



The Student Voice of Bryant University since 1946

THE ARCHWAY

COMMENCEMENT ISSUE 2015





From the President



Dear Members of the Bryant University Class of 2015:

As you process through Bryant's historic Archway, ready to receive your degree and take the next steps on your life's path, the entire University community joins you in celebrating the successful completion of your undergraduate studies. We call this event Commencement because it is the celebration of a new beginning. Your Bryant experience has prepared you to enter the world and apply your knowledge and skills to make a difference as you lead a life of character.

When you arrived at Bryant four years ago, you experienced many changes and exciting opportunities to expand your world: a new place to live, exposure to innovative and inspiring ideas in the classroom and beyond, a new group of friends, and an enriching global perspective of the world's interconnected cultures and economies.

As you leave campus to begin your professional life or continue your education in graduate school, you will encounter new opportunities and changes. Most of you will have several jobs, some multiple careers, over your lifetime. Recognize that innovation is a constant in life and that you must remain flexible to embrace change.

Your graduation is juncture in your relationship with your alma mater. In the years ahead, there will be a *shared responsibility* between you and the institution. At Bryant,

we will continue to boldly step forward with strategic goals that enhance the value of a Bryant degree, and increase the competitive advantage of your diploma. As a new graduate, you become a member of the Bryant Alumni Association, a powerful network of more than 44,000 accomplished men and women working in a variety of roles and industries throughout the world. Bryant alumni set high standards and achieve remarkable distinction, a tradition they now share with you.

Your relationship with Bryant is meant to last a lifetime. We hope that you will remain engaged with the life of your University and return to campus often to help support our trajectory of excellence. In your new roles, serve as ambassadors of the institution. As you achieve your success, engage Bryant students as interns and hire new graduates. Throughout your bright future, financially support the strategic priorities that continue Bryant's more than 150-year legacy of providing an exceptional education that anticipates the future, and our future students, in a changing world.

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

Sincerely,

Ronald K. Machtley
President

The Honor of the Commencement Issue

Class of
2015

In order to celebrate the 152nd Undergraduate Commencement, *The Archway* has created this commencement issue for the over 800 students who will graduate May 16, 2015.

As tradition dictates, we have compiled reflections from seniors who have positively impacted the Bryant community during their undergraduate career and who have a unique and insightful story to share with their classmates. This year sixteen seniors were selected from a committee of fellow junior students. The selection process was difficult as Bryant students all have a story of success and hard work to share. However, the committee was able to identify and honor students who encompass all facets of the Bryant community.

The committee was also charged with selecting one faculty and one staff member to write a final farewell to the graduating class. This year's contributors are Professor Michael Roberto and Richard Hurley, Director of Student Life. These two

individuals were chosen because of the lasting impact they have had on the lives of many of the students of the Class of 2015.

Putting this Commencement Issue together has been a tremendous honor. The experience has allowed me to connect and get to know many members of the Class of 2015 that I had previously admired from afar. I hope that this final issue of *The Archway* is one you cherish as a remembrance of the experiences and memories the Class of 2015 has shared over the past four years.

This issue is dedicated to each one of your college experiences, from the moment you first stepped onto campus until you finally walked under the archway. I encourage you all to pursue your passions and to seek happiness and fulfillment in every step you take as you start the next chapter of your lives as graduates of the Class of 2015.

Molly Funk
Editorial Assistant

Archway Editors 2014-2015

Kathryn Larsson & Matthew Gillen
Co-Editors-in-Chief

Editorial Assistant: Molly Funk

Business Managers: Paige Rovnak, Jillian Bonafede

News Editor: Molly Funk

Opinion Editor: Autumn Harrington

Variety Editor: Sarah Rudkin

Sports Editor: Kaitlyn Graham

Business Editor: John Logan

Copy Editor: Sarah Rozenberg

Advisor: Susan Zarnowski

Technical Advisor: Larry Sasso

Photo Credit: Laura Sprague, Christian Sollitto, JFW Photography (Jonathan Watkins), and Felicia Thomas

Commencement Committee: John Logan, Nick Zaccilli, Katie Koumarians, Temidayo Owoyemi, Richard Aduhene, Alexandra Zafonte, Christina Watts, Matthew Licari, Joe Maiato, Courtney Mansfield, Evan DaSilva, and Emmanuel Balandi

Walking through The Archway... a Commencement tradition

In addition to receiving diplomas on Commencement day, students have another way of symbolizing the completion of their Bryant education: walking through the Archway. The story of the Archway dates back to 1905. Isaac Gifford Ladd, an associate of Charles Schwabb and famous U.S. steel tycoon, constructed a \$1 million building which contained the iron arch on Young Orchard Avenue on the east side of Providence. This building was meant to be a sign of his endearment to his newlywed wife.

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

In October of 1967, Earl Silas Tupper, inventor of Tupperware, donated his 392 acre hillside Smithfield estate to Bryant College for the creation of the new campus. To thank Tupper for his generous gift, Bryant named the campus after him and awarded him an

honorary degree. Four years later, in the fall of 1971, the campus moved to Smithfield. Prior to leaving the Hope Street campus, the wrought-iron arch at the entrance to South Hall was transported to the new campus.

Today, the Archway remains the only physical link to the Providence campus. Frank Delmoncio, then Vice President for Business Affairs, and Robert Hillier, architect of the Tupper campus and designer of the sign for the front entrance, relocated the Archway between the two ponds en route to the Unistructure.

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

After 17 years of worn paths, the graduating class of 1987 donated a brick pathway built around the sacred arch. This tradition has shaped the behavior of thousands of Bryant University students on Tupper campus for the past 44 years.



Student Class Charge: Amanda Spaziano



*I remember the first day
I started this school.
I'd travelled far from my family
Convinced it was time to live on my own
3,000 miles sat on my shoulders
But I swore to shrug them off.
"Don't worry mom I'll call you."
"Yes, mom, I brought it."
"No mom I'm ok."
I look at her
And wish she felt the way I did.
She was anxious,
But proud.
I was her "baby"
Am her baby,
And here I was,
All grown up,
Suddenly changed.
I, on the other hand,
Was unnerved,
Ready to begin;
Unshackled by fear.
I was meant to be here.
I could hear my future calling.
It echoed inside me,
Pulsing and thumping,
With the beat of my heart.
It was welling and growing
Like a tide caressing the shore.
I felt powerful,
A giant,
Ready to conquer the world.
Of course it was all foreign and new,
As any journey worth starting is.
It wasn't easy,
It was necessary.
Now I stand here before you,*

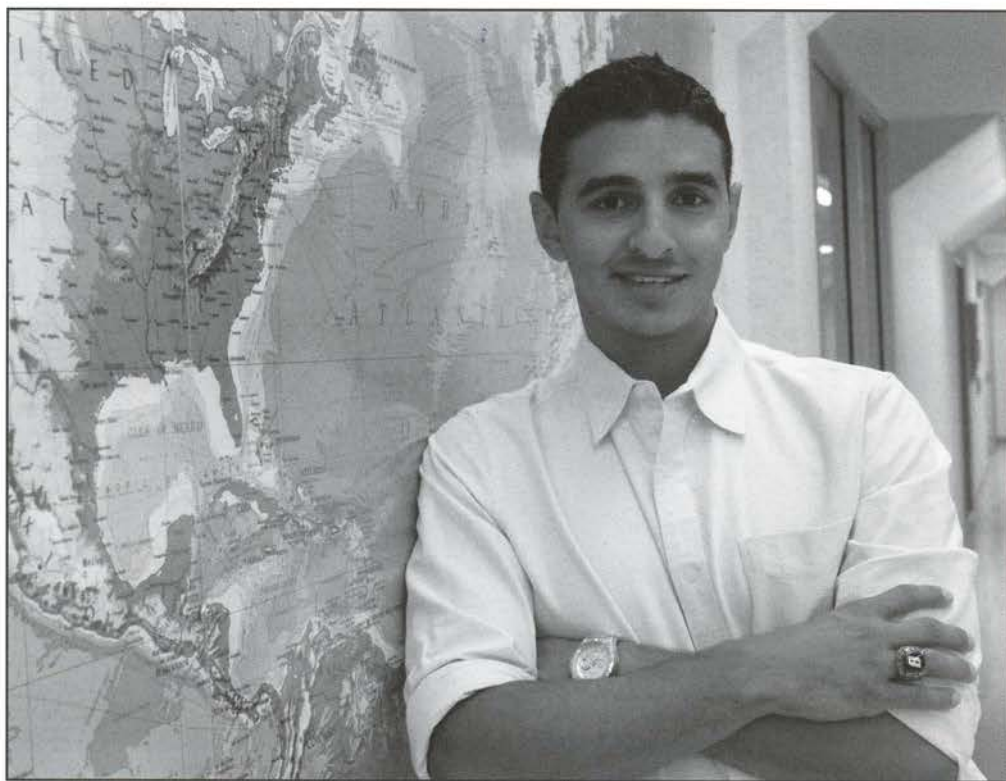
*And it's starting again,
This drumbeat of progress,
Thumping
Humming
Shaking my bones.
Telling me it's time we get going again;
This degree is just the cornerstone
Of our success
A single brick that will become a home.
For some a cottage,
Cozy and clean.
For others a tower,
Soaring into the sky.
Each one unique,
Brick by brick, only ours.
They'll house our dreams
Our hopes
Our aspirations.
They'll grow within us
Mold to us.
Their faces will change as time goes on,
But they'll always,
Constantly,
Forever be ours.
But we haven't built these homes alone.
In the concrete, the foundation
Sit the fingerprints of our families.
The mothers who raised us,
The fathers who praised us,
The peers who challenged us,
The friends who supported us,
The professors who encouraged us.
Turned us into the architects of our destiny,
And now they sit here with us,
Hundreds of families,
Under one tent.
Worlds apart, but with a love
That's a lot closer to home.
Watching us walk the stage,
Tears in their eyes, and
Pride in the hearts.
But no need to fear.
We were made for this,
Raised for this,
Ready for this.
That's what these last four years have prepared us for.
You've got us this far,
Now we're ready to fly the nest
And create our own.
Congratulations class of 2015
And in the words of Confucius: Wherever you go, go with
all your heart.*

Growing up I have a father who supported every passion I ever had, picked me up every time I fell, and taught me that dreams can come true if you work for them. I have a mother, who hugged me when I needed a hug, loved me when I needed love, and stayed on my side when I felt the entire world was against me. I have a sister and a brother who are both my best friends, my partners in my future business, and my life. Life would not be half as exciting, adventurous and amazing as it is, if it wasn't for them. I will not use this as a message to thank them for everything they have done for me, because this is not enough, and they already know that without them I do not stand a chance to be the man I am today, walking across the stage with my diploma.

All my life I thought I had one family, and one home until August 31st 2011. It was the day I was introduced to the Bryant community. To this day I remember when I walked into the 4 mile program to grab my name tag, everyone was greeting me with huge smiles because they finally got to meet "Sarah's little brother". (Sarah is my sister, she graduated from Bryant in 2014). It was right then and there when I knew that I am already a part of a family away from home. Being from Kuwait, I thought I would have a very tough time adapting to a culture I have only been exposed to from behind a TV screen. It was more diverse and friendly than I imagined it to be. My father used to speak of the memories he made when he went to University of Miami back in the day, and I remember ever since I was a child hearing these memories, all I wanted to do was come to America and make memories of my own. Throughout the years, as I matured, my objective shifted to more than just making memories in America. I was driven by the fact that I wanted to help people, and change the world. That was when the Entrepreneurship path started for me.

During the 4 year adventure, Bryant has been able to show me the true meaning of diversity. I have been a part of many families within this campus, and have also been granted the gift of knowledge and resources to start my own business back in Kuwait (June 2013). I named the business Hookah on the Go, and I currently have 5 employees who are helping me out while I am studying in the States. Now, I am putting a hold on this business idea, and exploring the land of opportunity as they call it. I recently accepted a job offer close to my second home, and it is the best feeling in the world when you see your hard work, and dedication paying off.

I am using my passion, motivation, and connections to get me somewhere far in the world. Thanks to Bryant, I now have the skillset to accomplish the impossible. At Bryant, I have never been seen as an invisible shadow walking around campus. I was always recognized, and that was one aspect that helped build my confidence.



I was a Resident Assistant, the captain of the tennis team, an employee at the Fisher Student center, and on top of all that, I was still able to create memories and live the best 4 years of my life. I saw snow for the first time at the age of 20. I had the pleasure of meeting a beautiful girl from Connecticut, who I am lucky enough to call my girlfriend. I bought my first car with my own money. I travelled to places like Haiti, Malaysia, and Singapore. I have been a scene leader at the I2I multicultural dance show; I spoke in events such as the 19th annual interfaith breakfast, and festival of the lights. Teaching you how to manage your time, and becoming a well rounded person is what Bryant strives for.

I had faculty who was there for me, I had friends who had my back, and I had two wonderful people who acted as my parents away from home Mr. and Mrs. Machtley. It is a small community whom I will forever call my family on the other side of the world.

Bryant continues to grow, as do the opportunities that it offers. I could not have been anymore prepared than I am today for the next big step in my life. This message to Bryant University is 100% pure and straight from the heart and it is the least I can do for helping me become the man I am today.

My name is Abdullah Al Abdulmohsen; I am a student who came all the way from Kuwait to fulfill my dream of becoming an Entrepreneur. Today I am graduating with the class of 2015. My 22 years of life have been the best time of my life, but these 4 years are definitely one of the many highlights I have had this far. It has been a journey that will not be forgotten, and I look forward to accomplishing the next dream that pops up in my mind.



Desiree Bencosme

It is difficult to give a part of your life, in the shape of a story, so I'll attempt to make it sound as vivid and real as it felt. I came to Bryant University determined, driven, and inspired. Determined to succeed as a first generation college student, driven to develop my identity as a strong independent Latin American woman, and inspired by the obstacles I faced to find myself there, and the people who supported me – characteristics that were welcomed and fostered during my Bryant experience.

I believe that it is not the clubs or organizations you were a part of, but the people that moved you while you were there that truly create and enhance you. My freshman year held so many new encounters, and I welled with enthusiasm to finally have made it to college! I joined The Bottom Line, Student ambassadors, the Bryant Psychology Association, women's crew, became an orientation leader, and more – all clubs and organization that may not have spanned my entire Bryant experience but were all essential to who I became in my time here.

Bryant Ambassadors was one of my favorite of all; it accommodated my energetic enthusiasm for Bryant, my experience and knowledge of the school, and my ability to connect with others in an invaluable involvement. I became an Ambassador second semester of my freshman year. The ambassador program helped me be comfortable with being uncomfortable, a social and life skill that makes me challenge myself regularly and keeps me on my toes. It is what made me capable of sharing my love of the school with other students who were looking for their place to call home for the next four years.

As a part of the rowing team, which I sadly was not able to continue my senior year, I discovered an inextinguishable fighting spirit and team camaraderie that I could never replace. On the women's crew team I had coaches like Mark LaBossiere, Kristen San Bento, and George Shuster who nurtured my strength, dedication, determination, and passion – posing challenges and setting goals for us on a team and individual basis. They provided me with support when I was at my worst, so I could be my best, as a person, in the class room and on the water. I will never forget my girls, those who have moved on and those who still remain, who were unrivaled as friends and gave me a spirit of defiance when the odds were against us.

My Junior Year, I was an Orientation leader for the class of 2018, and the experience tore me open and exposed me to the most amazing support group, team, and family, which I could never have expected. I was made vulnerable, ripped apart to be stitched together with 17 other amazing people and a truly inspiring professional staff, to put on – what I would judge – to be the best orientation Bryant University had seen. I left that experience with a heavy heart, knowing that not only was Orientation behind me, but most of my college experience, which was coming to its final year.

I cannot only thank the people I came across in my time here. My mother, Maria Valentin, and father Rafael Rosario, have been cheering me on from day one, and I cannot thank them more, or measure how much I love them for all they have done for me. I can honestly say I would not have had the strength to overcome socioeconomic, emotional, and cultural obstacles had I not had such a strong-willed, and intelligent mother who sacrificed so much for me, nor would I be here without my father, who entered my life when I needed him most, and has never stopped being there for me in my time of need.

Bryant University has captivated me, from the moment I arrived, to the moment I walk through those black gates. There have been faculty and staff like Stephanie Perry, my academic adviser, who helped me stay at Bryant University, despite financial struggles, providing emotional support and guidance, while also advising me academically. I refuse to not name Professors like Joe Trunzo, Heather Lacy, Alex Perullo, Brian Blais, and Tom Roach, who are only some of the amazing faculty that transformed my ways of thinking and pushed the scope of my capabilities during my time here. I made a special connection with Anna Takahama, who helped me overcome a more internal battle of facing failure and moving beyond it with a smile, while also being a friend and mentor during the remainder of my time at Bryant.



I can only imagine that walking through the archway is symbolic for the transformation experienced when you move on to the next phase in life beyond Bryant's gates. It's the end of the assembly line where the final product is ready for use, with a lifetime guarantee that you meant something to the community.

Now, how we all arrive there fails to be synonymous with replicable, replaceable, habitual practices, but is instead individual, powerful, and irreplaceable. I can honestly say I will walk through those gates filled with joy, as I continue not only, determined, driven, and inspired, but also – enthusiastic, curious, passionate, and knowledgeable, empathetic, and empowered – ready for the new journey beyond the archway.

Bryant University hit all of the requirements on my checklist. When I was applying to schools, I was looking for things like: a business focus, a small and close community, and an academic challenge. After spending four years here, I know I made the right choice. There are endless opportunities on this campus to make yourself better. There are international opportunities, chances to make a meaningful impact on organizations, exceptional staff, and a support system offered in the Bryant community.

When I arrived on campus in the spring of 2012 I was excited and ready to discover what I am truly passionate about. I have had the opportunity to meet some great people and make life-time friendships. Through offerings like the Sophomore International Experience and studying abroad, I got exposure to international businesses, and I had some unique experiences. These programs were very well organized, and it was a great supplement to an already stellar education. The Archway Investment Fund gave me real experience with managing money and was a huge contributor to my landing an awesome job at Factset as a consultant. These opportunities are what sets us apart from other schools, and I'm glad I participated in them.

Campus engagement and the organizations I was a part of helped me to become a better and more productive individual. I'm pleased to say that our Enactus chapter was ranked in the top 25 percent in the nation this year; needless to say, there is strong leadership remaining to continue to improve our community. Sigma Chi has taught me more than I can fit into a couple of sentences. The types of leaders that we have on campus in organizations like Senate, The Bottom Line, CALO, and many others have pushed me to be better. The Global Supply Chain Club provides real and meaningful events for people dedicated to the development of our robust Global Supply Chain Management program. I will never forget the experiences and people that I met through all of these incredible organizations.

I have to give credit to some of the people on this campus that have made Bryant a great place. Teresa McCarthy, you have been an incredible mentor and you've helped to fuel my passion for supply chain. I was fortunate enough to have you for three classes, and I'm looking forward to an even better Supply Chain program at Bryant for years to come. It will continue to develop leaders in industries throughout the country. Brent, as much as you can get on my nerves from all of the group meetings we have together, studying abroad in Ireland wouldn't have been the same without you. Jen, Bryant has been much better for me with your presence. Knowing that I always had someone I could go to made the tough times better and the good times even better. To all my other friends, you have impacted and motivated me, if I had about 10,000 more words I could cover all of the great people that I've met.

More than anything, my family has meant the most to me and they've been there every step of the way. Just knowing you were only a phone call away made the long nights and the fifth group meeting of the day that much more bearable. I'm blessed to have such a strong support system. Joey, I look forward to seeing you walk across a similar stage seven years from now.



Barbie, you're beautiful! Mom, I couldn't even begin to describe the impact you've had on me. Chris, let's make this a great summer. Mikey, it's great knowing we will always be connected, you're my boy blue. You've helped me through some really tough times, I wouldn't have been nearly as capable without your constant support.

I've made some great memories over my time at Bryant. Starting my freshman year and living in the quad of hall 15. You might have helped me to get in some trouble, but I wouldn't have learned an awesome Pandora station to go to bed to, if it weren't for that room. Going to Costa Rica and Panama and hearing Boqian say "Cha know" always brought a smile to my face. Going abroad and visiting eight countries in four months, gave me great exposure to so many different cultures. Not to mention some unbelievable memories and great Instagram opportunities. H12 was a great decision. From the pointless conversations to the intense discussions on oils future, I'm confident in saying that I have made some lifetime friendships with you guys. Not to mention raising over \$10,000 for the Huntsman cancer institute and jumping into the Bryant pond. It's great knowing that I got an incredible education and had fun while doing it.

Now time for my inspirational portion of this article. "You miss 100 percent of the shots you don't take" -Wayne Gretsky. This quote always resonated with me, and I feel that there is a reason for everything that we do. Even though we are graduating, we should never forget the people that we met on this campus. I've made so many great memories with friends, professors, family, and much more over my Bryant career. As we move on and pursue our goals, let's make an impact. Let's improve the name of Bryant. Let's continue to go out and get what we are worth! As always, proud to be a bulldog!



Hannah Cleef



There is one thing I know for certain about Bryant University. It gives every student the opportunity to shine if they're willing to take it. Coming into this establishment my freshman year was an absolute whirlwind, one that I didn't know if I'd even make it out of. I began my climb on the social, emotional, mental, and educational ladder by beginning at the bottom of the totem, joining clubs as a "general member" with no particular direction or with any certainty that anything would lead me anywhere.

My first two weeks at Bryant were a mix of finding my classroom, trying to awkwardly make friends, and holding back tears. I remember seeing a sign for an A Cappella group taped to the old Bryant Student Center and thinking that would be a safe place to start. Joining The Bottom Line (TBL) was my first step up "the ladder," and now, three years later, I am the President of the group that truly gave me a purpose.

I remember graduating from high school and the question was always "what's your plan," and I always said "I want to make a difference" in a semi-confident, skittish kind of way. I wanted to walk away feeling like I helped someone, and at Bryant I thought, what better way to do that, than by joining the fight against Cancer.

Colleges Against Cancer was a club I joined on a whim, and at my first "general member" meeting applications were being passed around for Assistant Director of Relay for Life. I had never participated in a "Relay" before, but I was determined to get involved and so I applied; a risk I was somewhat comfortable taking. Interviews were held and I was honored when I was given the position. That year we raised almost \$60,000 for the American Cancer Society (ACS).

The following year it was my turn to take on the challenge of running my second ever Relay and Bryant's 10th. We raised just over \$43,000, an amazing amount; but for me, that was my

first experience dealing with, failure. My committee and I had raised so much and although I was proud of them, I felt like I failed myself. I had set expectations for myself, and I didn't meet them, learning lesson #1, "life goes on." So I didn't reach my goal, but it was an amazing event, and we did raise a kick-ass amount!

The transition from sophomore year into junior year was a big one. After joining Alpha Omicron Pi back in the fall of my sophomore year, I felt even more comfortable on campus. I had friends from every corner of this place. I was making it up that ladder. When I was given the prestigious position of being an Orientation leader that summer, I was flying up that ladder; I was on top of the world.

That summer (during Orientation) I learned more about myself than I could have ever imagined. Lesson #2: "If you ever get an opportunity to grow and become a leader and watch OTHER people become leaders around you, grab it," because as terrifying and overwhelming as it may seem, I can't thank the people and the process enough.

That experience shaped my future, making junior year a mix of emotions ranging from overwhelmed to happy to total loss of control. Junior year was a lot of growth and discovering. Lesson #3: "Learn from your past to make a better future." Making the same decisions and expecting different results is by, Albert Einstein's standards, insanity. Trust me it's not an easy lesson to learn, but if you can master it, you've succeeded! I can say with full confidence that as a senior at Bryant University, I am ready for my next chapter, having learned from my past.

My final year at Bryant has been the biggest learning lesson thus far. I had to let go of a lot of the reins I had been holding onto. I'll never forget what someone said to me, "Hannah, maybe you're time at Bryant has reached its peak." It took me a while to realize that I wasn't meant to openly lead anymore. I needed to help others become the leader that others once helped me become. I didn't realize until the middle of my senior year that after three years of personal growth, overcoming challenges, and creating greater opportunities, it was time to pass all that I learned down.

I am grateful for all the opportunities I have had. I am beyond thankful that I was blessed with two loving and empowering parents who have given me the tools to succeed. I am thankful for the people I have met in every organization I have had the pleasure of being a part of because they taught me true leadership, the true meaning of hard work and what it feels like to accomplish things as a team.

Finally, I am so thankful to my O2 family who have kept me laughing throughout my time here at Bryant. They're the kind of friends who you keep for a lifetime, because you can't imagine life without them. It has been an honor to attend Bryant University, and, hopefully, I have left even a little mark on this beautiful campus, because it has certainly left a mark on me.

"How did you even find Bryant University all the way from Albania?" is a question that I have been asked often. I could go on and explain how I ended up here, but I think what really matters is what my experience at Bryant has been once I came here, and how my life has changed throughout these four years. I have learned a lot, grown a lot, accomplished a lot, and most importantly have made friendships that will last a lifetime. There are many ways in which I can tell my Bryant story, but I have chosen to convey it through the relationships I've built here and how they have impacted me.

For most of the international students at Bryant, the first relationships are built during the 4MILE program. Even though a hurricane delayed my flight till after the program ended, I was still able to meet most of the international students in my class later on. I was impressed at the number of countries represented at Bryant, and I did not hesitate to become friends with students from countries I had never been in and knew little about.

Throughout these four years, I have been able to share my culture and values with people around me, and have learned a lot about their cultures in exchange. I have learned that a lot of reasons why people act the way they do is because of how they grew up and what they believe in, and instead of judging them we need to try to understand and love each other. It is only when you get out of your comfort zone and let your own world views be challenged that you learn and grow the most.

Another place where I've built a lot of relationships and spent most of my time is in ACE. Given the number of hours I work at ACE, my friends say that I pretty much live there. Working at ACE has been one of the most rewarding experiences throughout these four years. I mostly tutor math, and usually there are only two possible ways students feel about math: they either love it or they hate it.

Whereas it is not hard to work with students who know exactly what they need help with, it can be challenging to work with students who don't like math or don't feel comfortable in their mathematical abilities. These students, however, can be the most rewarding ones. Being stopped by tutees in the hallway to tell me they got an A in an exam because of me or those who request that I add more appointment hours to meet with them, reminds me every now and then why I love doing what I do. Moreover, working with Kelley Tiarks and Stephanie Carter has showed me that the best bosses are the ones you want to give your best for, not because they demand it, but just because of who they are.

Another kind of relationship that a lot of students don't take advantage of is the one with their professors. I would encourage everyone to connect with and get to know at least one of their professors throughout the four years. Through my Honors Capstone, I was able to interact with Professor Kennedy and I am very grateful for this experience. She supported and encouraged the idea of my project from the beginning, helped me carry it through, as well as working on publishing it afterwards. Professors are here to help us succeed, and they value their relationships with students more than we think they do.

Outside of ACE and the classrooms, campus involvements are another highlight of my Bryant experience. I have been involved with a lot of clubs and orgs like the Podium, Italian American Association, Intervarsity, and Model UN, for which I was also a co-founder. These involvements have allowed me to take leadership roles, meet a lot of people with the same passions, and make a difference in the Bryant community.

However, my Bryant experience would not have been the same without the strong social circle I have built here. People come in and out of our lives at different times. Each of them leaves a part of them with us and fulfill a purpose in our life. Some of these relationships are meant to last only for awhile, but others are meant to stay with us for a lifetime.

Even though it is sad to leave Bryant and to have to say goodbye to quite a few people that mean a lot to me, I know that true friends never lose each-other, and distance is not an excuse for not keeping in touch. I am thankful that I will be living with my two best friends, Suyomi and Nicole, in Boston for the summer and that Bryant is not the end of our friendship. At the same time, I am excited to start a new chapter of my life in Chicago, working for Ernst & Young.

As I live the last days as a Bryant student, I can't help but be grateful for the experiences I have had and the people I have met. I know that years down the line, it is not the grades that I will remember, but the people I've met and the experiences I have had with them. That is why I decided to tell my Bryant story through my relationships, because that's what matters the most!





Renee Lawlor

There is a similar feeling today as there was during Opening Weekend of freshman year at Bryant. There is so much excitement for a new chapter, a little anxiety, an abundance of unknowns and pride in all the accomplishments that led us to this point. There's no words that truly encapsulate the thoughts and emotions that each of my classmates and I are feeling today.

I am so torn to be leaving Bryant. I know I am more than prepared for the next step and the "real world." I look forward to the adventures that lie ahead, moving to a new city and facing new challenges. My days will completely different, I may just be lost without all my student involvements. I so deeply enjoyed being a part of the Collegiate Entrepreneurs' Organization, welcoming prospective students and families as a Student Ambassador and being a part of the transformational learning process that is the IDEA program. Every meeting, every event, every student organization has given my life purpose, fun and personal growth. Well okay, maybe I can't say the same for all the group project meetings for classes. Yet all the little things we stressed about – papers, grades, the tribulations of daily life and more are meaningless now.

What Bryant University has taught me is that opportunities come for those who take advantage of opportunity. They say when one door closes another door opens. This is often true, but what I have found to be more true, is that when you choose to walk through one open door, ten more doors open. I could have never imagined all the things that happened over these past four years. I have made the best friends possible, had the chance to travel to more than 16 countries, held many leadership opportunities and loved every day here. Each opportunity I said yes to (which for my sanity may have been more times than I probably should have) led me on a path I could have never anticipated for my life.

What I will miss most about Bryant is the community of hardworking, down to earth, and passionate people. The community here is the very reason I choose to attend Bryant. I knew that this was the environment that would give me the best 4 years possible, all while allowing me to grow into my best possible self. I would not trade one day at Bryant for anything. Every facet of this institution, every person I've met, every opportunity and every obstacle I've faced has made who I am today. I would not do anything differently. Sure there were mistakes, it is college after all, but all of those became lessons that helped me become who I am.

I could never have imagined the number of people that would impact my life. To all the faculty, staff and administrators I have gotten

to know over the years, thank you for all that you have taught me, all of the belief you had in me and for helping me grow into the woman I am. Thank you for going above and beyond your job requirements to help me and my peers.

To my friends this has been an amazing, fun and memorable four years. The laughs, the endless jokes and spontaneous adventures together are things that made each day here "a great day to be a bulldog." To my roommates of 4 years, I could never imagine my life without you had we not met day one freshman year as neighbors in Hall 14. The constant support we had from one another and the depth of our friendship is something I know I was blessed to find here.

And finally to my family, thank you for encouraging me, loving me and being my friends. Thank you for throwing the best family weekend tailgates for my roommates and their families, who are now a part of our family. Thank you Mom for being insistent that Bryant was the perfect school for me – it kills me to admit that you always do know best. Thank you Dad for being a Bryant alum that got me to look here in the first place – yet allowing me to make my own path. Brooke and Heather, I hope you have four years that can be as fulfilling, fun and meaningful as I did. Thank you all for the phone calls at all times of the day and night and the sudden trips to Bryant for much needed dinner breaks.

I am so thankful for Bryant University and all the opportunities it has given me. Today is one of the hardest days of my life, physically leaving my home at Bryant. But I will never truly leave Bryant and Bryant will never leave me. I have a Bryant family that will be a part of my life forever. As today is the beginning of the next chapter in our lives Class of 2015, we can only hope that the rest of our lives could match how great just four years here were. Cheers to what's next!





Originally an art student, when I transferred to Bryant I had absolutely no idea what to expect. Now, three years later I have been able to take all that I've learned from art school, Bryant, and a semester in Chile and use it to create a for profit business with a huge social mission called D.Y.D. D.Y.D stands for Do YOUR Dance, its mission is grounded in finding your passion, following it through, and telling others about it.

Through this initiative we have been able to work closely with music and performing artists to bridge the gap between these artists and venues. Philip Terry, whom I met while studying abroad in Chile, is a University of Cincinnati student and the other founder of D.Y.D. Phil and I work together to get new artists booked, seen, and paid, all while stimulating local businesses.

Our focus is that D.Y.D works with people, no one works for us. None of this would have been possible without the faculty and staff whom I sought help from. A majority of the people that I've worked with over the last three years are not professors that I've had in class, but a network of incredibly talented people who have been able to inspire me to do better every day. These people include Stephanie Perry, Ron Washburn, Alex Perullo, Lauren Giardino, David Greenan, Krystal Ristaino, Heather Moon, and Laura Kohl. Of course these are not all of the people who have not only helped me, but D.Y.D. during my time at Bryant, but this article would then be a 900 word list of names.

After Phil and I graduate this May, we plan on centralizing D.Y.D. operations in Providence and work full-time on the organization with the help of contacts from Bryant Ventures. I recently participated in their "Pitch the

Panel" event where I pitched the idea of D.Y.D to a group of venture capitalists and was one of the three winners. Bryant Ventures would not be possible without the incredible work done by Sandra Potter and Mark Feinstein. More information about D.Y.D. can be found on our Facebook page ([Facebook.com/DYDDoYOURDance](https://www.facebook.com/DYDDoYOURDance)), or by contacting me at doyourdancedyd@gmail.com or llerner@bryant.edu. Developing artists and people with a D.Y.D. are encouraged to contact us!

Other than D.Y.D. I was fortunate enough to be part of the women's crew team for two out of the last three years. It was difficult at first to fit into the Bryant community as not only a transfer student, but a commuter as well. As a commuter I found it difficult to figure out what to do and where to go in between classes, but Donna Maisano helped me out from the first second I stepped into ACE. I've spent so much time in ACE over the last three years that many people think I work there, when in reality it's become a space to hang out, talk, hold meetings, and connect with some of the most helpful people I've ever met. If it weren't for my struggles with math I never would have gone to ACE to begin with. The math lab is also where I met Jasmine Torok who somehow convinced me that waking up at 4:30 in the morning to row a boat was a good idea.

Through the crew team I was able to work with some of the most amazing people that Bryant has to offer. I definitely do not handle being told what to do very well, but the crew team is where I've learned to let it all go. Many people were surprised when I told them I was part of a team for that reason, but it has all been worth it. The early alarms, freezing cold mornings, wind burn, persistent injuries, and more stairs than I could have ever imagined were all forgotten when I was in the boat rowing as hard as I could, in sync with the girls around me. It wasn't always the most pleasant waking up at 4:30AM to go to practice, but being on the team made it all worth it. The early mornings also contributed to the success of D.Y.D. Being awake and working before most people even roll out of bed in the morning is the definition of productivity. I don't know how I would have made it through my time at Bryant without them.

I transferred to Bryant knowing that I was going to be a Global Studies major with a Cultural Interaction concentration, and I vaguely remember checking a box somewhere saying I thought "entrepreneurship" would be my minor. Honestly, I remember having a conversation with my best friend and not being able to say "entrepreneurship" without getting tongue tied. Now, three years later I am graduating with a degree in Global Studies with a concentration in Cultural Interaction and a minor in Business Administration, but I'm leaving with a full understanding of entrepreneurship and the ability to say it! And the confidence to say that I am an entrepreneur that is able to use knowledge of people, their language, their culture, and the way they communicate to run my own business.

Being an entrepreneur has not and will not always be easy, but when my friends and teammates have resumes with four jobs and mine would have had 22, I'll take that as a sign to stick with what I'm doing.



Madison Lichtmann

If you told me four years ago, leaving this place would be one of the most emotional things I would ever have to do I probably would have laughed in your face. How could four years of college really impact my life so much? Oh how naïve I was. Little did I know the roller coaster ride I was about to embark on would challenge me, motivate me, and become the most transformational and eye-opening experience I've ever had.

Being the typical first year student I was stuck in my high school ways, comfortable with my close knit group of friends, few involvements, and a very close-minded attitude. It wasn't until my parents forced me to find a job that all of that began to change.

I was alone and on my own for the first time. I had to pursue job opportunities, take on additional responsibility, and was slowly but surely being pushed out of my comfortable shell of who I thought I was. Fortunately for me, I was offered a position at the Scoop, in the then Bryant Center. It was a job that forced me to hold myself accountable, make social sacrifices, and interact with a wide variety of involved students and peers. It was this position that opened my eyes to the range of opportunities and experiences I could be a part of outside of my academic career here. Little did I know these small changes were about to open up my entire world.

I began to make friends outside of my so called "clique," and the walls of high school Maddie slowly started to come down. The unfamiliar started becoming familiar, and I began appreciating the responsibility and connections that came along with this experience. It was then that I knew I wanted to pursue more opportunities like it. I found myself becoming more open-minded, happier and was starting to enjoy the challenges and thrill of trying new things.

This is where I really began to grow, learn and take control of my life. I'd say I had four points in my Bryant experiences from which I knew my life had changed for the better. First being Orientation. I was involved with the program for two years, once as an OL and another as the Staff Coordinator. These were some of the happiest memories I have of Bryant. I was able to find myself, my place, my passions, and truly make an impact on other people's lives. Second was ResLife. Being a Resident Assistant has taught me how to better communicate, listen, take responsibility, help others, and be a positive role model.

Third, my involvement in Bryant Cheerleading. At first this club was just a way for me to stay active, in shape, and not lose my tumbling skills, but it became so much more. It became a place for me to de-stress and free my mind. I was able to watch and help this program grow and transform into something remarkable. It was through this involvement that I knew I had gained another family.

Lastly, I had the opportunity to study abroad in London, England for a semester. This was another eye-opening experi-



ence that I wouldn't trade for the world. It brought me back to reality, cultured me, taught me how to reinvent myself, and create lasting relationships. This experience taught me the importance of compassion, being open, vulnerable, and extremely flexible. I learned a great deal about myself, the world around me, and had the chance to travel Europe with some unforgettable people. It truly was a once in a life time kind of thing, and a piece of my heart will forever be in London.

As you can see I haven't even touched upon my amazing academic experiences, and I've already shared how much Bryant has changed me. I learned quickly that college became what you made it. It taught me discipline, time management, responsibility, the importance of helping others, how to grow, learn, and eventually lead. It's these skills and experiences that have shaped and transformed me into the person I am today, and because of it I have learned how to better listen, communicate, confront, show compassion, and be more confident in myself and my abilities.

I won't lie; these experiences haven't been the easiest, and there were definitely sacrifices that had to be made, but I guess that's just one more thing I've learned from Bryant, anything worth having never comes easy. I wouldn't trade any of them for the world and am forever grateful to my parents for pushing me outside of my comfort zone four short years ago.

I can't even begin to explain how appreciative I am for the experiences and opportunities this university has given me.

"You get a strange feeling when you're about to leave a place, like you'll not only miss the people you love, but you'll also miss the person you are now at this time and place you'll never be this way ever again." Azar Nafisi

As much truth as this quote holds I can confidently say I am truly inspired and forever grateful for the past four years. Bryant will always hold a special place in my heart, and I look forward to once again entering into the unfamiliar, because it is there that I will once again find passion, inspiration, and those once in a lifetime, life-changing experiences.

As an upperclassmen solemnly tells you that time flies as they prepare themselves for their last semester at Bryant, you usually have the same reaction. "Time doesn't pass fast enough". As a freshmen that was my thought. I wanted to breeze through my college career and start my life in the real world. Little did I know the impact and connections that would spawn while at Bryant. Looking back now, it occurs to me that time does fly by.

It all started as a senior in high school, staying late in my Marketing class during study hall just to finish up my common application, when my friend suggested Bryant. Without really knowing anything about this small school in the small state of Rhode Island I applied on a whim. As the acceptance letters came in Bryant stood out, and I chose this school to be where I would spend the next four years of my life.

As I reflect on the past four years I cannot help but reminisce about the memories that I created and the hundreds of people that played a role in my life here. My journey started with me moving in early for the 4MILE program. I remember my excitement as I moved in, but I also remember the tears in my family's eyes as they pulled away in the car. I had no idea what to expect, but I was ready for whatever Bryant had to offer. I met some of my closet friends that year in Hall 15 on the first floor. They were my support system when I was homesick as well as the administrators of having fun when we had nothing to do. These initial moments at Bryant shaped the person I would soon grow up to be.

My experience at Bryant can be summed up in one word, involvement. I wanted to get involved in everything and make a difference in the Bryant community. Although I have worked in many different facets at Bryant there were a few that really changed my life for the better.

The first being the Sigma Chi Fraternity. Coming into college I had no intention of joining Greek, but now I am an active member in an organization, based on concrete values, that stresses the importance of the individuality of its members. Sigma Chi Fraternity opened my eyes to the true meaning of what a fraternity is like. The fraternity has given me more than I could have ever expected. It has given me confidence to stand up for what I believe in, drive to continuously improve myself, and a big brother.

In fraternal life big brothers are meant to guide the little brother through the different trials and tribulations that the big once faced and the little will face. My big brother was Donald Mendenhall, and just a short two years back he was writing in his commencement issue. Reading that issue I told myself that I will write in mine and thank him for all he has done for me. In his issue he says he hopes he was as much of a role model and inspiration to me as I to him. I can honestly say without him I would not have achieved the things I have.

The second was Residence Life. I initially wanted to be an RA for all the wrong reasons, for the money and a single room, but when I saw the impact I had on first year students as an Orientation Leader I knew I wanted to work with first year students year round. The RA role gave that to me. The role introduced me to some of the greatest people at Bryant. People I would have never met through other involvements. Reslife was my home away from home. After my first year I became a Head RA and the bonds among my staff were made even stronger, and they became some of my closest friends.

My reflection over the past four years would not be complete without mentioning some of the most influential people that helped me at Bryant. Anna Takahama, thank you for always being the voice of reason and challenging me to find the answers to my own questions. You were there through my successes and failures, and I will miss working with you. Brian Boughton, you always had so much confidence in me and trusted me to lead our staff. Although it was sometime scary how much we thought alike, I will miss working with you, and I wish you luck on your future endeavors.

To my family, thank you for supporting me and my decision to come to Bryant. Your phone calls, tuition payments, and campus visits helped make my Bryant experience better.

All my friends and classmates, thank you for giving me the best four years that anyone can ask for. The memories that we created and the adventures that we embarked on will remain with me forever. All of those sleepless nights in the Unstructure studying have finally paid off. All the nights that we cannot particularly remember at the townhouses were all shared with the people that we will never forget. Time does fly by, but we have made each day count. Today is the day we end our journey as Bryant undergrads and start our journey toward a promising future. Congratulations, we made it Class of 2015!





Remember when...

Freshman Year

- We went "Around the World" and got excited thinking every weekend would be the same
- Girls thought a party skirt was acceptable for E-Pitch
- Business 101 and FFL still existed
- We learned to tango around the goose poop
- A student took "Cheeks" the bunny for a ride all the way to Newport
- The fire alarms went off every other day at random times of the night
- Big Sean came to "Bryant College"
- When RAs checked our bags at the lobbies of 14, 15 and 16
- When everybody waited for Mondays to get the bathrooms cleaned
- It snowed on Halloween? Ho Ho Ho Merry Halloween?
- Shower caddies and flip flops?
- I asked you to "Call Me Maybe"?
- Listening to "Levels" at every townhouse

Sophomore Year

- We stole Salmo trays to go sledding around campus #RIPSalmo Trays
- Bryant was obsessed with their 150th anniversary
- When "Big Dawg" couldn't get the bonfire started
- When only ONE New Boy came for Spring Weekend
- Lacrosse went to Syracuse and an entire bus full of fans went with them
- When Sandy and Nemo both paid us a visit
- When Bagpipe Dan premiered at the townhouses
- When Tupper tore his ACL and went to physical therapy
- Bryant's Thursday night spot "Effins" went bankrupt
- When Bryant generously provided us with 1 ply toilet paper on Sundays
- We had the "Bryant Center"
- A fancy restaurant somehow opened in Salmo
- Campus united to honor the victims of the Boston Marathon bombings
- We had to clean our own bathrooms for the first time
- We could get written up for setting up the furniture in our common rooms
- Finally being able to park wherever we wanted... but still having to park at the freshman lot.





Junior Year

- All of our friends went studying abroad and brought no gifts back
- We pretended airplanes in the night sky were like shooting stars during Spring Weekend
- The Last Resort aka “Effins” came back to life and “raid” rumors swirled every Thursday
- The skunks came back... with a vengeance
- Town of Smithfield vs. Bryant University
- #BigDawg gave us a Snow Day via Twitter @BryantUPrez
- #6thfan #6thfan #6thfan
- The Fisher Student Center opened
- Having a king size bed while your roommate was abroad
- You had that first “legal” drink
- DPS shut down Ronzios due to “high activity” on campus
- There was drama about picking your townhouses
- The Spring Weekend ticket line...remember that for senior year too!

Senior Year

- We met our Monday night Professor two months into the semester
- We thought Salmo was going to get better food
- Nick’s Place prices went up while their selection went down
- Spring Break 2015
- When Bryant became a medical school (Physicians Assistant program)
- O’Shea... O’Shea O’Shea O’Shea’s buzzer beater
- When “Big Dawg” broke ground on our China campus...and the new Athletic Center...and Academic Building
- Kevin Tejada got a better deal from Barbara Corcoran than anyone on Shark Tank
- Everybody was celebrating on the frozen pond when the Patriots won
- Extravaganza Fashion Show 2015
- We realized Bagpipe Dan has an official Facebook Fan Page
- Everybody was skiing and snowboarding around the town houses
- Jack Welch told us to celebrate every single achievement
- T-Pain....
- When you laughed at all the Senior Week prices

Uh... Hello, pay attention to the speaker!



Connor Norat



In early August of 2011, I remember driving with my parents up to little old Smithfield, Rhode Island to begin my collegiate soccer career. It was a time in my life when I wanted to expand my own personal goals and achievements. This seemed like an ironic task since I was making a move from the second smallest state in the country (Delaware) to the smallest one. Just four years later, I now realize that my athletic participation was just the tip of the iceberg in an experience that cannot be defined by one class, club, or sport. And in a small school in the smallest state, I found a bigger experience than I could have had at any other university.

Anyone who comes to Bryant has potential to step outside of conformity and develop their own personal skills and relationships. This can all be done through the vast amount of resources that this school has to offer. I believe in the idea that "college is what you make of it." Since freshman year I have been reaching out of my comfort zone to gain levels of participation that I didn't know were possible. I have a passion for soccer and I fully accredit Division I sports for the time management skills that I was responsible for since freshman year. My teammates and I began to balance academics, sports, and social life. (We prioritized them as best we could for an 18 year old). It was through time management where I realized that I had potential to fit way more into my schedule than I thought originally possible.

The first club I decided to take up was The Podium for public speaking. If you are not familiar already, Bryant is infamous

for the amount of group projects and presentations that are required. This club helped develop my interviewing and professional skills which I have continued to use ever since. The second group I joined was Bryant Ventures for those who wanted to start their own business. It was here where I developed a bit of an entrepreneurial side that I did not know I was capable of. I worked with my business partner and close friend to design and develop a product that was able to help medicinal prescription users of all ages. Bryant Ventures introduced us into a world of many different facets that I would normally never be exposed to. We presented to Venture Capitalists, met with patent lawyers, and worked with engineers from a corporation who built our first 6 prototypes. I also joined the finance club since I have been passionate about the investments world since a young teenager. With amazing guest speakers the finance club urged me to join the Archway Investment Fund. I was an acting member as the head of compliance and an executive board member. It was here where I began to meet the professional connections that I consulted for career advice and where I began developing an extensive alumni network. After three and a half years, I felt

that I did not have to wait until graduation in order to give back to the Bryant community that has given me so much. This past semester during the spring of my senior year, I began teaching classes on Wednesday nights in the library to students who were interested in any finance related topic. The students came up with the weekly curriculum based on whatever they wanted to learn more about. Teaching these students provided myself more satisfaction than they received from the courses and has made want to come back to Bryant as an alumni. Bryant is truly an amazing place that has given me a big experience in such a small world. I hope everyone takes advantages of those opportunities that are laid out in front of you and those that aren't.

To my parents: Words cannot express my gratitude for your sacrifices to have Jason and I at Bryant. For all of the traveling for soccer games and time spent away from home. Thank you and I love you.

To my brother Jason: It was awesome being at Bryant with you for a year. I cannot wait to visit and see you on the soccer field. Peace and love bro... peace and love.

To all of my friends and classmates: Congratulations on all you have done. I am proud to have met so many awesome people here and I hope to see you all again. We may forget some classes and tests, but I know we will remember the rest.

"It's a great day to be a bulldog"- Eleanor Roosevelt

I had the pleasure of working Commencement for the past two years and to be honest, I never thought the day would come where I would be graduating and not volunteering. As a sophomore, graduation was far from my mind, and as a junior it was even farther. I remember hearing the graduation march last year and thinking to myself, "This is it, one year from today this is me." I began to pace back and forth thinking that my own graduation is so far away, and yet here we are today.

Freshmen year seems so long ago, but it was the building block for my Bryant experience. I met some of my greatest friends, joined almost every club that Bryant offered, and somehow managed to do well in my classes. Don't get me wrong, I couldn't have done this all by myself. I was pushed by the student leaders, faculty and staff, and the Office of Campus Engagement to make the most of my time here.

I became a Bulldog Leader my sophomore year, welcoming in the class of 2016 to our wonderful campus. This was my first leadership role on this campus and was the reason I strived to do more to develop myself further. I was an Orientation Leader my junior year, transitioning the class of 2017 to the best four years of their lives. Being an OL was one of the most memorable experiences of my Bryant career. I quickly gained 16 new friendships with the rest of the student staff and established a much closer and professional relationship with the members of OCE. These relationships were crucial to my experience at Bryant. Without the members of OCE I wouldn't be who I am today. This year I also serve on the Bryant Senior Advisory Council, aiding the University with strategic decisions involving the students of Bryant. It is a prestigious honor just to be nominated for this experience, and even more satisfying getting those emails from Vicky Atkins for the next dinner!

My most significant involvement was being part of the Student Programming Board. I joined my freshmen year, and this club is the reason I did not transfer out. Freshmen year was hard for me, being away from my family for that long and the fact that I felt like I didn't belong here. SPB helped me by giving me an experience like no other club. I quickly became heavily involved within this club, planning and promoting all of the events SPB sponsored. I loved it so much that I became the Special Events Chairperson for two years in a row. Today, I stand as their President, my greatest accomplishment thus far at Bryant.

If I could travel back four years and tell myself that I would be president, I honestly wouldn't believe myself. There was no way that the shy and introverted 18 year-old would lead an organization of this size. I am proud to say that SPB has given me endless opportunities to better not only the student life here at Bryant, but myself as well. I have learned how to be a successful leader, how to create professional relationships with faculty and staff, but more importantly I have learned to believe in myself.

To my family: You have been by my side for this whole journey, and I would not be where I am today without all your support. You guys are my inspiration each and every day. Dad, Mom, Nicole, Chris, and Brittany, I love you all so much, and I'm glad I could share this experience with you today.

To my friends: This is it! The memories that we made these past four years will be memories I will hold onto forever. We had our ups and downs, but I wouldn't change one moment for the world. I'm fortunate enough to share my time here with you all, and I thank each and every one of you for making these the best four years of my life.

To all the staff mentors I have worked with in my time at Bryant, especially Daphney Joseph, Rich Hurley, Anna Takahama, Matt Kreimeier, Sue Zarnowski, and Amanda McGrath: thank you for pushing me out of my comfort zone. Thank you for everything you taught me, and thank you especially for being there every step of the way.

To my SPBer's: You all have no idea how much you taught me. Thank you for the constant laughs and memories all four years. My Bryant experience would be nothing without all of you!

And finally to the Class of 2015 – congratulations, we finally did it! We finally experienced what it's like to walk under the Archway. It has been a pleasure getting to know so many of you and I wish you nothing but the best in your future!

To express my Bryant Experience in 900 words is limiting, as there is so much more I could say about why I love Bryant. Writing this has made me realize how far I have come in these short four years. We leave behind today experiences which became memories that will be with us for a lifetime. Wherever we end up after graduation, we will always remember Bryant for what it has given us. To the Class of 2015 – we did it! Congratulations everyone! Just remember: Once a bulldog, always a bulldog!





Justin Snow



Many students spend nearly 18 years begging to get out of school. Elementary school, junior high school, and high school don't seem to have a purpose to many students, at first. Generally unprovoked, every parent, mentor, and teacher offers life stories to these young adults about "life flying by" and "you're going to miss this, you're going to want this back." Then you make it to college, for me, Bryant University. You leave home and, now, how far you chose to venture and explore with life, social life, professional advancement, and career choices is all up to you.

Over the last four years I have grown tremendously from the timid first-year student I was just four short years ago.

During my tenure on campus some of the things that I have done include the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC), Office of Admission Ambassador program, Senior Admission Fellow, a member of the Collegiate Entrepreneurial Organization (CEO), and, as a senior, I sat on the Bryant Senior Advisory Council (BSAC), am in Omicron Delta Kappa, and was an IDEA program mentor. While I did not stay with every organization I joined for all four years, every experience afforded me the opportunity to develop both socially and professionally. These organizations are not something that one joins just to say you did them, they are organizations that allow you to gain diverse perspectives and insights to students in all majors and backgrounds.

Every class I took, every organization I was a member of, every committee I sat on is at least one networking contact, no matter if it is the professor, the faculty chair of a club, or even a fellow student. My philosophy has always been to treat everyone you meet like they can change your life. It doesn't matter their position, resume, education, or level of power. The power you hold as a student to make and use these connections at Bryant is phenomenal. With the connections, I expanded my small network of people to a fully developed network through informal mentorships, organizations, and internships.

It all started freshman year with Professor David Greenan, my first professor of my first class, Tuesday at 8am. Well, I missed that one. Lesson one learned, rather than just showing up on Thursday and trying to hide I was waiting for Professor Greenan to introduce myself face to face at 9:30. So started my first informal mentorship of many.

Throughout the semester my business 100 team and I developed a comprehensive business plan for a Company. The group work and being thrown right into competitions, such as the elevator pitch competition, rapidly takes you from neutral to sixth gear. The faster pace of life, studies, and work was apparent and I was ready. After my freshman year, already a quarter of the way through my Bryant career, I had seen tremendous growth in my ability to work with random "ad-hoc" type teams and to manage my organizational behavior within these teams.

Sophomore year, another semester, another class, another team. My team won overall at Bryant for the service learning project in management 200 with Professor Christopher Ratcliffe. This team had its struggles, hit its obstacles, but learned how we needed to work as a cohesive unit. Ultimately, we succeeded in our mission with Wounded Warrior Project. Through this effort I now work closely with Wounded Warrior Project to host a large multi-agency fundraiser in New York which has raised over \$30,000 for the organization in just two events.

The summer of my junior year I spent over two months in training for the U.S. Army through the ROTC program. Concurrently, during my training, I worked with Professor Lori Coakley on a research assignment observing management versus leadership and the size of the gap between the two in higher education curricula. This unique internship allowed me to be gathering primary research, my successes and failures as a leader in my training, while reading other works and even using primary research.

Before I could imagine it I was a senior with plenty to show in my tremendous growth. I have professional mentors, and vast personal connections with professors across many departments in both the school of Arts and Sciences and the school of Business. I have those same close connections with the Vice Presidents of the university and even President and Mrs. Machtley. I also have made friendships and bonds with students from all over the United States and all over the world.

Four years later, many of my peers will tell you they are going to miss it. Some of the ladies may cry, some of the guys may find themselves "in a dusty room." However, I charge everyone to get excited, be prepared for that first chapter in the "real world," be excited to set out and climb the ladder of your respective profession, and always look back and remember these great four years.

Shortly I will receive a Baccalaureate Degree in Science for Management and Economics alongside a strong body of classmates. I will also receive my commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army among only three other students at Bryant. As we cross the stage on May 16th as a class, we all are prepared and stand ready to be successful in our given career or profession of choice.

Growing up in Cumberland R.I., I was never really far away from Bryant University. In fact, I went to high school farther away from my home than college; but this did not stop me from loving every minute of my time at Bryant. I have been so blessed to have so many opportunities inside and outside of the classroom.

The entrepreneurship program at Bryant has been a gold mine, allowing me to interact and learn from some of the brightest professors the university has to offer. The finance and economics programs at Bryant have rounded out my education, providing a nice balance to my concentration. There are many faculty and staff who I have had the opportunity to get to know over the past four years primarily through my work at the IT Faculty & Staff helpdesk. I have had the pleasure of serving the professional staff and faculty at Bryant through this position and have learned a great deal simply by interacting with them on a daily basis (sometimes I would fix their computers too).

I have been involved with many clubs and organizations on campus, all of which have played a big role in my personal development. As a Head Resident Assistant in the Lower Village I managed a staff of RAs with the RD of the lower village, as well as having the normal responsibilities of a resident assistant. My time in Reslife has been unbelievable and taught me so much.

For over two years I served on the board of WJMF radio, first as the Production Director the second semester of my freshman year, then as the Program Director my sophomore year, and then as the General Manager my junior year. I was able to accomplish much during my time at WJMF, and the beat of Bryant will always hold a special place in my memories of college.

Since my sophomore year I have been the marketing director for the collegiate entrepreneur's organization (CEO). CEO allowed me to exercise my love for entrepreneurship outside the classroom as well as affording me the opportunity to bring that passion to other students through events such as our regional conference BUNEEC (pronounced "be unique"), the semi-annual elevator pitch competition for the freshman class, the Appathon, and startup survival – all of which are individual and unique events that bring the spirit of entrepreneurship to attendees.

I have also been lucky enough to serve on the executive board of CEO with the same individuals since my sophomore year and have accomplished much with them, such as winning national best chapter at the CEO national conference, helping the school receive donations for an innovative new classroom in Bello and helping establish the Goss prize which is a grant for entrepreneur's in the Bryant community.

Another, formative experience for me was the Linked Through Leadership program at Bryant, in particular the LEARN Weekend Experience. I participated in the weekend long retreat focused on developing leadership qualities and skills my freshman year. My senior year I was appointed the coordinator of the weekend and had the pleasure of working with some of the finest students Bryant has to offer to create the amazing and life-changing experience that is LEARN.

Additionally, I had the pleasure of being a student mentor in Bryant's innovative learning initiative, the Bryant IDEA Program. For three straight days a staff mentor, faculty mentor, and I were responsible for guiding 25 freshman through an intensive program whose purpose is to teach them how to innovate using the IDEO design thinking method. This was an intense but rewarding experience that I am so happy I was a part of.

It was my involvement with Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK - the leadership honors society on campus) that allowed me to be a mentor in the IDEA program. The Student Involvement Fee Oversight committee (SIF) is another involvement that I have had the pleasure of being a part of since my sophomore year. This committee was a great mix of my love for my classes and my involvements. To cap off my senior year I was selected for the Senior Class Committee, where I and nine other seniors get to plan senior week and other fun senior events throughout the school year. For fun I have also captained two intramural dodgeball teams to championships and many more intramural teams throughout college.

I could not have been happier with my time at Bryant University; I believe that I have had so many opportunities to learn, lead and change this community, and I know that this institution has done the same for me. Finally, I would like to thank my family for their support of my endeavors at Bryant. Mom, Dad, Mike, Buck, and Mary you mean the world to me and are my inspiration, as you will continue to be as I venture past the archway.

Thank you Bryant University for all you have done for me.





Felicia Thomas

As my time at Bryant draws to a close, I am frequently asked, "If you could do it all over again, would you change a thing?" Surprisingly, no, a thousand times no.

I would leave it all the same, every mistake, every disappointment, every time I stretched myself a little too thin, and even those questionable decisions, like not drinking coffee. All of those experiences were paired with some of the best memories of my life, and I have built bonds with some of the most incredible people I've ever met. Each experience taught me things about myself and others that I never thought possible. It prepared me for the future in ways that I never imagined.

Looking back, I can remember the exact moment when I knew Bryant was where I belonged. Before that moment I was set on attending UMass Amherst, and I had already received my acceptance to the Isenberg School of Business. It was December of my senior year, and I was in preparation for the Massachusetts DECA District 1 competition. During my time at Districts, I met Michael Malenfant '14, a Massachusetts State DECA Officer. He was then a freshman at Bryant, and as a Student Ambassador and future Orientation Leader, he naturally began his sales pitch.

While I was still skeptical, he convinced me to visit and take a tour. Most of my friends will tell you that I'm a little stubborn at times, so thankfully I smartened up and made one of the best decisions of my life. On a cold January day I made my trek to Smithfield, Rhode Island with my parents. Despite the weather and bare trees, I knew this was the warm and inviting place that I wanted to call home for the next four years.

Coming into college, I had to clue what to expect. I was a first generation college student, and my perception of college was guided by other peoples' experiences, movies, and our society's mantra that it was imperative for success. Much to my relief, Bryant did not resemble scenes from *Animal House*, *Legally Blonde*, or a college version of *Mean Girls*. I was greeted with a warm welcome from smiling faces, a lot of enthusiasm, and people that genuinely cared about my growth and success.

With my first semester upon me, I dove right in, signed up for a few too many orgs at the org fair, and called home not nearly enough. While I enjoyed this sense of new found freedom, I quickly learned my limits, and that I wasn't Wonder Woman. I had stretched myself too thin and needed to scale back on my involvements. I was always someone who was used to balancing everything, and I had difficulty saying "no." This forced me to pursue what I was truly passionate about.

My junior year was when I began to truly grow as a person and find my voice as a leader. It was my second year as a Resident Assistant, and I was able to use my experiences, both good and bad, to help freshmen find their own voice as they transitioned into college. With my other involvements, I was given the distinct honor to apply for Omicron Delta Kappa, the National Leadership Honor Society. After completing my year of service for ODK and becoming an IDEA Mentor, I was



not only inducted as a member, but also given the opportunity to become the Vice President of New Member Education and work with some of the top leaders on campus.

During our IDEA mentor training, we had the opportunity to write down our dream job, mine was to be planning and managing charitable events for a professional sports team. To my surprise, six months later, I was doing just that. First semester senior year, I was offered a position to intern with the Boston Bruins Foundation. I was humbled by this experience, and it opened my eyes to what was truly important. This experience solidified for me the realization that despite being a business major, non-profit was where I belonged. This year showed me not only who I was as a leader, but also who I want to be in the future. Everyone tells you that college is the best four years of your life; while I'm sad that these years are over I am excited for the future. I'm excited to see the amazing accomplishments of my peers and to see what the future truly has in store for us.

As I look back and reflect on the past four years, I am so grateful for the amazing individuals that helped make my Bryant experience unbelievable and that have prepared me for the next chapter in my life. To my friends, thank you for the countless memories, the amazing support, and the advice I didn't always want to hear. To the faculty members who guided me, thank you for challenging me, encouraging me, and for most of all, always believing in me. To the staff members who were always there for the unanticipated therapy sessions, the life talks, and the life lessons, thank you for your countless instances of support and dedication. To my parents, words cannot describe how thankful I am to have you in my life. You have always pushed me to achieve my greatest potential and have made countless sacrifices along the way. This degree is not only for me, but for both of you as well. Despite the challenges and obstacles along the way, WE did it!



During this last semester, I have found myself trying to recap what has happened over each semester. I came to the realization that not only has each decision been a building block for my future but it has also been a learning experience that continues to shape the woman I am and that I see myself becoming. The fact that graduation is around the corner excites and scares me, all at the same time.

These past four years have definitely gone by quickly. From being considered both an international and multicultural student, to joining a prestige sorority, finding my niche within the community and excelling in my endeavors; Bryant will forever be in my heart and an experience that I will never forget.

When I started out at Bryant, I was very quiet and kept to myself a lot. At the very beginning, I became actively involved with the Multicultural Student Union (MSU) and the International Student Organization (ISO) clubs. When I look back at the beginning, those organizations were the building block for me getting comfortable in the Bryant community and seeing myself making changes. From these organizations, I got a job with Audio Visual, an activity I have had a passion for from since I was six years old. Looking back, these decisions seemed so small to me. At the same time, I wanted something to fill the copious amount of free time I had in my everyday schedule.

Being a sociology major at a well-known business school, smoothly growing into a well-rounded university, has been a great experience. Not only have I been a part of a growing program; but my interactions with my professors have instilled a long lasting relationship and impression, along with them opening my eyes to thinking in a new way. As a social research student, I have had the opportunity to do research in topics that I am interested in and then apply my sociological skills to look at the problems and come up with solutions. Not only has my studies allowed for further growth and development; but I have been a part of committees and organizations that continues to help make changes for the better within the student community. During my senior year, I was able to be a part of two distinguished committees that were not only life changing for me, but made a visible change on campus. I was also named

the student head manager in the Audio Visual Office, which gave me great responsibility and allowed me to apply my problem solving skills independently and within a group setting. These leadership positions were not only an honor to serve-on, but the experiences that I have learned has impacted the rest of my life. I have been challenged both academically and within my community, and that is something I will thank Bryant for continuously.

Being from a very religious background, I give thanks not only to the higher power, but to my mother, relatives and loved ones who have guided me through my higher education journey. Traveling from St. Croix, US Virgin Islands to attend school in Rhode Island was not an easy task. I was born and raised on the island where I completed my high school degree. That my home for 18 years and the place I grew very much familiar with. Leaving my comfort zone and my rock, my mother, was the hardest decision I made, but one that I am grateful for doing. I have made my mother proud in all my endeavors and she is blessed for the experiences that I have gained from Bryant.

As my college career comes to an end, I have learned a lot more about myself on a personal, spiritual, educational and business level. I have gained a great support group at Bryant, not only from my professors, advisors and my awesome group of friends but most significantly from my sorority sisters and my mentor, Monique. Every day, I remind myself of the Serenity Prayer, to get me through the day:

*God, give me grace to accept with serenity
the things that cannot be changed,
Courage to change the things
which should be changed,
and the Wisdom to distinguish
the one from the other.
Living one day at a time,
Enjoying one moment at a time,
Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace,
Taking, as Jesus did,
This sinful world as it is,
Not as I would have it,
Trusting that You will make all things right,
If I surrender to Your will,
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life,
And supremely happy with You forever in the next.
Amen.*

The Serenity Prayer ~ Reinhold Niebuhr

Lastly, congratulations to the Class of 2015. We made it! This is something that we have worked really hard to get. Let's continue to make a difference.



Aubrey Waz



“My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style.” This quote by Maya Angelou, encapsulates what I have learned during my time here at Bryant University. When I transferred schools two years ago I was uncertain of my direction, my passions, and my goals. Now, as I walk across the stage to accept my diploma, I realize how much I have changed.

When I was thirteen years old, I was convinced that I would never make it to college, a myriad of life circumstances left me in a position where my mission was indeed just to survive. Today my life is about so much more. I have discovered my passions – women’s rights, LGBTQ+ advocacy, and the fight against domestic violence and sexual assault. I am impassioned and empowered. I have learned to look beyond the scope of my own life and my own experiences, to see the perspectives that other people bring to the table, to accept and give compassion in equal measures. I have learned to laugh at myself and to dance in the inevitable, proverbial rain that overcomes us all sometimes.

Today, I am the Program Coordinator for the Alliance for Women’s Awareness, the founder of the Featuring Feminism column in “The Archway”, and a member of Psi Chi and Pi Gamma Mu. I have planned and executed dozens of Women’s Center events. I have developed my own sense of self. I have become myself.

I have had an infinite number of life changing experiences, all thanks to Bryant University. To name a few: I was able to meet a mentor, Heather Lacey who has shaped not only my academics, but my outlook on life. I have become friends with people from a variety of cultural backgrounds who possess beliefs and values much different than my own. I have presented at research conferences and have written an academic manuscript for publication. I worked to create an equitable campus environment through my work with the Hochberg Women’s Center and Bryant’s Pride Center. I helped with the execution

of the Vagina Monologues. I lived in Vienna, Austria for four months and learned to speak another language and embrace an entirely different culture.

And now onto the necessary cliché...

As I prepared to enter college, people told me time and time again how college would fly by and while I rolled my eyes, I can see now that they were entirely right. I am amazed at how quickly time has elapsed, how many experiences I have been able to pack into my time on this campus. I am shocked that in these few short years we somehow managed to evolve into adults, though we may not always feel like it. Time truly escaped us, without us ever realizing it.

Where I embrace this ‘time flies’ cliché, I firmly reject another: that college is the best time of our lives. I encourage all of you to do the same, to reject the idea that college is the single best time of our lives. While we can never discredit the times we have had, and can embrace them as some of these ‘bests’, we must not forget that we have so many experiences ahead of us.

Continue to strive, continue to smile, and continue to discover new passions, new ways to express compassion, and new frameworks within which you can thrive. Do not write off the next ten, twenty, sixty years as a time to pay taxes and sit behind a desk.

I challenge each and every one of you, graduating seniors, as well as our families and friends, to experience life. Travel to the far corners of the world, cultivate friendships and relationships with people who you never thought you would meet, and try new things. Never lose your passion for growth and never see life as just survival.

I would like to extend an enormous thank you to all the faculty and staff who instilled in us this mentality - all of those “grown-ups” who taught us that the joys of life extend beyond college. Though classes may have been hard and the workload occasionally overwhelming, these professors showed us their accomplishments – academically and personally. The staff likewise supported us in our extracurricular endeavors, helping us to develop who we were outside of the classroom. Together they helped us to redefine what it means to be successful, what it means to truly possess a passion. They helped us construct the futures that stand on the other side of this stage.

Remember your families who helped you to reach this point. I would like to personally thank my own family for teaching me to be a leader, to break the mold, and to strive for success in every facet of my life. You provided me with a strong foundation upon which I can build the rest of my life, and for that, I am ever grateful.

And finally, thank you to you, my fellow graduates for sojourning this exploration with me. We have done it, Class of 2015! We have successfully written this chapter of our life story, and laid the groundwork for all that is to come. Together we walk through the archway and into the rest of our lives, adults, college graduates, and Bryant alumni.

From the Editor's Desk: Kathryn Larsson *Class of 2015*



Since the day I made my decision, I have been asked “why Bryant?” from all my family and friends. Four years later and I still don’t have an answer. What I do have, are the best four years anyone could ask for. I had never done anything like this on my own before, but packing the car with all the things I had bought for my new dorm room seemed like the right thing for me. Arriving at campus for the first time as an official student was overwhelming, and like most people, I was afraid. But after just a few hours on campus, I knew I had made the right choice and that everything would be okay.

My freshman year was just as everyone had warned me it would be. Tons of work, and trying to manage extracurricular activities and making friends. During this time I made the friends that would be by my side for the rest of my college career and life. You never really think about how important friends are until you are hours away from everything you have ever known. Almost every memory I have from college involves my friends that I have made. Everything from just laughing and hanging out in dorm rooms, to late nights up in The Archway office.

From the minute I walked onto campus I knew my life would be forever changed, and from that day I was tested in ways I had never expected. College is designed to help you become the person you are meant to be, and these four years pushed me a lot harder than I had anticipated. I ended up losing my father after my first semester of junior year of cancer, and then a few months later my grandma passed away as well. When I started freshman year, we learned about my father’s cancer, and the outlook was never positive. This news hit me hard and made me reconsider my choice of being so far from home. However, with the support of my friends, I

knew I was in the right place to be dealing with this. One such friend, Sara Elder, set me on the path that would be the next three years of my life. After telling me for months about this organization she was in, The Archway, I finally filled out an application for my sophomore year to become a copy editor.

My following three years I went from copy editor to editorial assistant to editor-in-chief. I could have not asked for a better experience. Though there were a lot of late nights and tons of stress, The Archway taught me more about myself than I thought I had to learn. Working for the Archway, I got to be a part of the Bryant Community through distributing the student voice for everyone to hear. Being a part of The Archway gave me the drive and strength I needed to continue my goal of graduating Bryant University, not only that, it gave me a new group of friends. This one organization, this one small part of my life, has given me an insight to a whole other world. One that I would not have known I wanted to be a part of had it not been for the insistence of one friend. People always say, your life can change in a moment, and in this moment, in this position, my life changed and I could not be more grateful.

I have always strived to be the best person I can be. Bryant has given me the opportunity to learn my strengths as well as my weakness and to improve on them both. I hear my friends complain about their school choices all the time. I consider myself lucky, because I never have any doubts that Bryant wasn’t the right choice for myself. I can confidently say that Bryant has far exceeded my expectations, and I could never ask for a better college.

I have lots of people to thank for my success here at Bryant. I would not have been able to do this without the love and support of my family, through everything we have been through, I know that they will always be there when I really need them. My friends, not only the ones I made in college, but the ones I have continued to share this experience with from home, they have pushed me to be a better and stronger person by encouraging me to do things I would have never considered doing before. Today I graduate, not just for myself, but for all of the people who have helped get me here. As excited I am to graduate, I am also sad that I will have to leave this place I have called home for the last four years. But just as I knew that Bryant was where I should be, I know that this next adventure will be just as exciting.



Michael Roberto



Imagine that someone walks up to you shortly after the commencement ceremonies have ended. They ask, "What did you learn at Bryant University?" How would you answer that question? How would you describe the lessons learned over the past four years?

As one of your faculty members, I hope that you would recall certain concepts, frameworks, and theories that we had discussed in class. However, a mere recitation of such knowledge would hardly provide an adequate response to the question. Your personal growth and development has stretched far beyond the knowledge found in the books that you have read.

Over the past four years, we have watched you learn how to think critically in Bryant classrooms, not just recall the facts. You have studied many leaders in challenging situations and debated the actions you would take in similar circumstances. You have tackled projects, consulted with local organizations, and made persuasive presentations. Through it all, you have developed a set of skills that will serve you well in future years.

Personal and professional success requires more than the accumulation of a body of knowledge and skills, though. Our society today needs more doers, not just smart thinkers. We need people who can execute, who can get things done. We hope that you will become leaders who make a difference in society. True leaders do not just dream of new visions of the future and attempt to persuade others through well-crafted speeches. The

best leaders marshal the collective intellect and energy of many others, and they focus on developing practical solutions to pressing problems. They care more about achieving the objective and less about how credit and rewards will be apportioned.

We believe that you have learned how to become real doers here at Bryant. How can we be so confident? We have watched you accomplish a great deal over the past four years. The members of the Class of 2015 have competed and excelled at national academic competitions in areas such as sales, taxation, entrepreneurship, and financial planning. You planned and executed major campus events such as the Elevator Pitch competitions, Relay for Life, and Special Olympics.

The Bryant Bulldogs have competed and earned championships in athletic competitions against much larger rivals, while maintaining strong academic records. You have performed thousands of hours of community service. You helped improve local organizations through opportunities such as the IB practicum. The members of the Class of 2015 have assembled a track record of achievement inside and outside the classroom.

Why have you excelled as doers, not just thinkers? Here at Bryant, you have learned how to work on a team. Leadership expert Warren Bennis has pointed out that many creative geniuses did not act alone. Thomas Edison's inventions did not spring solely from his mind. Walt Disney did not create entertaining movies on his own. Even Michelangelo needed a team of people to help him paint the Sistine Chapel. Through a variety of experiences, you have enhanced your abilities to collaborate successfully with others.

You also have demonstrated determination and persistence over the past four years. Those qualities will serve you well in the future. Scholars have tried to explain what predicts achievement and success, and they have found intelligence to be an inadequate predictor. It turns out that grit distinguishes the high achievers from the rest of the pack. Grit refers to the ability to persist in the pursuit of a long-term goal. The members of the Class of 2015 have shown that they will not back down from a challenge. You have not quit when we have given you arduous tasks that could not be accomplished quickly. Honors students have completed challenging capstone projects. Others have tackled lengthy endeavors such as the mastery of a foreign language. Athletes have overcome injuries and other adversity. That determination, that grit, will serve you well in the future.

Finally, you have learned to think carefully about the goals you wish to achieve. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "We must remember that intelligence is not enough. Intelligence plus character--that is the goal of true education. The complete education gives one not only power of concentration, but worthy objectives upon which to concentrate." You have learned not just to pursue the goals that others have set forth for you, or the objectives that others deem important. At Bryant, the members of the Class of 2015 have learned to question those objectives and to chart their own path.

We are very proud to have served as your teachers and mentors over the past four years. We know that you leave Bryant very different than when you arrived. You are ready to get things done. Our mission as an institution is to transform young people into leaders who can make a difference in society. Mission accomplished, Class of 2015!

I, like many of you, was taught very early on that the best way to make life decisions was to create the almighty pro and con list. Throughout my 33 years, I have made more lists than I can count, and they have guided my life in more ways than I realize. These lists (color coded of course) are what brought me to Bryant in 2000 as an undergrad student, helped me in making wise decisions like who my true friends were, and ultimately led me in making one of the most crucial, personal and professional decisions to date, the decision to leave Bryant.

On April 17th at approximately 3:25pm I took a tearful walk through the Fisher Student Center, took one last glance at the Archway, and made my final drive past entry control to leave campus. My precious time as a Bryant University employee was over, and the emotions associated with the finality of the experience were too many to count.

Now, I write this from my new office at NYU, typing on the MAC Computer I can't figure out how to use, in a department with all new faces, with a new job that I "think" I will love. And did I mention there is no longer a Dunkin Donuts in my building? I've gained a window in my office, but I lost the ability to have my work family just a step away. I gained a move to one of the most exciting cities in the world, but I lost the ability to walk around a place each day with instant memories of my happiest life moments. I gained a new fresh start, but I had to say "so long for now" to students who served as my daily inspiration.

I share the sentiments above, because I imagine you too are going through your very own personal pros and cons list on this very special moment in your history. I would also imagine that today, as you sit under the commencement tent, your pro and con list is overflowing with emotion, pride, and reflection. Today, you will gain a degree from a premier institution, a heartfelt hug from family, a smile from professors and staff members who are proud of you beyond words, and you will gain your first walk through the Archway, a moment you will cherish for all your days to come.

With the excitement and indescribable feeling of accomplishment also comes natural sadness and fear. Today, you will say "so long for now" to a community that you were an important part of, to people who you now consider family, and to a moment of your life where you developed in ways you never knew possible. I am here to tell you that you are completely normal, your feelings are justified, your fears are common, and that you my friends are going to be ok, in fact you are going to be better than ok.

Think back to when you made the decision to come here and how you made that decision. Now think about how life would be different, if you chose to spend your time someplace else? Our decisions have impacts, influences, and effects that are life-altering for both you and the people who live around you. So to help you in creating your many future pro and cons lists I wanted to share some perspectives on how I create mine. **1) Be honest with yourself:** Each day, we have opportunities to lie to ourselves about the intended outcomes of our decisions. We can twist a con into a pro even though deep down we know it's still a con and we can innately convince ourselves to believe nearly anything. Here is my challenge to you. Take your list to the closest mirror, look at the mirror, read your list, and then decide whether you are being honest with your whole self. **2) If you can't do #1, find a friend who will:** Many of my toughest decisions have incorporated the advice and suggestions of my closest friends. Their honesty and perspective, mixed with our history and connection, is what made me take the best road, not the easiest road. **3) Ask yourself how this decision impacts others:** Your happiness is important but sometimes that happiness comes at the price of others. When this occurs, your decisions become much tougher to make. I have always felt solace in knowing that I took the time to take into account the impacts of those around me. In the end, each of us just wants to know that we were considered. **4) Focus on the Pros:** Cons will forever be a part of your list, so think long and hard about how much time you will focus on these realities of life. Our greatest happiness comes from our pros so why would we give the cons the time of day? **5) No copying other people's lists.** Stop cheating, stop taking the easy way out, and stop comparing yourself to them. Bottom line is that their list won't work for you, because it's their list, it's not yours. **6) People will continue to be in your life if you want them there.** So many of our decisions are made because of the people we love. Realize that the people in your life will be a priority if you make them a priority. Ninety-nine percent of the relationships in your life are what you make them, not the other way around. **7) You and your list are enough:** In your search for self, success, and future, my hope is that you will always feel like you, all of you, are enough. You have what it takes, you are significant in this world, and you are gifted in ways that no one else is, don't let anyone tell you different. Blessing and love!





Senior Contributions

Senior Service Awards

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

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

The six seniors selected to receive this year's Senior Service Awards were among an exceptionally large, qualified pool of applicants. Each individual selected has helped to create a legacy of excellence on his campus. Each one of them exemplifies the award through their dedication and loyal service to the many committees, organizations, and projects with which they were involved. Congratulations to the 2015 Senior Service Awards recipients:

Jordan Berger
Emma Guinnesssey
Ana Pasqual Hawayek
Michelle Ly
Tiago Marinho
Patrick Perrault

Senior Class Flag

Bryant University gratefully acknowledges the late George J. Kelley '39, '69H, Honorary Trustee Emeritus, for his generosity in providing ongoing financial support for the purchase and display of graduating class flags.

This year's flag was designed and is being carried by Student Alumni Association seniors Kayla Hixon, Kara Watson, and Emily Hatfield.

The Class of 2015 Senior Class Flag represents where students will begin their journey beyond Bryant University. The anchor and chain wrapped around the University globe signify how, as alumni, they can hold tight to the knowledge and memories they created as undergraduates. As members of the Class of 2015 embark on their next journey, Bryant will always be home port in the Ocean State – no matter which direction they sail.

Senior Class Flag Committee
Student Alumni Association

Senior Class Gift

The Senior Class Gift Program enables graduating seniors to leave a lasting legacy for future generations of Bryant students. Each year, the senior class comes together to raise money for an endowed scholarship fund. This year, the Class of 2015 raised money for the Bryant Community Scholarship, which will be awarded to a future student in need who demonstrates a commitment to the Bryant community through leadership participation in clubs, events, and other activities.

Throughout the academic year, the 16-members of the Senior Class Gift Committee have been hard at work spreading the word about the role of philanthropy at Bryant and the important role that us seniors can play. Thank you to the following volunteers for all they have contributed to this year's efforts: Kerri Allen, William Bryce, Emily Grenier, Andrew Langellier, Gabby Migliaccio, Ani Mikitarian, Molly Morrison, Sarah Philipp, Alex Ryel, Jenn Tomasetti, and Mara Valenzuela.

At the time of writing, well over 50% of the Class of 2015 has participated in the Senior Class Gift Program. As Com-

mencement Day draws near, the Committee has the Bryant participation record of 61% in our sights! As the co-chairs of the Senior Class Gift Committee, we would like to thank each of our classmates who have contributed to this program. The success of this program is attributed to you.

Once we proceed through the Archway, our connection to this University is not over. We simply transition from students to alumni. We hope that many of you will look at this experience as your first gift to Bryant rather than just your senior gift. Class of 2015: Thank you again for your support.

Nick Antunes, Ernesto Arguello, Abigail French, Rachael Severino, and Courtney Stine

The Class of 2015 Senior Class Gift Chairs

From the Dean of Students *Class of* 2015



Dear graduates:

Congratulations to all of you for achieving your goal of obtaining a Bryant University degree. No doubt, your college years have gone by quicker than you had expected. Take time to savor the experiences you gained alongside your fellow Bulldogs. Reflect on the rich personal and academic growth that you have experienced, and be proud! The following is an excerpt from a song by Natasha Bedingfield that I feel beautifully captures this moment in your life...

*"Reaching for something in the distance
So close you can almost taste it
Release your inhibitions
Feel the rain on your skin
No one else can feel it for you
Only you can let it in
No one else, no one else
Can speak the words on your lips
Drench yourself in words unspoken
Live your life with arms wide open
Today is where your book begins
The rest is still unwritten"*

As you prepare to move on to a new and exciting phase of your life, there is a whole new wave of incoming students, restlessly anticipating what their Bulldog experience will be like. And just as you benefited from the success of many Bulldogs that came before you, remember to continue your commitment to Bryant. Reach back and support those who will seek their own unique path to success. It is the lifetime commitment and rich pride of our alumni that make Bryant a truly special community.

So again, congratulations and continue to wear your Bryant colors with pride!

Take care,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John R. Saddlemire".

Dr. John Saddlemire
Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students

