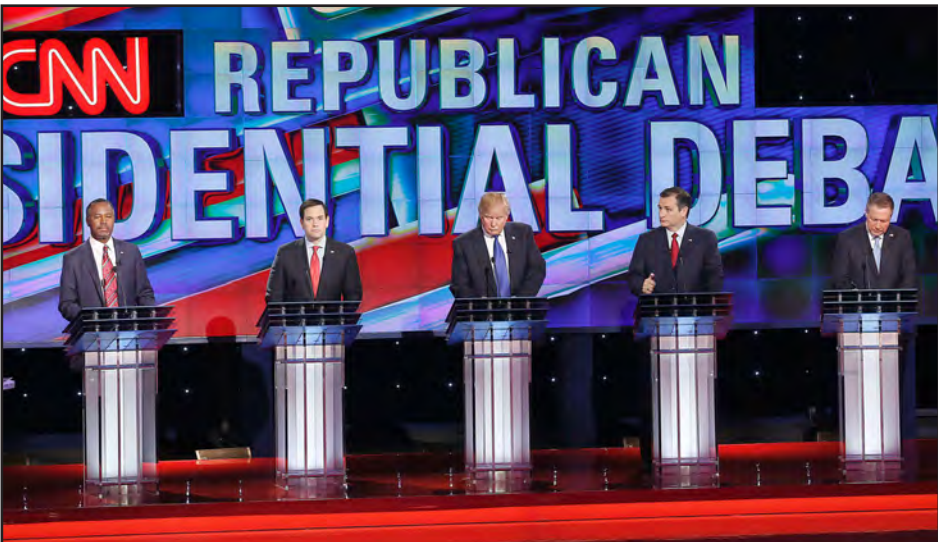


Photo of the five remaining candidates onstage for the CNN debate. (Getty)

Rubio, and Cruz. Dr. Ben Carson interrupted and said “I wish someone would attack me.” He made comments like that and others, suggesting that he did not get a fair amount of speaking time. When he was asked a question, the first thing he would say would be, “Thank you for the question.” In a post-debate interview with CNN’s Anderson Cooper, Trump said, “It was not fair to Ben” in regards to his lack of opportunities to speak.

Cooper also said it was a “very fiery debate.” It seemed as though most of the debate was Trump oriented and after several questions in a row, Trump said to Wolf Blitzer, “Aren’t you going to ask anybody else but me a question?” This debate went in a different direction than the previous ones. It is uncertain who will come out victorious on Super Tuesday. The only thing certain is Donald Trump has dominated the polls up to this point, and he shows no sign of slowing down.

Celebrate Bryant’s HERstory month

By Catherine Benetti
Contributing Writer

The month of March celebrates women throughout history who have made important contributions and have impacted our society. These individuals range from colonial women who questioned their government and authority, up to modern day women who seek out social injustices and take action in order to put them to an end. As we are inspired by these women, Bryant University and the Hochberg Women’s Center would like to announce the events that will be running throughout the month of March for all community members to come learn and engage themselves in understanding women’s accomplishments and struggles, as well as the importance of gender equity. To kick off HerStory Month, we are very excited to invite Speak Like a Girl, a feminist spoken word poetry duo, to campus. Co-founders and creative developers Megan Falley and Olivia Gatwood use this interactive show to educate their audiences about gender inequity. The duo’s performances invoke a lot of emotions and reactions from the audience including laughter, tears, and, most importantly, the motivation needed to rally for change against gender inequity. Some of the topics of the show enacted through poetry, performance, and dialogue include sexual assault, abusive relationships, and body image. This event will be taking place on Thursday, March 3rd, from 7:00-8:00pm in Papitto in the Fisher Student Center. The next series of events is “Telling HerStory.” Bryant University is the academic and professional home of many extraordinary women: faculty, staff, and students, who have captivating stories to share with our community. “Telling HerStory” is a forum for women to

share aspects of their personal journeys, while relating them to the themes of gender identity, power, and privilege. There will be two “Telling HerStory” programs during the month of March. On Monday March 7th, Dr. Mailee Kue, Executive Director of the PwC Center for Diversity and Inclusion will share from 12:00-1:00pm in room 2B. Next, Dr. Nanci Weinberger, Professor of Psychology, will tell HerStory on Monday the 28th from 12:00-1:00pm in room 2B in the Fisher Student Center. Please feel to bring and enjoy your lunches during this program. On Thursday, March 10th at 4:00pm in room 2B, we will be screening the movie documentary “Bhutto,” which follows the life of Pakistani Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto. Bhutto stands out as a genuine leader, as well as the first woman leader to become head of the government of a Muslim nation. Tragically, Bhutto was assassinated in 2007, causing chaos throughout her nation’s political system. Bhutto’s story is one of empowerment and inspiration. Please join the PwC CDI and Hochberg Women’s Center as well as their co-sponsors, MSU and ISO as they screen this important documentary. After Spring break, the PwC Center for Diversity and Inclusion, along with the Hochberg Women’s Center, will be hosting the 21st annual HerStory Awards Dinner. This night honors those individuals on campus who have demonstrated an immense concern for the importance of making the Bryant community more equitable for individuals of all genders as we especially celebrate women-identified members of the Bryant community. Several awards will be presented as this event. The HerStory Award recognizes women-identified students who have shown commitment to the community through their commitment to gender issues, community activism on and off campus, and their motivation to increase

awareness of women’s’ issues through their involvement on campus. The WGSS Scholar Award, nominated by WGSS faculty, honors a student who has particularly excelled in their studies of women, gender, and sexuality. Lastly, the Toby Award honors a faculty or staff member who has promoted gender equity and empowerment on campus. If you know of an individual you would like to nominate, please send your nominations to wcenter@bryant.edu by Tuesday, March 8th. Do you enjoy playing Bingo? Would you like a chance to win awesome prizes, such as Dunkin and Subway gift cards? Come to the Women’s History Bingo night on Friday, March 25th, from 7:00-8:00pm at the Fisher Student Center Fireside Lounge! This is a fun opportunity to test your knowledge regarding women’s history in a competitive atmosphere. Come see how much you know or may think you know, and learn about women throughout history who may just inspire you to take action. Last, but certainly not least, the PwC CDI and Pride Center will be highlighting the National Transgender Day of Visibility on March 31st. Please visit our table in the FSC Lounge. You’ll find an interactive activity that will highlight transgender lives, as well as refreshments. Additionally, the Pride Center will be unveiling its Trans* 101 Safe Zone at 10am on the 31st. If you have already participated in the Safe Zone workshop, please join us as we further our knowledge of the transgender experience and learn ways in which we can serve as better allies or advocates to individuals of the transgender experience. If you have any questions about HerStory Month and its events, please stop by the Hochberg Women’s Center on the second floor of the Fisher Student Center, or email us at wcenter@bryant.edu.

Univision takes control of The Onion

By Nicola DiFusco
Contributing Writer

As state primaries for the 2016 Presidential election begin to heat up, voters have their eyes glued to news media to keep up with the race. Besides getting their news from traditional outlets, voters turn to social media to discuss issues and comment on this unique race. The Onion, a leading satirical news website, has missed no opportunity to craft comedic pieces from this election cycle’s top stories.

Unfortunately, Univision Communication’s recent acquisition of The Onion has not been fun and games for some critics. Many have made claims that Univision, the world’s leading Spanish broadcast network, according to Nielsen Media Research, has caused The Onion’s content to sway in favor of Hillary Clinton, one of the Democratic Party’s presidential hopefuls.

Such claims are rooted in the support shown for the Clinton campaign by Univision’s co-owner and chairman Haim Saban. Saban is a longtime supporter of Secretary Clinton, and the Democratic Party. In fact, the Washington Post reports that Saban has donated \$12,417,900 to the Clinton Foundation, and \$2,531,783 to Hillary Clinton’s 2016 campaign, according to OpenSecrets.org. This donation places the Saban Capital Group as Clinton’s fourth highest contributor.

Univision stated that their 41 percent investment in The Onion’s stock was an

effort to broaden their reach in English speaking publications. This acquisition allows for Univision to have control over many aspects of The Onion, including their website, their pop culture blog The A.V. Club, and their satirical social media sister Clickhole, along with multiple other projects. Univision now has the opportunity to purchase the company entirely.

NPR reports that the purchase functions to broaden Univision’s appeal towards millennials. The need to appeal to a younger generation is attributed to an aging population of Spanish speakers. Because many with Spanish speaking parents and grandparents are being born in the United States, they are growing up speaking English. Therefore, Univision must appeal towards young, English speaking Latinos in order to sustain their success.

After Univision acquired the controlling stake in The Onion, eyebrows were raised after an article titled “Female Presidential Candidate Who Was United States Senator, Secretary Of State Told to Be More Inspiring” was published on February 16th. This article functioned to mock young voters who question Clinton’s qualifications and achievements. Bob Cesca, of The Daily Banter, notes that this article is a sharp contrast from The Onion’s previous Clinton articles, which include such titles as “Clinton Aide Told to Leave Behind Weak Volunteer Who Collapsed During March to South Carolina” (Feb. 12th), “Clinton Ominously Tells Iowan Supporters to Mark Front Doors With



Hillary Clinton wins big in South Carolina on February 27. (Gerald Herbert)

Campaign Logo Before Sundown” (Jan. 31st) and “Retreating Clinton Campaign Torches Iowa Town to Slow Advance Of Sanders Volunteers” (Jan. 29th). These three articles paint a negative portrait of Clinton and her campaign, unlike the February 16th article.

Concerns about the possible bias of Univision were first addressed by Jon Schwarz, in his article “Ha Ha: Hillary Clinton’s Top Financial Supporter Now Controls ‘The Onion,’” featured on The Intercept. Schwartz addresses Saban’s financial contributions, clearly the most obvious red flag, but he also discusses a 2010 New Yorker profile of Haim Saban, titled “The Influencer: An entertainment mogul sets his sights on foreign policy.” Within this article, Saban’s 2009 comments of how to influence American politics are recounted; Saban highlights the importance of political donations, the

creation of think tanks, and lastly media influence. Saban has already completed two of these three tasks: donating to the Clinton family, and founding the Saban Center for Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institution in 2002. One would be led to believe that the control Saban holds over Univision, and its growing scope, is the third piece in the Saban political trifecta.

Furthermore, Saban’s loyalty to Clinton is unquestionable: in a 2014 Bloomberg TV interview Saban made clear that he would contribute as much as needed to put Clinton in the White House, calling her “pristine plus.” Voters are now left to wonder if Univision’s takeover of The Onion is one of Saban’s latest tactics in contributing to Hillary Clinton’s campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination.

GHRP (Continued from pg. 1)

Allie: What has been your favorite connection so far?
Justin: The photo from Syria really struck me when I received it. Everyone is well aware of the gross human rights violations that are happening there on a daily basis. Receiving that photo was somewhat emotional for me. It was one of those sincere moments where you stop and think.

Morocco stood out to me as well. I have been living and working in Morocco for the past two years as a Peace Corps volunteer and to see them participate in this project was that much more meaningful. Colombia deserves special recognition because it was the first country to participate in the Global Human Rights Project. And, of course, the United States.

But they are all, of course, equally meaningful. Every country’s participation is equally paramount in helping to make GHRP a success.

Allie: How can the students of Bryant join the GHRP?

Justin: There are many ways students – and staff (laughs) – of Bryant can join GHRP. The biggest contribution that one can make is sending us a photo holding a GHRP sign in support. They can visit our website to check if their country is not yet filled. If not, we encourage them to send in a photo. Their photo will be published on our social media pages, website, and in the final photography book – along with their name. If their country is filled, they can search countries of friends or family and encourage them to send in a photo.

One can also become a Global Regional Leader (GRL) or a Sub-Regional Leader (SRL). You can find a complete job description on our website and see our vacant positions. But in short, GRLs and SRLs will help in reaching out to countries not yet filled to help collect photos. GRLs and SRLs will also have their name published on our website and in the final photography book. All participants will receive a certificate from the Global Human Rights Project for their participation.

GHRP participants join a global community of human rights advocates. We will stay together and stay committed to advocating for human rights. Each GHRP member has the discretion to implement any project they want in their community as long as it addresses a human right - from teaching a class, hosting a training, or cleaning up their community. Even simple advocacy such as blog writing or social media posting is instrumental toward the advancement of human rights. Raising awareness is the most simple, yet most important step in making any kind of change.

When GHRP expands and develops its human rights advocacy, we will turn to Bryant first.

Bryant Model UN

By Brett Paley
Contributing Writer

I received a note from the delegation of Uzbekistan and it read as follows, “We’ve done it, we have the majority vote, good job everyone, we couldn’t have done it without your help.” I looked over to see my Uzbekistan teammate smiling in my direction, and the room was completely silent while the judges discussed the vote count in private. Then, the chairs announced that the resolution paper had passed, and cacophony thundered throughout the room around me. Students shook each other’s hands and smiled as if they just saved the planet. They paced around the room exchanging hugs and positive remarks and a wave of relief, accomplishment, and closure was shared between the delegates from around the globe.

Model United Nations is a network of college students from across the globe who compete in debate conferences with topics that are actually discussed at the United Nations. Students become delegates who are assigned to a specific country in a specific time period, in a specific committee in the United Nations and engage in substantive debate over topics of international relations. Conferences are sponsored by various colleges across the globe and usually take place in an elegant hotel or college campus. Bryant University has a Model United Nations Team, and their most recent conference was the Harvard National Model United Nations conference held at the Park Plaza Hotel in Boston. The conference I was in was a futuristic committee called the Futuristic Shanghai Cooperation Organization. The date of the topics at hand took place in 2025 and delegates in my committee were put to the task of planning future economic development plans along the ancient silk roads in Asia. The second topic of the debate was how to tackle cyber terrorism and the role of government intervention in internet affairs.

I was extremely excited to be in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization committee, because I had studied abroad in Shanghai, China last semester and was able to bring all of my experiences and lessons learned into an academic context. In addition to the debate sessions, there are opening ceremonies that feature speakers from the United Nations. This year at the Harvard Conference, the UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon sent a message to address the delegates of 2016, and his remarks were portrayed on the screen over the conference stage.

Although debate and international diplomacy are the focus of the conference, there are also several social

events that give delegates ample opportunity to get to talk outside of the debate chamber. At the most recent conference, there was a cocktail and international bazaar event featuring a jazz ensemble where delegates made booths representing the countries they came from. Any attendee had the opportunity to meet people with similar interests from nearly every corner of the planet. There was also a Club Night which was held at Guilt Nightclub in Boston and a delegate dance held at the Park Plaza Hotel.

I attended the delegate dance, and it was quite the spectacle watching college kids from all different backgrounds diffuse into a massive crowd of dresses and collared shirts uniting after three intensive days of highly competitive debate. Delegates worked long after the debate was ended for the day as the hallways of the hotel filled with people and laptops all working to write resolution papers for their committee. There was a large cultural exchange in the debate chamber as delegates were divided into teams of students from colleges like UChicago, Beijing Normal University, University College Dublin, and for only the last two years, Bryant. The team at Bryant is still in its infancy and needs new members to join and build a team of debaters. If you enjoy meeting people from over 70 countries and over 150 universities and engaging in meaningful debate on topics that are going to influence the world, you probably should look into Model UN. Not only does it help students develop their presentation and public speaking skills, but it also is a great way to learn about so many different topics you would not ordinarily learn in class.

There is an upcoming conference in April that will be held at Northeastern and the focus will be on the Middle East and global affairs in that region. Next semester, and as early as the end of this summer, plans will be put into place for the 2017 Harvard National Model United Nations Conference. Meetings are held on Monday at 4pm in the Fisher Student Center on the second floor, and all are welcome to attend our meeting and learn about the opportunity of joining the team.

International Diplomacy isn’t between countries, it’s between people, and, in its own way, Collegiate Model UN is a microcosm of the world’s recruiting pool for jobs in International Relations. Anyone with an interest in global affairs and global economic development should consider joining the team and start engaging in powerful discussions with a diverse, multidisciplinary, and outspoken community of debaters.

Bryant student launches new charging chair on Kickstarter

By Tim Levene
Web Editor

Nick O'Hara is a Bryant University student who has invented the Charging Chair. Essentially it is a beach chair that can charge your smartphone or any electronic device that is powered by USB. The chair is powered by a lithium-polymer battery and is able to charge your smartphone an extra 120 percent. So instead of your phone lasting about 8 hours, it can now last over 18 hours! You can now make your phone calls, text your friends, and take all the selfies you desire. Maybe you're listening to some music at the beach and your speaker dies. Or maybe you're keeping track of your health and your FitBit dies. Well now you can keep the party going and maintain that healthy lifestyle because you're devices will be charged all day long!

The Charging Chair comes with two USB outlets to charge multiple devices at the same time. In addition to charging electronic devices, the chair has a built in storage area to hold towels, clothes, magazines, books, tablets etc. You might be asking what else does this chair come with. The Charging Chair also comes with a phone sleeve that prevents your phone from heating up, backpack straps for easy carrying, and a cup holder to keep your cold drinks at arms distance.

Nick got the idea for the Charging Chair during this past summer when his sister complained to him that her phone was always dying at the beach. After thinking about how he could solve her problem, Nick conducted a survey to find out if other people were having this same problem. Sure enough, lots of people use their phone at the beach and Nick knew he was onto something. Several sketches later, he was ready to create a prototype. In order to do this, Nick found an industrial designer to build his prototype and used competitions at Bryant to get funding. In the fall Nick took second place in the New Venture Competition which earned him \$2,000. He also was awarded the Jackson W. Goss Prize in Entrepreneurship for \$750. Using this money, Nick was able to create a prototype and is now launching the product on Kickstarter hoping to raise \$50,000.

Recently Nick has been featured in two local newspapers and is going to appear on WPRI's Executive Suite where he will be interviewed. Alongside all the press, Nick is using social media to promote his chairs and is hoping to get past his \$50,000 goal to begin production of the first units. The Kickstarter campaign started on March 1st and the early bird special can get you a Charging Chair for only \$40. If you are interested in supporting Nick and buying your very own Charging Chair, you can go to Kickstarter.com, search "Charging Chair", and purchase one there.



Wanna Hangout?

By Tyler Goldstein
Contributing Writer

Have you ever visited a new area and wanted to experience fun activities? Well if you have, download HangOut on your phone. I sat down with Bob Foster, a sophomore Marketing and Management double major, about his experience in starting up a service company.

It all started in the school year of 2013-2014 as Bob and three friends came up with the idea to create an app. Bob and his friends were tired of never having any plans, as they always wanted to be active like most high schools kids are. The solution to their problem developed into a creation of an app, known as HangOut.

The app was launched in July of 2014 and has been growing ever since. Once the app is downloaded, a person can create an account through facebook or via email and explore destinations and events happening within their area. One can create or explore events through HangOut including cliff jumping, bars/clubs, fairs, etc. HangOut is not limited to certain events, anybody can post up information about anything! It's a huge and upcoming network for activities.

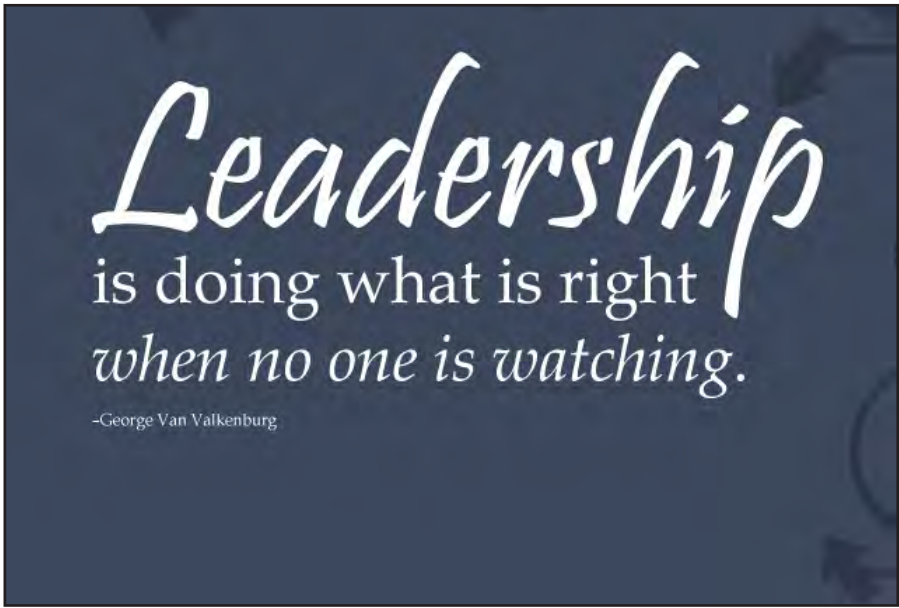
Let's say you and your family are going on a vacation to Lake George for the summer. You are new to the area and are going to be vacationing there for two weeks. One day you wake up and want to go cliff jumping nearby, but you don't know where to go. So you open up a HangOut on your phone, and search for nearby events involving cliff jumping. All

the sudden, you come across a cliff a few miles up the lake and there are a group of kids your age who will be there at 1:00pm. You think to yourself, "What a great opportunity!" Not only do you now know where there is a cliff to go to, but you have people to meet and go with. HangOut is a great way for people to be active.

Bob told me a lot about the pathway in growing a business. It all started out as an idea, and then that idea turned into a dream. Bob and his friends went through several months of contacting developers for the creation, implementation, and development of their app, but they couldn't find anyone. It was frustrating for him and his friends at first, but after a few months they were able to find a developer who helped the app launch in the summer of 2014.

HangOut has grown and developed rapidly since it was first launched. There are currently 2,436 active users. The app has already gone through an update that has improved filters and made it possible for people to upload pictures for everybody to see about a certain event. HangOut, the past year, has reached out to a lot of colleges because their target market for people who would use HangOut include active teenagers and young adults.

All in all, Bob and his team have put a lot of time and effort into promoting HangOut. The app can be downloaded in the app store for iPhone users, and you can visit www.officialhangout.co for more information on this upcoming business. You can also follow @officialhangout on Instagram to see what they're all about.



The Biz Update with Shayan

By Shayan Ushani
Business and Marketing Director

Eyes are on all data pouring out of the world’s largest economies for this New Year’s market direction. Japan manufacturing was up, which is a result of their greater exports due to a devalued currency, but retail sales fell. Despite retail sales being shaky there are certain stocks that are shining. JCPenny jumped over 14 percent last week after higher revenue projections. Macy’s has also recently announced a \$1.5 billion share buyback program. Not all have been lucky with some other competitors getting hit, such as Coach.

Energy is more or less flat with a better future up ahead especially if OPEC countries collaborate in doing something about the prices. Oil is currently \$32 close to \$44. Gold is in the low \$1,200s still much higher than platinum after a recent drop. Agriculturals have been mostly falling such as corn and cocoa.

Warren Buffett set the tone for this week’s market after his annual letter to shareholders. In it we got to see from one of the world’s greatest investor’s perspective. He believed with all the talk that America’s economy is not doing well and that the Millennials may be the first to have it worse economically speaking than the previous generation.

Valeant made news announcing their CEO is returning effective immediately. Michael Pearson had medical leave but will come to restore order to his volatile stock. Bill Ackman has avidly stuck by Valeant Pharmaceuticals so this is good news to the hedge fund investor, who has not been getting his way with Herbalife.

Apple has arguably made the biggest news by fighting with the FBI lately. The FBI has publicly requested that the technology company create a backdoor for all phones of a certain model to be made to access the device’s files. Tim Cook stated that he would not and recently added that Apple will fight this, “all the way to the Supreme Court.” Donald Trump added on to this by calling for a boycott, politics aside. If Apple gains negative PR from this case it could be heavy. Apple recently also lost a \$125 million settlement in a patent lawsuit from Samsung. Tim Cook has a heavy agenda ahead of him with a secret driverless car program, questionable growth from China, possible negative PR, and being a pioneer in VR against competitors.

Coming up we expect to see Durable Goods Orders, Jobless Claims, and GDP. Meeting expectations or any serious fluctuation under/over expectations will have a high magnitude effect on the markets – domestic and abroad.



Can small experiments turn around J.C. Penney?

By Michael Roberto
Management Professor

The failures of J.C. Penney have been well-documented, particularly with regard to Ron Johnson’s rocky tenure at the retailer. Johnson embarked on a sweeping change initiative that failed miserably. He tried to hit a grand slam, making substantial changes in strategy, marketing, and merchandising all during his first few months on the job. He did not take the time to test many of his new ideas before rolling them out nationwide. The failures led to his ouster less than two years after taking the helm.

Now Marvin Ellison, a former Home Depot executive, is trying to turn things around. While sales are moving in the right direction, the profit picture is still not sound. Still, I think it’s interesting to note that Ellison is focusing on small experiments as a means of innovating and changing the retailer. Here’s an excerpt from a lengthy story in Fortune on the Ellison approach:

Question: If you wanted to buy a pair of men’s shoes at a department store, would you look for them next to (a) Men’s Clothing, or (b) Women’s Footwear? Most shoppers would probably answer “a.” But at J.C. Penney, the 114-year-old retailing mainstay, the answer until very recently was “b.” Women make up about 80 percent of Penney’s clientele, and Penney managers believed that, generally speaking, those women were likely to buy shoes for their spouses and beaux, just as they did during the Kennedy administration. “It was a terrible idea,” says Marvin Ellison, shaking his head as he walks a reporter through a Penney store in Frisco, Texas. “It took space away from women’s shoes, and it made it very difficult for men to want to buy shoes.”

Ellison, Penney’s newly minted 51-year-old CEO, had a better idea. He ran a test to see whether men’s shoes would sell faster when showcased next to, say, men’s suits; once the data showed that they did, he instituted that change last summer across the company’s 1,000-plus stores. Since entrusting guys to buy their own brogues and boots, Penney has seen double-digit sales gains in footwear. “That reset has been one of the smartest things we’ve done,” says Ellison. This Frisco store, not far from company headquarters in Plano, north of Dallas, serves as Penney’s retail living lab, and as he continues the tour, Ellison proudly points out similar changes. Fashion jewelry now sits closer to its Liz Claiborne apparel brand, so women can try on accessories to go with a dress they might buy. The decor has been gussied up at the store’s traffic-driving in-house salons....As the adage goes, “Retail is detail.” And if the details Ellison is addressing seem forehead-slap obvious, signs of how far J.C. Penney had fallen behind its rivals—well, welcome to his world.

Could Whole Foods get stuck in the middle?

By Michael Roberto
Management Professor

Companies pursuing a differentiation strategy often face a serious challenge when low-cost competitors begin to infringe on their turf. Some customers may opt for lower-priced options. As growth slows for the differentiated player, it may try to boost profits by cutting costs. If it goes too far though, the differentiated player may further erode willingness-to-pay on the part of some customers. The company may get caught “stuck in the middle” at some point, no longer clearly as premium and differentiated as it once was, but clearly with higher costs and prices than the most efficient low-cost and low-priced rivals.

Whole Foods faces this conundrum today, as reported this week by the Wall Street Journal. The company faces slowing growth, in part because low-cost rivals such as Kroger have expanded their organic food offerings, while offering consumers much lower prices. Whole Foods has responded by announcing a plan to “save about \$300 million a year by September 2017, partly by eliminating more than 2,000 jobs.” That plan involves centralizing some key tasks and streamlining processes to generate more efficiency. Whole Foods Co-CEO John Mackey understands the risks. He said, “We want to evolve the structure in such a way that we take out redundancy and waste, and at the same time though, we’re not diminishing the culture, the empowerment efforts that make Whole Foods Market special.”

The Wall Street Journal article goes on to explain, “Transferring more authority to headquarters and automating more tasks risks harming Whole Foods’ customer-friendly reputation and turning off shoppers who place a high value on local products, such as blueberries and hometown pasta sauces, and niche items, said Jim Hertel, senior vice president at retail consulting firm Willard Bishop, a unit of Inmar Inc.”

Whole Foods clearly still has a solid position as one of the premium players in the supermarket industry. However, the warning signs are there. They must be careful about compromising their well-crafted and highly successful competitive positioning, as they cope with lower growth rates.



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End of season focus on women’s hoop basketball star senior, Breanna Rucker

By Laura Hayes
Contributing Writer

Breanna Rucker is hungry; not just for food but for success. As a senior and a starting forward on the women’s basketball team she has a long list of accomplishments behind her. This biology major is not only a dean’s list recipient and a student athlete, but she’s also last year’s recipient of the North East Conference player of the year award. In addition she has scored 1,339 career points. Her most recent accomplishment was her 1,000th rebound, which she earned Monday February 22nd against Sacred Heart; as of February 28th she has 1,016 total career rebounds. Breanna grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio but was born and raised in Phoenix Arizona. Breanna says she’s lucky because she has two places to call home.

I sat down with Rucker last week to discuss her past four years here at Bryant, and what might be ahead for her basketball career. After graduation, Rucker’s “plan A” is to play basketball professionally either for the WNBA or overseas. She comments, “I was invited to play in the combine during Final Four week, which is a selection of the best seniors across the country. It allows us to showcase our skills in front of WNBA coaches, managers of teams, agents, and European coaches. It’s where players get their start.”

This is a huge accomplishment for Rucker and it’s exciting to see just how far she’ll go. Ever since she was little her dream was to play for Spain in Barcelona, and she even speaks a little Spanish. Her second choice is Italy. Her “plan B” is to use her degree in biology to become a registered nurse, which is not a bad option either.

As a female athlete who is on her way to becoming a professional, I thought she would have insight and a valid opinion on females in professional sports. Regarding women’s professional basketball she remarked, “There isn’t much advertising, not a lot of money goes into female sports. When you don’t advertise you don’t bring as much money in so it’s not cost effective. I don’t feel they try the same way with female sports as they do with

male sports to grab people’s attention. The people who follow women’s basketball are people who genuinely love the sport already.”

As a Bryant student athlete her perspective is spot on. The sports industry is a business and they do need to meet a bottom line. Not investing in large scale advertising results in only the dedicated fans becoming true followers. This is why most female professional athletes look overseas to continue playing after college.



Senior Breanna Rucker is looking to continuing playing basketball after her college experience comes to an end (author of article)

Rucker continued on the topic of professional basketball by adding, “Men’s basketball is a very different game than women’s basketball. In men’s basketball the more advanced you get the less it becomes a team game. Whereas in women’s basketball, the more advanced you get it becomes more of a team game.” Even when playing the same game, professional basketball becomes

a different sport for men and women. Watching the NBA or even a college game, the difference between the ways the game is played is evident.

As a senior athlete, I asked Rucker to reflect back on her past years to think of any advice that she has for freshman athletes to become successful both academically and athletically. Her best advice for freshmen is to “figure out time management. You might have to eat during class. That [time management] was the one thing I struggled with freshman year so if you can figure that out, life will be easy. Also, do not let basketball or school completely consume your life, find a balance. You can still do both and be a normal college student and experience those things. Being able to balance everything allowed me to focus a little bit more on basketball and helped me to prioritize things.”

As a junior I cannot attest to this more. Even for a non-athlete, learning time management skills is vital to success at college. It doesn’t matter if a student decides to join five clubs or plays intramural sports, or even works a part time job. Good time management skills can make anyone successful. Bryant has a support system in place to help students succeed and the Academic Center for Excellence has professionals that are able to help students build this skill.

My favorite part of the interview was Rucker’s response when I asked her what her favorite thing is about Bryant. She gave me an answer from a perspective that as a non-athlete I don’t experience. She said, “There’s a separation between student athletes and students but at the same time we interact so much. There are times when you can see the line being drawn, but in a big crowd of kids you wouldn’t be able to tell who’s an athlete and who’s not. We all support each other no matter what, and I absolutely love that.”

Something she brought up that never crossed my mind was that because we are DI, but a small school, so many barriers are broken down. At a larger school, DI athletes have more stardom among non-athletes, almost like they are raised on a pedestal, but at Bryant we interact daily. This is something Rucker loves about Bryant.

Morgan St. and Notre Dame manage Bulldogs on day two of Citrus Classic

By Bryant Athletic Department

The Bryant University softball team saw tough competition on day two of the Citrus Classic, falling to Morgan State, 6-2, and No. 23 Notre Dame, 7-0.

Game One

In the first contest of day two at the Citrus Classic, the Bulldogs (0-4) held the Bears (1-4) scoreless through the first three innings. The top of the fourth saw a dramatic score change, as the Bears came out swinging, taking a commanding 6-0 lead.

Morgan State would hold onto its six-run advantage, until the bottom of the six, when the Bulldogs got on the board. With two runners on, freshman Jessica Gradillas (Nogales, Ariz.) doubled down the left field line, plating classmate Kaleigh Goulart (Marion, Mass.) and sophomore Rachel Monroe (Southwick, Mass.) for the two run score, 6-2.

The Bears managed to hold the Bulldogs to just two runs, keeping Bryant scoreless in the final inning and taking the 6-2 victory.

Game Two

Heading straight into their next game, the Bulldogs faced No. 23 Notre Dame, falling, 7-0, to the Fighting Irish (11-3). Notre Dame took an early 2-0 lead in the top of the first as Karley Wester singled to Hayley Bottino (Canyon Country, Calif.) on the mound on a 2-1 count, before stealing second and advancing to third off a single from Ali Wester. Brooks doubled to right center, plating Karley Wester for the 1-0 advantage. The Bulldogs got themselves out of the inning, catching a base runner stealing and a ground out to first and second.

Both teams saw a scoreless second, as both defenses combined for only one hit. The

third saw action from the Fighting Irish, as they scored another three runs to push the margin to five, 5-0. Micaela Arizmendi doubled to left center to send Ali Wester home, before she scored herself off a double into left center by Melissa Rochford. With a runner on third, Reed singled to second base, plating Rochford for the 5-0 Notre Dame lead. With three runs scored and only one out, freshman Colby Norris (Toano, Va.) came in to relieve Bottino, striking out the first batter swinging she faced, before a Carly Piccinich ground out to third got the Bulldogs out of the inning.

Norris continued to help the Bryant defense, striking out Arizmendi swinging to get the Bulldogs out of the fourth unscathed. The Fighting Irish scored their next two runs in the top of the sixth. With one out and runners on second and third, Ali Wester flied out to left field, plating Sullivan and advancing Piccinich to third. Brooks was up to bat next, singling up the middle, sending Piccinich in for the score. Arizmendi flied out to left field to end the top of the sixth.

The Fighting Irish held the Bulldogs scoreless in the final innings, sealing the 7-0 victory. Katie Beriont pitched all seven innings for Notre Dame, letting up only one hit by senior Elle Madsen (Wheat Ridge, Colo.). Bottino got the start on the mound, giving up nine hits and five runs. Norris checked in for the final 4.2 innings, allowing four hits and two runs, while recording four strikeouts.

The Bulldogs finish out their five-game series at the Citrus Classic against Syracuse, tomorrow at 10 a.m

Interested in writing about Bryant Sports? Join The Archway!
Meetings 5:30 in Fisher every Monday!

Bryant Baseball gets a special opportunity with the Tony Gwynn

By Cole Fabio
Contributing Writer

Tony Gwynn is a hometown hero in the city of San Diego. Born in Los Angeles, California, he was a two sport superstar who played baseball and basketball at San Diego State University. He then continued his legacy, playing for the San Diego Padres for 20 seasons and landing himself in the baseball Hall of Fame. He later returned to San Diego State University as the head baseball coach for nine seasons before he passed away in 2014 due to salivary gland cancer. He is remembered as a hero to young baseball players throughout California.

The Bryant baseball team was given a special opportunity to partake in the first ever Tony Gwynn Classic out in San Diego. Being a team from the Northeast, the opportunity to compete in this superior tournament against some of the best baseball teams in the country gives Bryant baseball a chance to reach

national publicity. With the odds against our favor, a couple wins in California were very important for our program and the university. When arriving as the underdog we had everything to play for and nothing to lose. Our team took this as an opportunity to show the country that even Northeast teams coming from snow bound fields in Rhode Island can win at any level. We were challenged with an opening game against the host team San Diego State University, in which we dominated all nine innings, landing ourselves in the semi-finals. A tough loss on Saturday against the University of Santa Barbara, a top 25 team, knocked us out of the championship race; however consolation games still gave Bryant baseball the opportunity to shine on Sunday.

After having been out in San Diego for four days, I can say it has been a humbling, early test of our team, but once again the opportunity is what is truly important. The chance to play in a tournament that remembers a legend in the game of baseball is a foundational



Tony Gwynn coached for nine years before passing away from cancer

experience that myself and my team will never forget, and will always be thankful for.

This Week's Scores

Men's Basketball - Game February 27th
Bryant (5-13) 88
LIU Brooklyn (9-9) 83

Women's Basketball - Game February 29th
Bryant (14-4) 74
Fairleigh Dickinson (8-10) 52

Men's Lacrosse - Game February 27th
Bryant (3-1) 16
Hartford (1-1) 11

Women's Lacrosse - Game February 28th
Bryant (2-2) 4
Stony Brook (1-0) 18

Track and Field - New England Chamionships
Bryant men finished 23rd with 11 points. Milan Duka (1000) and Deion Raper (60m hurdles) both set school records. The women finished with three points, Kristen Hayes (200) and Jonee Harrison (weight throw) both with notable performances.

Baseball - Game February 28th
Bryant (6-1) 7
Kentucky (3-3) 4

Softball - Game February 28th
Bryant (0-5) 2
Syracuse (6-7) 3

Men's Tennis - Match February 28th
Bryant (4-8) 0
Harvard (9-6) 7

Week's Best Sports Tweets

“What a weekend..MBB finishes with win vs Kentucky, Coach LoCurto & divers come up gold, Mlax win & BD and Ms K babysit our new granddaughter.”
@BryantUprez

“Congrats to Robby, James and Nick on their @NECsports weekly honors! <http://goo.gl/p8XiGz> #BryantBaseball”
@_BryantBaseball

“No. 2 @Bryantwbbball host No. 7 Blackbirds, Sunday at 1 p.m. in NEC Quarterfinal.”
@BryantAthletics

“WBB: And that’s the game! Bryant defeats the Knights 74-52 here at The Chace on Senior Night.”
@BryantGameday



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Harbaugh wins perception battle

By Drew Sharp
MCT Campus



Jim Harbaugh's firey personality has already shown during the first week of Michigan practices (campuspressbox)

The benefits for practicing in sunny Florida are pretty obvious. It's warm. It's outdoors. It's a happy escape from a northern winter's last cold breaths. That was enough for Jim Harbaugh, who brought his football team into the Southeastern Conference's talent-rich backyard for the first week of Michigan's spring football practice. But Harbaugh couldn't escape the third degree following

the Wolverines' first practice Monday. Was there an ulterior recruiting motive to this unprecedented trip that irritated SEC officials and coaches? "I don't know if there is one," he deadpanned, scratching his face as if confused by the question. He insisted he didn't understand why anyone would be upset, but that hadn't stopped him from engaging in a sometimes childish social media war with those critics over the past couple weeks. That only added fury to the fire. When asked if he cared whether other coaches were ticked off by his Florida appearance, Harbaugh brusquely responded, "No." "You got your quote?" he asked. "You got your headline now?" The headline would be: Much Ado About Nothing. Harbaugh's sold this week as balancing football, fun and education. The players got some beach time Monday afternoon following practice. They'll attend the Tigers' exhibition game Wednesday here against Pittsburgh. They'll also have full access to the IMG recreational facilities during their stay. They planned to watch the movie "Remember the Titans" Monday night in a moment of team bonding. Harbaugh has also arranged some guest speakers for them. But calling this a regular student spring break from academics remains a reach. Practice schedules were juggled, moving workout times up a week enabling the players to have an off-week from football later in which they can concentrate on spring exams. This is a football work retreat, plain and simple. Just call it what it is and move

on. The nonsensical social media back-and-forth wasn't a good look for all parties involved. Molders of young men shouldn't so easily fall prey to the pitfalls of the context-challenged Twittersphere. If that's indeed the most popular venue for teenaged recruits to get their information, then isn't there a responsibility either to elevate the level of discourse from snarky pettiness or to say nothing at all? Harbaugh was smartly reserved Monday. There was no reason to tweak his critics further because he already had won the perception battle. Harbaugh tried to draw a parallel with the Michigan men's tennis team practicing at the same IMG facility this week. But he failed to mention that the week-long Florida trip was part of the tennis team's regular-season schedule. NCAA president Dr. Mark Emmert has already conveyed his reservations about U-M's spring break trip. Though no rules were broken, it doesn't mean future rules won't be changed to avoid another battle in the ever-growing college football arms race. Harbaugh added that he didn't know why the NCAA would change its policy. There likely were some NCAA moles skulking about the practice fields Monday, making sure during this dead recruiting period there was no contact between Michigan and any of the many top-drawer recruits who attend IMG. The lone open practice will be the finale at IMG Academy Field, across the road from where the Wolverines worked out. High school coaches can bring their players. According to a U-M official, any college head coach can attend as well.

"From a macro standpoint, this probably isn't that big of a deal," said Bradenton Christian athletic director and head football coach Allan Gerber. "But from a micro standpoint, this is probably something important to some players who would like their head coach to be a little more approachable. Football coaches today can't be as distant as they once were, sitting up there in their ivory towers." Gerber was one of only a handful of local high school coaches who watched the six hours of practice as Harbaugh staggered two four-hour sessions among his players. The third and fourth stringers practiced from 8 a.m. to noon; the first and second units worked from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. "This is great exposure for Michigan," Gerber said, "not that they really need it." But Gerber agreed with Harbaugh in that he doesn't think there's any pronounced recruiting advantage for Michigan. "It's like with anything that's new and uncharted," he said. "There's probably more fear than what there needs to be. It's something different. Something creative. Once everything calms down, people will start wondering why everybody made a big fuss." Whether it was indoors in chilly Ann Arbor, Mich., or outdoors in balmy Florida, it was a typical first day of spring practice. Rust has no geographical preference. Quarterbacking was inconsistent. Newcomers hoping to make a good impression struggled. But Michigan got a symbolic win simply because it was here.



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Campus vendors: A solution to Bryant's dining troubles?

By Ryan Septelka
Contributing Writer

We have all heard the complaints about the dining services on campus at this point: Salmo is criticized for the not-quite-stellar quality of their meals, the waiting times at Nick's Place are unreasonably long, and the lines at the coffee shops are frustratingly in between classes. There has been some discussion regarding ways that these issues could be addressed, among the solutions being the possibility of introducing new dining facilities on campus. The problems with this approach are painfully obvious however: such measures would be both expensive and time-consuming, and multiple facilities may need to be introduced in order to adequately address the current issues with campus dining. A possible alternative, meanwhile, may be found with the introduction of outdoor campus food vendors.

A food vendor possesses a number of advantages not held by many of the campus' current facilities: vendors find it less expensive and easy to set up shops and stands in a variety of different locations, they are compact with a high degree of mobility, they often serve good food at a reasonable price, there are numerous, competitive types of vendors, and they hold the capability to be both collectively diverse and individually specialized. The last point is important, because it allows vendors to satisfy a wide variety of different tastes while also helping to insure good quality in their products. Vendors also stand as a testament to the fact that bigger is not always better, as their small size allows them to take up minimal space on campus, more effectively targeting students while remaining profitable. They are also able to receive direct feedback from their customers. By introducing outdoor vendors to the campus, Bryant University could address the issues with food service without expending the resources needed to construct and operate entire new shops and restaurants.

The two main obstacles that stand in the way of implementing a vendor system are funding and management. First, the issue of funds should be addressed; there are many possible solutions to this, although a potentially effective one would be a cart rental and product ordering system. Vendors would be permitted to bring their own carts and products, after being certified by the campus, or they could also be given the opportunity to rent a cart or stand from the campus itself. Vendors would also be allowed to order their own raw materials, which in turn can provide the product to be sold by the vendor. A small cut of the profits and the stands' rental expenses would allow the campus itself to benefit from the arrangement. The vendors would have a new

and potentially profitable market, while students would have a wide new array of dining options to choose from.

The second decision to be made would be the implementation of a management system. The campus could simply create an organization or managerial board to oversee operations as a whole, but the management of individual stands and carts is an issue all its own. On one hand, the university could hire their own salespeople to prepare and sell food to the students. At the same time, though, the possibility of allowing private third parties to operate at the university also exists. A case could even be made for allowing students to operate their own vending stands. There are many viable solutions to this part of implementing vendors, although that decision is probably best left up to the campus staff. In any case, the option of an outdoor vending system on campus is certainly one worthy of consideration.



The Club that Changed Me

By Ashley Cardona
Contributing Writer

Coming into Bryant University DECA was a major transition in my life. Since I had been an active member of my high school DECA chapter there was a ton of adjustments I had to do when I walked into my first meeting back in the fall semester, everything was so different! A different advisor, new faces, and still getting adjusted to college life were all major curve balls that hit me at once. However, one person that has stood out to me as being such a wonderful leader, is Ashley Cardona the President of the Bryant University DECA Chapter. She does a wonderful job of leading all the Chapter events that goes on, during the school year. She does so much at once, yet is one of the most cheerful people I have met. I am not only impressed at her strong and valiant leadership skills, but how hardworking she is and how good of a role model she can be. Every DECA meeting is always well executed leaving me feeling well informed on what is going on for the week and knowing what to expect. It definitely can be major stress reliever if I am having a busy day. Her leadership skills remarkable to me just because she has everything so well composed. That this is why I am honored to have her be the President and someone I was able to meet during my time at Bryant.



Chipotle Vs Baja's Tex Mex: The Ultimate Confliction

By Justin Brickman
Contributing Writer

A big debate around campus lately has been the choice of eating at Chipotle Mexican Grill or Baja's Tex Mex Grill. Chipotle Mexican Grill, as many of you know, is a chain of more than 2,000 restaurants around the world that specializes in burritos, bowls, and tacos. Though Chipotle is a widely known restaurant, many people have stopped eating there because of the rather recent e. coli incidents. On the other hand, Baja's Tex Mex is a lone restaurant located on Thayer Street in Providence, Rhode Island. Not only does Baja's offer burritos and tacos, but they offer a variety of other foods, such as quesadillas, nachos, wings, burgers, and Philly cheese subs. Baja's has been reaping the rewards of Chipotle's struggle by serving Bryant students and locals.

The e. coli outbreak, which started in October, has become a nightmare for Chipotle. According to CNN, the food poisoning bacterium infected 53 people in 9 states. The latest incident occurred in early December, which added the states of Illinois, Maryland, and Pennsylvania to the list. The other 6 states affected were California, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Washington, and Oregon. Not only did this lead to a plummet in sales, but also in the stock price of the restaurant. The stock plunged 42% since October falling from \$750 a share to \$428. The scary part of this outbreak is the initial source of e. coli has not been found. Though the company's earnings are not on their yearly pace, Chipotle executives believe the nightmare should end soon and they are looking forward to long-term goals. With this positive outlook, they are hoping to put the past behind them and find new ways to prevent incidents like this from happening again.

As a result, many people are finding new places to eat burritos and tacos. One of my teammates on the Bryant basketball team, Curtis Oakley Jr, told me he is taking his "talents" to Baja's, just like many other Bryant students and locals. Surprisingly, many of these Baja's rookies have been more than satisfied. The variety of different foods, meats, and flavors is a key reason many people enjoy Baja's and find it a sufficient substitute to Chipotle. The first thing you notice when you walk into Baja's is the overwhelming menu, which is the size of a classroom chalkboard. Another pro for Baja's is that they don't charge for guacamole. You may think this is an insignificant matter, but the extra \$1.95 for guacamole at Chipotle can really hurt a college student's bank account.

With the debate going around campus, I felt it was necessary to write an article about my opinion. Throughout the week, I've been asking friends and fellow Bryant students which restaurant they would choose and most of them answered "Baja's" without hesitation. I find this surprising because of the lack of loyalty to one of the greatest creations ever made, Chipotle. And yes, this is where I go on my rant. Chipotle has more than two thousand locations for a reason, and that reason is because it is amazing. "Chipotle or Baja's" was not even a topic before the e. coli outbreaks. Now that Chipotle is facing adversity, many people are jumping ship and trying to find a different restaurant. I believe we should stick with it during these tough times. We all make mistakes in life and we all need second chances. This is also true for restaurants. What matters is how the company comes back from their struggle and I believe Chipotle will come back stronger than ever. Chipotle over Baja's.

The three letters that changed my life: Why I went Greek and you should, too

By Ally Favuzza
Contributing Writer

In September 2014, I began my first year at Bryant University. I was full of enthusiasm and ready for all of the challenges and opportunities that college had to offer. However, during my first semester I really struggled to find my place on campus. I excelled academically and had established great friendships, but I spent the semester searching for the right opportunity to be more involved on campus and in our community. That all changed when I found Alpha Omicron Pi. On January 25th, 2015, I accepted my bid, and I knew I had found my home.

My chapter has 78 women, and I am proud to call them my sisters: today, tomorrow, and for life. These women support me, motivate me, and challenge me to be the best person I can be. Through Alpha Omicron Pi, I feel more connected to the Bryant community and more confident in my ability to make an impact on the lives of others.

Becoming a sorority woman has opened so many doors for me that I did not even know existed; I would not be the woman I am today without the community that stands behind me. My organization and each of the other sororities at Bryant have their own set of guiding principles and standards, but as a Panhellenic community, we have 5 pillars, or values, that we believe in and strive to achieve. These values are: service/philanthropy, scholarship, community, sisterhood, and leadership.

Here is a brief description of each of our five pillars and how they have shaped my experiences as a Greek woman:

Service/Philanthropy

Philanthropy is the fundamental reason that sororities exist. Each sorority has their own project, for which they donate time and money to throughout the year. Bryant’s sororities support their National Philanthropies along with a variety of other organizations, including: the Scleroderma Foundation, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, American Cancer Society, A Wish Come True Foundation, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Arthritis Foundation, The Starkey Hearing Foundation, The Painted Turtle, Gloria Gemma, Robbie Page, Kicking for Causes, and more.

This past fall, when my sister Vim was diagnosed with Lymphoma, a rare blood cancer, my sisters and I came together to raise over \$4,000 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. We did this in just two weeks by selling bracelets and t-shirts and participating in the Providence Light the Night Walk. On the morning of the walk, Vim flew all the way from London to surprise us; it was in that moment that I truly understood what it means to be a sorority woman.

Scholarship

Scholarship is a significant aspect of Greek life at Bryant. Chapters provide sisters with academic resources and support, scholarship awards, and incentives to motivate members to succeed academically. Currently, the grade point average of all Greek women at Bryant remains above that of all undergraduate students at Bryant.

My sister, Samantha, planned an Academic Banquet to recognize our outstanding academic achievement. This was a great opportunity to celebrate our successes. The Provost, Glenn Sulmasy, delivered a speech at the event. We, as a community, are continually strengthening relationships with faculty and staff and challenging members to higher academic standards.

Community

Sororities offer lifelong friendships and memories, enhance communication skills, and instill self-confidence in women. The Panhellenic community as we know it has thrived on Bryant’s campus for over 30 years.

The Greek community offers you an experience that is nearly impossible to match in any other organization on this campus. Greek life is unique because it links women with diverse backgrounds and interests by our common values.

As of 2014, the Panhellenic community had 183 members involved in over 87 campus organizations, including: Orientation Leaders, Resident Assistants, Student Ambassadors, Student Programing Board Members, MyPath@Bryant Mentors, ACE Peer Tutors, and Bulldog Leaders.

Sisterhood

Greek life at Bryant has given me a family that will last far beyond my undergraduate experience. I have had the opportunity to find my “home away from home” and truly understand what it means to belong to an

organization bigger than myself.

Sisterhood makes my heart happy because I know that I will always have sisters to stand by me during the hard times and to celebrate with me during the exciting times.

Leadership

Leadership is a huge part of our vibrant sorority culture. There are various opportunities for leadership and development in Greek life. We also have the opportunity to attend both regional and national leadership conferences. In addition to leadership training, there are positions available through each chapter and the Panhellenic council.

The work that Alpha Omicron Pi does in the community fueled my enthusiasm and passion, I knew I was ready to take on a leadership role. In November 2015, I was elected to serve as the Vice President of Membership Recruitment. This winter I had the opportunity to travel to Tennessee, the home of Alpha Omicron Pi’s International Headquarters, to receive extensive leadership training. This position will provide me with real-life experience to use as I apply for internships and build my career in the future.

Joining the Greek community at Bryant changed my life and it could change yours too! If you have any questions regarding my experience or want to learn more about Greek life, feel free to contact me at afavuzza@bryant.edu.



Why public speaking is important in today’s business environment

By Kaitlin Beauchamp
HR University Relations Manager
The Hanover Insurance Group (Worcester, MA)



Public speaking excellence is no longer a “nice to have” skillset in today’s workforce – it’s a MUST HAVE skill. You can’t afford to escape public speaking opportunities in today’s competitive environment if you want to avoid stunting your career progression. Whether you’re looking to grow a career in a small tech start-up, apply your knowledge to a career in government or the nonprofit arena, or make an impact in a large publically traded corporation like The Hanover Insurance Group, having the keen ability to clearly communicate your ideas, results and next steps are baseline skills organizations looks for at all experience levels and across all roles.

We are grateful to our career center partners like the Amica Career Center for emphasizing the importance of public speaking skills with their student clients, but companies like ours understand we also need to step in to help address the public speaking skills gap. Due to the lack of candidates coming into the workforce with a solid oratorical background, we’ve carved out a portion of our internship program curriculum to try and address this need. Hanover’s also made investments in on-campus programs like Bryant’s annual Public Speaking Colloquium (now in its eight year), to demonstrate that communication excellence cannot be undervalued as a critical skill in today’s multigenerational, fast-paced and innovative workforce.

As a recruiter for a top quartile property and casualty insurance company, my Hanover team and I interview hundreds of undergraduate students each semester for placement into one of our fulltime or internship opportunities. While we’re continually impressed with the number of candidates involved in extracurricular activities like business fraternities and professional networking groups, we’re always amazed at how few students take part in oratorical oriented clubs like The Podium and Toastmasters designed to help

your public speaking skills go from good to great.

While employers are well aware of the fact that public speaking is one of the top ranked phobias for adults, trust us when we say this is a skill that truly differentiates candidates, even for those applying to the most technically oriented “behind the scenes” types of roles like data scientists and actuaries. My intern classes often ask me what advice I have for them as they look to standout in our program and one consistent piece of advice I’ll offer is to “dive in, network and get as much exposure as possible while you’re with us for ten weeks in order to build your brand equity.” Being in a position to own the microphone is a great way to ensure you’re building your brand equity. And, thanks to events like the Public Speaking Colloquium, Bryant undergraduates (who decide to dive in) have a leg up on the candidate competition.

Here’s the bottom line. To employers, public speaking is more than just demonstrating you can write and deliver a well-crafted speech. Public speaking is demonstrating you can convince a team to follow you during times of organizational change. It’s proving you are a trusted advisor and subject matter expert on a given topic. And, it’s a skill that will undoubtedly make you more promotable in today’s competitive job market environment.

Think about it – do you want to be on the podium or in the audience? Bryant’s Department of Communication gives every student the opportunity to improve their speaking and writing skills through the Public Speaking Colloquium. Applications for the event can now be obtained by emailing Susan Baran: subaran@bryant.edu. Applications will be accepted until March 10th. Hanover will see you there!!!!

Prime time for observing Jupiter

By David A. Huestis
Faculty Writer



It's been a few months since any of the naked-eye planets have been visible during convenient evening hours for casual stargazers. From mid-November into early 2016, amateur astronomers who wished to view Venus, Saturn, Mars, Jupiter, and a brief and low appearance of Mercury, had to do so during the early morning hours before sunrise. For those of you whose work and family commitments prevented such exploration, the drought of planets in the evening sky is about to end.

The first planet to be well-placed for scrutiny will be the largest world in the solar system—Jupiter. On March 1, this massive planet (you could fit 1,321 Earths within its volume) will rise above the eastern horizon around 6:00 p.m. I suggest waiting an hour or so for Jupiter to ascend higher before you begin to observe it with a telescope. Since Jupiter will be the brightest object in this area of the sky, you shouldn't have any difficulty in finding it.

However, what may first catch your eye before Jupiter increases in altitude, will be the blue-white star Regulus, the constellation Leo's brightest star. In sky lore, Regulus marks the position of the lion's heart. It also marks the terminus of a star pattern or asterism known as the sickle, seen as a backwards question mark. The sickle represents the head, mane and shoulders of the lion. Jupiter will be located down and to the left of Regulus, under the lion's hindquarters. See accompanying star map for reference.

This favorable prime time appearance of Jupiter is ideal, for on March 8, Jupiter will be at opposition (opposite the Sun in the sky) and at its closest distance to the Earth this year at approximately 412,296,186 miles. Jupiter will be visible all night, and in fact, we'll be able to observe Jupiter through until mid-August, when it will be low in the west at sunset, requiring a very good western horizon to view. That leaves us five good months to watch the ever changing Jovian system.

Telescopic observations of Jupiter began on January 7, 1610, by Galileo Galilei using a lens 1.5 inches in diameter with a magnification of only 20X. He immediately noticed three little stars in the planet's vicinity. At first he thought they were background stars, but after careful observation he deduced they were orbiting Jupiter. You can read about Galileo's discovery in his own words in a brief work titled, *Sidereus Nuncius*, or *The Starry Messenger*, published on March 13, 1610. His observations of Jupiter's satellites begins on page 17 of this document: <http://homepages.wmich.edu/~mcgrew/Siderius.pdf>

Galileo's telescopic work and the calculations that followed proved the Copernican theory's Sun-centered orbital dynamics of the solar system, still controversial for the time. The planets orbited the Sun, just as Jupiter's moons orbited about him. Galileo concluded in *The Starry Messenger*, "...for now we have not one planet only revolving about another, while both traverse a vast orb about the Sun, but our sense of sight presents to us four stars circling about Jupiter, like the Moon about

the Earth, while all of them together with Jupiter traverse a great orb moving around the Sun in the space of twelve years."

You can relive Galileo's discovery of Jupiter's moons, now known as the Galilean satellites, using even a small "department store" refractor. Also easily observed will be Jupiter's bands and zones, which give the planet a striped appearance. Larger instruments may also reveal the Great Red spot, a centuries old storm in Jupiter's cloud tops. Use whatever optical aid you have at hand, but if you wish to marvel at the beauty of Jupiter and all it has to offer, then set aside some time to visit one of the local observatories for a splendid visual experience.

Here's what one could expect to see over a period of a few nights. Just like Galileo, one of the first things that will catch your eye will be the Galilean moons. They are: Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto. When several of the Galilean moons are visible at the same time, they often appear in a straight line, parading around Jupiter in the plane of its equator. This astrophysical arrangement presents many interesting phenomena for us earth-bound astronomers to observe. (For those of you who love facts, Jupiter has 63 known moons total, the majority of which cannot be seen visually with even large amateur telescopes in a dark sky.)

When a moon passes in front of Jupiter and casts a shadow onto the Jovian cloud tops, it is called a shadow transit. Besides seeing the satellite's shadow, you may also see the bright disk of the satellite traversing Jupiter's clouds at the same time, though this event is more difficult to observe. A moon may also pass behind the planet, which is called an occultation. Jupiter's shadow can even eclipse a satellite as well; gradually the moon will either blink out or reappear. Also, it's fun to watch all four moons line up on one side of the planet. I love to watch Jupiter over an extended period of time during the course of one evening because the view is dynamically changing as you watch.

While you can be pleasantly surprised at the eyepiece of a telescope by any of these satellite events during a random observing session, you can use the following website to plan ahead to ensure you experience a special Galilean satellite event (http://www.skyandtelescope.com/wp-content/observing-tools/jupiter_moons/jupiter.html#).

Next, it's time to look at Jupiter's disk, the ball of the planet. Jupiter is a large planet so even a small telescope will show a keen-eyed observer much detail. The more prominent dark bands/belts and lighter zones in Jupiter's cloud tops can easily be seen. Though the Great Red Spot (GRS), an almost 400-year-old storm, is not as red (some observers describe it as salmon colored) as it once was many years ago, it should be fairly easy to see if it has rotated into view.

However, since its discovery, the GRS has shrunk by 50 percent, and in more recent years its oval shape has become more circular. Some astronomers speculate that the storm may be dissipating. Only time will tell. A six-inch telescope or larger may be needed to catch a glimpse of it. Keep in mind that Jupiter rotates once in ten hours, making it possible to see the entire planet in one or two nights of observing. You can visit the following website to determine when favorable views of the Great Red spot will occur: <http://acquerra.com.au/astro/software/jupiter.html>.

Once Jupiter rises high enough to be viewed from the local observatories, it will be the focus of attention for several months. Only the Moon will be able to draw attention away from Jupiter. That is, until the beginning of June when Mars, then Saturn, will return to the early evening sky for us to view. By Jove, get out there and enjoy one of the great visual pleasures that a telescope can provide.

Incredible views of Jupiter and his moon's are available for your viewing pleasure at each of the facilities listed below. Seagrave Memorial Observatory (<http://www.theskyscrapers.org>) in North Scituate is open every clear Saturday night. Ladd Observatory (<http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Physics/Ladd/>) in Providence is open every Tuesday night. The Margaret M. Jacoby Observatory at the CCRI Knight Campus in Warwick (<http://www.ccri.edu/physics/observatory.htm>) is open every clear Wednesday night. Frosty Drew Observatory (<http://www.frostydrew.org/>) in Charlestown is open every clear Friday night. Snow or ice can force closures, so please check the respective websites for any cancellation notices before venturing out for a visit. Also, opening times change during March because on the 13th at 2:00 a.m. we spring ahead one hour to daylight saving time (DST), also known as eastern daylight time (EDT). Verify the schedules on the websites as well.

And finally, the vernal equinox, (spring) begins on March 20 at 12:30 a.m. EDT. Keep your eyes to the skies.

Academy Award winners make it official at Governors Ball

By David Ng
MCT Campus

At the Governors Ball immediately following the Academy Awards, it was all eyes on Leonardo DiCaprio—but not for long.

Like the other winners, he promptly headed to the engraving station to have his name placed on his Oscar.

"Engraving" is a bit of a misnomer in this case, because the bronze nameplates were created well in advance of Sunday's ceremony, and DiCaprio found himself conversing politely with a technician who used a simple screwdriver to affix the nameplate with two black screws.

"Wow, manually?" the actor asked. "Do they do this every year?" He was informed that, yes, this happens each year.

"I wouldn't know," DiCaprio joked. After six nominations, his Oscar for lead actor in "The Revenant" was, of course, the first of his career.

Next up was Brie Larson, who'd won the lead actress Oscar for "Room" and was toasting with her beau as she

waited for her Oscar to get its nameplate.

Once her personalized statuette was wiped clean of smudges and fingerprints with a small towel and handed to her, she stared at it and shook her head. "Oh, my God," she whispered before exiting to a blast of camera flashes.

Alicia Vikander sipped bubbly while waiting for her nameplate. A few chairs down, three-time Oscar-winning cinematographer Emmanuel Lubezki took a photo of the supporting actress winner for "The Danish Girl" with his smartphone.

Grammy nominee Andra Day, in a flowing yellow gown, took center stage at the party, literally. The singer performed atop a platform in the middle of the sprawling space, launching into Marvin Gaye's "Let's Get It On" as partygoers swayed to the beat.

As is traditional, however, the Governors Ball was not the night's final destination for the biggest names in the crowd. Many were off to the Elton John AIDS Foundation post-viewing party festivities, which this year included a private concert by John; the "Spotlight" celebration at Palihouse in West Hollywood; and, of course, the

star-riddled Vanity Fair party. Shortly after 10:30, DiCaprio, clutching his statue and flanked by security and an impressive entourage, left the party.

An entourage followed director George Miller out the door as well, but it wasn't as big as the number of wins his film "Mad Max: Fury Road" had nabbed earlier in the evening.

Just before 11 p.m., Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences President Cheryl Boone Isaacs was still taking in the scene.

"I think it was a fabulous night," she said. "I thought Chris (Rock) did an amazing job. He really did. Our producers too."

Asked how the awards show might look differently come next year with recent implementations in the aftermath of the #OscarsSoWhite controversy, Isaacs was coy about playing fortune teller.

"I have no idea," she said, "what it will look like next year."

Unique cars of Bryant University: 1987 Toyota Corolla FX-16

By Anthony Sophinos
Contributing Writer

Welcome to the first of a series of articles that will highlight the unique and eclectic cars that reside in the Bryant parking lot! While many of us here at Bryant, by choice or otherwise, are driving ordinary econoboxes that induce as much excitement as a dentist’s office, there are a few cars on campus that are unique, exciting and interesting. This column will highlight those cars, and give often forgotten cars their 15 minutes of fame right here in the pages of the Archway.

To kick off this series, I am starting with a car I have admired ever since I first noticed it here in the parking lot, a 1987 Toyota Corolla FX-16. Produced for only two years (1987-88), the FX-16 three-door hatchback was the first and one of the only hotter variants of the Corolla, as no other factory high-performance model (other than the XRS of the mid ’00s) was ever produced.

Small and sporty hatchbacks were all the rage in the 1980s, with various makes all fielding their own contender. Some more legendary examples of these include the Shelby Omnis, the Volkswagen GTI, and the Honda CRX Si. All these cars were tiny, lightweight, came with advanced and high revving four cylinder engines, and had their roots in more plebian autos. Both the car magazines and enthusiastic buyers of the time loved them, and today the era is fondly looked back on as a heyday for these sort of cars, affectionately known as hot hatches by their enthusiastic legions of fans.

Back in the 1980s, Toyota was at the top of its game, in a golden era for the automaker that resulted in legendary cars like the Supra, Celica, MR2, and others, all cars that today are remembered fondly for their low price, reliability, and most importantly, their fun-to-drive factor. The FX-16 variant of the Corolla was no exception to this rule, and was a most astute competitor to the various hot hatches mentioned above. On all counts, the nerve center of the car was its 4A-GE four-cylinder motor, which produced 108hp at a high 6600 RPM and had a 7500 RPM redline, requiring one to keep the car on boil and stay in the upper rev range to really get anywhere with haste. Hooked up to this high revving motor was a standard five speed manual transmission, even though our feature car is (unfortunately) equipped with the optional four speed automatic. While an automatic transmission sucks much of the fun out of such a playful little car, a unique feature on this self-shifter is that it allowed for one to press a button to change shift points, allowing for the driver to choose between firmer, more aggressive shifts at higher RPM and more commuter friendly shifts.

Even with the fun-sapping auto, the handling of the FX-16 is still sure to put a smile on a driver’s face once the roads get twisty. Car and Driver heaped praise on the car’s handling, saying how the car “leans eagerly into a corner and provides a gradual



increase of steering effort with increasing cornering loads.” These characteristics were achieved thanks to thicker anti-roll bars, four wheel disk brakes, multi-link rear suspension and other suspension goodies, all supported on 13 inch wheels shod in 175-70-R13 rubber. By today’s standards, this wheel and tire combination seem better fit for a push mower than an automobile, but at the time they were more than adequate for the subcompact class that the car competed in.

Thirty years later, seeing this relatively rare performance variant of a ho-hum car is pleasantly astonishing. Most of these cars were used and (heavily) abused when new, and so to see one that has survived in such fine shape after 30 years in rust-prone New England is impressive. This car harkens back to an era when Toyota was more than just a producer of reliable and dull automobiles, but instead represent when the company had a passion for performance. This example here at Bryant is a welcome sight in the sea of anonymous modern cars that fill the parking lot. Its fun and playful demeanor, humble roots, small size and cheap running costs all make this car the perfect college transportation, both back in 1987 and today.

So let us raise a glass to the mere survival of such an interesting and unique car, and hope that this rare 1980s performance hatch continues to provide fun and faithful service to its lucky owner for many more miles and smiles.

Spotlight takes top Oscar amid biting commentary

By Josh Rottenberg
MCT Campus

Bringing an end to an unpredictable and tumultuous Oscar race, the newsroom drama “Spotlight” took home the top prize for best picture at the 88th Academy Awards on Sunday, emerging victorious in what had widely been seen as a three-way race with the brutal frontier epic “The Revenant” and the financial crisis dramedy “The Big Short.”

Leonardo DiCaprio won his first Academy Award after four previous acting nominations for his starring role as a man who survives a vicious grizzly bear attack in “The Revenant.” Brie Larson earned the lead actress prize for her performance as a mother who has spent years in captivity in the drama “Room.”

The evening marked the climax of one of the most controversial Oscar seasons in Hollywood history, as a bitter debate over the lack of any acting nominees of color for the second year in a row roiled the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Unlike in many previous years, no single film dominated the night, as academy voters spread their love around to a wide range of contenders.

Alejandro G. Inarritu, who captured the directing prize last year for “Birdman,” won again for “The Revenant,” making him the first director to win the prize back-to-back in 65 years. The adapted screenplay prize went to “The Big Short,” while the original screenplay award went to “Spotlight.”

The gonzo dystopian action film “Mad Max: Fury Road,” a summer action thriller that proved one of the dark horses of this Oscar season, had a strong showing, pulling in six awards, including for editing, costume design and production design. But the year’s biggest box-office behemoth, “Star Wars: The Force Awakens,” nominated for five awards, came up empty-handed.

Also striking out was “The Martian,” an audience favorite that had seven nominations.

In the weeks leading up to the show, there was widespread speculation on how host Chris Rock would address the #OscarsSoWhite issue.

Taking the stage to Public Enemy’s hip-hop anthem “Fight the Power,” Rock immediately set about tackling the elephant in the room. He welcomed the audience to “The White People’s Choice Awards” and went on to unleash a barrage of jokes about race and discrimination in Hollywood.

“Everybody wants to know ... ‘Is Hollywood racist?’ “ Rock said. “You’ve got to go at that the right way. Is it burning-cross racist? No Hollywood is sorority racist. ‘We like you, Rhonda, but you’re not a Kappa.’ “

Perhaps unsurprisingly given Rock’s acid-tongued comedic style, a few jokes seemed to teeter on the brink of too edgy for a room that is tense under the best of circumstances.

“This year, things are going to be a little different at the Oscars: In the ‘In Memoriam’ package, it’s just going to be black people that were shot by cops on their way to the movies,” he cracked to scattered, uncomfortable laughter. “Yes, I said it all right.”

But for the most part, the audience in the Dolby Theatre seemed to welcome the chance to address the thorny question of diversity in the film industry head-on and to finally release the tension that had built for weeks amid calls for a boycott of the ceremony.

“This is the wildest, craziest Oscars to ever host ... ‘You should boycott! You should quit!’ “ Rock said. “I thought about quitting - I thought about it real hard. But I realized they’re going to have the Oscars anyway ... and the last thing I need is to lose another job to Kevin Hart.”

While saying that black actors “want opportunity... and not just once,” Rock made a point to note the complexity of the issues of inclusion and discrimination. “Everything is not sexism,” he said. “Everything is not racism.”

Fittingly for a year that had been widely considered more unpredictable than usual, the evening delivered a number of surprises, large and small.

Mark Rylance was an unexpected winner in the supporting actor category for his performance in the Cold War thriller “Bridge of Spies,” beating out Sylvester Stallone, who had widely been expected to score an Oscar knockout for his return to the role of Rocky Balboa in “Creed.”

The indie sci-fi film “Ex Machina” earned the visual effects prize, an upset in a category dominated by bigger, flashier films such as “Mad Max” and “Star Wars.”

Throughout the evening, the theme of honoring survivors of one kind or another recurred. Accepting the original screenplay award for “Spotlight,” which chronicles the Boston Globe’s investigation uncovering the sexual abuse scandal among Catholic priests, the film’s co-writer and director, Tom McCarthy, acknowledged both the reporters and the victims.

“We made this film for all the journalists who have and continue to hold the powerful accountable, and for the survivors whose courage and will to overcome is really an inspiration to all,” McCarthy said. “We have to make sure this never happens again.”

Late in the evening, Vice President Joe Biden took the stage to issue a call to end sexual violence, introducing Lady Gaga’s rendition of her Oscar-nominated song “ ‘Til It Happens to You” from the documentary film “The Hunting Ground,” a performance that earned a standing ovation.

Extending the survival theme further, DiCaprio devoted the bulk of his acceptance speech to an impassioned call to save the planet in the face of the global warming crisis, saying, “It is the most urgent threat facing our entire species and we need to work collectively and stop procrastinating.”

But it was the issue of diversity that dominated the proceedings, popping up in moments both earnest and humorous.

On the serious side, Academy President Cheryl Boone Isaacs, who has drawn both praise and criticism for spearheading dramatic changes aimed at doubling the number of women and minorities in the academy’s ranks by 2020, spoke of the importance of extending opportunity to those who are underrepresented in the entertainment industry.

“While change is often difficult, it is necessary,” Boone Isaacs said. “I am confident that together we can shape a future of which all of us can be proud.”

But for the nominees, as always, the evening came down less to the sweeping issues facing the entire industry and more to smaller, more personal moments of drama.

At one point, Tom Hardy, a supporting actor nominee for “The Revenant,” was spotted pacing around the lobby, looking anxious.

Asked if his nerves had something to do with “The Revenant’s” Oscar prospects, the British actor, who recently became a father for the second time, said no.

“I’m just waiting for my wife to finish breast pumping in the bathroom,” Hardy said wryly. “She has to do it every hour.”

Funniest Tweets of the Week

“TRUMP: Illegal immigration is wrong
CRUZ: I think it’s even wronger
CARSON (facing the wrong way): Can anyone hear me”
@InternetHippo

“CANADIAN: im a canadian
DATE: cool i’ve never met a comedian befor
CANADIAN: [is too polite to corect them, dedicates entire life to comedy]”
@jonnysun

“me: ‘why was she called the little mermaid, she was 5ft7?’
therapist: ‘i meant anything bothering you about your marriage keith’”
@KeetPotato

“Leonardo DiCaprio holds his Oscar and waits for feeling to enter him.
‘Nothing,’ he whispers to himself. The people cheer.
‘Nothing.’”
@MikeDrucker

The College Scoop

SEE WHAT STUDENTS AT OTHER COLLEGES ARE READING ABOUT

The Stanford Daily Stanford University

At the bottom corner of each page in our 400-page syllabus, there is a small note warning us to “share only with Stanford School of Medicine.” After all, it would be a shame to make our learning material publicly available when we are charged nearly \$60,000 in annual tuition to gain access to it. But rest assured, administrators. Our current syllabus is so shoddily produced and the content so scattered that even if it were made publicly available, there would be little, if any, rush to pirate it. At least not when we, as medical students, can resort to other resources that teach the material with better efficiency and clarity.

The Harvard Crimson Harvard University

Harvard jointly filed an amicus brief to the National Labor Relations Board on Monday arguing against the unionization of graduate students, joining six other Ivy League universities, Stanford, and MIT in a call for the board to uphold existing rulings that define the relationship between private universities and graduate students as strictly academic.

The Brown Daily Herald Brown University

Three junior faculty members in the School of Engineering have received the National Science Foundation’s CAREER Awards of approximately \$500,000 over the course of five years. Franklin Goldsmith, David Henann and Andrew Peterson, all assistant professors of engineering, will join the nearly one third of current University faculty members in the School of Engineering who have won the award.

The Heights Boston College

The Massachusetts Bay Transport Authority will end its weekend late-night service by March 18. The board voted unanimously this Tuesday to cut back the hours by 90 minutes on weekends, according to *The Boston Globe*.

The Weekly Sudoku

				3		1	9	7
7					5			
	3		7	1				5
8		1			4		3	
	4		3			8		6
9				6	3		5	
			2					8
1	6	4		7				

Comic of the Week



“Ooh, nice! Hardwood floors!”

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THE POETRY CORNER

A Vow Is Both a Promise and a Sign

By Barry Taylor

A vow is both a promise and a sign
That I am sure enough that this is true
To say it publicly, not just to you,
But to all of those whose lives we here combine.
And so I vow to love you all my life,
To give you joy, for that is joy to me,
To be for you what I would have you be:
Each a home for each as man and wife.
I vow to give myself to that one self
Engendered by our mystical embrace,
And to nurture it through years of love and will.
For only thus we cross the inner gulf
That lies between our consciousness and grace,
Blessed by love, that makes good of all ill.

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