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For any college president, commencement is a time of great joy and satisfaction. The students you have come to know are bursting with energy and excitement, their parents and other family members are filled with pride, the faculty is content with their jobs well done, and alumni are basking in the beauty and majesty of the occasion.

For this college president, this year’s commencement provided all that, and something extra. This graduating class and I arrived at Bryant at the same time, bunking down together in the gym our first night on campus as the wind and rain of Hurricane Edward lashed outside the doors. We have been through a lot these past four years, from the expansion of the curriculum to the groundbreaking of the George E. Bello Center for Information and Technology, from the fielding of our first football team to the development of a campus master plan designed to carry Bryant forward into the 21st century.

These graduates can be proud of some remarkable achievements. My wife Kati and I marvel at how successfully they have met academic commitments while holding part-time jobs — many at quite responsible posts in their chosen professions — participating in sports, and involving themselves in campus and community life. With this preparation, we are absolutely confident of their ability to succeed in business and in life. We are prepared to watch their flames grow brighter in the coming years, and to bask in the reflected warmth of their success.

Commencement is, after all, the beginning of something — not the end. Together we are commencing another exciting journey, though this one does not have a hurricane to mark its first days. This first graduating class of the millennium enters a world in which e-commerce and e-business are redefining traditional business in ways we are only beginning to understand ... a world in which everybody must think globally ... a world that requires a constant upgrading of skills and habits of mind ... a world that must continue to value the human dimension in the face of increasing distance, velocity, and pressure.

Here at Bryant, we remain committed to the principles that formed the education of the Class of 2000: developing the professional skills and personal qualities that our graduates need now and in the future. We are tremendously proud of our alumni, and are dedicated to achieving a vision for Bryant that will make all alumni — new and old, local and distant — as proud of us as we are of them. The planning process that brought us where we are today was both inclusive and visionary, and graduates of the Class of 2000 have experienced its impact in the classroom and throughout the campus. The process that goes forward from here will be equally involving and challenging. As Peter Drucker has said, “Long range planning does not deal with future decisions, but with the future of present decisions” — and we are ever mindful that the decisions we make today will have an impact on the lives, minds, and opportunities of future generations of Bryant graduates.

The Class of 2000, as the first class that I had a role in shepherding through the higher education process, will always have a special place in my heart. And I am sure that Bryant College, and the years that these graduates blessed us with, will always provide a touchstone for this class that we send into the world.

Class of 2000, thank you for sharing this “maiden voyage” with me. I couldn’t have asked for better companions on this journey.

Ronald K. Machtley
President
"We are tremendously proud of our alumni, and are dedicated to achieving a vision for Bryant that will make all alumni — new and old, local and remote — as proud of us as we are of them."

Ronald K. Machtley
President
Excerpts from Bryant College
Undergraduate Commencement Address
May 20, 2000

THE "NETWORK EFFECT"

No matter what profession you choose, you will find yourself increasingly dependent upon the Internet for your success. It will be incumbent upon you to understand the drivers of growth of this all-important, yet relatively new, macroeconomic force, since the businesses you work for will be increasingly propelled by these drivers.

The most important driver is the "network effect." You experience the network effect every time you make a phone call, send an e-mail, or chat on-line or off-line with a friend. Consider: When [Alexander Graham Bell's] fledgling telephone network grew to 100 phones, the number of possible interconnects grew to 9,900. Today, roughly 20 percent of the planet has access to a telephone, so the number of potential interconnects is more than 1 billion billion. However, this is not the greatest example of the power of the network effect — with the Internet, the term has taken on new meaning as you can chat with and/or e-mail several people at once.

But the network effect is not limited to the telephone and Internet. A low-tech example is tried and true, personal networking. As you build your careers, this variant of the network effect will be a powerful tool that should not be underestimated or ignored. There are numerous estimates as to how many people each of you know. Let's say it is 1,000, since you know many of the people you've gone to school with, your teachers and professors, your neighbors, coworkers, family, friends, and others. Each of the people you know also knows 1,000 people, so you can benefit from large numbers of potential interconnects — especially as you move on to friends of friends of friends. If you do a good job of building these relationships, the strength of your extended personal network will grow dramatically.

Wherever possible, harness the network effect in business dynamics and in your personal relationships. And be positive: That has its own network effect.

David S. Wetherell '00H
Chairman and CEO, CMGI

"Wherever possible, harness the network effect in business dynamics and in your personal relationships. And be positive: That has its own network effect."

David S. Wetherell '00H
Chairman and CEO, CMGI
THE IMPORTANCE OF SERVICE

When Paul Volcker left his position as chairman of the Federal Reserve, he was inundated with offers, as one might expect. Imagine: What a coup! To hire the man who stopped cold the "stagflation" of the '70s with his enlightened monetary policies and fiscal thinking.

Wall Street firms and Fortune 500 companies tried to woo him with offers, each more lucrative than the next.

What did he do? He told them to wait. His first priority was to form a blue-ribbon commission on public service.

OUR NATION'S GREAT NEED

There was a story not long ago on National Public Radio about the "guerilla recruiting" tactics and almost obscene starting salaries that one New York high-tech company was using to attract the best and brightest workers. The piece contrasted that with what the New York City school system had to offer the 50,000 new teachers it needed.

That situation represents my one fear for the future: That the best and brightest are discouraged from going into teaching, government, and other public service careers. That could be the "fly in the ointment" that undermines our future status as an economic superpower.

We must figure out a way to ensure that "public service" is not synonymous with "personal sacrifice." That working for personal gain is not more prestigious than working for the public good. That more graduates choose teaching, government, or social work over Wall Street.

I challenge you now, at the beginning of your career, to consider what you'll want to see at the end — when you're 80, rocking in your chair, reflecting on your life. Will you be proudest of the money you made? Is that what brings the most satisfaction? Probably not. Consider:

- Were the problems you solved challenging? The people with whom you worked, stimulating?
- Would you have liked to work with you?
- Did you make a difference?
- Did you have fun?

We must figure out a way to ensure that 'public service' is not synonymous with 'personal sacrifice.'

Richard F. Syron '00H
Chairman, President, and CEO,
Thermo Electron Corporation
LOOKING BACK — AND AHEAD

I am sure that I speak for all of us graduates when I say that we have waited a long time for this day. I am sure that I also speak for all of us when I say that this has to be the most frightening day of our lives. What are we to expect tomorrow? In a year? Five years? Ten years?

We may not know what will happen in the future, but we all have invested our time and energy here at Bryant to see what our future holds and to try to make the best of it. We have learned to speak effectively in public, to use our business skills to our utmost advantage, and to become competitive in our respective fields. Just as important, however, our time at Bryant has been a time of growing up, meeting new people, and experiencing good and bad times in an environment that, for many of us, is miles from home. Certainly, nobody here can forget their first roommate, their first class, or their longing for Mom’s home-cooked meals after our first taste of cafeteria food. There was a certain excitement when we went away on our first road trip with friends. We were thrilled when we earned our first A on an exam. We were proud when we got our first internship, and we are ecstatic today, the first day we are officially college graduates.

However, we have all had our share of bad days. Many of us have said at one time or another, “I feel like giving up.” What kept us going? Take a look around. Here are our family and friends. Here are the people who did not let us quit. Thanks to them, we have made our way to graduation together, and have learned how to be our best.

Save a special place for the people who are most special. There is nobody more special to me than my father. He made many sacrifices throughout his life in order to see that I had opportunities that he did not have growing up. And for that, Dad, I say sincerely, “Thanks.” Success is not measured by how much you carry along the road of life; it is measured by how much you leave behind and the people that you affect the most.

We are leaving a piece of our lives behind today, but we are also opening the door to an unimaginable amount of opportunity. Go out and make the best of it. ☺

GREGORIO GIACINTO ’00
On the eve of May's Commencement ceremonies, a Bryant alumnus honored the College with a remarkable act of generosity. "Bryant prepared me to make positive contributions in the business world," said George E. Bello '58 by way of explanation. "I am hoping to enable Bryant College students in the 21st century to do the same."

His $5 million gift is destined to do just that. The largest donation ever received by the College, his commitment will make possible the construction of the George E. Bello Center for Information and Technology. "This Center should help students achieve their personal best here and after graduation," says the building's patron.

Groundbreaking ceremonies took place on May 18; the structure is slated for completion by the close of 2001. About two-thirds of the 71,000-square-foot building will house Bryant's 140,000 volume library, which is currently squeezed into the Unistructure. A dramatic Grand Hall, ideal for exhibits and lectures, will be circled by 12 study rooms that are fully wired for computer access. The Center will also contain a multipurpose classroom, a reference room stocked with up to 50 computers, a seminar room, a cybercafe, and the Academic Center for Excellence. Total cost: $17 million.
"The George E. Bello Center is designed to provide students and businesses with the tools to access knowledge in today’s environment and take advantage of emerging technologies over time," says Bryant president Ron Machtley, who hails Bello as the "champion" of Bryant. "It represents a whole new concept of bringing people, technology, and information together." The building will anchor the campus master plan, which also calls for adding a Wellness Center to the existing gymnasium, renovating the Unistructure, and creating a traditional, tree-lined campus quad. 

continued
The George E. Bello Center for Information and Technology is designed by Gwathmey Siegel & Associates Architects, the nationally recognized firm that crafted a branch of the New York Public Library, an addition to the Guggenheim Museum, and a home for movie director Steven Spielberg. Bryant president Ron Machley predicted that the new Center would be counted among higher education's most interesting structures.
Congratulations on another fantastic addition to one of the best business colleges in the country.

Bill Sweeney '74
George E. Bello, who earned his degree in accounting and business administration at Bryant, is the executive vice president and controller of Reliance Group Holdings, Inc., an insurance and technology consulting firm headquartered in New York City. He joined Reliance as an assistant controller 10 years after graduating from Bryant and today serves as a member of the company’s board of directors; he also holds directorships with a number of other firms.

A long-time friend to the College, Bello served as a Trustee from 1986 through 1989. He received an honorary Doctor of Business Administration degree from Bryant in 1996 and is a charter member of the President’s Leadership Council. He and his wife of 38 years, Carol Lee, have four sons: Gregory, Brian, Mark, and Geoffrey.

“George Bello has truly distinguished himself in life and business. And he is giving back by taking up the challenge of expanding the world of opportunity for future Bryant students and our entire community,” says Jack Callahan ’56, chair of the College’s Board of Trustees. But as extraordinary as Bello’s gift is, it is just one of innumerable generous gestures made by the College’s graduates. “We celebrate the growing number of alumni who will be Bryant’s legacy to this country and this world,” notes Callahan.
"I am proud of what you are doing."
Elisabeth Smart
(widow of Howard Randall Smart '35)

George E. Bello (third from left) speaks with Bryant president Ron Machlley (second from left) and vice president for academic affairs V.K. Unni (far left).

George E. Bello (third from left) with his wife, four sons and two daughters-in-law.

"I think the ambitious plans for the future are fabulous!"
Leo Damren '82
Kevin Patrick Trainor, (his)
Gregory Mark Waldron, (ghs)
Wilbert S. Waugh Jr., (eng)
Jonathan Whitehead, (his)
Magna Cum Laude, (his)
Keith Ray Wright, (gls)
Sonsmith Nith Xuemoua, (MKT, (math))

Marketing
Candace Anna Aushima, CIS, (com)
Norberto Alvarez II, (ghs)
Michael James Anahide, (com)
Christine Elvira Aquilina, (com)
Blanca Carol Benedetti, (soc)
Jason Bennett, (pay)
Kinsey Bo, (cis), (pay)
Nicholas Dennis Brown, (his)
Bethany Lynn Bulger, COM
Summa Cum Laude, B, L
Thomas J Burke
Christine Margaret Burns, (com), (cis)
William Dale Cary Jr., (pay)
Robin Elizabeth Campbell, (com), (cis)
B. Patrick Carey, CIS, (com)
Quentin Lloyd Carmichael III, (soc)
Michael Warren Cassidy, (biotech)
Peter Francis Chamberlain, (com)
Denise Hai-Yam Chan, COM
Jason Nicholas Christesen, (pay), Cum Laude
Matthew David Ciesielski
Sarah Maria Colombo, (com)
Pamela Rose Coppola, CIS, (com), Cum Laude, L
Sonja Susan Coste, COM
Megan Nicole Crane, COM
Jessica A. Cygniewicz, (pay)
Molly Catherine Devaney, COM
Carla M. Deca, INS, (com)
Kerry Lynn D'omorio, (soc)
Lauren Barbara Drury, Magna Cum Laude, B
Kimberley Marie Durkee, COM
Jennifer June Ebling, (pay)
Jaime Nicole Eisenschmitt, MGT, (soc), Cum Laude, L
Joseph Fuensan, (pay), (pay)
Norven Marie Flaherty, (pay), (cis)
Melissa Robin Frank, (pay)
Robin Elaine Fratos
Robert Michael Fressola, INS
Jarred M. Fruelle, Cum Laude
Vasilie Gagnon, (gls)
Kevin G. Gallagher
Joseph P. Gallant III, (soc)
Alisa Louise Gazzelloni, CIS, (pay)
Robert Joseph Giew, (pay)
Adam Patrick Gray, (pay)
David Francis Greco, CIS, (pay)
Ruairi Grageilevich, (com)

Magna Cum Laude
Michael Joseph Guerrin, (pay)
Courtney F. Guertin, (soc)
Jason Scott Hanock, (pay)
Dawn Erin Handley, (com)
Kristen Marie Harrington, COM, Cum Laude, L
Suzanne Kathleen Herring, (com)
Jonathan Otto Hudson, (com)
Eric Allen Huffman, (com)
Earl Jones Jr., (his)
Timothy Michael Keller, (ghs)
Michelle Elise Keller, MGT, (pay)
James Lewis Kelly Jr, CIS, (ghs), Cum Laude, L
Peter Kneck, (soc)
Magna Cum Laude
Payal N. Kothari, (com)
Todd Paul Kroner, (com), (cis)
Cum Laude
Kathryn Elizabeth Laschua, CIS, (soc)
Jennifer Lee LaFrance, (pay)
Michael James Lancaster, (com)
Jaime Lamont, COM
Douglas Philip, Lawrence, (math)
Cum Laude
Julie Michelle LaVigne, INS
Megan Kathleen Leis, COM
Andrew Frank Levesque, (soc)
Summa Cum Laude, B, L
Thomas John Laporta, FIN, (com)
Jenna Elizabeth Magdison, (eng)
Leanna Marie Mansun, COM
Sarah Ann Marlier, (com)
Brianna S. Martin, (com)
Stephen J. Martin
Ryan Jason Matus, (pay)
Stephanie Ann McCarthy, (ghs)
Marleen Elizabeth McMerrick, INS
Kristen Leigh McKinley, (pay)
Catherine Michele Menuson, (ghs), Cum Laude
Kelli Mahlman, COM, (cis)
Benjamin Phillip Michaelson, (com)
Jennifer Ann Mortimer, (pay), (com), Cum Laude, L, hp, L
Julie Lynn Mues, (pay), (com)
Kimberly Ann Muller, (com)
Cum Laude
Brett Robert Murray, (pay)
Mark David Oesterreich, (pay)
Kelly Marie O'Leary, (com)
Jesse Marie O'rea, (com)
Jennifer L. Parker, (pay)
Kild Fialushak, (soc)
Heather Ann Patsfield, (com)
Cum Laude
Darrin Mary Plea, (com)
Julianne Piscirri, COM, L
Dawn Diane Poirier
Benjamin Brown Porter, (pay), (com), Cum Laude
Alida Elaine Rieder, (com)
Erfin Tiffany Rofy, (pay)
Elizabeth Ashley Ryan, (pay), Cum Laude
Jebediah Joseph Santos, (com)
Heather Lynn Scott, (com)
John Sepehr, (soc), (cis)
Darren Anthony Smith, (com)
Cum Laude
Jill Dechlan Spagone, (com)
Kerr-Beth Susan St. Jacques, COM
Trela Rae Storti, (his)
Tara K. Stueb, (несед)
Erik Richard Stumpf, (biotech)
Kate Marie Sullivan, (com)
Nathan Smupter-Jr., (his)
Kathryn Anne Smyrakis, INS, (cis)
Nicole Marie Tavares, (pay)
Amy Hitchcock Thistle, (pay)
Jerry C. Titus, (pay), (soc)
Turker Reffik Tumer, (com)
Timothy Jeffrey Valentine
Cynthia Marie Vargas, (pay)
Magna Cum Laude
Andrew Shae Warren, (soc)
Matthew William Watkins, (lga)
Jean Marie White
Sann Perry Willard, (com)
Martha Elizabeth Woods, COM, Cum Laude
Andrew Michael Young, MGT, (pay)
Kurt Frunds Zech, (soc), (his)

Associate in Science in General Business
Donna Marie Hart, Cum Laude

Associate in Science in General Studies
Catherine Yvonne Arruda
Coleen R Carcota, Cum Laude
Susan Darling Carvalho
Gina Maria Cayer
Kiersten Beth Cole, Cum Laude
Alan Denise D'Alloio
Ann Maurine Ross

Graduate Degree Recipients

Master of Business Administration
Vladimir Alpokan
Heref Albin Arttrends
Paul Michael Armas
Dennis Shane Baker
Lisa A. Benatovich
Vincent J. Bernardcci IV
Steven J. Bookless, Honors, (his)
Kevin Matthew Brennan
Sandr Brillon
Kimberly K. Brown
David V. Brunelli
Patricia Harris Bullock
Phoebe Dorothy Buttlin
Scott Christopher Carlson
Lauren Anne Catalani
Michael N. Catara
Robert John Charlson
Joseph Collette III, Honors, (his)
Mark William Conley
Keran Marie Cooper
Paul M. Costa
Kathleen Ann Craig
James C. Cressafili
Tracy Marie DaCosta
Carlos Alberto DaCunha
Russ Allison Daly
Kathleen Anne Davin
Raul De La Espriella
Timothy William Demos
Nicholas Raymond Derossa
David G. Dillon
Alan J. Doxy
Kelley A. Dowling
Alisa Earl
Robin Leigh Ehrenwein
Michael H. Felker
Deborah Fate-Mental
Carla C. Finnegan
Matthew J. Fahter
Edward M. Foley
Joseph Peter Foran
Amy Lynn Gallagher
Nicholas Glenn Glaessy
Anna Gershan
Robert John Grace
Armin Albert Graf
Diane Carroll Gradovic
Michael R. Greenough
Raymond Richard Grisgeliard Jr
Deborah Ann Grispi
John E. Hardy
Amy Cavanagh Higgins
Patrick David Hopkins
Honors, B
Matthew William Hughes
Honors, B
Petr Jenkins
Linda Rae Korkick
Luciana Kramer
Walter C. Kretzer Jr.
Jennifer Anne Leach
Marc Albert Leonetti
Joseph Thomas Lerman, Honors
Jean M. Leopold, Honors, B
David William Longo
April L. Lynch
Jessica Louise Marsella
Susan C. Martin, Honors
James J. McGowan
Wendy B. McHugh, Honors, B
Jennifer E. Mello
Thomas Nicholas Michael
Brenda J. Miracle
Sandra Moreau
Christopher G. Murphy
Gregory J. Opiher
John Jay Paterson, Honors
Michael Richard Petrunski
Kellie Ann McNamara Polando
Christopher P. Radic
Mitchel D. Resnick D.O., Honors, B
Steven Michael Richard Esg.
Honors, B
Melissa Aileen Ridolfi
Kelly Ann Ronc
Andrew T. Rose
Daniel Rossner
Neil J. Salam
Adam D. Samuel
David Peter Santoro
David J. Sheridan
Pedro M. J. Silvestre
Christopher Scott Smith
Barry Stein, Honors, B
Adele J. Stodd, Honors, B
Annes E. Sullivan
William Patrick Sullivan
Scott Sylvia
Ashish Talwar
Patricia M. Tavenor
Todd J. Tatrymat
William John Theriault
Honors, B
Michael James Thompson
Jonathan E. Tillinghast
Claudette Torres, Honors, B
David Anthony Travers
Shannon Jean Urban, Honors, B
Ross M. Van Royen
Nancy Vermillion
Kathryn Ann Walsh
Donna Mai Walsh
Polly L. Wessick
George West
Scott Michael Wilkinton
Derek Lee Wilson
August Zabato, Honors

Master of Science in Accounting
Xiaoqi Sun

Master of Science in Taxation
Patricia Peterson Adams, Honors, B
Anna Maria Branco
Paul S. Bruno
Darlene M. Burgess, CPA
Michael Joseph Cibrab
Lisa Bonitatub Church
Colleen D. Dowling
Ronald H. Galley
Jeannelle B. Gelpi
Laura Fondulis Garensadet
Peter M. Georgas
Deborah Ann Guenther
Mary Ann Hewitt-Howe, Honors

Certificate Of Advanced Graduate Study
Patricia L. Bouchenin
Corinne Delgado
Honorary Degree Recipients

Graduate School Commencement

Richard F. Syron  
Chairman, President, and CEO,  
Thermo Electron Corporation  
Doctor of Business Administration

Undergraduate Commencement

Honorable O. Rogerie Thompson  
Associate Justice,  
Rhode Island Superior Court  
Doctor of Humane Letters

Rajendra B. Vattikuti  
Founder, President, and CEO,  
Complete Business Solutions, Inc.  
Doctor of Business Administration

David S. Wetherell  
Chairman and CEO, CMGI  
Doctor of Humane Letters

Publisher  
Bryant College Office of Institutional Advancement  
Laurie L. Musgrove, Vice President  
Joyce G. O'Neill, Managing Editor  
Lauren Ford-Taggart, Contributing Editor  
Robert Moore, Editor

Design/Production  
Ruta Daugavietytis  
Arnold Fishman  
Kathleen Swanson  
Photography  
Peter Goldberg  
Richard Howard  
Patrick O'Connor  
David Silverman  
Produced by  
Lipman Hearn Inc., Chicago  
Printed by  
LaVigne Inc., Massachusetts

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One Hundred and Thirty-seventh  
Commencement Ceremony

Summer 2000, Volume 4, Number 3  
Bryant Business (USPS 462-970) (ISSN 1097-444X)  
is published five times a year in January, April, July,  
September, and October for the Bryant College  
community. Publication offices are located in the  
Office of Institutional Advancement, Bryant College,  
1150 Douglas Pike, Smithfield, Rhode Island  
02917-1284. Periodicals postage paid at Providence,  
Rhode Island and additional mailing offices.  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to  
Bryant Business, Bryant College, 1150 Douglas Pike,  
Smithfield, Rhode Island 02917-1284.