

The Student Voice of Bryant University since 1946

# THE ARCHWAY



2008 Commencement Issue



# From the President

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Dear Graduates:

Commencement is the beginning of an exciting chapter of your life. It is a time to meet new friends and colleagues. It is a time to use the skills and knowledge you gained at Bryant University and apply them in the real world. It is a time to demonstrate personal and professional growth on a daily basis. I am confident that you will find your years at Bryant have prepared you well for the great opportunities ahead.

Each of you has contributed to the Bryant community, making this a better place to live and learn. I hope you have found your experience to be challenging, exciting, and fun. As you start the next stage of your journey, commit yourself to lifelong learning. Apply your skills with enthusiasm. Continue to demonstrate your concern for humanity. Make your own imprint on the landscape so that others will benefit from your contributions.

Today's auspicious occasion makes you a member of the Bryant alumni family — one of almost 40,000 distinguished individuals throughout the world. Bryant alumni have set

high standards of excellence, and they proudly pass that tradition on to you. As part of the Bryant family, it is our hope you will return to campus often and develop a lifelong relationship with the University.

Kati and I and everyone at Bryant — faculty, staff, and trustees — are proud of your achievements and confident about your future. As you forge ahead in your career and life, I know that you will build upon the extraordinarily solid foundation Bryant has provided. We thank you for all you have brought to this University and extend best wishes for your success and happiness in the future.

Sincerely,

Ronald K. Machtley  
President



# The Honor of the Commencement Issue

In order to celebrate the 145<sup>th</sup> Undergraduate Commencement, The Archway has created this commencement guide for the over 700 students who will graduate on May, 17, 2008.

Following traditions, we have compiled reflections from students who significantly impacted Bryant during their undergraduate career and have a memorable and insightful story to share. Choosing ten students to write a reflection was difficult and this year, a committee of underclassmen students from all walks of college life selected the recipients of this honor.

In addition to the students, we

selected one faculty and one staff member to write a final message to the graduating class. This year's contributors are Professor David Greenan and Fr. Joseph Pescatello. These two individuals were chosen because of the lasting impact that have had on the lives of many of the students of the Class of 2008.

This guide is dedicated to each student's college experience, from the moment you first stepped on campus until you finally passed under the archway. I wish you all the best as you start the next chapter of your lives as graduates of the Class of 2008.

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Assistant Editor

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## Walking through the archway... a Commencement tradition

Other than receiving diplomas on Commencement day, students have another way of symbolizing the completion of their Bryant education: walking through the archway.

The story of the archway dates back to 1905. Isaac Gifford Ladd, an associate of Charles Schwab and a famous U.S. steel tycoon, constructed a \$1 million building which contained the iron arch on Young Orchard Avenue on the east side of Providence. This building was meant to be a sign of his endearment to his newlywed wife.

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

In October of 1967, Earl S. Tupper, inventor of Tupperware, donated his 392 acre hillside estate to Bryant College for the creation of the new campus. To thank Tupper for his generous gift, Bryant named the campus after him and awarded him an honorary degree. Four years later, in the

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

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

After the archway was transferred from the old campus, students immediately began to avoid passing through this out-of-place structure. As rumor had it, walking through the archway before graduation mysteriously jeopardized chances of graduating. Since this is quite a large price to pay for not following tradition, most students opted not to take the chance, which has 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 University students on Tupper campus for the past 30 years, and will continue to shape that of more in the years to come.



# Student Senate President: Craig Tetreault

We have all undoubtedly attained a mass of knowledge both in and outside of the classroom. From an academic perspective, think for a second about everything you have learned from FFL to the last exam you took - it's truly an overwhelming amount of information. From a nonacademic perspective take a look at your Bryant ID. Look at the picture and try to remember what was going through that little freshman brain of yours. Those pictures for most of us were taken the first day of freshman year. At that time we were the first freshman class admitted to Bryant "University," a Division two school. Hall 17, the tallest building in Smithfield, was merely a blueprint and N block a dream. The list goes on and on. Mostly, I remember looking at the seniors and saying, "Wow, they're old." Today we are graduating from an institution which has evolved so much since we started here, while the members of this community have grown closer, matured, and feel like a family now more than ever.

What are we supposed to do with this new beginning? How do we leave Bryant, and make a difference in this uncertain world? It is up to us to evoke creative and meaningful change. We all have the ability to change this world and truly make it a better place. During my time at Bryant I have come up with three guiding ideals which should guide us as we venture into the "real world," and will help us change the world.

The first ideal is social responsibility. We all have a duty not only as Americans, but as humans; a duty to get involved in our surroundings and take an active role in improving them. In order to make the world a better place, we must start by standing up and getting involved. It is impossible to make a change if you sit on the sidelines and complain. It is our responsibility to stand up for what we believe in and do whatever is in our power to make things right. We have been negatively dubbed as the entitlement generation. Apparently, unlike our grandparents, people are upset that we didn't have to walk to school in the snow uphill both ways. People say we expect to get something for nothing. I personally believe this to be a fallacy, but as they say, perception is 9/10 of the law. If the vast majority feels this way, then in the court of public opinion we are guilty as charged. That being said, I charge you all to help me destroy this stigma. It is our duty to get involved and make new, meaningful changes. Instead of trying to fill someone else's shoes, go out and make your own. Today is day one. On second thought, enjoy today, tomorrow can be day one - the first day that we all commit to embracing our social responsibility.

My second ideal is honesty and integrity. Today we have seen countless examples of individuals throwing honesty and integrity out the door for short-term personal gain. The word "scandal" can be associated with far too many people. From governors to CEO's, doctors to professional athletes, priests to presidents, there have been scandals in just about every sector of our society. Consider this - when you Google the word "scandal" you will receive 37,200,000 results, but if you Google the word "honesty" you receive 27,500,000. That's 10,000,000 more scandalous results than honest ones. This may seem a bit trivial but I feel that it is indicative of our society, that scandals are more prevalent than acts of honesty. Our society as a whole, outside from governmental imposition,



needs to respect itself more than it currently does and obey not just "the law" but hold itself accountable for its actions. I encourage us all to pick a path of moral integrity, be honest with ourselves and others, and stick to our convictions. The only way our society can advance is to start this trend with the individual, and that is us!

The last ideal is respect for others. We have all heard this since kindergarten; you have probably heard it in every class you have taken from then until now. For some reason, even with all this emphasis it is still one of the most difficult principles to abide by. But in order to progress as a society we need to foster mutual respect; a respect for people's beliefs, opinions, and needs. With a Bryant education, we will all be in some position of authority, where at some point we will be responsible for subordinates. All too often today, we are seeing executives wanting their fourth Bentley, because three just wasn't cool enough, while their employees on the assembly line are working two jobs to put their child through college. Over spring break I had a unique work opportunity in Chicago where I saw firsthand, a board of directors and investment firm, in a battle of egos, unable to close a deal over a trivial amount of money, and hundreds of hardworking individuals lost their jobs. It is this lack of respect for each other that concerns me. It is wrong. As a class, and as a generation, we need to put conscious thought into the well-being of others; a respect for one another which transcends race, gender, and creed.

As a class I am confident the experiences we have all gained from Bryant will guide us through our future with the moral fiber necessary to accomplish this simple yet ambitious list. Our growth as a class over the past four years gives me nothing but confidence and optimism for the future of the world. I couldn't be more proud or more honored to be a member of the Bryant University graduating class of 2008. What we have gained from Bryant over these past years has been much more than an education, it has been a life changing experience. I hope we will all go out into this world and make our mark, and at our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion look back and see the differences we have made, all with the help of Bryant and most importantly one another. Good luck and thank you all for the greatest four years of my life!

# Student Class Charge: Ryan Daley

Class of  
2008

Friends, family, President and Mrs. Machtley, Chairman Taylor and other distinguished members of the Board of Trustees, President Bush and other notable honorary degree recipients, and most importantly, my fellow graduates:

We at Bryant University, and in America are very fortunate, but I'm not quite sure how we ended up being the lucky ones, collecting our diplomas—the testament to our degrees for which we have all worked so hard.

We live in a world ravaged by war and terrorism, where exploitation and oppression are rampant, the environment is being devastated for commercial gains, and inequality continues to swell. If you haven't done so yet, ask yourself why we deserve to be here any more than those confined to a nearly inescapable existence of hunger, poverty, orphanhood, torture, slavery—conditions most of us will never experience.

Sure, our lives aren't perfect, each one of us has our own struggles to overcome, but countless others in the world are broken. Yet, we sit here comfortably, rejoicing in our great accomplishment, and don't get me wrong, we're all here today to celebrate something tremendous, but I don't want any of us to forget that with that we have a certain responsibility.

We have a responsibility to ourselves, to strive to be the very best persons we can. We have a responsibility to our family and friends, to show them that we truly love them, and appreciate all they do, and will always be there for them just as they have been there for us. We have a responsibility to our professors, spiritual leaders, mentors, and coaches, to prove their hard work and cultivation was not in vain. We have a responsibility to future generations, to leave a sustainable environment in a diverse world where all people are treated fairly with human rights, dignity, and justice, and given life, liberty, and the chance to pursue the happiness with which we're all endowed. We also have a responsibility to those we may have only barely graced in passing, to inspire them to do the same, and through their efforts, make our world a better place.

Now I've heard it countless times, as I'm sure you have, that these years are the best of our lives, and for sure, we've had fun. But the real challenge lies in each of us to truly living every day as if our legacy is just beginning, and trying to make every day better than the last.

So I hope you will join me in asking, "Why me?" not only today, but every waking moment. We've been given a special gift, we all have, everyone in this tent, and what a shame to waste it.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said in his essay *Self-Reliance*, "It is easy in the world to live after the world's opinion; it is easy in solitude to live after our

own; but the great man is he who in the midst of the crowd keeps with perfect sweetness the independence of solitude." Be that great person. Be distinguished. Fight for what you believe and take pride in the scars that remind you why your life is worth living. And most importantly, don't let anyone tell you that you can't save the world.

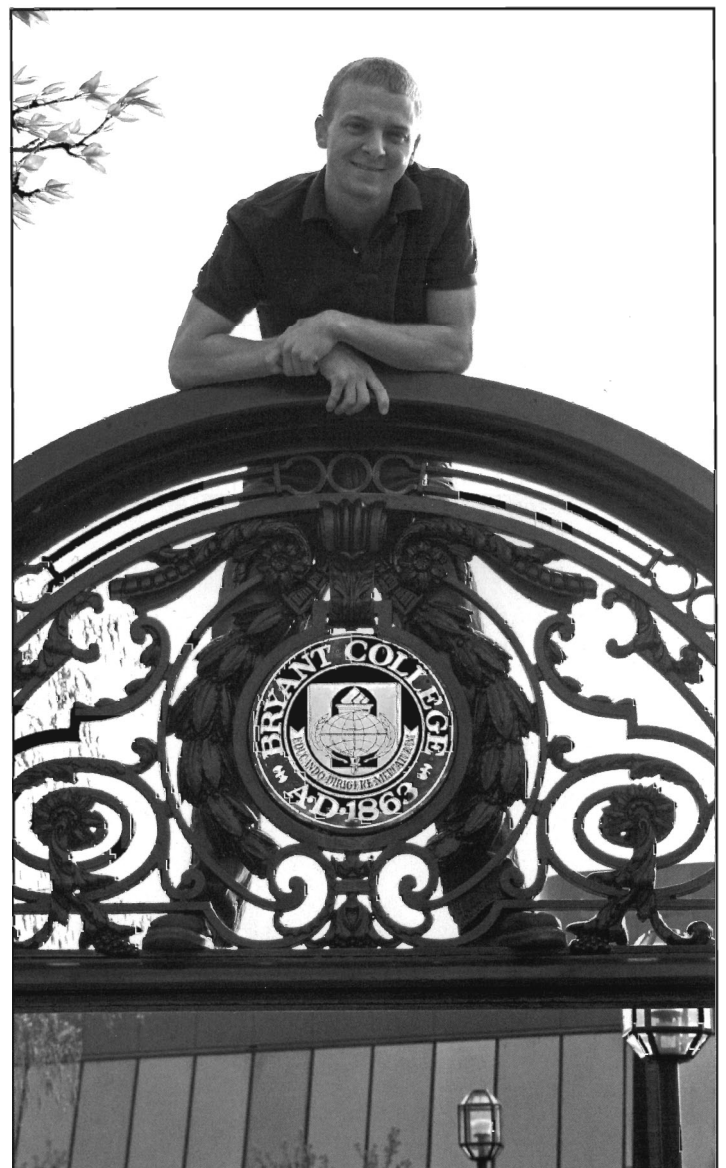
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**Fight for what you believe and take pride in the scars that remind you why your life is worth living.**

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I want to leave you with a quote from the *Talmud*, which people of every faith, credo, and existence can embrace: "Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Do justly, now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly, now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it."

Congratulations, Bryant University Class of 2008, I wish you all the best of luck.





# Stephen Bekkenhuis

Reading through past commencement guides I was trying to figure out what to write that could be different from anything anyone had previously written. One thing that stood out and separates me from most of my fellow graduates is that I graduated in December and have since been in “the real world.” That said, I figured I’d give you a short reflection of my time at Bryant and what I’ve learned since leaving.

My career at Bryant University started in 2003. Back then we called it Bryant College. During my time at Bryant I accomplished and experienced more than I could ever have imagined.

My experience is unique. From my first day, a year earlier than most of the class of 2008, to my last day, five months earlier than you, it’s been an interesting ride.

The day I moved in was the first day I had ever even seen the campus. However from that day on I knew this was where I wanted to be. Aside from not taking an admissions tour or going to orientation, I started my Bryant career off like everyone else. I rolled up to campus to unpack an overloaded truck, full of the things that appear on any “Off to College Checklist.” Funny though, as I don’t recall ever actually using my file folder boxes, three ring binders, stackable desk organizers, colored pencils, daily planner, or any of the contents of my four-tiered rolling storage unit full of academic supplies. When you have to actually pay for your own things, you’ll understand why your mother always said, “Do you *really* need that?” After I got everything moved in it was time to say goodbye to my former roommates and hello to my new ones. It took some convincing but I finally got my teary-eyed mother to loosen her grip enough to regain control of my air supply, and

start socializing with everyone.

In the fall of 2003 I joined a Fraternity and went on to become President of Greek Life. When I joined Greek Life, I met some of the greatest people and the best friends I will ever have. When I became President of Greek Life, I got to meet and work with even more great people from other student organizations as well as faculty and administration. Bryant truly has some of the best people you will ever meet. Speaking of which, the other day my friend Joe sent me an email containing, “Rev. Runs Words of Wisdom.” The quote read, “You can make more friends in two months by becoming more interested in other people than you can in two years by trying to get people interested in you.” Keep that one in mind.

The most important thing I took from Bryant came from one of the best professors I ever had, Glenn Jefferson. He said, “I hope that you never have a job, I hope you have a career.” A job is something you do out of necessity, a career is more. A career has potential to take you somewhere; it is more than just a moneymaker, it’s a lifestyle. I thought about this when figuring out what I wanted to do after Bryant. I turned down interviews and even job offers, simply because they were not what I wanted. I wanted to do something I actually enjoyed. It took almost two months but it paid off. Unlike most people I know, I love my work and I actually enjoy getting up in the morning. So do not just take a “job” because it is the first one that comes your way, or because the price is right. Think about where you will be five years from now; is it what you will want to be doing?

Lastly, I would like to tell you something you will learn if you have not already. In life and in your career you will encounter many people. Some will be nice and polite; some will be mean and rude. Some will be extremely smart and efficient, and some will be stupid and inefficient. Ideally, everyone would strive to be nice, polite, smart, and efficient. Unfortunately, not everyone can be all that. Therefore, here is the rule: if you decide to be mean and rude you had better be smart and efficient. If you are polite and nice, it is ok to be stupid and inefficient. You cannot have both negatives; it is not fair to the rest of us who have to deal with them. Of course, only the best come from Bryant; it is the rest of the world we have to look out for. However, if you meet a mean, rude, stupid person...let them know the rule.

Congratulations and best of luck class of 2008. I hope that if given the chance to do it all over again, you would not change a thing.

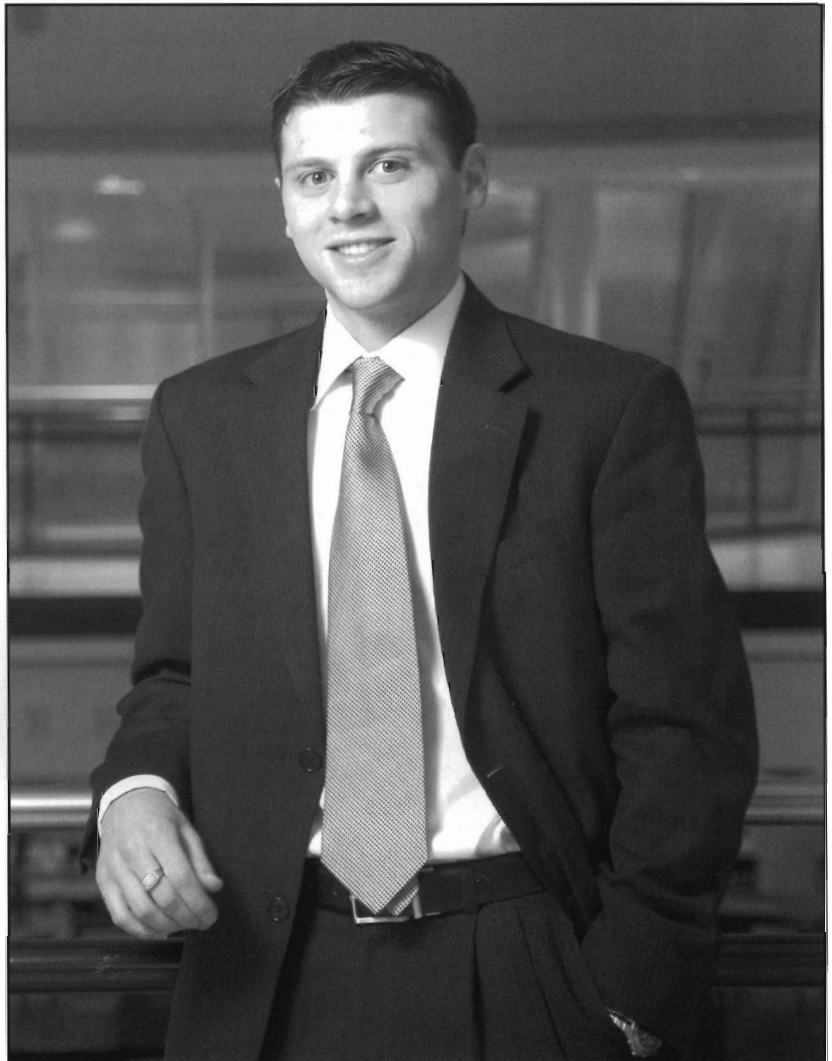


Over the past four years I have prided myself on being able to share my college experiences with prospective students. It is hard to believe that this all has come to an end. I have had nothing but great things to say about this University and now I have to move on from such an amazing time in my life. As I was looking back at my time here, I realize that my classmates and I have seen some remarkable changes to the University, including the fact we are the first full class to graduate from Bryant University. As a class, we have created and adapted to change. To say that change will stop with us as we graduate is unrealistic. We have seen the construction and renovation of many areas on campus. We have lived the change of campus policies and initiatives. Together, we are a powerful class and I hope that we, as the class of 2008, will have the ability to make greater change outside of 1150 Douglas Pike.

When I was asked to give a reflection I thought to myself, "I am far from profound." But then I realized that graduation in itself is a reflection. It is a reflection of what we have accomplished over the past several years while at the same time it is a reflection of looking ahead to the future. Our reflection during graduation is this strange paradigm we are stuck in-between. Someone once told me, "You'd be surprised at how different the view is on the way out than on the way in." We once entered Bryant as the persons that we once were and we are all now leaving completely different individuals. We are individuals prepared to take on any challenge with vigor, aptitude, and competency.

As we graduate from Bryant, we realize that, yes we are leaving with our degrees; however, it represents more than that. We are leaving Bryant with the experiences you cannot learn in the classroom. We are walking through The Archway with great friendships and lifelong experiences that we could not have learned anywhere else. Being involved within many extra curricular activities and gaining real world knowledge through internships have been some of the things that have contributed to my experiences at Bryant.

I have also had the opportunity to become very close with many members of Bryant's faculty, staff, and administration. All of these people have become crucial members of my extended family at Bryant. I have been fortunate to learn under one professor who works extremely hard to teach his students about real life experiences; Professor Peter Nigro. Professor Nigro lives every day of teaching by a quote from Thomas Carruthers. "A teacher is one who makes himself progressively unnecessary." Each year, Professor Nigro ends his final class with his "last lecture." This is a common title for talks on college campuses today. Schools such as Stanford and the



University of Alabama have mounted a "Last Lecture Series," in which top professors are asked to think deeply about what matters to them and give hypothetical final talks. I have experienced this lecture on two separate occasions and I will always remember his remarks. The last topic Professor Nigro mentions in his "final lecture," is to "**Try to make a difference in whatever you do.**" I feel that we as a class have made a difference here at Bryant and we will continue to make a difference outside of Bryant.

I would like to thank all of my best friends, classmates, faculty, staff, and administration for my time here at Bryant. I would also like to thank my girlfriend Kristen; you have truly been an inspiration and have changed my life. Lastly, I would like to thank my family because without them I would not be here today. Congratulations Class of 2008 and best of luck in creating powerful changes wherever you may go!



# Ramon De Los Santos

Wow, four years are done! First, I want to thank God for blessing me with life and the abilities to accomplish so much. I want to thank my mom and my family for great support. Last but not least, congratulations class of 2008! This is the most bittersweet experience I have ever dealt with. Some days I wake up thinking I want to pursue a couple different majors and even two Master's degrees so I can stay in school forever. Other days I wake up needing a change of lifestyle, ready to start working, ready to start making money and ready to start exploring the world. However I wake up, I know that Bryant has adequately prepared me for whatever I decide to pursue. When I think about the past four years, I am speechless. I cannot think of one word that describes my four year experience at Bryant University, so I will just say that the past four years have been years of \_\_\_\_\_ for me. Yes, that is a blank; it is not a typo. I will leave it blank for now and fill it in years down the road when I can look back and truly appreciate these four years.

When I think of how I can describe my years of \_\_\_\_\_ here at Bryant University, I think about all the experiences I have been through. I still remember coming in four years ago at about 6 feet, 140 pounds. I was one of the skinniest freshmen here earning me the nickname Bones. Just as much as Salmo helped transform me physically, the faculty helped transform me intellectually and my peers helped transform me socially. I came in as a child and will now exit a well-prepared professional thanks to my years of \_\_\_\_\_ here at Bryant.

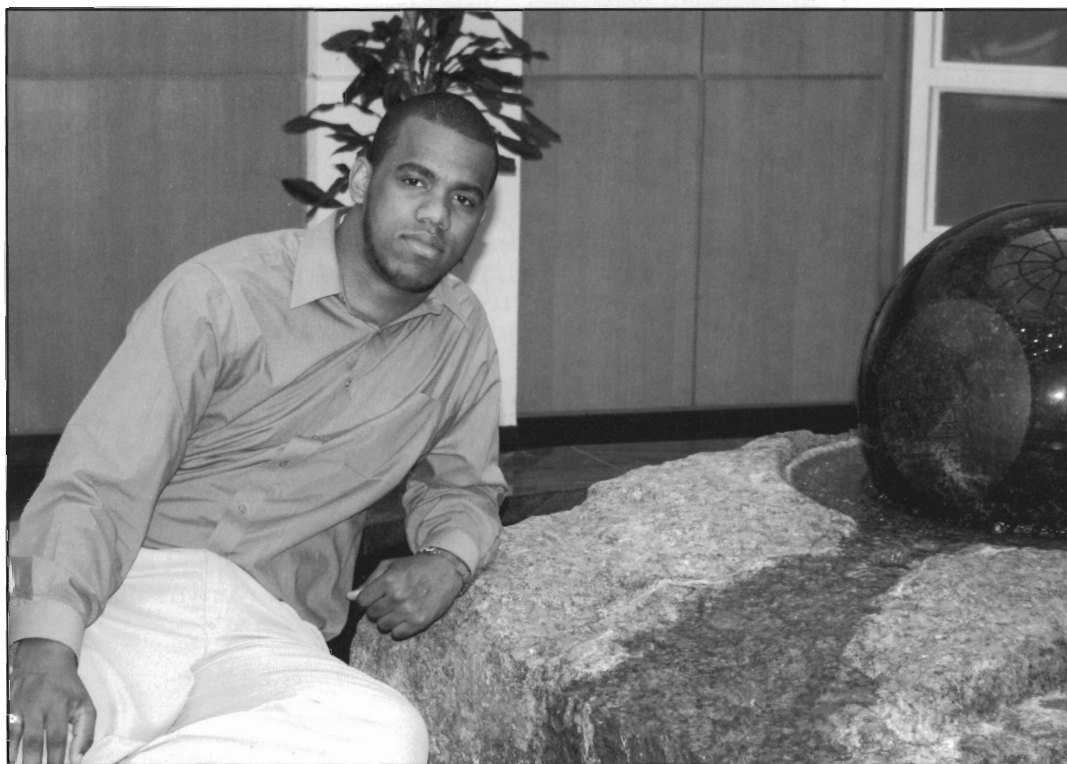
Bryant has equipped me with a stellar education, stellar network, stellar memories, and this summer I will start my stellar career at PricewaterhouseCoopers. No matter where I earn my Master's, where my job sends me or wherever I end up, I will be a BULLDOG at heart, for life!

As I write this reflection I cannot stop thinking about my 4MILE crew, thank you for being the best friends ever. Roman, Mitul, Bao, Girish, Tony, Tu, Victor and the rest of you have made my four years here a highlight reel. I cannot thank you enough and hope that we remain in touch forever. Also, I have to show love to other people who have made my four years of \_\_\_\_\_ here at Bryant special. Jones, Ram, Torri, Johnny, Sasha, Steph, Caesar, Emily, SLM, BGH and the many others, THANK YOU!!!

Now I have figured out what my four years have been all about. One word describes my college experience. I came in a child and will exit a professional. I met acquaintances, who later became friends and now I consider family. Bryant University has given me the chance to experience four years of GROWTH. I know it is not a fancy word, but growth is the perfect word. Think about it, those of you who have known me since freshmen year can attest that I have grown quite a bit. They remember my long white tees and now know me for tight funny shirts. Growth is the perfect word.

To conclude, I would like to borrow a quote that I heard from one of my favorite people, Judy Kawamoto, from her speech at the ICC awards

ceremony:  
 "Imagine the world as a village of 1000 people. There would be 584 Asians, 124 Africans, 95 Eastern/Western Europeans, 84 Latin Americans, 55 Russians, 52 North Americans, 4 Australians and 2 New Zealanders (Carly!!!). Out of those 1000 people there would be 329 Christians, 178 Muslims, 167 non-religious, 132 Hindus, 62 Buddhists, 45 atheists, 3 Jews and the remaining "others." Economically, 200 people would control 75 percent of the wealth and fewer than 10 would have a college education. Fewer than 10." Class of 2008, you are now part of those 10. CONGRATULATIONS!





When I applied, was accepted to, and paid my deposit to Bryant College (yes, Bryant College) I had no idea what was in store for me. The next four years of my life, and all of ours, were going to be years of change. I began my freshman year as a very timid and introverted individual. To be completely honest, I was out of my comfort zone. I leave Bryant today confident and with a drive to constantly push and expand my comfort zone. I am no longer afraid to step out of it. Because of the opportunities and the experiences I've had, I have learned to never remain complacent and always push to better myself.

A friend and mentor once told me, "Success is not the result of spontaneous combustion; you have to light yourself on fire." Yes, I know the quote is a bit unconventional, but I think this quote embodies the skills that Bryant has tried to teach us throughout our four years. Freshman year during Convocation, we were all urged to "claim our education." We could not just sit on the sidelines anymore; we had to take an active role within our academic lives. Aside from academics, we sought out internships, started new student organizations, excelled in athletics, and much more. Bryant has been all about lighting that fire within ourselves, and that is a skill that will continue to benefit us for the rest of our lives.

Although our success is ultimately due to our ability to motivate ourselves, we have certainly had support along the way to help us. It is important on this day to recognize those who have helped make these four years a little easier, the ones that made these years the time of our lives. I have so many people that I feel compelled to thank, but so little room to do it. Here is the short list...

To my family, thank you for the constant support over these years. Although you were probably disappointed that I didn't call home that much, you were always my motivation to succeed. The strong morals you have instilled upon me have made me the person I am today. I hope I have made you proud.

Leadership Council, you will always hold a special place in my heart. We went through good times and difficult ones, but in the end you all grew to be some of my closest friends. The retreats, institutes, and "Leadership Tuesdays" at Rente's are some of my most cherished memories. We should always look back on the opportunity to run such an incredible program positively. Also, anybody up to light the BC



on fire?

SPB: words do not describe how much this organization means to me. I have many lasting friendships from here, as well as my favorite experiences at Bryant. Thank you all for everything you have done for me, especially making sure my ego never got too big. Meredith, you have had such a lasting impact on me as well. You were always there to help me through my life crises, and I will always be grateful.

Last but not least, I have made friendships that will last a lifetime. They became my family away from home. You all kept me grounded and made sure I never took myself too seriously. Life is too short to do that. I can't thank you all enough.

So I say to you all, recognize those who have helped you through. Tell them what they have done for you. Most importantly however, give yourselves a pat on the back. You have done so much to make it to commencement, and it is an accomplishment that should not be taken lightly. Bryant has shaped us into catalysts for change; we should never be complacent with the way things are. It is up to us to light that fire within ourselves and constantly push outside our comfort zones. We truly have the "Character of Success."

Congratulations and Good Luck, Class of 2008!



# Gregory Hirshorn

I think back on my four years at Bryant and it is absolutely incredible to see how fast time has flown by. I came in as a freshman knowing that I was attending a terrific school, but nothing could prepare me for what Bryant had to offer. It was far beyond just the academics for which I chose Bryant, it was the organizations and the chance to get involved and truly experience such a fine university.

Something I was looking for was a way that I could be heard by the Bryant community. It was obvious for me as someone who loved to write to turn to *The Archway* as an outlet to write about issues on and off campus that I felt were important. At first I saw it as an outlet for myself to be creative and put my thoughts down on paper, but I quickly found that the entire community at Bryant cared what I and other students had to say.

I knew that the community cared about what I had to say but I really did not understand the extent to which everyone around me cared until near the end of my Bryant experience. At the media awards banquet this spring, the words that were said to me by other students, faculty, and other important people at Bryant were truly touching and made me realize that everyone really did care about what I had to say in regards to the school. The community here could not have been more supportive in listening to my views on different issues.

That is one of the most terrific qualities at Bryant,

we are a close knit community of which we are all a critical part. I could be walking down a hall and someone would start a discussion with me over my most recent article. It just shows how involved the faculty, staff, and students of the Bryant community are and that they are interested in the issues affecting all of us on campus.

Not only did I feel that sense of community from being involved in student organizations, but just walking around campus and knowing that I would run into friends and acquaintances wherever I went, convinced me that I was in the right place. I never thought that I would be able to walk in any door on campus and still be accepted unconditionally. On any given Friday night it did not matter where you were headed because you were always bound to find an open door and warm welcome.

My GPA has improved in my four years at Bryant but as I am about to graduate I have begun to notice that my grades are not the most important thing I am going to take away from this experience. The skills and memories that I will take with me are far more valuable than my transcripts and grades. The ability to work with others and speak with confidence are things that no grade can account for.

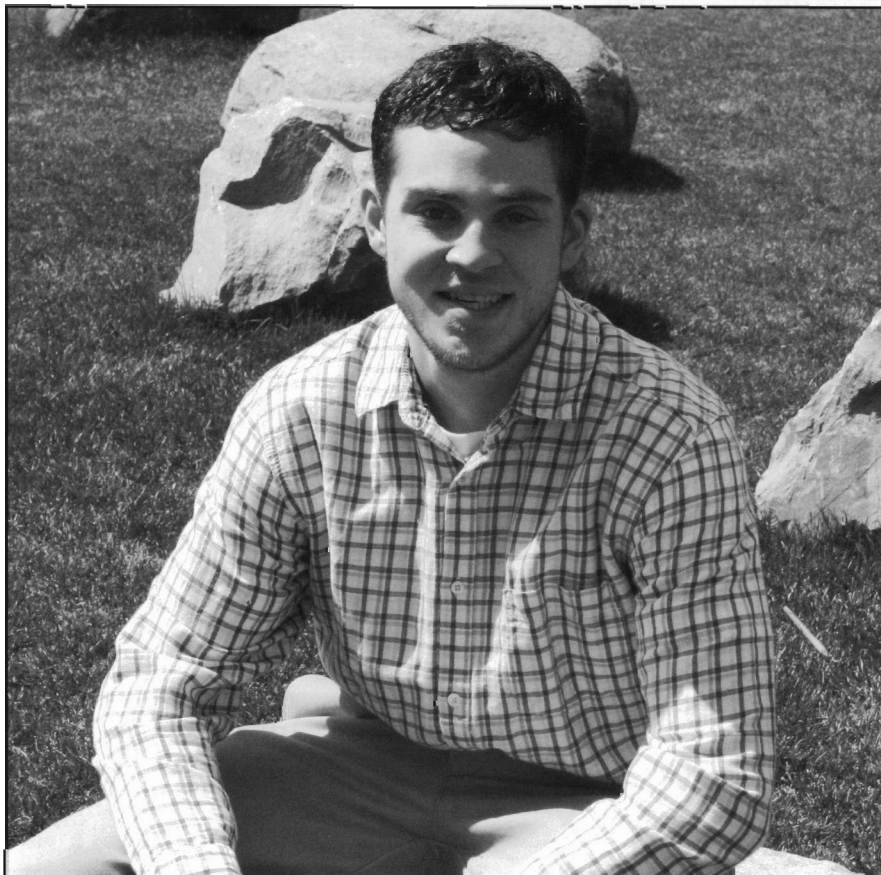
I am going to miss Bryant for many reasons, but mostly because I will miss the communal feeling that I felt here every day. What I am taking from Bryant are the great friends who are too many to list. These are people that I will keep in touch with for the rest of my life and remember all the great times that we had together.

To be a member of this community at Bryant University has been a privilege. I am so thankful for the opportunity to have attended this school and it is something that I will never forget. The friends, events, classes, and sense of community that I have gained are invaluable, and today as I graduate as a member of the class of 2008 I would like to thank my family, friends, professors, and all the other members of the Bryant community who have made it the memorable experience that it is. Congratulations to the class of 2008!

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...my grades are not the most important thing I am going to take away from this experience

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You are never alone!

While it has been almost 35 years to the day, I remember it as though it were yesterday. A clear, blue sky, a Bryant campus in bloom with flowers and greenery, a warm early summer breeze and a commencement ceremony that I believed would be like no one else's... Why? Because it was MINE!

The year was 1973, and it was a year of intense world change. Then President Richard Nixon had just announced that a peace accord had been reached and US involvement in Vietnam would end. The U.S. Supreme Court invalidated the state bans on abortion in the case of Roe v. Wade. The "Watergate" scandal that would eventually topple a presidency was just beginning to unfold.

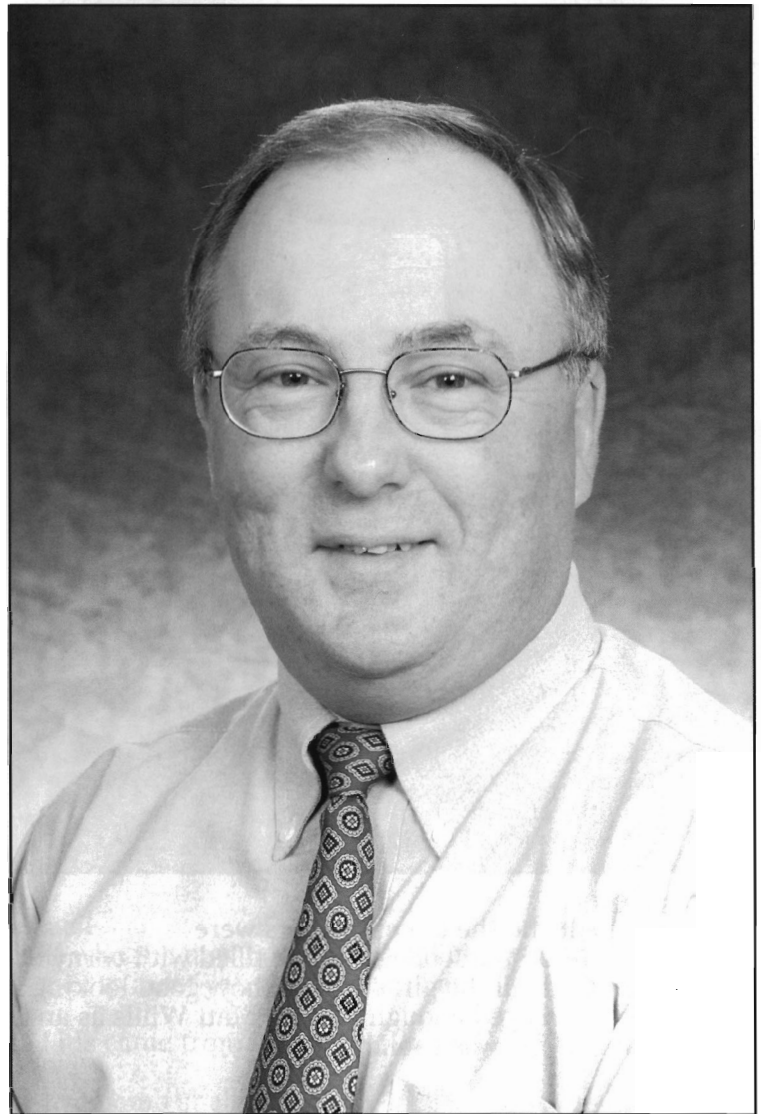
Sitting in the future site of the Bryant Center, which was then only a hot parking lot, were 300+ students and their proud supporters. These graduating students had a number of mixed feelings. Some in my class thought of how quickly the past four years had passed and how we were now leaving our "Bryant family." Like you, we also were thinking about how much we had changed since first coming to campus, how excited and nervous we were about stepping through the Bryant Alumni Gates for the first time. But most of all, we were anxious about where the new journey would take us once we had received our Bryant degree – formal recognition for completing four years of intensive study.

Now, flash forward 35 years!

There have been many changes that have occurred. Former President Nixon eventually was forced to leave the office of President in disgrace. The Roe vs. Wade debate is still in the nation's forefront, raising moral questions throughout the country. The Grateful Dead and Allman Brothers Band are now just aging rockers, and the songs that once "rocked" our airways are now relegated to background music in TV commercials or to the occasional "elevator" music.

One thing that has not changed over the past 35 years is the excitement, the apprehension, and the feelings about the unknown felt by each Bryant University graduate - exactly the same feelings one longhaired, newly married Bryant student felt 35 years ago.

Although you are somewhat reluctant to leave family, friends and familiar surroundings behind as you start out on your uncharted journey, take heart- you are not alone! Just as others before you have stepped through the Bryant Alumni Gates and journeyed on to success, so will you. While your path is not clear or your way always straight, because of the loving



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**...you are fully  
prepared to take the  
next step and put into  
practice all that you  
have learned as you  
start your next career  
- life**

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care and education you have received from parents/guardians, professors and mentors, leaving today to seek meaningful careers and the rewards that life carries for those who take and accept risks is just another part of life. I can assure you that just as with every other senior class, you are fully prepared to take the next step and put into practice all that you have learned as you start your next career - life.

It has been an honor and privilege to have worked with so many of you during your time at Bryant and I wish you great success and happiness – please come back to Bryant and tell us all about the exciting things taking place in your life.

You are never alone!



# Remember when...

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## Orientation

- You wondered who the dancing idiots were
- You hoped to God that college wasn't filled with corny block parties
- Speaking of God, all the girls realized how good looking Fr. Joe is
- If you were privileged enough to have Matt Willis as an OL you knew all the hot spots to party without getting caught - he was cool...

## Freshman

- Toilet paper + lighter + tree = around the world weekend 2004
- You were one of those gullible freshmen that fell for the block party trick
- You figured out what the "Salmo s##ts" were
- You experienced the dirty water: not so amazing as it floods your room in Hall 15 leaving you to sleep with the nearest stranger.... yet sounds so bittersweet blaring in the air as you slip and slide into the pond after the Red Sox win the World Series
- You wondered why you had to write a full business plan right out of high school
- You wondered why you were getting free counseling services sharing your feelings with complete strangers in FFL
- You went to the rush parties for the sole purpose of free alcohol - after all none of us even know what the freakin' letters stood for anyway
- You wondered what middle school typing class they yanked the PPS curriculum out of
- You freaked out about getting caught when the business 101 final leaked out...your first test of "character"

## Sophomore

- You moved into the suites and "drop your bag" was no longer in your vocab
- You thought there was no more need for flip-flops in the shower. Actually wait, even you don't know where your 6 best buds have been
- Bryant double dared you to revisit your childhood by bringing Marc Summers to town
- How pumped you were for Midnight Madness, hoping this year the Bulldogs would take the trophy back home
- You no longer needed your alarm clock for the next year and a half thanks to the hall 17 construction



### **Junior**

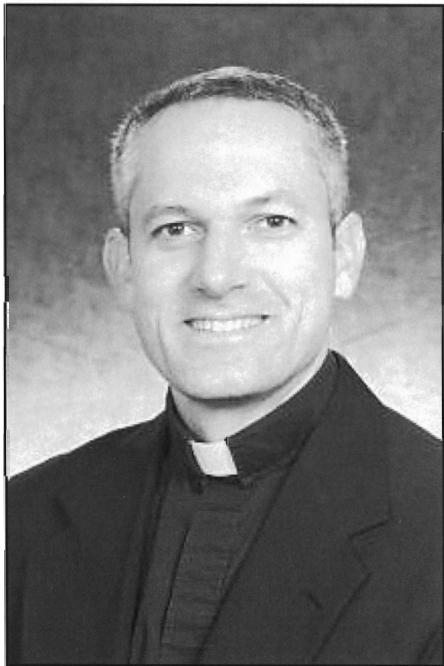
- You realized a hotel could be transformed into a res hall
- You went up to student activities - the guys wondered who the new hottie was walking around, while you girls thought she was a part of a high school tour ...nice to meet you too Meagan Sage.
- “Diversity just was” ...oh, no wait, it just is
- You wondered where all these table hounding extra kids came from in Salmo...thank God we didn't have deal with it the next year
- The Machtleys were able to get a new house... good-bye bomb shelter
- Bryant came together to “Save a Saudi”...who knew a bunch of green ribbons could get someone into grad school!
- That random senior played hide-and-go-seek in the globe (not your average trip back from Rentes).
- You savored your last BBQ chicken pizza from the real Junction

### **Senior**

- You get great enjoyment out of seeing the freshman fall for the block party trick
- They put a street light near the DPS booth...thank goodness you don't get in trouble running red lights there...who's idea was that anyway?
- Freshmen finally got the boot to c-lot
- You spit out your first bite of BBQ chicken pizza at Ronzio's.
- The Rio Grande was in your backyard when the pipe burst outside Hall 12.
- Clinton came with his secret service agents...oh wait, that's just another Bryant student with a suit on.
- All of Smithfield was out of power...thank god Rente's had a generator...
- Bryant went DI- maybe in a couple years we will be able to buy some awesome Bulldog apparel in sports stores!
- You dodged the bullet... aka the \$300 Student Involvement Fee
- You wonder why only one person in your Townhouse has a solid job. Raise your hand if you want your money back.
- You found out how many people could actually throw up on a bus
- Congratulations if you read this whole thing....you survived four years, Senior Week and Kegs and Eggs. - You've made it to the finish line Class of 2008!!



# Fr. Joseph Pescatello



You've made it! It's your graduation day from college.

I imagine that it is a day filled with many emotions: feelings of joy, a sense of accomplishment, and perhaps a bit of sadness, too, as you say good-bye to many people, among them friends, fellow students, faculty and staff who have made an impact on your life these past four years. You have shared so much

and now you will go your separate ways to pursue your career and continue your life's journey.

All of these emotions and memories, I imagine, converged for you as you walked through the Archway for the first time. This tradition has meaning for so many in our community, and today, you join generations of Bryant graduates who have gone before you.

All rituals, customs, and traditions, whether they are cultural, religious, family traditions, or academic, anchor us and give us a sense of rootedness. They give meaning to our lives. Today, as you continue in this tradition, I would challenge you to reflect upon and ask yourself one question: "What gives your life meaning?"

It is a question that neither I nor anyone else can answer for you. It is a life-long process. There is one thing, however, of which I can assure you. A life well lived, a life filled with meaning, fulfillment and true happiness will not be achieved merely from your chosen career, nor your status, or from your income. I suggest to you that your greatest achievement in life will not necessarily be found in the income you will receive, nor merely in a successful career, but rather in the quality with which you live your life, in your relationships, and in what you are willing to "give back." Always listen to your heart and have a heart in your

dealings with others, both in your personal and professional relationships.

Most of us perhaps have "defining moments" in our lives, experiences that can be life changing. I would like to share one such personal moment with you.

I have a priest friend who has served on the Island of Jamaica for over 30 years. His name is Msgr. Richard Albert. I have had the opportunity to visit him on several occasions. He ministers to the poorest of the poor in Jamaica, those afflicted with leprosy, the homeless, poor elderly, and many others in destitute situations. He has built a home for the elderly and those living with HIV/AIDS and others suffering from leprosy. He has also built several resource and educational centers, clinics and soup kitchens.

I recall my first visit with him. I was overwhelmed by the oppressive conditions under which people lived and yet I was inspired by what I saw. I asked him how he was able to respond so successfully and to continue with his work every day in spite of such overwhelming conditions. His response to me was simple and clear. He said that although he would never be able in his lifetime to completely alleviate the suffering, which the poor people of Jamaica endured, or totally change the unjust conditions under which people lived, he felt that at least he would be able to say that he tried to

make a difference in some peoples' lives. His response to me was a defining moment and begged the question for me: "What difference does my life make?"

I never forgot his response to my question and his answer has remained with me. It is something I reflect upon often. Ultimately, it led me to choose my life's vocation as a priest.

So, this is the question I leave with you today as you

walk through the Archway and go forth from here on your life's journey: "What difference will your life make?" Our world is in desperate need of people who care enough to want to make a difference.

May you live life well and find fulfillment in all that you do. It has been an honor and a privilege to know you over these past four years. Congratulations!

Fr. Joe

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Most of us perhaps have "defining moments" in our lives, experiences that can be life changing.

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“Time is not measured by the passing of years but by what one does, what one feels, and what one achieves.”

- Jawaharlal Nehru

Our four years of college have flown by in an instant. But what we involved ourselves in, what we went through in our daily lives, and what we got out of the experience in the end, is what makes the journey worthwhile. And our journey takes us to where we are today- graduation. Each and every one of us took different roads to get here; many of us crossed paths, shared similar routes, or accidentally stumbled upon each other in some way. This is the time for reflection, remembrance, and achievement. Reflect on those times when you first stepped onto campus as a freshmen or a transfer...how did you feel? I know I remember waiting in the throngs of cars in front of Hall 15, anxiously waiting to get into my dorm room, and asking myself, “Am I really ready for this?”

Look back and see the impact you have had on the Bryant community. My time here at Bryant has allowed me to become a part of different organizations like MSU, ICC, Senior Class Committee, and Senior Advisory Board. I would never have thought that I would model in Extravaganza, or have a role in “The Vagina Monologues;” but I did all that and more. Probably one of the most memorable times I’ve had at Bryant is being a part of 4MILE. I was Team Leader for the past three years, and seeing the program evolve into what it is today is a testament to the hard work and dedication the ICC staff expends to get more multicultural and international students here on campus. I feel that I have become more aware of diversity, and what it means to be a multicultural student, and because of that, I had to do my part in educating the campus on diversity issues. Furthermore, I feel that I have become a more vocal individual from participating in such organizations, and have learned lifelong skills that will guide me through my professional, as well as personal life. So, don’t forget these moments you shared with these groups, because they have helped develop you into the person you are today.

Remember these moments and the people you shared them with. Even though you might not necessarily keep in touch with everyone, don’t forget the times you had together. I won’t forget the time that I woke up at 5am to sell Krispy Kreme Doughnuts at the train station or the night that I slept in a cold tent for Relay for Life with the MSU e-board. I will remember all the hours I spent working at the ICC desk or chatting away in Dee’s office. Every moment is a memory. Don’t forget to reflect on yours.

Remember all the friends you have made up to this



point, and the relationships you have kept and will further grow long after graduation. These are the people that will laugh with you until your stomach hurts, cry with you until there are no more tears, or just be there for you to lend a listening ear. They are the ones that will eat Junction with you at 3am just because. These people came into your lives for a reason. Cherish the moments you had with each other, and look forward to sharing many more in the future.

Honor each and every achievement you have received. Whether it was my first A on an exam, or receiving the Bertha Hysell ICC Spirit Award at the ICC Senior Banquet, I remember each moment leading up to it, and the all the praise and accolade thereafter. And here we are at the biggest achievement of all...getting our college degree. Be proud of your education here at Bryant. Know that not many people get this opportunity to do what you have done. Enjoy the moment, and bask in your glory. All these things and more made up my “time” here at Bryant, which I will remember for the rest of my life. How about you? What does your time consist of?

Lastly, I just wanted to thank my family for always supporting me through the trying times, as well as the triumphs. You were here through it all, and I thank you for getting me to this point. I also wanted to thank my friends for being there for me when I needed them most. You all made my college career and life that much more worthwhile.

To the Class of 2008: We have come to an end of a long and arduous journey. We’ve overcome hardships, but have strived to make it to this day. I am glad to have gone through this journey with all of you. Remember, this is only the beginning. Now, we are embarking on a completely new journey. Enjoy every passing moment. Good luck and congratulations to all of you!





There were many times when I pulled all-nighters and woke up early to write papers or finish projects saying, "I can't wait for school to be over." This phrase was definitely written in pencil because today I can honestly say that Bryant has taught me to work hard and to play hard. Had it been any other way I would not have been so successful throughout my four years here and would not have over 3,000 pictures worth of memories.

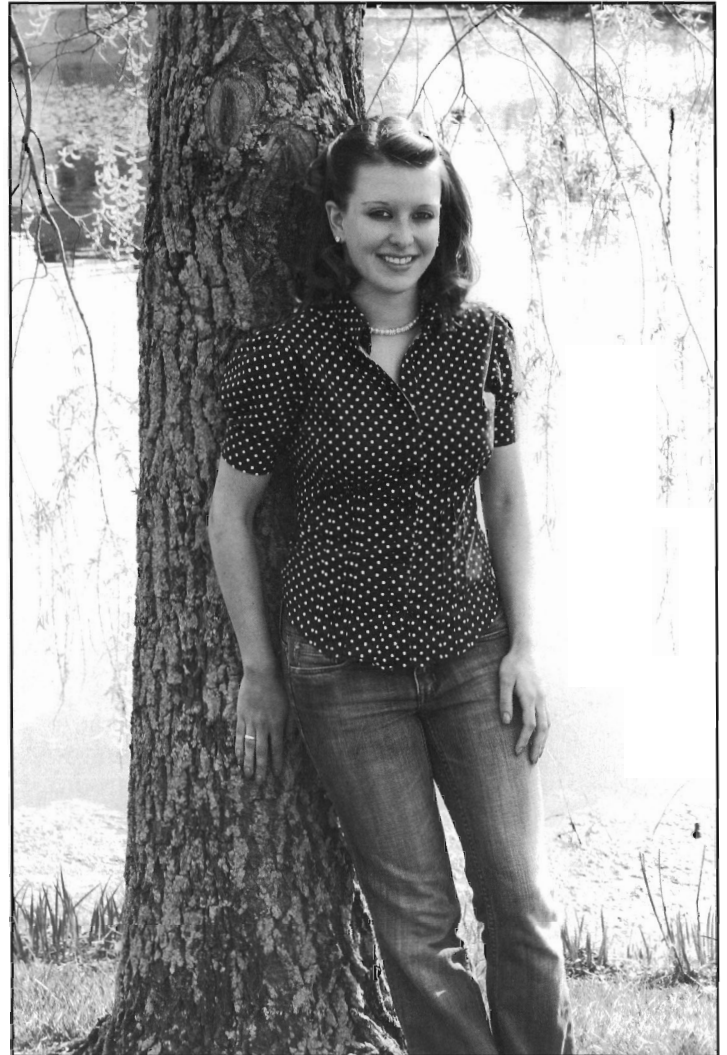
One of the greatest assets of the class of 2008 (besides being the first class to go from Bryant College to Bryant University or having the Red Sox win the World Series both our freshman and senior years) is that we have utilized all that Bryant has to offer. We are a class filled with diversity, uniqueness, and profound accomplishments. As I think about our class, I cannot name anyone from the senior class who isn't involved or who hasn't made a significant impact on our school. When I tell people why I love Bryant so much, I explain to them that the students are the leaders, their voices are heard, and Bryant listens.

From my first days in FFL class, I remember asking Barbara Gregory how a student could start a club on campus. Although it was a challenging process, my best friend and I spent two years establishing the Bryant Figure Skating Club, which is one of my greatest triumphs. What better way to get involved at Bryant than to bring your passion to campus and share it with others? If I could give any advice to underclassmen, I would share the quote, "Life isn't about finding yourself, it is about creating yourself." If you want something, go out and get it.

Our experiences at Bryant are all one of a kind. For me, living with my best friend from home has been something that I wouldn't trade for the world. Gina and I did not tell each other where we were accepted to and by chance we both picked Bryant. Although we knew it could be a risk, we told each other that it would be a true test of our friendship. Gina has been there for me through it all, whether it was telling me the truth when I didn't want to hear it, staying awake laughing until the early hours of the morning, giving me a shoulder to cry on, being my co-worker, my karaoke partner, or the friend that helps me put out a coffee pot fire. We have truly been through it all.

We have been challenged more than we ever thought we could and have hurdled things we never thought possible. We have faced our biggest fears and have learned what our weaknesses are. We have all spent thousands of dollars on textbooks, but it was the real world experiences, life lessons, and memories that shaped and prepared us for tomorrow.

L4—I cannot say enough. We've built a family and I never once had to be someone else around you. I will miss the dance parties, 404 & Tom's room, bingo, Effin's, Medusa's, 250 free donuts, Glenn, birthdays, and Cupid Shuffle.



Thank you to all the people who have made my Bryant experience, the experience of a lifetime. Barbara—without your guidance and mentoring I would have never made it this far and would have never grown into the person I am today. Professor Notarantonio—your real world lessons have taught me so much and have inspired me to look beyond the ordinary in marketing. SAA, Ledger, BSAC, and the Figure Skating Club—I can't tell you how important you've been to my overall happiness, diversity, learning, and success.

*Mom & Dad*—there's not a day that goes by that I am not thankful and moved by all that you do for me. You have surpassed more than anyone I know and it just goes to show how remarkable you are as parents, role models, and friends.

To the class of 2008—thank you for the past four years. As you walk through the Archway today do not think of it as a door closed. The doors of the Archway are open—it is just the beginning and Bryant has led us through these doors of opportunity. Your legacy will be remembered. Congratulations Class of 2008!



# Alan Waters



“Wow look at this place!”

Those were my first words when I arrived on campus for Orientation. People were everywhere, the fountain was blasting, and Bryant looked beautiful as always. “How am I ever going to meet people here and how am I ever going to get involved or fit in.”

Looking back now, four years later, I just smile knowing I have had the privilege of being a student leader at Bryant.

Bryant has given me opportunities I never imagined possible. Coming from a mill town in central Massachusetts with a population of 13, 000, I was a big fish in a small pond. Little did I know there were thousands of Alan Waters across the country and I had a great deal to learn.

I took the slow path getting involved and meeting new people. Much has changed since then, considering I have had the honor of being a three year Senator, including a year as Vice-President, Captain of the Cross Country team, a three year Orientation Leader, including a year as Staff Assistant, a proud member of the LEAD Team and Leadership Council as well as numerous involvements in other organizations.

Hall 15 is where it all began and I am lucky to say some of my closest friends are the ones I met

freshmen year. Hall 3 was the place to be sophomore and junior year and we made sure we made the most of suite-style living. Senior year has been even better, being down in the townhouses we created our own community, which only helped to unite our class even more.

I leave Bryant with a well rounded education thanks to the hard work of my professors and the administration. Without them, I would not be at ease with my future knowing I have the skills necessary to succeed in the real world. Bryant has been much more than a classroom learning experience and I have taken advantage of everything Bryant has to offer.

Whether it was writing articles for *The Archway*, working with the Student Programming Board, Bryant Athletics, or any event in general, I met some amazing people and developed great relationships. I have attended

more comedians, bands and novelty nights than I ever dreamed possible and thanks to Student Senate have heard more financial budgets than one could ever imagine. The Leadership Development program here at Bryant opened up so many doors in my life. I met some of my best friends through the program and we know we will always be there for each other.

My family, friends, teachers, and advisors have always given me the advice to get involved and make a difference wherever I go. I have lived my life attempting to follow both that advice and my heart and hope I have accomplished that at Bryant. Walking away is not an easy thing to do, with so many memories from the past four years it is hard to write them all.

Each event and individual at Bryant has left a special place in my heart that I will forever be grateful for. I will take all the valuable lessons learned at Bryant

with me in all my future endeavors. I can truly say Alan Waters would not be the man he is today if it were not for this University and the great people that have impacted my life.

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**Bryant  
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possible**

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The end. I hesitate a moment each time one of my classmates calls graduation “the end.” In actuality, the ceremony is called “Commencement” for a reason. It means a new beginning for each of us. Accepting our diplomas and walking through the archway signifies the beginning of real responsibilities, the beginning of our careers, and essentially, the beginning of our adult lives. While many of us find it difficult to walk away from such a positive experience and from so many memories, I eagerly anticipate all that lies ahead.

From the moment I stepped onto Bryant’s campus, professors, RAs and @Bryant e-mails urged me to join student organizations and immerse myself in the college experience. My father always told me that the key to success in college, and in life, lies in balance. For some of us, this struggle for balance rested between school and work, or between sports and classes. I happened to find that balance somewhere between the library and the Greek Life

office. While both were huge time commitments, they made all the difference in what I walk away having learned.

Moving onto campus four years ago, I never would have expected

myself to meet the people I did, accomplished the things I have managed to accomplish, and done the things I have done. I can remember being so scared, even though I was going to school with my identical twin sister; we had no idea what to expect. In the end, we both joined the same sorority and a number of other organizations. Getting involved was the best thing I could have done. I expected to come here focused on grades and the people I would meet. But, there is so much more to the college experience than parties. I have found the most important aspects of college life to be, first and foremost, academics, followed by involvement on campus, and finally fun. The experience, in every endeavor you pursue, is what you make of it.

Of the many lessons learned over the past few years, one of the most important things I can take into the real world is the knowledge that failure is not to be feared. Bryant has given me plenty of opportunities to take risks, to prove my resilience, to fail and get back up again. Everyone hesitates to take risks but if we don’t take risks now, when will we? It is from our risks that we will achieve greatness.

So, class of 2008, as you all “commence” into the real world, I leave you with this:

“When you stand before God at the end of your life, I would hope that you would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say, ‘I used everything you gave me.’” – Erma Bombeck

To my sorority, Delta Zeta, you are an astounding group of women, stay strong, and remember I am always here for you. To all my friends not at Bryant, especially DM and CD thank you for your support. To my brothers, Jason-Michael and Taylor, you are both amazing I love you so much. To my incredible twin sister, Elicia, I do not know what I would do without you, are you *finally* glad we went to the same school?

Last and most importantly, my mother and father, you both are the reason why I have been able to accomplish so many incredible things in life. Dad- thank you for being my strength and guiding me. Mom- thank you for helping me to find the joys in life.

...one of the most important things I can take into the real world is the knowledge that failure is not to be feared.





# Seniors Speak Out - Your Favorite Memory

**“My favorite memory at Bryant cannot be narrowed down to one event; rather it can be narrowed down to one location. The third floor of the Bryant Center is the origin of all my favorite memories. This is where I found my best friends, mentors, passions, and created memories to last a lifetime.”**

**~Sarah Campbell**

**Advancing to the national championship game in basketball is one my favorite memories while at Bryant. Experiencing the entire Bryant community rally around our team as we made the run to the championship was very special and is something that I will never forget.**

**~John Fogarty**

**“As a freshman and the daughter of two Bryant alums, I struggled with my identity not just as a student, but what it meant to be a strong woman at a business university. My decisive moment arrived when I participated in the *Vagina Monologues* and became involved with The Women’s Center. To me, it serves as sanctuary, where I learned that you cannot wait hoping for times to change – you must be the change you wish to see in the world.”**

**~Paula Welch**

**“When I think about my favorite Bryant memory, I think more about the journey. I cannot choose one experience to sum up my four years. I have been able to grow and evolve with the great people I have met and the amazing experiences I have had. Each person has had an impact on who I am and I thank them. The things I have learned in the classroom cannot compare to the life lessons the Bryant community has taught me.”**

**~Randy Trickett**

**“My favorite Bryant memory will always be my time on the Student Senate. I was able to interact with fantastic people, make a lot of great friends and at the same time work to make Bryant a better place.”**

**~Bennett Turner**

**“My favorite memory is being a part of the Student Programming Board all four years at Bryant. I made some great friends in this organization and I will always remember the good times we had together.**

**Whether it was a trip, late night novelty event, comedian, band, BINGO, community service, or Theme Weekend, everyone worked so hard to make it a success. I will also miss the third floor of the Bryant Center, the SPB office, and seeing our advisor, Meredith Morris, almost every day.”**

**~Bryan Collins**

**“My favorite memory is the Black and Gold game in April 2008. During halftime, twenty-one seniors were presented with a championship ring that took them 4 years to achieve. From a 4-5 season to an undisputed NE-10 Championship this group of men that I have come to know and love are the epitome of friendship and teamwork. That day I realized that all of the practices, all of the running, and pain that we had endured, paid off.”**

**~Barrington Little**

**“During the SPB Fall retreat my freshman year, I was introduced to an organization and to people who looking back, I can’t imagine my time at Bryant without. I met some of my best friends that weekend, and it was an amazing way to begin my Bryant experience.”**

**~Shannon Griffin**

**“One of my most favorite memories from my time at Bryant was Extravaganza 2005. It was my sophomore year and I was co-chair of this fashion show. It was really the first huge event I helped plan featuring Hot 106.3 as host, various performances, and student models. Besides obtaining leadership and event planning skills, the best part of the production was that I was surrounded by my closest friends. What makes it even more memorable is that the show won event of the year at the recognition banquet.”**

**~Renee Gadsden**

## Senior Service Awards

The Senior Service Award is a prestigious award presented to six deserving students of each graduating class. This award is designed to recognize students who have left an impact on the Bryant community through their outstanding service. A committee of peers chaired by Student Senate representative Alicia Whalen chose the recipients.

Nominees were evaluated on various criteria including; their contributions to the overall Bryant community, their participation in clubs or organizations, athletics, community service, campus employment, and/or academic/professional goals, as well as any additional personal achievements throughout their time at Bryant.

The six seniors selected to receive this year's Senior Service Awards were among an exceptionally large, qualified pool of applicants. Furthermore each individual selected has and will continue to make lasting impacts on this campus. Each one of them exemplifies the award through their dedication and loyal service to the many committees, organizations, and projects with which they were involved. Congratulations to the 2008 Senior Service Awards Recipients:

Lori Akalski  
Taryn Beaudoin  
Trevor Hambright  
Kyle Mason  
Lauren Shriber  
Philip Weiss

## Senior Class Flag

Each year Bryant seniors from the Student Alumni Association collaborate to develop a theme and design for the class flag that will represent the graduating class indefinitely into the future. Selected members of this group carry the flag through the Archway at Undergraduate Commencement, leading the procession into the graduation ceremony. The class flag is then displayed at Homecoming and Reunion each year.

Bryant University extends its gratitude to the late, Emeritus Honorary Trustee George J. Kelley '39, '69H for his generosity in establishing a fund to support the purchase and display of a graduating class flag.

The theme of the 2008 class flag, "Making Our Impact," coincides with that of the Senior Class Gift, a complete restoration of the Archway. The Class of 2008 has made a significant impact on the Bryant community during a period of rapid growth. The Class is ensuring its legacy by preserving the University's most sacred tradition on campus through the Senior Class Gift.

The 2008 Senior Class Flag Committee is comprised of Gina Deeb, Daniel Keough, Jamie MacDougall, Jonathan Nauss, Jared Neilan, Michael Oliveri, Timothy Osborn, Gail Rotatori, Raymond Savner, Keri Sawyer, and Philip Weiss. It is with great honor that the Student Alumni Association presents this class flag, carried today by Michael Oliveri, Keri Sawyer, and Philip Weiss.

## Senior Class Gift

The Class of 2008 Senior Class Gift Campaign sought to choose a meaningful gift that is representative of the class while breaking fundraising records. The theme of this year's campaign, "Making our Impact," was carried out through the careful selection of the Gift and fundraising success. The Campaign was led by co-chairs, Michael Oliveri and Michelle Sobol in conjunction with the advisement of Susan Detri-Souve from the Development Office and John Lindsay from the Center for Student Involvement.

Michael and Michelle began the campaign by choosing a committee of fellow seniors to reach a wider cross section of the class and provide support for various initiatives. The committee members were Taryn Beaudoin, Sarah Campbell, Joseph Capezza, Lauren Cimino, Joseph Domaney, Trevor Hambright, Jared Neilan, Christopher Phelps, Caitlin Ryan, Craig Tetreault, Bennett Turner, Alan Waters, and Philip Weiss.

In light of the continuous support for tradition as part of the Bryant experience, the committee decided the gift to should be a restoration of the historic Archway and the surrounding area. The committee felt that the Archway, which has been a traditional centerpiece of the campus since 1971, should be maintained to the highest standards. After close inspection of the structure, one can find corrosion and fading, in addition to many cracks in the concrete surrounding area. The Archway will be removed this summer and will be restored to its original beauty by a master historian and ironworker. New brickwork will

replace the current concrete around the Archway and will extend fifteen feet down each of the connected walking paths including the bridge.

The Campaign began with a kick-off event under a tent in the townhouse area in November at which the class was given a challenge by five members of our Board of Trustees to raise \$5,000 at the event and if successful, they would match another \$5,000. The challenge was met and surpassed and the Class of 2008 was able to begin the Campaign with over \$10,000. The second event was a welcome-back wine and cheese in the Bello Center in February, where President Machtley officially announced our Class Gift, and the Finale on April 23 was again under a tent in the Townhouses. Throughout the year, the committee also ran an assortment of raffles such as a free senior week ticket and a BLC parking pass. The Archway restoration idea was embraced by our class financially as well as by trustees, faculty, staff, and parents. As of April, 18 2008 the Campaign has raised an impressive \$27, 908.

Michael and Michelle have thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity to help the Class of 2008 leave their mark at Bryant University. They would like to thank their committee as well as Susan Detri-Souve and John Lindsay for all of their hard work; this would not have been possible without them. Lastly, Michael and Michelle would like to thank the Class of 2008 for their incredible support and contributions, best of luck and we will see at the gift dedication!



# From the editor's desk: Lauren Cimino

Your family is always there for you. Parents, siblings, grandparents, and loved ones. They support you, encourage growth, laugh and cry with you, and most importantly they are always a part of you.

Over the past four years, Bryant has become each of our second families, a staple in our lives that we can always count on. The campus has changed alongside us with new buildings, majors, and opportunities; we have been disappointed and overjoyed, became leaders, found our passions, and simply, grown up.

Looking back, I cannot imagine the person I would be if it were not for what I have experienced at Bryant and with my Bryant family.

For me, my Bryant family has been connected through the often unknown third floor of the Bryant Center. Those who frequent the floor understand the almost gravitational pull it can have. The floor is filled with professional and student organization offices that are constantly bustling with people until the building closes. The students who make the third floor their home have such unwavering enthusiasm, passion, and dedication to Bryant and constantly seek out new ways to fully immerse themselves in everything the school has to offer.

The students who found their niche in this sphere of Bryant life will always be connected by this common bond just as student athletes will always connect with their teammates, tutors with other tutors, club members with other club members. These connections determine our Bryant family and on what part of campus our Bryant homes reside.



These connections will also be what tie us to past alumni as well as future students.

We will always have our memories of Bryant to connect us to each other. We will start to smile and pay closer attention when we hear someone mention Bryant, when we see it in the news, on television or

even on a resume. As time passes after graduation, we will move on with new adventures, opportunities, new homes and new families; however, no matter how much time passes, we will always have pride in where we came from, where we grew up, where each of us learned what it means to be ourselves, and to stand up for what we believe in.

Though you may not be able to return to your Bryant home

without everything changing, you can always rely on your Bryant family, the connections you have made along the way, the friends, the mentors, the colleagues. We may be leaving Bryant University, but we will always take Bryant with us; as Tom Taylor, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, shared with a group of seniors in April, we may only be students for a few years, but we will be alumni for life.

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**We may be  
leaving Bryant  
University, but we  
will always take  
Bryant with us...**

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# From the Dean of Students

Class of  
2008



Dear Graduates:

Congratulations! You have taken another big step on the journey of life. The completion of your baccalaureate degree is something to be very proud of. It demonstrates you have acquired the skills and qualities necessary for the awarding of a degree, as well as the benefits of cultivating friendships and relationships which may last a lifetime.

College is also a time of profound transformation. It also represents four years of building something bigger than yourself. Marj and I have watched that transformation unfold. Your involvement and relationships, coupled with your academic programs allowed you to experience the full breadth of the Bryant experience. You have worked with faculty and staff on this path. An extended network of family and friends has likely contributed to this process. Please find time to say thanks to those who helped along the way.

Now, after hopefully savoring this accomplishment for a while, you will begin a new phase. Take the things you've accomplished and build on them in your new professional job or in continuing school. Use them in building a life outside Bryant. Our hope for you is that you will truly realize the ideal expressed in our mission statement: "... to do your personal best in life and your chosen profession."

It has been a privilege to accompany you on this journey. As you leave, we wish you the best and hope you remain connected with Bryant through the Alumni Association and other opportunities. Please continue to be a part of this great community!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. T. Eakin".

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

