CEO partners with BUNEEC Entrepreneurship Conference

By Harris Roberts
Staff Writer

The nationally ranking Bryant University Collegiate Entrepreneurs Club is bringing an intersection of ideas conference to Bryant University. BUNEEC (Bryant University North East Entrepreneurship Conference) will be held on February 21st and 22nd in the Bello Grand Hall. The conference brings together industry leaders and passionate students to create an intersection of ideas. The conference will feature keynote David Alwan who was featured on the hit ABC television show Shark Tank. Tickets are free for all Bryant students.

Dave Alwan will be the first keynote on Friday night speaking about his success after Shark Tank. Dave’s company Echo Valley Meats specializes in “old fashioned butcher shop” quality meats. Alwan is a passionate and engaging speaker who has an amazing story of how to keep flapping.

The Silk Road: online blackmarket

By Dmytro Bashchynsky
Staff Writer

Over the past decade the internet has become a crucial part of the world. It is so deeply integrated into people’s personal lives as well as the global economy that it is almost impossible to imagine life in 21st century without it. The web is used by private citizens, businesses, governments, and even criminals. Over the past 10 years crime has moved its operations to the web, becoming a bigger problem than ever before. Internet criminal activities are out of control, more so than you could ever imagine.

A very eye opening example of crime on the web is the Silk Road. It is not a reference to a historical trade route that you can read about in books, but rather an electronic marketplace for illegal drugs, counterfeit items, and more. It launched in February 2011 and operated until October 2013 when it was finally shut down by the FBI.

The website primarily focused on the sale of illegal drugs like heroin, crystal meth, cocaine, LSD and cannabis. Drug sales attributed to 70% of its trade volume. The other 30% of sales were split between fake currencies, other counterfeit items, and pornography. People have nicknamed this website the Amazon or eBay of drugs.

It had a fully functioning and very detailed vendor review system resembling that of online giants. Clients would purchase drugs, try them, test them in the lab for purity, and then post reviews and rate vendors for their products. There was also a conflict resolution system in place that helped clients dispute with vendors over problem with sales. Items that were forbidden to be sold on the website were those used to harm or defraud, like assassinations, stolen credit card information, child pornography and weapons of mass destruction.

To put things in perspective as to how big Silk Road was, based on the seized server data, the FBI has estimated over 1.2 million transactions were completed on the website during its existence. It generated over 1.2 billion dollars in revenue and hosted over 140 thousand buyers and four thousand vendors.

Without a doubt, Silk Road was a big and very efficient business. One of the first questions that comes to mind when learning about Silk Road, is how can something like this exist, without being immediately punished and put to heel by law enforcement, which in light of recent revelations about NSA’s unparalleled data tracking abilities, seem to be all knowing. Silk Road might have been the biggest to date, but it is just one out of many illegal marketplace sites and exchanges that exist on the internet. There are two primary reasons as to why and how, something like the Silk Road can exist.

The most important reason is something called The Onion Router (TOR). It is a free software, widely available on the internet that was originally developed with the sponsorship and resources from US Naval Research laboratory, State Department and Electronic Frontier Foundation. This program encrypts data traffic in a unique way, and writes it through numerous web relays which decrypt a layer of information at a time (henceforth nicknamed onion router). It is so efficient at what it does, that it gives its users complete anonymity on the web, concealing their location, and data being transferred. A set of NSA revelations, from British news agency The Guardian, have shown that even the NSA has an enormous amount of trouble decrypting TOR encrypted data.

Silk Road, websites alike and their users all use TOR in order to conceal their activities and even their very existence. If you were to google Silk Road, or search through any other search engine, you would not find it. TOR encryption prevents search engines from ever indexing such websites and adding them to their search database. Only a user that uses TOR and knows the website URL address can find it. That is why law enforcement has trouble not only tracking activities of such websites but simply learning of their existence is not that simple.

Until recently the situation with illegal trafficking on the web has not been that dire. Even if the transactions and users are anonymous on the web, they still leave plenty of financial traces due to real world money used in transactions, allowing law enforcement to eventually track down and catch criminals. Recently, however, the situation has escalated to a much more desperate state. This leads to the second reason as to why and how such websites exist, and it is
MyPath Gives Exploratory Students Opportunity to Discover Academic Areas of Study

By Harris Roberts
Staff Writer

The MyPath Showcase will give students looking to choose a major, concentration, or minor an opportunity to learn more about select areas of study. The MyPath Showcase will start in Janikies Theater on Wednesday, February 12th from 2:00-5:30pm. During this time students will be able to listen to two brief presentations by departments of their choice. The event will be kicked off by keynote Patrick Combs who will talk about “Majoring in Success!” The showcase offers primarily first and second year students the ability to explore multiple academic paths. Additionally students who attend will be eligible for drawings including a grand prize spring break trip.

The MyPath Showcase will give students a chance to talk with faculty from up to two different departments in a small, comfortable setting. Each department will have 30 minutes to present and answer questions. In addition to faculty, each room will have an upper class student who is concentrating in that academic field of study. Students can expect engaging presentations that will clarify the academic curriculum, internship, and post graduation opportunities.

The keynote speaker Patrick Combs has appeared on national television and has spoken for more than 500,000 students. He often speaks on topics including overcoming obstacles, personal growth, fearless living, and working smart. Patrick will kick off the event at 2:00 p.m. in Janikies Theater.

Academic sessions will occur in classrooms and students will receive a raffle ticket for each event they attend. The MyPath program is a collaboration between Academic Advising and The Amica Center for Career Education. For more information on the event contact either of the departments or find more information on their social media accounts. Registration is not necessary but seats are available on a first come basis.

IT Tips & Updates

By Dan Minor
Contribution Writer

Interested in Information Technology? Have any questions or concerns that are IT related? You’ve come to the right place. Representatives from the student body meet with members from the IT department and Laptop Central to discuss and resolve any issues and answer any questions students are having that are technology related. This semester we are aiming to inform students of all the technologies that are available to us that we may not be taking full advantage of. Our goal over the course of this semester is to provide students with a series of instructional YouTube videos demonstrating these technologies.

One such video has already been made which can be found by visiting the “Bryant University Student Senate” Facebook page. As a student, I thought I was utilizing Google as best as I could, however, I learned there was so much more we can do. This demonstration taught me that you can back up your files to Google Drive automatically so you don’t have to worry about losing a big paper due to your laptop crashing. It also allows you to access the paper from any computer, without using flash drives, so you don’t have to worry about losing a big paper due to your laptop crashing. It also allows you to access the paper from any computer, without using flash drives.

Keep your eyes open for more IT Updates and demonstrational videos! Also, be sure to attend the Information Services and Technology Fair that has been rescheduled to Thursday February 20th from 9:30am-12:30pm in the rotor! Representatives will be there to answer questions and showcase technologies they are working with. In the meantime, feel free to contact a Student Senator with any issues and we will get to work on it!

Follow Student Senate on Twitter! @BryantSenate

Forensic Science

A liberal arts major at Bryant University

By May Vickers
Staff Writer

Popular television shows like Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) have popularized forensic science in the minds of many. Forensic Science has been a prominent field for years, but is highlighting the tremendous advances made in the field of forensic science. Forensic Science is an exciting field filled with countless opportunities to work dedicated to the law. If you would like to pursue a career involving police and medical investigations of crime scenes and criminal acts, Bryant University’s Forensic Science concentration is the right place for you.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of forensic science technicians is expected to grow 9% percent from 2012 to 2022. As of 2012, the United States had 12,900 employed forensic scientists. In addition, the use of forensic evidence in criminal proceedings is expected to substantially expand partly because of the media exposure to forensic science that has created expectations that forensic evidence should contribute to court cases and trials.

Typical job duties of forensic scientists include analyzing crime scenes to determine what evidence to collect, photographing crime scenes and evidence, sketching crime scenes, recording observations and findings, cataloging and preserving evidence for transfer to crime laboratories, and using scientific analyses to determine potential links between suspects and criminal activities. Forensic science technicians have the opportunity to specialize in natural sciences or engineering depending on their preference.

Bryant University’s Forensic Science Concentration was established by the Department of Science and Technology in the College of Arts and Sciences, using guidelines from the Council of Forensic Science Educators (COFSE) and was designed to match certification requirements from the American Academy of Forensic Science (AAFS). This professional concentration will prepare you to navigate through more advanced studies such as post-graduate education in areas including trauma assessment, forensic photography, ballistics, medical entomology, soil and chemical analysis, biochemistry, geographical information systems (GIS) mapping, bioimaging, DNA analysis, pharmaceutical science and/or medical studies.

Due to Bryant University’s culture and the small size of the program, students in this concentration have the unique opportunity to specialize in their area of interest by collaborating and working with dedicated faculty. Due to the small size of the program and technical expertise of the faculty, students are exposed to many rich opportunities to gain practical work experience and can participate in additional special skills training courses.

Students with a concentration in Forensic Science can further gain a competitive advantage before entering the job market by pairing their concentration with existing majors and minors in the Department of Science and Technology. Examples of majors and minors include Biology, Environmental Science and Biotechnology. In this curriculum, students can attend special guest speakers from many different organizations including law enforcement, health management, genetic analysis, medical assessment and DNA testing.

To complete the twenty-one credit concentration, students are required to choose a capstone course. Examples include Cyber Security, Industrial Analysis for Environmental Life Sciences, Environmental Toxicology and Risk Assessment, or a directed study either conducting research or working at an internship. Students can request further information about any element of the program or specific courses at http://www.bryant.edu/academics/undergraduate/courses-of-study/forensic-science.htm.

Bryant University’s program provides students with some of the best opportunities to succeed in the competitive job market. The small size of the program and collaborative faculty allow students to specialize in their interests and truly discover their passion for the subject matter. With exposure to internship opportunities, special guest speakers and laboratory analysis students are well prepared to dive into post-graduate study or an entry-level position upon graduation. For further information please contact Professor Smith, rmsmith15@bryant.edu or Professor Langhoo, langhoo@bryant.edu.

Student Senate survey results are in!

By Conor Haraden
Contribution Writer

Last semester, shortly before break, the Student Senate sent out a survey to gain student input on issues for the semester. The survey asked students questions ranging from their common area to the issue of heating and ventilation of their rooms. The main purpose of said survey was to compile data regarding common issues and complaints that residents on campus have with their halls. As to also see areas of the halls that can be improved by the sophomore or the general student body.

The results showed an unexpected amount of respondents for the survey. 74% of the 17 residents, however, are quite content with the current state of their bathroom. In regards to Res Life the freshman halls gave a big approval rating to the programs put on by some of their resident assistants. However, trash bags and toilet paper supplies remain an issue to those living in upperclassman halls. Residents of the village suites reported that they had issues with the carpeting. Surprisingly many students reported issues with the furniture being in disrepair or displaced before the semester began.

More specifically it was found that Hall 12 would like to have better heat control and more washing and drying machines, a concern that is shared by residents of Hall 14, 9, 7, and 5. Hall 1 residents expressed an interest in a recycling option and increased pick up times for trash disposal. Hall 8 residents expressed concern for a supply closet to hold big paper due year to year. Hall 4 residents policed in with a high concern for noise and, interestingly enough, a way to meet more residents on their hall. Hall 7 residents expressed interest in having a printer located in their common area, an upgrade that would benefit their residents and could be expanded further down the hall. Hall 15 residents expressed interest in more game tables and, interestingly enough, a way to meet more residents on their hall. Hall 15 residents expressed interest in more game tables and, interestingly enough, a way to meet more residents on their hall.

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February 12, 2014
**Tupper’s Tidbits**

**Tupper’s Top 5 ways to show Bulldog love!**

By Iron Clad Tupper I

- After a win, I like to absorb the positive energy from the court so I can bring it to the next game. (Christina Seventh)
- Love is in the air this week. No, I swear it’s not me. I know mom puts garlic in my food, but I’m really not that gassy. Really. Okay, I know SOME bulldogs are, but what are you gonna do? It’s hard to suppress bodily functions!
- Anyway, back to love. It’s Valentine’s Day week. The day created to make all humans miserable. Or that’s how it seems to me. No, no, don’t get me wrong — I’m a lover of love. If you’ve met me, you know this is true. I love to hold hands. And have you scratch my bum and pet my top forehead wrinkle.
- Most bulldogs are inherently love lovers. But I’m going to tell you how you can show me love even if I’m not around. I present to you “Tupper’s Top Five Ways to Show Bulldog Love”.
- **GO TO A GAME ON CAMPUS!** Your Bulldog teams would love your support. This Saturday, Men’s Lacrosse has their home opener at 1 and, the Women’s and Men’s Tennis teams take on Hofstra at 6:30 and 7, respectively. Wondering how I know this check out bryantbulldogs.com/composite. Bookmark it. P.S. Those LAX parents can volunteer to foster a couch potato dog! Long Island Bulldog Rescue helps all bullie breeds. They always need volunteers or money. Or you can make a tax-deductible donation to Bryant and put “Tupper care” in the memo line.

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**Bryant University Dining**

By Debbie Turner

Registered Dietician

Bryant University Dining

Winter blues are brutal and somehow defail any chance of staying on the healthy eating train. Eventually you find yourself eating mindlessly and before you know it, your pants are tight. When it’s cold we tend to eat a lot more sugar, high fat “comfort foods.” Once these sugars and fats are in the blood, you continue to crave more. Stop the cycle with the following knowledge.

**What is a craving?** A craving by definition is an intense, urgent, or abnormal desire for some particular thing; desire is a strong wish for something.

Food cravings can be very powerful, and if you find yourself daydreaming about a fatty cheesburger during an afternoon lull, or craving a sweet dessert even though you’re full from dinner, you may need to discover the real reasons behind your cravings.

Cravings may bombard your mind for very good reasons. Many people who cease smoking usually is not one of them. Once you figure out why you’re craving, then you can work on control, and hopefully, get through the day without getting out of control. Most cravings are not the result of poor willpower but have simple physiological causes and can be easily controlled by eating a diet that incorporates all food groups.

Four common causes of cravings:

1. **Dieting:** If someone told you not to think about pink zebras, your mind would be filled with images of pink zebras. The same goes for dieting, when you ban certain foods from your diet or label foods as “Good” and “Bad” (i.e. carbohydrates or fats) you are going to think of the foods that you’re trying to avoid. This leads to binging and low self esteem.

2. **Bodily Needs:** It’s possible that you may be craving nutrients your body is deficient in such as:

   - Calories: Going longer than 4 hours without eating will spiral a craving. When we go a long time without eating, the first thing most people crave is sugary carbohydrates (cookies) and/or fats (a chocolate bar, French fries). In this case your body is requiring more calories and calls for the most it can get in a short time.
   - Imbalanced Nutrition: A good visual for a meal is to make half your plate vegetables/salad, quarter the plate a starch and the other quarter a protein.
   - Inadequate fluid intake. A dehydrated body will often mask itself as hunger so remember to hydrate!

3. **Lifestyle Habits:** Some cravings exist due to habit. For instance, your family may have eaten dessert every night after dinner while you were growing up. Now, if dessert doesn’t appear every night after dinner, you may crave something sweet. Or maybe associations can trigger cravings. Watching movies, for example, is heavily associated with eating popcorn and candy.

4. **Emotions:** Emotions can also lurk at the root of food cravings especially if you consider certain foods “comfort foods.” If you continually reach for candy every time you’re stressed out or upset then you may begin to associate the taste of candy with feeling better.

**Combatting the Craving:**

- In order to fight cravings it is important to recognize them and then change the physical and/or psychological behavior causing them. Here are a few ways:

  - Eat meals and snacks through the day—try not to exceed 4 hours without food.
  - Remember to combine a protein with all meals and snacks—protein will help to keep you fuller longer.
  - Don’t deprive yourself! Stop Dieting! Banning certain foods from your eating pattern will only make you want them more. Rather than blacklisting certain foods try the 90/10 model. Eat healthy balanced plates 90% of the time and indulge 10% of the time.
  - Have smart snacks. If you know that you have to go several hours without a meal then HAVE A PLAN. Carry snack bars with nuts, a handful of high fiber cereal or a bag of nuts at all times. Other good snack choices include yogurt parfait, apple and peanut butter sandwiches, hummus with crackers. Note: these all include a protein option.
  - Drink plenty of water.

Water, besides being necessary for survival, helps eliminate cravings. Your body needs 60-100 ounces of water per day for optimal functioning.

**Master the art of distraction.**

Good cravings last no longer than 20 minutes. Try to distract yourself in an activity that last longer than 20 minutes: Workout, read a book, call a friend or taking a shower is simple ways to avoid a craving. If you still “want” that craving, here’s Take Control:

- Now that you have an idea about what induces a craving, you can begin recognizing what causes your craving, outweigh your craving until it passes, or give your body a healthy alternative to fatty food.

**Ask yourself these questions to determine hunger vs. craving:**

- When did I last eat? Was it more than 4 hours? If no then it’s a craving. Did you feel hungry? Did you feel like you missed a meal? Did you miss a food? (ex. Salami with chicken, Stir fry with meat or tofu)? If yes then it’s a craving.

- Did you eat enough to be satisfied (not full)? Stopping before you are satisfied will leave you wanting something. However, eating until you are thanksgiving full will leave you bloated. Find your balance. You are the only one who knows your body.

- Did you eat something that you would have liked? If you are eating for your “diet” chances are you are not liking it and ultimately setting yourself up for a craving binge.

**Eating healthy is a way of life, not a short term fix.** You need to be conscious of your eating patterns and practice good behaviors every day. All foods can fit into a healthy eating plan. Remember, combining all meals and snacks with a protein will keep you full and satisfied longer.

**Examples:**

- Toast with Eggs and a piece of fruit
- Yogurt and Cottage Cheese with granola
- Cereal with low fat milk and fruit
- Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich with raisins
- Salad with Chicken, Beans or Tofu
- Stir Fry with meat or tofu
- Pizza with a large Salad
- Cheeseburger with a side of veggies or salad
On February 4, 2014, Hollywood mourned. They mourned the loss of the critically acclaimed actor Philip Seymour Hoffman. That February 2, Hoffman was found dead in his apartment, a death believed to be caused by a heroin overdose. In fact, the needle often associated with this drug was still in his left forearm when he was discovered.

The death was not the first time that the actor used heroin, he had been struggling with substance abuse in the past, though at one point he had racked up twenty-three years of sobriety. According to the New York Post, at 11:15 he was found by his friend David Bar Katz and personal assistant Isabella Wing-Davey. When CPR did not work, they declared him dead. Philip Seymour Hoffman was pronounced dead half an hour after the initial discovery.

Philip Seymour Hoffman was trained as a stage actor, but his film career began with his performance in 1997 with “Boogie Nights.” However, it was his performance as the title character in 2005’s “Capote,” that catapulted him to the Hollywood spotlight. His portrayal earned him the Oscar for Best Actor. In addition, he also received nominations for his performances in “Double,” “Charlie Wilson’s War,” and “The Ides of March” according to the New York Post. So, what made Philip Seymour Hoffman one of the greats?

Entertainment Weekly writer Owen Gleiberman says that it all started, again, with 1997’s “Boogie Nights.” While with Philip Seymour Hoffman, as homosexual Scotty, is rejected in possibly the worst way, he lets the emotion out in his car. Gleiberman writes: “Hoffman held up the mirror to something that actors, even great ones, almost never have the chance to portray—a small act of everyday kindness.” And he would continue to show the humanity in his characters for the rest of his career. And if you thought he could only portray characters like Scotty I, then you were very far from the truth.

In two years, Philip Seymour Hoffman went from the socially awkward Scotty J to the rich playbook, Freddie Miles in “The Talented Mr. Ripley.” Why is this performance special? According to Gleiberman, “Hoffman made you feel the nearly tactile joy of Freddie’s all-American blustery decadence.” This was more than another excellent performance, because by playing polar opposites with equal acclaim, Philip Seymour Hoffman had proven his versatility. The following year, he was Lester Bangs in “Almost Famous.” Here, he put part of himself into his character because, “he knew all too well what corporations are always going to ask artists to do.” And his best performance was yet to come.

Certainly, his portrayal of Truman Capote is the obvious choice to receive this title. Gleiberman believes that it simply is his best. In referring to this performance, he said, “for the first time, Hoffman was playing an immensely powerful man in a way that only he could do. When we heard about his death, the shock may be hard to get over. This is because it is almost literally hard to imagine the universe without his presence.”

The importance of fellowships

National Wildlife Federation Campus Ecology Program

By May Vickers

Staff Writer

What is a fellowship? How is a fellowship different than an internship? Why should all college seniors ponder regarding fellowships. Fellowships represent an opportunity for professional development through research and collaboration between different stakeholders to enact positive change. Fellowships are often sponsored by specific organizations or initiatives. Fellowships are the obvious choice to receive this title.

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In memoriam: Philip Seymour Hoffman

By Nicholas Calabro

Staff Writer

February 12, 2014

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Kelsie’s Korner

Deep Dish S’more Cookies

By Kelsie Hollenbeck

Staff Writer

Are you craving a little summer after trudging through all this snow? I can say these cookies will definitely bring you that taste of warm summer sun, but I can guarantee they will send you off into a summer daydream. With the mixture of graham cracker crumbs, Hersey’s chocolate, and marshmallows, you’ll think you’re sitting in the comfort of a campfire with the taste of a s’more in your mouth.

Ingredients (makes about 15 Deep Dish S’more Cookies)

Cookies:
- 1 cup butter, room temperature
- 1 1/2 cups light brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 cup graham cracker crumbs
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1/2 cup chocolate chip cookies
- 1/3 cup mini marshmallows
- 2 cups coarsely chopped milk chocolate bars
- 2 cups coarsely chopped white chocolate bars

Toppings:
- 8 Large marshmallows, cut in half
- 2 Milk Chocolate Bars broken into pieces

Directions:
1. Preheat the oven to 350°.
2. Spray muffin pan or muffin top pan with cooking spray. You can also bake these without the muffin top pan. Just place the dough on baking sheet, 2 inches apart and bake for 8-9 minutes, following the same guidelines as used for the muffin pan. If made in a muffin pan, you can use muffin liners to make less of a mess.
3. In a bowl, mix butter and sugar together until light and fluffy, about 2 minutes. Turn speed down, and add eggs and vanilla, mixing until smooth.
4. Add graham cracker crumbs, brown sugar and salt.
5. Turn mixer to low, and add in flour until just combined.
7. Use 1/3 cup of cookie dough for each cookie, pressing mixture evenly into the pan. When you place the dough in the individual muffin spots, press down with the palm of your hand to make sure it is the obvious choice to receive this title.
8. Bake for 8 minutes, remove from oven, and press marshmallow half onto the top. Continue baking for 4-5 minutes until marshmallow is puffed and slightly golden and cookie is lightly golden.
9. Remove and immediately press reserved chocolate onto the top of the cookie.
10. Allow cookies to cool in pan for at least 10 minutes. Loosen edges with knife and carefully remove from pan, transferring to a wire rack to continue cooling.

The National Wildlife Federation is an organization dedicated to protecting wildlife and habitat through conservation. The National Wildlife Federation strongly encourages and inspires America’s youth to take action regarding green education and sustainability efforts. The Campus Ecology program was founded in 1988 to include funding for student outreach programs, campus consulting, climate action competitions and educational events. The successfullness of this program has brought green/sustainable actions to over one thousand campuses annually in the United States of America.

Without the support of the National Wildlife Federation and the Campus Ecology program, I would have found it more difficult to discover avenues for net-zero campus buildings and resources, or the opportunities for renewable energy at Bryant University. This program has provided me with funding to analyze how installing solar panels on top of Bryant University’s outdoor lighting systems will increase the university’s triple bottom line (people, planet, profit).

This project was inspired by the increasing trend towards sustainability not only in corporations but campuses worldwide. With the higher education sector spending approximately $80 billion each year on energy, colleges nationwide are infusing renewable energy into their campus culture. Benefits of on-site renewable energy development include reduced energy costs, enhanced service reliability, positive brand association and carbon footprint.

While many argue that the initial investment in renewable energy can be substantial, my research for this fifteen month fellowship highlights the cost incentives for green technology. For example, several colleges who have installed and use solar-photovoltaic systems, have been able to obtain a 30 percent investment tax credit to cover the cost of all equipment and its installation. Many competing universities are switching to renewable energy. For example, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute has made a significant commitment to reducing its carbon footprint. In two years, Philip Seymour Hoffman went from the socially awkward Scotty J to the rich playbook, Freddie Miles in “The Talented Mr. Ripley.” Why is this performance special? According to Gleiberman, “Hoffman made you feel the nearly tactile joy of Freddie’s all-American blustery decadence.” This was more than another excellent performance, because by playing polar opposites with equal acclaim, Philip Seymour Hoffman had proven his versatility. The following year, he was Lester Bangs in “Almost Famous.” Here, he put part of himself into his character because, “he knew all too well what corporations are always going to ask artists to do.” And his best performance was yet to come.

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AOL performance metrics overlooked amid controversy

By John Zeiner
Business Editor

Chairman and CEO of AOL, Tim Armstrong, annulled an unpopular change in the media company's employee benefits program. Additionally, he apologized for publicly singling out two families' health care issues as a motive for those changes. In a company-wide phone call last Friday, Armstrong mentioned that the babies of two employees had cost the company over $1 million in health-care costs each. He stated that he wanted to continue to offer health benefits with that kind of kindness but believed that the Affordable Care Act would cost the company $71 million.

Recently AOL had modified its 40(k) plan, changing its matching payments to one lump sum at year-end as opposed to payments throughout the year. This leaves employees who depart the company before December 31 at a disadvantage. Armstrong announced the company's reversal in an email to employees later on Saturday.

He wrote, "The leadership team and I listened to your feedback over the last week. We heard you on this topic. And as we discussed the matter over several days, with managers and employees, we decided to change the policy back to a per-pay-period matching contribution approach."

Despite the recent slip-up, Armstrong has helped transform AOL from an Internet portal to a diversified media company. He has been able to support the company's financial performance by placing strong bets on video advertising. Unfortunately, this was the second time in the past year that Armstrong has been forced to apologize for actions or comments regarding AOL's benefits program during internal meetings. Amid a tense meeting this past August with employees at AOL's troubled Patch unit, which is a collection of local news sites, he fired an employee for taking photographs of him during the meeting. Similarly, he apologized four days later. AOL has since sold a majority stake in Patch to Hale Global, a turnaround firm.

Armstrong was under fire for adding to the company's own costs. While explaining the decision to employees during an all-company phone call, Armstrong stated that he wanted to continue to offer health care to employees and their families. However, he also acknowledged the company's financial challenges and the need to balance employee benefits with the company's financial health. While some employees were unhappy with his comments, Armstrong defended his actions, saying that he was acting in the best interests of the company and its employees. He noted that the changes were necessary to maintain the company's financial stability and to ensure that it could continue to provide high-quality benefits to its employees.

Armstrong's comments stirred a mix of reactions among employees. Some praised him for his transparency and acknowledged the financial challenges facing the company, while others questioned the timing and motive of his announcement. Armstrong's decision highlights the ongoing debate within the company about how to balance employee benefits with the need for cost control and financial sustainability. It also raises questions about the role of leadership in addressing employee concerns and the potential impact of these decisions on the company's future prospects.
Revenge is sweet: Bulldogs end season with two straight victories

By Alyssa Ricci
Staff Writer

Bulldogs hockey was able to earn two victory crowns to cap off a great season (Alyssa Ricci)

February 12, 2014

Faceoff: An Olympic hockey preview for Team USA

By Mark Gallant
Contributing Writer

With the NHL going on standby this weekend, Sochi is just around the corner for the league’s best. While some players will have a nice extended break, others will be playing for the gold medal, an opportunity that only comes once every four years. The Bruins sent Captain Zdeno Chára off two games early so he could bear Slovakia's flag for the opening ceremony. Patrice Bergeron, David Krejci, Loui Eriksson, and Tuukka Rask will also be heading to Russia for the games, which should give Bruins fans plenty of reasons to watch. Of the 12 different nations to play, only four have a real shot at the coveted gold, starting with the Americans. Team USA: The United States came as close as they could, just missing gold in their overtime loss to Canada in the 2010finals. They will certainly be looking to be back in medal contention, and considering their talent, it would be very disappointing if they don’t come home with some hardware. Forward: Up front, the Americans are headed by Ryan Miller, Paul Martin, and Brooks Orpik, round out the group. It will be interesting to see how the Pittsburgh duo in Martin and Orpik will play on the largest stage of their careers as they may be tested in the speed department. If opposing teams are aggressive, they may be able to exploit the oldest skaters on the team.

Goalkeeping: In net, Ryan Miller will be back for his third time for the U.S. and will most likely be starting after leading his team to a silver medal in the last games. He can handle the task, Jonathan Quick and Jimmy Howard will be backing him up. Quick, coming off the Stanley Cup just two years ago and will be hoping to add to his accomplishments this February. Howard has been hurt several times this season and his play has been inconsistent, which will probably make him the third option. This star-studded roster full of NHL pros will surely make their presence known in Sochi over the next few weeks. Their goals will be to win over Canada and the European nations and their skills surely isn’t lacking either. With only one super starter, they may have trouble stopping teams with depth up front, such as Canada and Russia. However, if their goaltenders perform at their best, U.S.A. should have no problem going for gold. Team USA hopes to be both fast and competitive in these games (MCT Campus)
Tim O’Shea: the secret behind the Bulldog’s success

By Zach Friedland
Contributing Writer

If fans flash back to the 2009-10 Bryant Bulldogs Men’s Basketball campaign, they see a program trying to flip the switch on a transition from D2 to Division 1. But fast forward to February 2014, and Tim O’Shea has a group of Bulldogs on a fast track to March Madness.

Sure, the 1 and 2 win seasons were difficult, but O’Shea saw progress, potential, and growth from his teams. The ability to believe in a program that many had lost faith in was what separated the Boston College alum from other head coaches that simply would not have had the patience. But O’Shea knew the transition would eventually reawark, and finally that time has come. Following a 19-12 campaign last season highlighted by a second place conference finish and sellout crowds seldom seen from the Smithfield faithful, the Bulldogs have surged to a 16-9 start.

O’Shea never felt as if he was on the hot seat after signing an impressive eight year contract. His proposition to Bryant University President Ronald Machlief and Athletic Director Bill Smith was that he would start from scratch but he was committed. He did warn them that although he had a plan, he would need some luck in the early years. His luck came in the form of his core four. O’Shea planned to build around key transfers and internationals, and that did. Dyami Starks and Joe O’Shea moved from Columbia and Virginia respectively, while Corey Maynard migrated from Australia after encouragement from then-freshman Claybrin McMath. Cornerstone Alex Francis closes out the core that has powered the Bulldogs.

The transfer Starks has provided a key scoring attack that was unforeseen by many before O’Shea was able to pry the underenrolled guard from the Ivy League. O’Shea mentioned his familiarity with Starks’ AU program in Minnesota through his years coaching at BC and Ohio University. He has had previous success with players from Minnesota and knew his work ethic on the court and in the classroom would fit well in Smithfield.

O’Shea’s ability to grow this program has gained much needed national attention with games on ESPN U and CBS Sports Network. Former BC head coach Al Skinner, a close friend of O’Shea, has joined the experienced coaching staff to provide much needed visibility for the program. Coach O’Shea has believed that both Skinner and assistant coach Happy Dobbins have brought an incredible identity with their success in past endeavors.

When one of the best college basketball players in the nation, sometimes, he might have lost his cool. The ability to believe in a program that many had lost faith in was what separated the Boston College alum from other head coaches that simply would not have had the patience. But O’Shea knew the transition would eventually reawark, and finally that time has come.

While Oklahoma State’s Marcus Smart against Texas Tech and the organization, and it is highly doubtful that regardless of what was said, he will be punished for his actions.

Head coach Tim O’Shea is one of the main reasons for the Bulldogs’ quick turnaround this past couple of seasons (MCT Campus)

The passion that the students have created in the Chase Athletic Center is unparalleled. Marcus Smart is more than a basketball player, he is an inspiration for those students present. He has had the patience of a leader and the heart of a champion.

By Justin Beaucage
Sports Editor

When one of the best college basketball players in the nation hasn’t had anything go wrong all year, sometimes, he might have lost his cool. The ability to believe in a program that many had lost faith in was what separated the Boston College alum from other head coaches that simply would not have had the patience. But O’Shea knew the transition would eventually reawark, and finally that time has come.

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Do you enjoy sports? You should write for The Archway.
Meetings Mondays @5:30 in FSC Room 3
Sochi Olympics struggle to break free from image of controversy and danger

By John Scorzelli

As the world’s spectacle of cold-weather athletic competition has gotten underway, we’ve seen some early breath taking ski performances, thrilling ends to speed-skating races, and unfortunately a fair amount of early mishaps that have left the 2014 Olympics in Sochi with a less-than-perfect image for the two-week event.

While the Olympics usually serve as an exciting, popularity-generating event for their host city, Russian President Vladimir Putin has failed to create the fantastic, flawess image he hoped to portray for the country and its first Olympics since the 1980 Moscow Games.

While the Olympic Games are usually the most-watched television event in every year they’re held, the Games this year have actually failed to even draw sell-out crowds at numerous events. Usually a well-attended event by Americans regardless of location, this year’s Olympics have failed to fill seats with American spectators, or any other for that matter.

The US-Finland women’s ice hockey game was watched by a stadium only 60% full with fans. Meanwhile, the spectator area for the men’s luge competition unfortunately did not even draw a bathroom and was forced to escape. In another, potentially deadly shortcoming, British bobsledder Rebekah Wilson nearly stepped inside an opening elevator only to discover that the elevator car was missing. Soviet bobsledder Johnny Quinn got stuck inside a bathroom and was forced to make a hole big enough for him to escape. In another, potentially deadly shortcoming, British bobsledder Rebekah Wilson nearly stepped inside an opening elevator only to discover that the elevator car was missing.

Sochi’s recent warm weather attacks at the Games, caused many fans to stay in the States. The Sochi games have been surrounded by controversy, but the general consensus that the area would be safe and ready on time for the competitions unfortunately did not come to fruition.

Safety concerns for the athletes have arisen as well as two highly-publicized hotel incidents which received international notoriety. US bobsledder Johnny Quinn got stuck inside a bathroom and was forced to destroy the bathroom door to make a hole big enough for him to escape. In another, potentially deadly shortcoming, British bobsledder Rebekah Wilson nearly stepped inside an opening elevator only to discover that the elevator car was missing. Iconic superstar Shaun White announced his displeasure with the half-pipe’s quality, while fellow American snowboarder Hannah Teter deemed it “dangerous” and “crappy.” While many people felt that Putin hoped to use the games to improve upon the common, negative “Soviet” image that remains in the minds of many, the country’s dishonorable plan to exterminate the thousands of stray dogs in Sochi blew up into a worldwide controversy. Though not confirmed, Russia’s Olympic image was further tainted as accusations of collusion by American and Russian figure skating judges were made less than two days after the Games had begun. This unfortunate claim has only added to the shady image of the country and its leader.

Want to get to know your Bryant Bulldogs?

If you’re interested in player interviews contact

Justin Beaucage
Sports Editor
jbeauca1@bryant.edu

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"Which professor would make the best NFL coach?"

“Billy Anderson”
June Candland ’16

“Michael Roberto”
Mike Malenfant ’14

“Zdravkovic”
Jerry Gargano ’15

“Maryann Clark”
Mariah Lang ’15

“Zdravkovic”
Mitch Dupre ’15
Just keep flapping

By Brendan Barstow
Staff Writer

You’re the last one awake. Your heavy eyelids are begging to close but the light of three suns is ripping them up from a babbling screen. Class starts at 9:30 tomorrow and you’ve taken it upon yourself to do everything in your power to get some sleep tonight, so you\’ll probably never see. Homework remains in the dark confines of a Targus backpack, probably never to be seen. Homework remains afloat for a few seconds, giving its life a second chance, one last gasp to live when a finger falls off this side of the miserable tunnel connecting freedom to the debilitating agony of another weekday morning.

You’ve mindlessly scrolled through Buzzfeed’s 763 reasons why your 20s are the best years of your life. You’ve slowly pulled down on your twitter feed countless times – desperately hoping for one distraction, one link, one update, yet your only reward is an Eartheptic picture of a photo-shopped lake in Africa you’ll probably never see. Homework remains afloat for a few seconds, giving its life a second chance, one last gasp to live when a finger falls off this side of the miserable tunnel connecting freedom to the debilitating agony of another weekday morning.

Preparing to realize the body’s inevitable bed-based destiny, the brain begins to innerverse the legs with just enough motivation to move when a memory from the day paralyzes your tired body as you begin to recall: “There was a new app I heard about today…” "Charging Moose? Leaping Lizard? Curious Cat?..." "Flappy Bird."

Upon opening the app store, your eyes are drawn to a flat image of a parakeet softly and stupidly into the iron bars of a cell phone screen and punctuated by a high score. This is the crucial moment. This is the lone opportunity to abandon the attempt and forget the woes of a bird trapped in a perilous universe. But we do not play.

Confidence and frustration rise side by side in the pang only slow progression from one pipe, to three pipes, to five pipes, and finally to ten: the bronze medal is won. The satisfaction of effort and improvement set in and the possibility is formed in your mind that you might even be good at this. With a high score of 15 you fall asleep on the common room couch only to wake up at a Game Over screen taunting yet beckoning you to return.

You decline for now, with the implicit promise that you will be back, and head for class. You explicitly tell everyone you know about the game and how great it is, only to discover that they’ve been playing for a week and have already tripled your score. “They have too much time, anyway.” you lie, brushing away the taste of defeat. Yet you return, enticed once more by the prospect of artificial improvement and competition.

First comes the thrill of a Gold medal, then Platinum. You’ve reached the end the one distraction, one link, one update, yet countless times - desperately hoping for one distraction, one link, one update, yet countless times – disgusted, yet the number alone becomes enough. The number alone becomes enough for the bird to fly between. It reaches the first obstacle: Two green pipes, narrow enough for the bird to fly between. It reaches the first obstacle: Two green pipes, narrow enough for the bird to fly between. This is the crucial moment. This is the lone opportunity to abandon the attempt and forget the woes of a bird trapped in a perilous universe. But we do not play.

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First comes the thrill of a Gold medal, then Platinum. You’ve reached the end the misconception that playing video games is a waste of time. Video games can be a powerful tool for learning and development. They can help improve hand-eye coordination, problem-solving skills, and even memory.

For example, games like Flappy Bird require players to make quick decisions and react to changes in real-time. This can improve reaction time and dexterity. Additionally, many games incorporate elements of strategy and planning, which can help improve critical thinking and decision-making skills.

Furthermore, video games can be a source of entertainment and relaxation. They can provide a break from the stress of daily life and help improve mental well-being.

In conclusion, video games can be a valuable tool for learning, development, and relaxation. It is important to balance screen time with other activities, but video games should not be dismissed as a waste of time. They can be a valuable part of a healthy lifestyle.

Just keep flapping!
By Kelsey Nowak  
Editor-in-Chief

Now, here is an issue I hope to never have to deal with: having an ex significant other try to date my sibling. I don't think my one and only brother would appreciate an ex-boyfriend trying to get with him. Trust me; people—especially the kid—is strong and won't hesitate in showing you how his upper cut feels (speaking from experience). Anyway— as funny as this picture is in your mind.

Why do guys (and girls for that matter) think it's a good idea to try and kosher and try and date a sibling of someone they were once with? I don't understand. Let's just all picture this... siblingOfBrotherOne breaks up with significant other. Significant other is seen at family picnic two weeks later with sibling two. AKW Davis. What are the parents going to say? How is sibling two still alive? If I were sibling one, sibling two would be dead by now... That's not cool. Who in their right mind would want to “shake up the family tree” like that?

Not me. Also— what was so wrong with having a sibling one that is suddenly the best trait that sibling two has to offer? I don't want to stereotype and say that all siblings are super similar but really; there are certain things that make one sibling one's type and the other one's like—love that was outside of this family??? It's almost as if you are the worst one to look for when trying to stir the pot. Well— congrats. Consider it stirred so vigorously that the contents of the pot are pouring out... in the form of sibling one's tears. While we were all in The Archway office debating this issue, my friend says, “We're all adults, get over it! It's a fact of life!” I'm not sure if that is true. Adults are sometimes more emotionally unstable than kids. Think about it... Adults hold grudges and look for revenge. Kids just cry for a few minutes and then get distracted by something shiny across the room.

End of the day— it's not suggested that you go after the ex's sibling. Venture to new ground, find a new fish in the sea, or just take a break from dating. Don’t conquer a family tree. It’s not worth the trouble for you or for the family. It's just awkward and restraining orders take time to process.
Opinion

Bryant Horoscopes
Your love matches here on campus for this Valentine's Day
By Molly Funk
Staff Writer

Taurus & Leo

Although Taurus attempts to be affectionate and loving, Leo's stubbornly hard-to-please. Romantically, there may be a strong connection between the Leo and Taurus, but forming a long-standing relationship may be challenging. Take care to not come home from your meal at the Salmo, you are destined to meet eyes with your potential partner, don't be afraid to say hello! There is a strong emotional and physical attraction present, which will lead to a fun, temporary affair. If both Leo and Taurus enter into the affair without expectations of a romantic relationship, they will both be emotionally satisfied.

Gemini & Virgo

Gemini and Virgo are compatible in the sense that opposites attract. Virgos tend to be cautious and detail oriented, while Gemini are carefree and spirited. The relationship is destined to be successful as both work to better each other. Gemini must keep in mind that some jokes may be perceived as offensive to Virgo. At the same time, Virgos must work to lighten up if the relationship has any potential to be successful. Together the Gemini and Virgo will prosper both individually and as a couple.

Aries & Cancer

The Aries and Cancer jive romantically as both zodiac signs are light on their feet and have the flexibility to adjust to new situations. If the Aries is looking for a warm place to come home to after a night out at the bars, pairing with a Cancer is a wise choice. The Cancer will provide Aries with a loving home, and delicious dinners (a plus if Aries is sick of Salmo). Cancer will appreciate Aries ability to bring joy and spontaneity to the relationship. There is a strong physical bond between these zodiac signs due to their inherent desire to maintain happiness in the relationship. Give this connection a chance—both Cancer and Aries will thrive off this romantic pairing.

Winter workouts

By Kendra Hildebrand
Staff Writer

It’s another winter day, half-feverish as the second semester and it’s a struggle to find the motivation to get out of bed, let alone leave the building. The sun is bleakly peaking through a curtain of clouds, making it easy to meet the white blanket of snow that coats the campus of Bryant University. The winds are harsh, the frigid wind, are a stark reminder that we still have a handful of weeks left of this dreadful weather. There’s nothing that sounds better than staying in bed and curling up under piles of blankets.

Leaving bed is a struggle, so braving the walk through the cold winter chill all of the way to the gym is out of the question. Don’t let the unfavorable weather conditions deter you from exercising. Contrary to belief, a full unfavorite exercise can be done in a dorm—no equipment necessary.

1. Squats. Air squats can conveniently be done in a dorm room without leaving the floor. This is a full body exercise that focuses on all of your body. Start by positioning your feet shoulder width apart with your toes pointed slightly outward. Simultaneously bend your knees while pushing your hips and butt out, mimicking the movements you would make if you were to sit in a chair. Throughout this exercise, it is important to make sure that your bent knees don’t go past your toes. Lower your body until it is below parallel with the ground. Hold a neutral forward looking gaze as well as an upright torso. To come back to the starting position, straighten your legs by driving through your heels. To make the move more challenging, do frog jumps. Instead of straightening your legs to come back to the starting position, jump straight up.

2. Dips. This workout focuses on the triceps but also works your chest and shoulders. Sit on the edge of a chair with your hands placed beside you. Straighten your arms, use your hands to support your body weight, and slowly lower your body downwards until your elbows bend at a ninety degree angle. Straighten your arms to bring your body back up, completing the first rep. To challenge yourself, put your feet on another chair across from you and complete the same motions.

3. Push-ups. Push-ups mainly work your chest but your shoulders and triceps are also utilized to perform the movement. Start by lying on the ground face down with your feet together and your hands on the ground next to your shoulders, palms facedown. Your hands should be shoulder width apart. Use your arms to push yourself up, keeping a straight and flat back. Your butt should not bow to the ground. Slowly lower your body back down until it almost touches the floor and then explode back up. To challenge yourself, try elevated push-ups, in which your feet are on a table, thus “elevated”. The same movement applies.

4. Planks. A great workout that targets the abdominals is a plank. Start this exercise by lying face down on the floor with your forearms on the ground beneath you. and by keeping your feet together. Push up so that your forearms and feet are supporting your weight. It is important to make sure that the body is straight and flat. Furthermore, your butt should not go to the ground. Hold this position for a minute. To challenge yourself, try and hold this position for longer periods of time.

5. Cardio. Some great workouts that can be done in a small space are jumping jacks, high knees, butt kicks, and burpees. These conditioning exercises increase both strength and endurance. Burpees are fast paced exercises. Start in a squat position with your hands on the floor in front of you. Kick back your feet so that you are in a push up position. Arms should be straight and the body should be straight and flat. Immediately bring your feet forward so that you are back in the squatting position. Finally, jump up as high as you can with arms reaching to the ceiling. These movements should all be executed quickly. To make the exercise more challenging, add a push up into the burpee.

Bryant Said What?!
Compiled by Bryant Students

“How do you think butterflies ever get tattoos of white girls?“

“I wish I was as good at being a student as I am at going out on the weekends.”

“Thanks autocorrect but I meant brand loyal not bra floral.”

“Better late than pregnant!“

“At least eat it sexually if you’re gonna steal my ice cream.”

Profit and Loss

If snow means more canceled classes, then bring it on!

Congrats to both basketball teams on their wins! Go Bulldogs!

Students seem to be getting 100 alerts each and every Monday this semester.

Hey, at least Valentines Day comes with a three day weekend!
Only a month had passed since I had finished reading J.K. Rowling’s edge of your seat book, The Casual Vacancy, when the general public was told that the billionaire author had released another book. This time, however, Rowling released her new work under the pseudonym Robert Galbraith. To some, this might seem strange since any book with the name J.K. Rowling on the cover would surely sell by the millions. It was for this precise reason, however, that she decided to keep her name off the book, she wanted to see how it would be received without the guaranteed boost of her name. Unfortunately, the cover was blown when a friend of Rowling’s leaked the information which forced her to reluctantly acknowledge that The Cuckoo’s Calling was hers.

The new addition to Rowling’s resume is something she has never done before, or at least has not published before: a mystery. More specifically, it is a private-eye mystery (a sub-genre which can be more broadly categorized as mysteries) and the “eye” (investigator) is a unique one. Cormoran Strike is a massively-built veteran of the Afghan War in which he lost one of his legs and his civilian mindset. Having recently gone through a rough divorce, he is living in his humble office, while only just fending off the debt collectors. To make matters worse, he is under contract with a tempesting agency and is sent a new temporary assistant, Robin, who Strike can neither afford nor has any significant need for due to his lack of a large clientele. Luckily, for the readers, because of Robin’s frequently entertaining contributions to the investigation and the detective’s life, Strike finds a way to pay for her services.

The relationship between Strike and Robin is laughably awkward from the beginning, partly because of Strike’s unspoken relationship status and his finances, but also because of their assumed difference in age, lifestyle, and aspirations. Nonetheless, both Strike and Robin are happy to have the other and agree that they have, although for different reasons, and the pair make a plausible and entertaining duo.

I would have liked to have seen more of Robin throughout the story, but Rowling plans to publish more books as part of Strike’s story in the coming years which leaves a lasting opportunity for Robin to get a stronger taste of the world of private investigation that fascinates her.

At some points throughout the book, the mystery itself takes a secondary role compared to the side stories and character development of the two main protagonists—mostly Strike—but it is intriguing, and I found myself more interested in it than I did the side stories. Lula Landry, a stunning mixed-race supermodel, is killed after falling from the fourth floor balcony of her luxury London penthouse. While the police, John Bristow, Lula’s older brother, seems to think otherwise and seeks out Cormoran Strike to investigate.

There is a large cast of characters, most of whom I was suspicious of at one point or another. As is the case with many mysteries, I was developing my own theories as to what or who caused the death of Lula Landry. Was it suicide or was it murder? Even this broad question was not answered for certain until the last hundred pages of the book.

With that being said, there are times when I wasn’t as invested in the mystery itself as I would like to have been. Some of the questioning was repetitive—Mr. Strike takes his job very seriously and is as thorough as he can be—and the unraveling of the big picture was slow to say the least. Even so, I would still catch myself thinking about the different possibilities even between reading sessions which is a good sign for any mystery novel.

The main problem with the book is that there aren’t many pieces of information that Strike obtains which turn the entire case on its head and cause you to make drastic changes to your own personal theories. Of course, this is probably what real private investigation is like in most cases which makes for a more realistic story, and it certainly takes a tremendous amount of skill to keep the readers hooked despite the slow-paced story. This is where I get to give unwavering praise to one of my favorite authors.

From her first book, the first installment of the Harry Potter series, it was clear that Rowling had the rare skill of a good writer. The Casual Vacancy, which was Rowling’s first published book after the final Harry Potter book, was enthralling, not because of the story itself, but because of the flowing descriptions of which it was composed. The Cuckoo’s Calling is in a similar position, although, in my opinion, the story was more interesting.

When I read Rowling’s books after Harry Potter, it becomes clear why her epic series was successful enough to make her a billionaire, her clear, descriptive, and captivating writing combined with the awe-inspiring tale of Harry Potter was like the perfect storm. While Rowling’s more recent books do not have the incredible stories of her earlier works, they do have her writing style which could turn even a mediocre story into an enjoyable one.

This is exactly what The Cuckoo’s Calling is: an enjoyable book. It played the role of a classic mystery novel, not unlike those of Agatha Christie. It did not have notably deep character development or similar features (although there is more to the Cuckoo characters than what I have seen in my experience with Agatha Christie novels), but that doesn’t appear to have been the author’s objective. Instead, we have a thoroughly fun and relatively light read (despite the suicide/murder case).

Even before Robert Galbraith’s true identity was revealed, the professional opinions of The Cuckoo’s Calling were high despite it only selling fewer than 10,000 copies before it was publicly associated with Rowling. In fact, some critics suggested that it was difficult to believe that the book was the debut novel of a war veteran. Of course, we now know that it wasn’t, but it is difficult not to wonder whether or not I would have recognized Rowling’s writing had I read the book before it was tied to Rowling herself. Unfortunately, I’ll never know the answer to that question, but the bright side is that it was this announcement that caused me to read this exciting book.

If you enjoy a good mystery, you should definitely pick this book up. If you like J.K. Rowling, you should put this on your list before the next Cormoran Strike book is released later this year. If you like mysteries and you enjoyed Harry Potter or The Casual Vacancy, you should drop everything and clear your schedule for the next two days to read The Cuckoo’s Calling. 4/5 stars.
No date for Valentine’s Day? No worries!

By Lauren Kordalski
Assistant Editor-in-Chief

Clayton Caron
Hometown: Bow, New Hampshire
Year: Sophomore
Major: Communications
Campus Involvements: Member of the hockey team & Bryant Outdoor Adventure Club
Fun Fact: Favorite activities include hunting and fishing
Perfect date: Late night MacDonald’s
Turn on: Good cook
Turn off: Bad cook

Ariella Esterkin
Hometown: Needham, MA
Year: Freshman
Major: Marketing and Psychology
Campus Involvements: Bryant Student Ambassador, Bryant Outdoor Adventure Club, Hillel, Sigma Sigma Sigma
Fun Fact: Fluent in three languages!
Perfect date: Chipotle burrito bowls and a decked out pillow fort
Turn on: Compliment me on my eyebrows so I know it’s real
Turn off: Knees

Margaret Markowski
Hometown: Rutland, VT
Year: Junior
Major: Accounting & CIS
Campus Involvements: Bryant Outdoor Adventure Club, Bowling Club, Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Bryant University, Accounting Association
Fun Fact: Check out Marge in the made for YouTube short film “A Day in the Life of Marge!”
Perfect date: Chicken patties and the Dark Night trilogy
Turn on: Chocolate milk
Turn off: “Exercise”

Todd Nigro
Hometown: Randolph, NJ
Year: Junior
Major: Marketing
Campus Involvements: Rugby team & Bryant Outdoor Adventure Club
Fun Fact: Has a one-year old nephew
Perfect date: Late night dinner
Turn on: Intelligence
Turn off: People who are self-centered

Nick McAfee
Hometown: Lunenburg, MA
Year: Senior
Major: Management
Campus Involvements: Pi Sigma Epsilon, Zeta Kho, Intramurals, Bryant Outdoor Adventure Club
Fun fact: Search “Sinking into a Bog” (First video) on Youtube. Nick is also graduating Bryant in just three years!
Perfect date: Dinner and a Celtics game in Boston
Turn on: Sense of humor
Turn off: Bad cook

Stephanie Barrett
Hometown: Marion, MA
Year: Junior
Major: Finance & Psychology
Campus Involvements: Bryant Outdoor Adventure Club, Bowling Club, Student Experiences Abroad, The Archway
Fun Fact: Has 33 first cousins
Perfect date: Thai food and chess
Turn on: Puns
Turn off: for what?

Don’t have a valentine this year? Don’t fret, we have plenty of eligible bachelors and bachelorette’s running free around campus, just waiting to be tamed! Check out the profiles of a few awesome candidates!
Wednesday February 5th, Bettye LaVette performed in Janikies as part of President Machtley’s Cultural Series. The soul-sensation captivated her audience with her entrancing vocals and spunky dance moves. Bettye was a true performer interacting with the audience in and out of her musical selections. She explained her life’s journey throughout her song choice, emphasizing her personal growth during her fifty years in the music business. Bettye spoke to the audience of perseverance, as she is just now, in her 50th year as a performer, maintaining a strong following. Her spunky attitude was prevalent throughout the entire show, as well as her humor—she expressed her thanks to “the sexy” President Machtley for hosting her performance that evening, getting a laugh out of the student-filled audience. Bettye LaVette was a true musical inspiration to watch perform as she acknowledged hard work was the major key to her success.

Bettye LaVette was born Betty Haskins on January 29th, 1946 in Muskegon, Michigan, later raised in Detroit. Uniquely, Bettye began singing R&B and country-western music in her parents’ living room, rather than the church. At age sixteen, LaVette recorded her first single “My Man—He’s a Lovin’ Man” with Johnnie Mae Matthews, a local record producer. This hit led to a rhythm and blues tour with Clyde McPhatter, Ben E. King, Barbara Lynn, and Otis Redding. In 1982, Bettye was signed with the label Motown and recorded her first published album titled Tell Me A Lie, produced by Steve Buckingham. The first single “Right in the Middle” was on the R&B Top 40 list. She then took a break from recording to appear in the Broadway sensation “Bubbling Brown Sugar” for six years.

In 2000 Let Me Down Easy—Live in Concert was issued by Dutch Munich label. At the same time A Woman Like Me was produced by Dennis Walker. The combination of both these hit album releases renewed the interest in LaVette’s music. As a result in 2004 A Woman Like Me was released. The album won 2004 W.C. Handy Award for ‘Comeback Blues Album of the Year’. The album shares the same title as her 2012 autobiography.

LaVette’s 2007 album, The Scene of the Crime, was nominated for a Grammy Award under the category “Best Contemporary Blues Album”. Then in 2008, Bettye LaVette was awarded a Blues Music Award for “Best Contemporary Female Blues Singer”. Also in that year she performed a memorable rendition of Love, Reign o’er Me in tribute to Roger Daltrey and Pete Townshend of The Who.

In 2009, LaVette shared the stage with Jon Bon Jovi performing A Change Is Gonna Come at the Obama Inaugural Celebration at the Lincoln Memorial. Soon after in 2010, she released Interpretations: The British Rock Songbook, an album including unique performances of songs by artists such as The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, The Animals, and Pink Floyd. This CD was also nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Blues Album. Currently, LaVette is on her 50th Anniversary Tour, scheduled to perform February 12th in Sacramento, CA, and March 21st at Carnegie Hall.