From the President

Dear Graduates:

Commencement is upon us and I want to thank each of you for your contributions to the Bryant community. It is my hope that you have found your time here at the College to be challenging, exciting, and fun. As you forge ahead in your career and life, I know that you will build upon the extraordinary foundation Bryant has provided.

New journeys await you; new friends, new colleagues, new personal and professional experiences. Commit yourself to lifelong learning. Apply your skills with enthusiasm. Continue to demonstrate your concern for humanity. Make your own special imprint on the landscape so that others will benefit from your contributions.

On this day of Commencement we look forward to you joining our alumni family of more than 37,000 distinguished professionals throughout the world. They share your high standards of excellence and your commitment to achieving your personal best in all that you do. You are certain to recall with fondness and pride the roots you have put down here at Bryant, and it is our hope you will return to campus often. Your Bryant degree is just the beginning of a lifelong relationship with the College.

We - Kati and I - and everyone at Bryant - faculty, staff, and trustees - express pride in your achievements and confidence in your future. We thank you for all you have brought to this College and extend best wishes for your success and happiness in the future!

Sincerely

Ronald K. Machlley
President
Linking the Tradition of Bryant... The Archway

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

The story of the Archway dates back to 1905. Isaac Gifford Ladd, an associate of Charles Schwabb and a famous US 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 immediately expressed hatred for this structure in her name. Taking this as a personal rejection, Ladd took his own life.

The property remained unoccupied until Thomas Marsden transformed it into Hope Hospital. In 1935, Bryant-Straton College was renamed Bryant College. To provide more space for classes, an addition was constructed and Hope Hospital was renamed South Hall. Earl S. Tupper, inventor of Tupperware, donated his 22 acre hillside estate to Bryant College in October of 1967 for the creation of the new campus. To thank Tupper for his generous gift, Bryant named the campus after him and awarded him an honorary degree.

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 new sign for the front entrance, relocated the arch between the two ponds en route to the Unistructure. Immediately, after the Archway was transferred from the old campus, students began to avoid passing through this out-of-place structure.

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

After 17 years of worn paths, the graduating class of 1987 left a brick pathway around the sacred arch. This tradition has shaped the behavior of thousands of Bryant College students on Tupper campus for the past thirty years, and will continue to shape more in the years to come.
Andrew Bishop

I came from a small family in a small town, and although Bryant is a small community in its own right, it was still a vast change from the life I was used to. It was a welcome change though, as it exposed me and my fellow students to new experiences as well as to people from different backgrounds. We quickly made friends and shared our own college survival tips: which laundry machines were temporarily free, which professors to take or avoid, and how to dodge surprise birthday swims in the pond!

Our class has remained united over the years, during our collective job search and the countdown to graduation, as well as through national issues like the acts of September 11. The key is that we persevered through them as a group.

I'm thankful that my time at Bryant has fostered numerous friendships with peers where we will stick by each other through thick and thin, much as we have during the past four years.

We have learned much in our time at Bryant, but arguably some of the most important lessons have been learned outside of the classroom. We've learned how to accept others for who they are and to not judge a book by its cover. I know personally that my experiences at Bryant have changed me and my friends for the better, and I hope that we similarly have left a positive impact on the college.

Graduation is a pivotal moment in the life of a college student. Ask any senior in April or May, and they'll be able to tell you precisely how many days there are until graduation. However, less obvious is the fact that as many seniors look ahead to their day of celebration, many are anxiously looking forward to the day in which they close one chapter of their life and begin a new one—their journey into the real world.

Today we stand at a threshold of life, ready to release ourselves upon the world. Our time at Bryant has prepared us to go out there and make a difference. Given the chance to go through the college experience again from scratch, I'd choose Bryant again in a heartbeat.

I'd like to thank my family for standing by me in the decisions I've made. Without your love and support, I may not have pushed myself to get where I am today. I must thank the friends I've made through the past four years, especially those involved in campus activities. I will remember SPB, Orientation, Emerging Leaders, and WJMF for both the enjoyable times and the good friends I've made that have kept each day interesting and filled with laughs.

Lastly, I have to thank my F6 brothers for their friendship over the years. I'll never forget the late nights playing cards, our forays into cooking (using the term loosely), and the madness that ensued on the spring break road trip. You will forever be part of my extended family.

An idol of our generation, Ferris Bueller, once said "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it." That quote rings true now more than ever for us Bryant seniors. This day of graduation is our last chance to stop and look around at the people we've lived with, eaten with, and no doubt done group projects with over the past four years.

College is truly a unique experience, in that it forms lifelong friendships with people you may only go on to see every few years in the future at class reunions.

I'd like to congratulate the entire class as a whole on making it to graduation and I wish everyone the best of luck on all of your future endeavors!
As I look back now on college I remember the first step along this journey. Move-in day will always stick out. Chaos was in the halls as people were unpacking and some of us couldn’t wait for our families to leave. But for others, the mere thought of their family leaving them here in this unfamiliar place brought tears to their eyes. I remember my family leaving, with tears as I said goodbye for what seemed like forever, wondering if I should go home to what was comfortable. But I stayed in this "uncomfortable" place and began to fit in.

The first few weeks of school were the hardest - many times I wondered if I should just go home because that’s where I knew I should be. But I was lucky enough to have a two fabulous “roommates” who helped me through that time. I could just imagine what my roommate and Dre must have thought as I sat there and spilled the news.

I was also very fortunate to have met many others who helped me to leave my comfort zone and make a mark on Bryant. We all have a comfort zone, which often doesn’t allow us to achieve all we are capable of. Bryant is privileged to have staff and students who help to believe in one another when one simply cannot. They help you reach outside and go beyond that zone to reach those goals.

Also, college has taught me many things about myself. I have grown throughout college, each day learning new things, finding and crossing many boundaries, which I never thought was possible. I’ve learned that we all are different and this doesn’t mean that anyone is better than anyone else, but that together we can each contribute unique characteristics from our own backgrounds.

I’m not sure that I’d still be here today, without the help and support from everyone here. The Student Activities staff has been my family away from home, including a very lovable and most respected mum. They have all helped to push me into achieving everything I have and have given the support I needed when I would fall. They taught me how to get back up and try again offering to do anything they could.

My sisters, you all have truly given me the courage to stand up for what I believe in. You’ve been there with me through it all and have never let me down. You’re a remarkable group of people and I couldn’t imagine being sisters with anyone other than you.

It was in college, I’ve realized how unique my family is, but I wouldn’t trade you for anyone. Together you have helped me become the person I am. I am very proud and fortunate to have you behind me. Dad - Words cannot express how much everything you’ve done means to me! Mom - You’ve stood by my side even though sometimes you didn’t understand why. Thank you for believing I could. Gram & Grampa - You believed in me and understood why when it seemed like no one else did. You have given me the strength to continue on with my dreams when I thought it was impossible. Grandma - You’ve been behind me all the way. Thank you! I love U!

Bryant has truly been an experience of a lifetime—some good, some bad. I will take these experiences with me as I go out into the “real world” and will look back and learn from them helping me to fit in out there.
I never thought the day would come that I could walk through the Archway as a graduating senior at Bryant College. I still remember the day that I arrived here my freshman year. My sister and I took the wrong exit and arrived late, then meeting my roommate for the first time, and leaving my parents who have been my safe haven for 18 years.

Throughout my freshman year, I became active in many organizations on campus, which I have remained active in throughout most of my senior year. Freshman year was the turning point of my personality; I was shy, not really outgoing and not too sure of myself. However with the help of my friends, upperclassmen, and professors I became confident in myself and able to speak up. I encourage underclassmen to break through your comfort barriers and try whatever you want.

I am grateful for the people who pushed me to accomplish everything I have done. Looking back on all the things I have achieved, I wondered, “How did I ever get my homework done?” Yet that is the best part; feeling like you accomplished so much in so little time. I also know what it feels like to try for something so hard and not achieve the recognition or be accepted.

What I have to say for that is: “Try again, and try even harder. Eventually you will get what you want and the recognition for it.”

My memories of Bryant College will last forever, both good and bad: orientation, freshmen move-in, first day of class at college, Spring Week-ends, leaving for summer break, becoming an RA, falling in love, falling out of love, SPB, being an Orientation Leader/Staff Assistant, 9-11, group projects, spring break, interviews, last day of class, senior week, and graduation. We have been through a lot these past four years and we will still make memories together.

I want to thank my Mom and Dad for giving me the support and pushing me to achieve everything I thought I could not do. Mom- I owe everything to you; you helped me out through college, and for always being there, I love you. Christine- Thanks for being my big sister and friend. I want to thank all my professors, everyone in the Student Activities Office, Residence Life Office, and Koffler, I could not have accomplished as much as I did without all your help and dedication. I will miss you all. SPB’ers- You guys are great; I have gained friendships, learned to work hard at something you love doing, and enjoyed spending long hours with all of you and just hanging out in the office.

And finally, to the girls of L-6, thanks for all the support and friendship, I could not have done this without you; I can’t wait for our ten-year reunion (Ciao, Ciao, Mickey Mouse).

Even when I am writing this, it does not feel like I am really leaving. I personally do not think I can leave Bryant, it has been my home for the past 4 years, and I will not give it up. I will be back. Bryant has been a growing experience for me, I will take what I have learned here and I will bring it out in the real world called life.

Good luck everyone.
It seems like just yesterday that we walked onto Bryant's campus as freshmen. I will never forget good old Hall 14, 4-South and the endless nights we all sang, "build me up buttercup" at the top of our lungs. Laughter, tears, cake-fights, water balloons, and boys filled our hallways that year. Fire alarms became a routine part of our lives, and after only a few weeks of eating every meal together in Salzman, we began to truly appreciate Mom's home cooking.

College was a blast! We kept ourselves busy, each of us finding activities and jobs that suited our individual interests. And as our first year came to a close, we further branched out into the world of Bryant College and into the world around us, each embracing the college experience in our own way.

We have all chosen different paths in our time here at Bryant. I have been an Orientation Leader, Resident Assistant, Peer Educator, and Senator amongst other involvements.

I have had the opportunity to serve Bryant College and the student body through my efforts on committees such as the Task Force for Enhanced Community Relations and the Vision 2003 Strategic Planning Committee.

My personal involvement has taught me a great deal. Amongst initiating many friendships, it has lent a hand in networking and has provided the opportunity to truly give back to the students and the College.

I am pleased to realize all that I have accomplished, and I am proud to be recognized as a true leader at Bryant College as I venture out into this ever-changing world.

Our class has truly watched the world change over the past four years. We experienced the Florida voting debacle and the controversy surrounding "Dubya's" new presidency. We also witnessed his moments of brilliant leadership after the tragic events of September 11.

In our senior year, our class formed a bond as we developed a new sense of patriotism and appreciation for our country and our own lives. Flags sprung up all over campus and the anthem of the townhouses became "I'm Proud to be an American."

As we leave Bryant College, we realize that through our college experience we have grown and changed immeasurably. We have learned valuable and hard lessons about life, grown stronger as individuals, and have truly discovered who we are. We have built some of the greatest friendships that we will ever experience and some of us have found the true love of our lives.

We will never forget the past four years. They have impacted both who we are as individuals and where we will go in life. And although we have faced many great challenges with both laughter and tears; our Bryant College experience has truly been the best years of our lives.
From Hall 16 pool parties, to trips to the cottage, from Spring Weekends to days studying by the pond (which was an incredibly ineffective method of knowledge acquisition), and from summer road trips, or nights at the club, to random Tuesday night shenanigans, my friends and I have certainly lived it up. In doing so, in my time at Bryant, I’ve learned some important lessons that I will carry with me for the rest of my life, and I’d like to share a few of these (in abbreviated format, of course) with you, my fellow graduating seniors. Take from them what you may.

Lesson 1: Friendship is rare. Have you ever had a bad day and needed to talk? Or wanted to share a moment of triumphant joy with someone who really, really cares? Well try a heart to heart with Tim, Mo, Carrie, Fazzino, Dabrowski, Derek, Courtney, Dev, Dom, Can, Sherri, The Dan, Becky, or one of the many others than have been there for me and you in times of need. I’ve met people here that have changed my life in ways so profound that words do not do these relationships justice. I’ll never forget the friends I’ve made – they are all family to me, and to my friends – I love you - 410-411 forever.

Lesson 2: Relationships are tricky, but worth it. I’ve discovered the ugly, yet in some ways beautiful truth about young adult relationships. They end — but they also begin anew. You’ve got to move on, keep learning and growing, forgiving and understanding. Never neglect those you love or have loved, and always tell the truth. Trust your feelings; if you do, you will hurt people less in the long run than if you fight your feelings. Always communicate; it’s the secret remedy to most seemingly unsolvable relationship crises. To those of you who know what I’m talking about or if you think I’m referring to you, I’ll never forget you… thank you.

Lesson 3: Success is what you define it to be. If you want something really bad, you’ll get it. Just don’t quit, never settle because someone said you should, and thank those that helped you along the way. Be ethical, be strong, be confident, and in the words of the band Ween, “Just do what you wanna, and you’ll be OK.”

Lesson 4: Be the bigger person, always. You’ll find yourself in moments of conflict with people who either misunderstand you or justifiably despise you. We all make mistakes and have slips of the tongue. At the end of the day, treat everyone with the utmost respect, and don’t talk behind their backs. Be classy, and don’t give anyone a reason.

Lesson 5: Strive to help others. Do good deeds. Not only is it rewarding, but it builds character and just a little effort can change someone’s life.

Lesson 6: Take lots of pictures. You can’t always relive the moments that you long to return to. Get a camera, it’s one thing you’ll never regret. I promise.

Lesson 7: Emotions are critical. Everyday you should allow yourself to push your emotions to the edge. Cry everyday, laugh hard everyday, and live on the edge sometimes. Every now and then, a little danger or trouble is good for the soul!

Lesson 8: Quote Incubus, embrace diversity, buy in bulk, use nick-names, have no regrets, learn an instrument, give hugs and kisses — say, “I love you,” and the left lane is for passing.
During my time here at Bryant, I have taken advantage of many exciting opportunities and learned so much about myself that it is hard for me to summarize my experiences in one page.

Four years ago, I was one of those indecisive seniors in high school that couldn’t decide which school was the perfect one for me, but now reflecting back, I know that I made the right decision when I chose Bryant College. I knew that I wanted a small school close to home with a good reputation where I could get to know my classmates and teachers. I found all these things and more at Bryant.

My journey began on move in day freshman year. My roommate Shelly and I met at Orientation, hit it off, and decided to live together. We both showed up with so much stuff and after a few hours finally managed to cram it all into our new room much to our families’ surprise. When we were all done arranging our room and it came time for my parents to leave, I remember my mother and I both crying. My Mom felt as though she was losing her little girl, and I was scared that I would not be able to make it on my own.

Despite my feelings of homesickness in the first few months on campus, I began to get involved in various clubs and organizations following the advice of my RA Steph. This was the best decision I ever made! My campus involvement over the past four years has given me the opportunity to develop my leadership abilities, create some great friendships and be able to make a difference on campus and within the surrounding community. I have also had the pleasure of working with some wonderful and inspiring people including Hank Parkinson, Scott Rattigan, Julie LeBlanc, Judy Kawamoto, Roseanne Dana and Terri Hasseler to name a few. I would like to thank them all for their inspiration, guidance and support.

As I prepare to walk through the Archway for the first time, I would also like to take the time to thank a few other people who have helped me get to where I am today. First and most importantly, my family – Mom and Dad, I will be eternally grateful for all your sacrifices and unconditional love and support, and Joe even though we have our differences. I know that you will always be there for me. Auntie Cathy, Uncle John and the crew, Auntie Sheila, Uncle Sal – thanks for being there along the way. Anthony – thanks for all your wisdom and guidance. To the Fruci family – I don’t know what I would have done without all of your love and support. To all my friends – thanks for supporting me and guiding me through the obstacles of life. Your friendships have meant so much to me. Renee, Tony, Bryan, Mike, Shelly, Kristie and Jocelyn – I don’t know how I would have made it through college without you guys by my side. To all the faculty, especially Professor Keeley, Professor Pearce, Professor Anderson, Professor Deluga and Professor Langlois – all your helpfulness and kindness towards your students is greatly appreciated and does not go unnoticed.

As I prepare to leave Bryant, I will take with me all the wonderful memories and experiences that have changed my life and remember all those people who helped mold me into the person I am today.
"Freedom is not worth having if it does not connote freedom to err. It passes my comprehension how human beings, be they ever so experienced and able, can delight in depriving other human beings of that precious right.

Anger and intolerance are the enemies of correct understanding.

An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind

You cannot shake hands with a clenched fist."

-Mohandas Gandhi

Graduation, the moment we have all been waiting for, or at least some of us. It symbolizes the end of a part of our lives and the beginning of a new one.

To many people, this might be a frightening thought, but to many others it might not be. My college experience has definitely helped me in not being afraid of my future.

Being part of the Residence Life staff for many years, along with working with many administrators and students on issues relevant to life on and off campus, has given me the opportunity to grow, lead, and test my own limits.

Being from another country can sometimes be difficult, but Bryant helped me in overcoming some of those difficulties, by giving me the opportunity to meet people from different countries around the world that were experiencing some of the same challenges.

Although my experience was not always positive, it allowed me to fully develop my ability to deal with difficult situations.

I was always told that the friends you make in college would be the friends that you keep for life. There are those that I will always remember and then there are those that I know will always be part of my life.

I was fortunate enough to live with two extraordinary women that I shared some of the best and worst moments with. I was also lucky enough to meet a certain individual who became a very big part of my life.

Some of the friendships that I have made during these four years were not just with my peers but also with many administrators, faculty and staff.

I am very thankful to my family who has made this experience a unique one and who has always believed in me and in the decisions that I have made.

Thank you for helping me become the person that I am today. I am very fortunate to come from such a strong family.

Overall, my experience here has also helped to shape me into the person that I am today.

Although, many of us, including myself, do not want to admit that we will miss this place, Bryant College will always be a part of our lives.
Dr. Saraoglu told me that, "the product of college is not just a diploma, but yourself." These words fully represent the experiences that Bryant College has made available for the class of 2002.

The diplomas we will receive today represent not only the hard work we have put into our courses, but our growth as individuals. Together with classmates, teammates, and friends we have become responsible global citizens.

Our experiences at Bryant College will serve as a blueprint for the future. The time we have spent in the classroom has prepared us for the hard work and dedication that awaits us in our chosen careers.

Participation in clubs, athletics, and extra-curricular activities has strengthened our bodies and minds. We are the leaders of tomorrow. The friendships we have developed will last a lifetime.

Today we enter a new chapter in our lives. We face an ever-expanding horizon beyond the Bryant Community that we have come to love. Our experiences will be good and bad, but we will learn from all of them, and remember that Bryant College has prepared us for life's many endeavors.

Our family and friends have watched us grow up, and have helped prepare us for this adventure called Bryant College.

Fellow students have joined us in creating a social network that we will cherish for years to come. Bryant professors have watched us grow into adults, preparing us for another adventure called life.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remember Professor Patrick Keeley. He was a warm, caring and funny person. As a professor he encouraged learning, and made me want to be a better person. There is a generation of Bryant graduates that have been touched by Professor Keeley. Bryant Alumni will carry on his legacy for years to come.

As I prepare to venture into the unsecured world that awaits me, I look back warmly on my four years at Bryant. I know my education and experiences have given me the tools that I need to succeed. My friends will remain a part of my life, and many happy memories will accompany me through the darkest hours, and brightest moments of my life.

No matter where my travels take me, I will always remain a member of the Bryant College Community.
Dads with hand trucks struggling up and down stairs, walking into my room for the first time, meeting my roommate, watching my Mom try to smile through her tears, my dad saying he, "had something in his eye." As my family drove away on move-in day, I walked back into Hall 15 feeling unsure and lost. I cannot believe that I was so timid and afraid. While it all feels like yesterday, so much has changed.

Now, as Commencement approaches and I think about my walk through the Archway, a hundred great memories fill my mind. I’m ready to leave, but I know that I am going to miss this place and everyone who has been apart of me through this endeavor. Bryant afforded me with so many opportunities. I am just glad that I had my family and friends to give me the courage to challenge myself and reach further than I thought possible.

For me, college has been the place where dreams were made chatting at 3 a.m. with my roommate, or expanding my horizons meeting people from far off places like India. College has prepared me for the future and opened my eyes to the world. It has been books and class, friends and good times, and, most importantly, finding myself. Who I have become during these past years has laid the foundation for person I will always strive to be.

So many people have impacted my life; the most memorable are the ones who have been with me through this time, giving me strength, love, and courage. Mom and Dad, I could not have asked for more. You gave me the wings to fly and when necessary pushed me out of the nest so I would use them. Alan, you have been my everything. No matter what happened to me, or what I was faced with, I knew with you by my side, I could do it. Mom, Gram, Aunt Ginger, Aunt Shirley - you are the four most fabulous women that I know and I always look to you all as role models for the woman I want to be. Jessica-Anne, thank you. Bish, you’re my playmate of the year. Shelby, you are the best! Father Joe, your kindness and compassion for all people has brought me back to God and I can never thank you enough. To all of my professors: each one of you has enhanced and enriched my life.

To my friends in Human Resources you were my "moms" away from home and my friends; I love you all (despite the paper cuts I had to endure). Kim Turcotte you are the best advisor I have ever worked with and your leadership is really what led the committee to success this year. Deanna - your strength and spirit will always inspire me. Chuck, I had a lot of different directors during my RA times, you were by far my favorite and the best. Nate, any time! Lindsay and Jaime keep your heads up and follow your dreams.

Reminiscing over the past and dreaming about the future, I know one thing is for certain. When I embark on a new adventure in my life I will remember you all, taking a piece of each one of you with me. My time at this institution has given me so much. I just hope that in years to come I can have a part in making someone else’s college experience as phenomenal as mine has been. Carpe Diem...find the beauty and opportunity in every new day and hold on to it.
Carpe diem! Seize the day! This is a phrase we have heard repeatedly throughout our educational lives. However, it has never been more appropriate than it seems to be today. For most of us, these past four years went by in an instant. To others, who have been working toward today for longer, this day is that much sweeter.

As a class we entered Bryant College with high hopes of achievement and preparing ourselves to be future business leaders in an expanding economy; however, today the atmosphere is drastically different.

Four short years ago we were up-rooted from our friends and families and thrown into a small community where we were to learn to fend for ourselves. While it may have been a rocky beginning to some of our adult lives, I believe most of us can now say that the experiences that we have had at Bryant have forever changed our lives.

As we look back on the past, we see years of new friends, memories, hopes and ambitions. Today, however, we look forward. We look forward with anticipation to see what our futures have in store for us. Over the past few months, many of our lives have been filled with applications and interviews. A frequently asked question has been, "Where do you see yourself in 5, or even 10 years." Originally that question may have thrown us off. Maybe we hadn't thought about it, or maybe we had dismissed it as an unforeseeable truth.

Nonetheless, from the first time we heard that question, we all began to think. Where will we be in 5 or 10 years? Will we still see the friends that we sit amongst today? Will we be running that Fortune 500 Company or an entrepreneurial venture of our own? Today these questions appear stronger than ever.

All of the moments that we've made our friends and families proud have culminated today. As you look around you'll see many parents, families, and friends with tears of pride in their eyes.

To these individuals who have supported us in our endeavors throughout the years: words cannot explain the gratitude and appreciation we feel today.

So, this is it! Today is our day! In a few short hours we will say good-bye to what has become a home away from home for many of us. However, I hope that this is not a good-bye but more of a "see you later." As we leave here today, we leave as alumni of one of the best business schools in the country, so let's stand up and be proud to be a graduate of Bryant College.

Today is the day when we stand together as the Class of 2002 and say that we did it! We conquered Bryant College and next we will conquer the world!

So once again, I say, Carpe Diem! Seize this day, as there will never be one quite like it again.
"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you've imagined."

Those words of the great Henry David Thoreau ring true in college and beyond. A student's major or concentration is not all that matters regarding his or her future. That student's dreams count as well, even beyond Bryant College. That is among many lessons I have learned as a student here, an important one I shall carry away with me as I earn the promotion from Bryant student to Bryant alumnus. Although this journey of four years (believe me, it does seem like less than that!) has ended, another journey awaits, the one that explains the term "commencement."

As students, we would learn the importance of hard work, both in and out of the classroom. As people, especially through recent events, we would also learn that we are one community and that we are in this whole experience together.


And it is through Bryant that my family has expanded. Special thanks to the many groups with which I have been involved, for providing an outlet for my interests and talents. You all know who you are, and you have been such terrific friends! Other credit goes to the Athletic Department, Career Services and Administration, as they have also played a role in my advancement here at Bryant. Likewise for the professors... all of them, for their role as well.

To all of you—faculty, staff, coaches, and students—let me say that you all are appreciated very much for your contributions to my Bryant experience. You have been outstanding!

In closing, I have but one love for Bryant College as I answer the call of the famous Archway: I will be going confidently through it, in the direction of my dreams, in the direction of my dreams, toward the life I have imagined. The College will always be as much a part of me as I have been of it, now and forever.
We all have mixed feelings about sitting here today. You might be sad that you are leaving behind your friends, your security, and your responsibility-free lifestyle. Mixed with the feelings of sadness might also be the excitement of finishing this chapter of life and beginning a new one. But I know another feeling that many of you have is that of relief. For most of us, there will be no more papers to write, tests to cram for, or notes to drool on. Our 16 years of schooling are over and, no, they won’t and can’t make us learn any more.

The professors won’t be standing in your cubicle or sitting on your office desk lecturing. They won’t be telling you how it is or how it will be when you get into the “real” world. We are the “real” world now and, it is our turn to decide its future. No one is going to “require” you to read a book or scholarly article. You will not be graded on how well you take multiple-choice tests or write an essay in 30 minutes. From this day onward, no one will pressure you to learn about or hear things you do not want to. You cannot shut off the evening news, refuse to read the newspaper, or put down the book. Isolation from the surrounding world is always a viable option.

Now it is up to us.

This is my challenge to you, the class of 2002. Continue to learn. Just because this date formally marks the end of your structured education, don’t stop expanding your mind. It is easy to slip into your own daily routine, put your blinders on, and forget about what is going on in the world.

Our professors prepared us not only for our future careers in business, but they also challenged us to think. When I first came to this school, I had no idea what I was going to concentrate in. I began with Management, then to Finance, and switched to Marketing for three whole days. Finally, I made the decision to make the most of my four years here and chose to focus on both English and Communication.

Thankfully, I was able to take advantage of the liberal arts program at Bryant College and gear my education toward what was right for me. Understanding that I am unlike most of the business-oriented students here, I am glad I made this decision. My professors challenged me to rethink and reevaluate my beliefs. Many times, I discovered that my ideas were not based in anything other than stereotypes and assumptions. Had I ignored my professors, I would be a very different person than the one who stands before you today.

Be curious. Talk to the person who looks a little different than you. Find out where he or she comes from and what he or she had to do to get here. Be curious not because it will further you in business, but rather because it will help you to understand the way of the world.

Ask lots of questions. It takes humility to accept that you do not know it all, but at least you are willing to learn. Don’t be afraid to let your imagination stray from the norm. Take time out to read books. Don’t just read the best selling authors; read books by people from other countries like India, Bosnia, or Afghanistan. The more you read, the more you will understand the world and be capable of making better judgments.

For me, my expectation of what college was going to do for me four years ago is very different than what I think it actually did. College is not about finding a job after graduation—it is about shaping individuals. College allows us to put tough issues in an open forum where we can debate them and reevaluate our thinking. The most valuable thing we can take away from our four years here is not our earning potential; it is our ability to think for ourselves.

In a couple of years, we might all still be very thankful that we are not studying for tests, doing group projects, or reading books that are assigned and not chosen. But do not let that stop you from wanting to learn. Don’t let your daily stresses stifle your curiosity. Listen to those around you. Challenge ignorance. The more your take in from others, the more you will learn about yourself and the stronger your values will become. In the words of Socrates, “the unexamined life is not worth living.”

Congratulations to the class of 2002.
"Through the years..."
A candid look at the class of 2002
2002 Commencement Awards

Elena Fertitta
George M. Parks Award
This award is presented to the bachelor's degree candidate who has done the most to enhance the reputation of the College through the intelligent use of recognized leadership qualities.

Jessica Stetson
Roger W. Babson Award
This award is presented to the bachelor's degree candidate who has become distinguished within the College community because of character, orderly mind, sound judgment, and systematic business practices.

Jason Starbuck
Jeremiah Clark Barber Award
The Jeremiah Clark Barber Award is presented to one who has shown a consistent record of academic improvement.

Angela Gugliotta
Bryant College Good Citizenship Award
The Citizenship Award is presented to the one who has demonstrated qualities of sincerity and vigorous industry in the interest of good citizenship and who has, by example, furthered better government both on and off campus.

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

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

Denise Labisi
Psychology Award
The Psychology Award is given to a graduate who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in the area of psychology.

Jason Eddy
Male Senior Scholar Athlete Award
This award is presented to the senior male athlete who has obtained the highest grade point average.

Melissa Kendall
Female Senior Scholar Athlete Award
This award is presented to the senior female athlete who has obtained the highest grade point average.

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

Denise Labisi & Christopher Joseph Hallstrom
Anna M. & Jere St. Angelo '61 Accounting Awards
These awards are presented to graduating seniors in accounting who are in the top ten percent of their class, are residents of an urban area, and have proven need.
Courtney Zullo  
*Communication Award*

The Communication Award is presented to a graduate who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in the area of communication.

Zeynep Ozdamar  
*The Wall Street Journal Award*

This award is presented annually to a graduate who has show distinction in the fields of economics, finance, and investments.

Timothy A. Trimborn  
*Language Award*

The Language Award is presented to a graduate who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in the area of language.

Courtney Zullo  
*Literary Studies Award*

The Literary Studies Award is presented to a graduate who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in the area of literary studies.

Lisa Collins  
*International Studies Award*

This award is given to a graduate who has shown outstanding achievement in the area of international studies.

Kevin Cook  
*Jack H. Rubens Leadership in Finance Award*

This award is presented to a graduate who has shown outstanding performance in academics, service to the finance department, and enthusiasm and leadership in extracurricular activities related to finance.

Candace A. Jolicoeur  
*Pell Medal for US History Award*

This award is presented to the graduate who has displayed excellence in the study of United States history. Rhode Island’s Senator, the Honorable Claiborne de Borde Pell, presents this medal to honor the memory of his father, the late Herbert C. Pell, statesman and diplomat, who served the United States as Ambassador to Hungary and Minister to Portugal.

Jason Eddy  
*Legal Studies Award*

This award is presented to a graduate who has shown outstanding achievement in the area of legal studies.

Mark J. Aplin  
*Sociology Award*

This award is presented to a graduate who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in the area of sociology.

Shannon Lewis  
*Political Science Award*

This award is presented to a graduate who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in the area of political science.

Sarah M. Smith & Timothy Trimborn  
*John Hancock Awards*

The John Hancock Insurance awards are presented to two students who have demonstrated superior achievement in the study of applied actuarial mathematics.

Erin Barry  
*Reserve Officer Training Corp Achievement Award*

This award is presented to a bachelor’s degree candidate who has excelled in military science studies and other courses and has shown superior leadership potential in the military science program and in extracurricular activities.

Sarah M. Smith  
*George J. Kelly Award*

This award is presented to the graduate scheduled to complete all degree requirements in May, who at the end of the fall semester had attempted 102 credits at Bryant, and is honored for having the highest cumulative GPA as of the end of the fall semester.
Senior Contributions

Senior Service Awards

This year, Student Senate Senior Service Awards will be presented to seven deserving students of the graduating class to recognize their outstanding service to the student body of Bryant College. Recipients are selected by the Student Senate Service Awards Committee.

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

This year's award winners are no exception from the norm. They went above and beyond the call of duty to put the needs of the students first. Congratulations to each of the following Senior Service Award winners:

Andrew Bishop
Michelle Comeau
Elena Fertitta
Angela Gugliotta
Renal Patel
Marilyn Radei
Jessica Stetson

Just a few years ago, the senior class implemented a five year pledge plan to raise funds for the Senior Class Gift. The pledge program, which began on a trial basis two years ago, has become a new tradition where members of the senior class try to outdo the successes of the previous year. While this is only the third year for the program, the 2002 Senior Class has really set the tone for the future of this endeavor.

To date, the efforts of the 2002 Senior Class Gift Committee have raised $33,000 by gathering pledges from fellow students. The senior class has also been fortunate enough to have the support of Bryant trustee, Malcolm "Kim" Chase who plans to match 80 percent of the aforementioned amount.

In addition to raising money via pledges, the Senior Class Gift Committee hosted a series of events throughout the year to increase awareness about the program, as well as to further enhance class unity. A fall Wine & Cheese party was held on November 15, 2001, which raised $1,090. In the spring, the committee broke with tradition and held the first ever Senior Luau on April 18, 2002, raising $1,200. Having raised roughly $60,000 in conjunction the generous matching gift of Kim Chase, the Class of 2002 will be able to implement one of the most unique and prestigious gifts ever left by a graduating class.

Committee Members:
Marilyn Radei (Chair)
Kim Turcotte (Advisor)
Kristie Marzakis
Michelle Comeau
Andrew Bishop
Jacqueline Krol
Heather Desmarais
John Garcia
Shari Slomka
Teresa Zyga
Jessica Stetson

Class Flag

Bryant College extends its gratitude to the late, Emeritus Honorary Trustee George J. Kelley '39, '69H for his generosity in providing on-going support for the purchase and display of a senior class flag which is designed by members of the Student Alumni Association. The Class of 2002 flag was designed by seniors Michelle Comeau, Wendy Hildreth, Shannon Millerick, and Teresa Zyga. This flag embodies the Class of 2002 standing strong through the past four years and continuing to do so in the future.

Senior Class Gift

Committee Members:
Marilyn Radei (Chair)
Kim Turcotte (Advisor)
Kristie Marzakis
Michelle Comeau
Andrew Bishop
Jacqueline Krol
Heather Desmarais
John Garcia
Shari Slomka
Teresa Zyga
Jessica Stetson
Honorary Degrees

Rick Goings
Doctor of Business Administration

Since 1997, Rick Goings has been chairman and CEO of Tupperware Corporation, one of the world’s leading direct sellers, with annual sales in excess of $1.2 billion. Prior to that he served as president and chief operating officer from 1996-1997, and as executive vice president of Premark International, Inc. (former holding company of Tupperware,) and president of Tupperware Worldwide from 1992-1996.

The People’s Republic of China presented him with the Marco Polo Award in March of 2000 for his contributions to China’s economic development and his concern for Chinese society.

Mr. Goings also received the prestigious Herbert Hoover Humanitarian Award from the Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

He is on the Board of Directors of Tupperware Corporation, SunTrust Bank, Central Florida, N.A., Boys & Girls Clubs of America, and Rollins College. He is a 1969 graduate of Guilford College.

Patrick Keely
Doctor of Humane Letters (awarded posthumously)

Patrick Keeley, professor of English and Humanities, began his career at Bryant in 1967.

He served under eight presidents and on two campuses. In 1982, he was voted the first recipient of the Bryant Alumni Association’s Distinguished Faculty Award. In 2001, he received a Bryant Community Spirit Award, given annually to employees who go above and beyond the call of duty and make a unique imprint on campus.

Professor Keeley served on numerous college committees over the years, and has been an enduring presence on campus.

He was also a visible symbol of the college, and served as Master of Ceremonies at so many of Bryant’s community events that he was known as the “Voice of Bryant.” Professor Keeley had a B.S. from Bridgewater State College, and a master’s degree from Providence College.

M. Anne Szostak
Doctor of Business Administration

M. Anne Szostak is the chairman and CEO of Fleet Rhode Island and executive vice president and corporate director of human resources and diversity for FleetBoston Financial. During her 28 years with Fleet, Ms. Szostak has held several executive positions including chairman, president, and CEO of Fleet Maine; executive vice president of consumer banking; and senior vice president of bank operations. She serves on the boards of Colby College and the Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

She has also served on the President’s Glass Ceiling Commission. Additionally, Ms. Szostak is a director of Tupperware Corporation, Providence Energy Corporation, and New England Business Service, Inc.

She was honored with Colby College’s Distinguished Alumna Award, as well as the New England Council Leadership Award. Ms. Szostak is a 1972 graduate of Colby College.
Dear Fellow Graduates:

After four years, time has brought us to a point of departure. Our graduation. Some of us are eager to step into the race, like horses at the gate, while others will cling for a time to the memory of the pathways that crisscrossed the campus, the pathways that showed us exactly where to go. Still others will ask, when the pomp and fanfare of graduation has passed, what makes our class unique to the world? This question is not invalid.

Multitudes have gone before us, not just from Bryant, but from institutions in every country. Moreover, students have been participating in graduation ceremonies since the days of city and league in ancient Greece. What, then, is another starry-eyed congregation of youth? What is another diploma, another robe, another rhetorical send-off into the wild blue? How, indeed, is our class unique?

This time, the diploma is ours. The robe and the speech are meant for us. Two hundred million students may have been similarly initiated, but we are the first of ourselves. Furthermore, it is not necessary to become discouraged by that two hundred million; they may have magnitude, but as a whole, most of them have succumbed to time and fallen with civilizations that no longer stand. They may have done great things, but the ultimate fact is that we are here and they are dust. It is our world now.

Let us not, then, take this ceremony for granted. It is the last, great farewell of our lives. Let us look into the faces of those around us. Friends. Acquaintances. Lovers. Teachers who moved us. And let them burn into our memories, along with this day.

Our childhood is over. That tune has faded. A new melody can be heard building quietly in the distance. With time its volume will increase. When at last, the melody soars and sweeps, when it dances, the world will be ours. Then, we will remember that distant day when we stood together on an enamelled green lawn. The day we stepped out of a world. The day the song began.

Sincerely,

Adam L. Fontaine
Editor-In-Chief, Emeritus
The Archway
Dear Graduates:

Congratulations on completing a very important phase of your life. You have accomplished something significant. The skills and qualities you’ve developed here will serve as your foundation for the future.

While today is a day of celebration and thanks, savor your accomplishments and thank those who’ve been there for you during your Bryant College experience. Each of us in our accomplishments have others who’ve helped make them possible. Take a minute to extend your appreciation.

This has been a special class. It is the first one Marj and I have been with from start to finish. We welcomed you at Orientation and shared many campus experiences. We’ve lived and learned together. We’re all better for what the Bryant experience has brought to us. Each of you in your unique way has helped make Bryant the special place that it is.

As you pass into the next phase of your life, keep in mind Bryant’s commitment to preparing its graduates for success in life and business. Winston Churchill’s words can be a guide for all of us:

“You make a living by what you get,
but you make a life by what you give.”

As you begin your professional careers we look forward to your continuing involvement with us. Congratulations, Best wishes and keep in touch.

Sincerely,

Dr. J. Thomas Eakin
Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students