

Bryant College's student newspaper since 1946

The Archway

May 17, 2003



2003 Commencement Issue



From the President



May 17, 2003

Dear Graduates:

Commencement is the celebration of a new beginning. I know that I join all Bryant's trustees, faculty, and staff in wishing each of you a bright future full of great adventures, continued growth, and rewarding personal and professional lives.

I am confident that you have found your time at Bryant to be challenging and fun. It has been our pleasure to have you as part of our community, and I want to thank you for your contributions. As you take this next step in your life, I know that you will build upon the extraordinarily solid foundation that Bryant has provided.

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

Your graduation is an enormous accomplishment that culminates in your membership in our alumni family of more than 37,000 distinguished professionals throughout the world. They share your high standards of excellence and your commitment to achieving your personal best in all that you do. And wherever you are in the world, make connections with other Bryant alumni and further enhance this powerful network. It is also our hope that you will return to campus often and that your Bryant education is just the beginning of a lifelong relationship with the College.

We – Kati and I and everyone at Bryant – are proud of your achievements and confident about your future. We thank you for all you have brought to this College and extend our best wishes to you!

Sincerely,

Ronald K. Machtley
President

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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: they walk through the archway.

The story of the archway dates back to 1905. Isaac Gifford Ladd, an associate of Charles Schwabb and a famous US Steel tycoon, constructed a \$1 million building which contained the iron arch on Young Orchard Avenue on the east side of Providence. This building was meant to be a sign of his endearment to his newlywed wife. However, his wife expressed hatred for this 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 campus. In 1935, Bryant-Straton College was

renamed Bryant College. To provide more space for classes, an addition was constructed and Hope Hospital was renamed South Hall. Earl S. Tupper, inventor of Tupperware, donated his 22 acre hillside estate to Bryant College in October of 1967 for the creation of the new campus.

To thank Tupper for his generous gift, Bryant named the campus after him and awarded him an honorary degree. Four years later, in the fall of 1971, the campus moved to Smithfield. Prior to leaving the Hope Street campus, the wrought-iron arch at the entrance to South Hall was transported to the new campus. Today, the archway remains the only physical link to the Providence campus. Frank Delmoncio, then Vice President for Business Affairs, and Robert Hillier, architect of the Tupper campus and designer of the new sign for the front entrance,

relocated the archway between the two ponds enroute to the Unistructure. Immediately, after the archway was transferred from the old campus, students began to avoid passing through this out-of-place structure.

As rumor had it, walking through the 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 a the sacred arch. This tradition has shaped the behavior of thousands of Bryant College students on Tupper campus for the past thirty years, and will continue to shape that of more in the years to come.



Janean Allen

Higher Learning. The changes that have occurred throughout my four years here at Bryant are tangible proof before my eyes that one person always makes a difference, no matter the circumstance. I have learned through experience change is the only thing that remains constant, and situations that once seemed hopeless can become great sources of inner strength if you persevere and seek to learn from them.

At first glance, it seemed that Bryant College did not welcome me with warm and kind arms when I arrived, and to be honest I was not enthusiastic about assimilating to a particular culture or homogeneous group that was not interested in accepting me. Coming from a place where I never felt like a minority, where diversity was embedded in the very essence of my community; it was a culture shock to sit in classrooms where I was the only African-American, or in many cases minority in general.

I was not going to change, and it seemed that neither were the professors and other students in my classes who were sheltered from exposure to people of other races and cultural backgrounds. From my initial contact with ignorance I knew that the segregation, prejudice, and closed-mindedness seemed to permeate this campus prior to my arrival would be terribly disrupted.

Higher learning. I judged a book by its cover and I was terribly wrong. I have made friends that will last a lifetime, because of the

experiences that we have shared. Bryant College has introduced me to many things I would have never imagined possible for myself, and illustrated to me that the only limitations of my creativity and capability lay within myself.

I found that I gained knowledge not exclusively from reading textbooks and attempting to achieve academic success, but also more importantly from my interaction with others. I learned not to allow myself to be a part of the problem but rather an instrument for addressing it, making others aware of it, and provoking change.

My personal growth as an individual involved the Bryant College community, so I have made efforts to improve the communities that surround me in order to show appreciation for my newfound talents and assets by contributing to others. I have so many people to thank for their positive roles and influence in shaping the woman that I am today that I cannot name them all. I just hope you would know if you are a contributing factor to my achievement and success. Many administrators know me because I have "camped" out in their offices to express concerns and issues to them. I appreciate your kind ear and advocacy for change.

Higher Learning. I challenge those that remain at Bryant to express themselves even when it



is not in accordance with the majority, and to continue to be innovative and pioneering. Continue to provoke thought and raise consciousness about issues that ultimately affect all people. Several people have approached me and said that Bryant will not be the same place with out me. This is a great complement to feel irreplaceable. However, that would be a great fear of mine that I hope never comes true.

I hope that the Bryant College community continues to embrace diversity and change, and never digresses from its current path unless it is in the direction of greater improvement.

"There is always something to do. There are hungry people to feed, naked people to clothe, sick people to comfort and make well. And while I don't expect you to save the world I do think it's not asking too much for you to love those with whom you sleep, share the happiness of those whom you call friend, engage those among you who are visionary and remove from your live those who offer you depression, despair and disrespect." -Nikki Giovanni



It is very surreal, the ending of an undergraduate career. I look back and remember the mistakes I have made, and more importantly, the growth I have found in them. Anatole France once said that “one must never lose time in vainly regretting the past nor in complaining about the changes which cause us discomfort, for change is the very essence of life.”

His words remind me that this is what life is about, it’s about changing, growing, and becoming the person you would like to be. I’ve decided that I’m heading in the right direction because I’ve remembered very important things during my college career. So for those who are still unsure, I say remember these few things and you will be heading in the right direction: adversity can be good, character is more than what you think, never stop dreaming, never forget where you come from and who has given you love and support.

Reminder #1: Adversity can be good.

Thomas Paine said “The harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph.” I remember a time when I felt like an Eskimo trying to kayak up the Amazon. It seemed as though gravity decided to focus on my courage. Every occasion I tried something, I couldn’t get anywhere! I soon realized however that if I used the right tools, it wouldn’t be so difficult. So, like Paine, remember that adversity challenges you and makes you stronger.

Reminder #2: Character is more than what you think.

Remember that “the true test of character is not how much we know how to do, but how we behave when we don’t know what to do.” There will be moments when you will be faced with choices that are uncertain. Look within yourself and find what feels right and good and go with it. These will usually be the best choice and will be in good character.

Reminder #3: Never stop dreaming.

I’m a dreamer. I like to think that someday, the things I hope for and want to achieve will become a reality. I refuse to let anything or anyone stop me from dreaming. If you continue to dream and find strength in your convictions, hurdles will not seem like hurdles, instead, they will be anthills, small obstacles in the journey called life. Don’t forget Henry Thoreau’s words, “Dreams are the touchstones of our character.”

Reminder #4: Never forget where you come from and who has given you love and support.

My parents gave me the greatest gift any two people could give another person; they believed in me and loved me. I can never thank them enough, all I can do is hold them in the highest esteem and share my love with them. This will be enough, so remember, say thank you to your family or to those who have influenced your life in great ways

because people will come and go. Some will become great friends; some will only be a faint shadow in your memory, but remember, “The supreme happiness in life is the conviction that we are loved.”-Victor Hugo.

Four simple reminders for a not so simple experience; I trust that they will help you grow, learn, and hopefully change for the better. They have helped me in my pursuit of happiness. As surreal as this ending may be, I know that it is the continuation of my dreams.

To Bryant College, thank you for challenging me, helping me in my growth, and supporting me. I now know that as long as I face adversity with a smile, remain strong in character, keep dreaming, and love whole heartedly, that I have found at least some of the essentials for finding complete bliss in life.



Matthew Bjorkman

What makes Bryant College such a special place to me is the people. And I believe that the reason why students enjoy college life so much here at Bryant is because of other people. Whatever you do and wherever you go, you will never meet another group of people like those you've met here. I'm not just talking about the students, but the faculty and administration too. While everyone has their opinion of something they like the most or the least about college, I find it hard to find something I truly don't like about Bryant College. So when people ask, "Are you excited about graduation?" I can't give them a yes or no answer because yes I'm ready to graduate, but I'm going to miss this place. Or when people say, "I can't wait to get out of here and graduate," I ask myself, "What's the rush?" These are supposed to be the best times of our lives and even though they may not always be the most exciting, we need to make the most of them.

Over the past four years, I can definitely say that I've made the most of my time here. After graduation, when I'm looking back at college I'm not going to regret that I didn't do anything. Rather I'm going to remember those all-nighters I pulled to study for a test or finish a project, or those weekends during freshman year when we celebrated our new found freedom. I'll look back fondly on those nights with the guys in Providence when we sang karaoke and danced at the clubs. I'll never forget the morning the World Trade Center went down or the afternoon the

first bombs fell over Baghdad. We have four years of good and bad memories from this school, and there is no way we will ever forget this place or at least I won't.

One question that has been running through my head a lot is, "What am I going to miss the most about this place?" It's definitely going to be the relationships and friends that I have developed here. People here at Bryant have touched me in different ways and I'd like to thank each of them for everything they've done for me. To my friends... Tim, John, Rob, Joe, Jay, Tom, Mark, Chris, Jeff, Cory, and Niles, we've done it and we've done it right... with no regrets. From spring break in Gulf Shores, AL to this past spring break in the Bahamas. The late nights in Hall 14 were great and we've got some of the best memories. Tim you've been my best friend here at Bryant, always there for me whenever I've needed you. It is time for us to celebrate our college success and continue that success throughout life. I know this isn't the end for us but a new beginning. I know we'll be right there with each other no matter where we make our new home. Being away at college hasn't been the easiest thing for me at times. However, with friends like mine, who have been there when I needed them the most, I've been able to survive. I know now that those hard times have only made



me stronger. Now we face a new challenge, being away from college and we'll continue to be there for each other.

I'll never forget those endless spring weekends and summer retreats with SPB. Hank, you've been a great role model for me. You've given me the praise and criticism I've needed to become the leader I am today. My role as an RA on campus is another part of my time at Bryant that I'll never regret doing. Chuck, you've definitely played a big role in my life here at Bryant and I'll never forget that either. I don't want to forget all the other members of SPB and Residence Life who have had an impact on me. Without you it definitely wouldn't have been the same, not only for me but the entire college community.

I can feel comfortable leaving Bryant in the good hands of those following in my footsteps. I know each of you will continue to make Bryant a better place for all to come. That's what makes this place so special, the people. Thank you all for everything you've done for me, you will never be forgotten.

Jessica Bradbury



It is amazing how four years can go by so fast. It seems like just yesterday I was moving into Hall 15. Then again, it seems like with all the physical changes that campus has experienced and with each experience I've had in my four years, that I've been here forever. Some of my experiences have been bad and some of been the best of my life, but, as they say, that is how life goes. I think what is most important is that I've learned from them and I am leaving Bryant better because of it.

One of the things I've learned is the importance of getting involved on campus. My co-curricular experiences are what have brought to life my academic experience. It is challenging to culminate four years of Senate in a paragraph or a whole paper for that matter. From leading meetings to mass mailings, there is never a moment were an awesome experience and a lesson cannot be found. Joining Senate was the best decision I made, besides coming to Bryant.

For those seniors who did get involved, when you came to Bryant you made the decision to join an organization and work actively within it. Some of us may have joined to meet people, or cause we liked planning events, or cause we had too much free time, or maybe because we like to help people or voice student concerns and make change.

We all had different reasons for getting involved, but yet we are all accomplishing the same thing; we are making a difference at Bryant, whether it be big or small,

we are leaving our mark. I commend you for being active at Bryant and thank you for the difference you have made.

Another important thing I've learned is the importance of friends and family. When I came to Bryant I never realized how important family could be. Freshmen year, even though I lived close by, I hardly went home or called them. Over the last three years, I've come to realize that everything in your life will change; where you live, where you work but what will always remain is your family.

My parents and my sisters have been my support through the tough times and my biggest cheerleaders through the good times. Actually, my mother is one of the reasons I came to Bryant and my father is the reason I chose to enter into business. Nothing can describe the emotions I felt when my family came to the Senate meeting to see me get sworn in for President of the Senate. Mom, Dad, Marissa and Alicia, I love you and thank you for listening to all my problems and encouraging me to do my best.

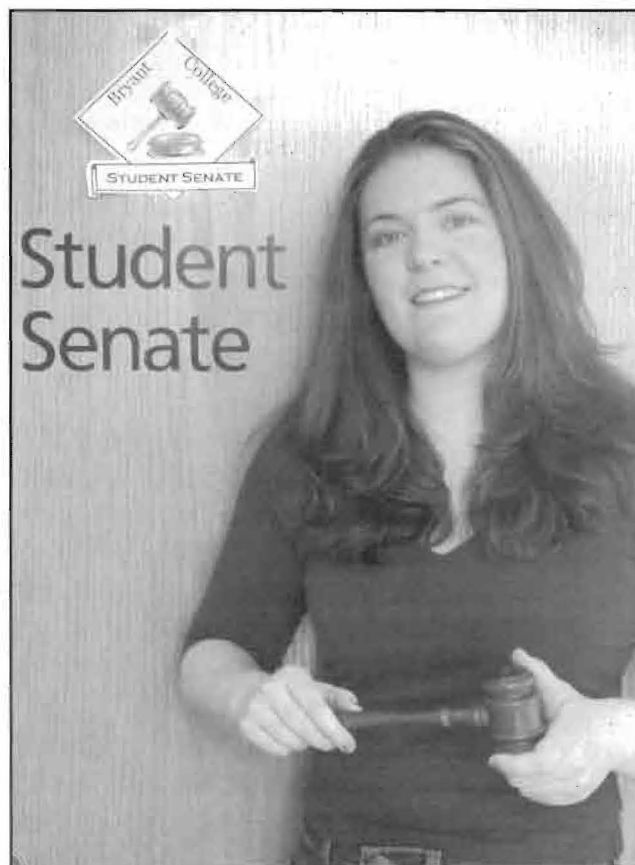
To my friends, you know who you are; college would not have been the same without you. I read this quote once by Anais Nin, she states, "Each friend represents a world in us, a world not possibly born until they

arrive, and it is only by this meeting that a new world is born." What can you say to a group of people who have made such a positive impact on your life?

I am truly lucky to be friends with the best people at Bryant. They have been my inspiration, my encouragement, and my people to lean on in tough times and the first to celebrate with during the good times.

As the quote says, they opened up a new world to me that I am forever grateful for. I love you guys! As we are about to graduate we will be leaving Bryant behind, but what will always remain are the memories and the most important thing, the friends I have made.

Congratulations to my fellow seniors and best of luck!



Elaine Chrzan



“Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined.”

-Henry David Thoreau

To my graduating class, we sit here today filled with emotions. For some of us, they are tears of joy, while for others they are tears of sadness. I remember sitting through orientation, not knowing what the next four years had in store for me. We were all filled with emotions, both exciting and frightening about what was going to happen during our time at Bryant. When we leave here, it is just the next chapter of uncertainties and new beginnings in our lives.

We came to Bryant to become educated and prepare ourselves for the world around us. Our four years at Bryant have been unique to each of us. We have all had different experiences, whether becoming involved in campus organizations, working full-time, or enjoying the days with friends. Some things remain the same, Bryant College has given us the good times to always look back upon, the education to further expand, and the new opportunities

to discover. We have been challenged, we have been through many hard times, but we have grown and become individuals ready to face our futures.

One page could not even begin to explain and capture my experience here at Bryant College. Not a day goes by that I don't think about every moment that I have spent here and every memory I have. I value those memories and I hold them as treasures in my heart. They are always going to be with me and they can never be taken away. They have helped to form the person I am today, and shaped the person I will be in the future. I have learned lessons about life, people, and most importantly about myself. Whether at a Student Senate event, a sports game, or just hanging around the residence halls with my friends, each and every minute has been rewarding. The value of friendship has been one of the most important lessons I have learned. No one can do it alone. It takes the love and support from others and I want to thank those who have helped me become the person I am today. I would not be where I am today if it wasn't for them.

Mom, Dad, and Donna: words cannot capture the inspiration and support you have given me. Thank you for the opportunities and confidence throughout the years. I only hope that one day I can repay you, and truly explain how grateful I am for everything! To the faculty, staff, and administrators: thank you for your knowledge, experiences, and lessons about life. You found qualities

within me, and helped me to strengthen them so that I could excel and grow. To my dearest friends and especially the girls of K2: the laughs, the tears, and the memories will last a lifetime. You have been my family away from home and taught me the meaning of true love and friendship. Although the good times may be less frequent in the days ahead, they are a part of who I am and who I will become. The memories will be in my heart forever. Don't ever let it end! Keep in touch always!

I think it is important to hold onto our past to be prepared for the future. If I can offer any words of advice it would be to remain positive in all circumstances, cherish the pictures and good times for they can be the silver lining on a dark cloud or the inspiration to conquer a difficult task. Always tell people how much they mean to you, and lastly, enjoy life because it is a great ride! I urge you to trust and believe in yourself; be the person you want to be. If I learned but one thing here, it is with hard work and ambition that you can accomplish anything. You can be anything you want to be and do anything you want to do. Although we all face hurdles in life, no matter how large or small, they are just temporary setbacks that will only make us stronger. Learn from mistakes and use them as lessons for the future. Become motivated by challenges, not discouraged, keep your head up and always keep smiling. The time flies by, so make the most of it-- your fate belongs to you!

Allison DeMusis



"The purpose of education is to replace an empty mind with an open one" - Malcolm Forbes

We are each given endless possibilities and it is up to us to act upon the opportunities with which we are presented. Some see the potential of a situation while others may be blind. Bryant College has allowed the Class of 2003 to expand their horizons and grow as individuals. Many people in our class have benefited from a wealth of experiences from the beginning of our journey at college and have acted upon those opportunities as often as they could.

What attracted me to Bryant was the strong sense of community and camaraderie that I felt as soon as I arrived on campus. I knew this was a place where I could build my mind as well as my character. What I did not realize was the great connections and friendships I would form. Looking back on it now, I cannot believe how fast these four years have flown by. I remember being that nervous freshman who did not think I was going to make it through college academically, let alone have the time to make those life-long friends that everyone told me I would find. I remember consulting people throughout my four years who were unbelievable with their guidance and support, my freshman success leaders – Dr. Eakin and Professor Lux – and I can't forget Professor Bates, Hank Parkinson, Jen DiPrete and Father Joe. That is what is so great about going to a close-knit school such as ours. There are people to help you out around every corner.

"To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

I see how much all of my friends have grown and have become part of my family and it just amazes me to know that a college experience over four years can have such an impact on my life as well as on the lives of others. I have met some of the most amazing, caring, and talented individuals and I am so lucky to call these people my friends. From Super Bowl parties in hall 14, hockey games, Spring Break in Jamaica, and Relay for Life, memories were being made everywhere I turned. I have learned so much about my friends and myself along the way that there is no way to forget any of them. We have all been through a lot, but through thick and thin, we succeeded and will continue to make it together. The memories we have made will last a lifetime.

To my immediate family and surrogate families (you know who you are), you have always supported and inspired me to do my best. Mom and Dad, your love has been unconditional and I would not have been the person I am today without the both of you. Em and Ab, you are great sisters and I will be there for each of you whenever you need me.

Grandma- my role model, although you are not physically here, you live on in my heart every-

day and give me the strength to go on. Thanks to all of you!

The day has finally arrived where we must move on and leave this sheltered world of Bryant College and start anew. It is the commencement of our lives. I know that our college experience has prepared us for what is out there, and all of us will be able to make it through anything that lies before us. We all should have a sense of comfort knowing that, we learned from our experience here at Bryant.

Just remember *you all* have just accomplished something great; you have completed one of many stepping stones in your life and are ready to begin a new journey. Remember to keep your friends close and hold on to those memories, because one day you will look back on these times and you will remember it as one of the greatest times of your life.

"You have to take risks," he said. "We will only understand the miracle of life fully when we allow the unexpected to happen."

- Paulo Coelho





Jermoni Dowd

The combination of academics and the green football field is what attracted me to Bryant. The developing friendships and camaraderie found along the way is why I stayed.

The education, the ability to cultivate experiences as well as the fact that it is good preparation for life is why we all embraced this opportunity to get educated. Along with the support of my family, Bryant has provided a blueprint for the future.

But I'll never forget the journey I've traveled or the friends

mistakes, and sometimes through my peers, I have acquired valuable life long lessons.

Adapting to new environments have allowed me to grow and mature to meet obstacles whether it be group projects or cultivating relationships with professors.

As a student, I feel I have been equipped with the essential tools needed for growth. Although a challenge at times, I feel my educational experience has allowed me to face head on obstacles both in and out of the classroom environment.

As an MSU board member, I learned to get involved. To undergrads, take advantage of every opportunity - in and outside the classroom.

Speak up, make a difference, and do not be afraid to take on leadership roles. Involvement with student activities opened me up to whole new Bryant community that allowed me to have a voice.

Being a minority on campus, I have witnessed Bryant College move towards fulfilling diversity on campus.

Within the small confines of Smithfield, the Bryant culture has shifted from representing a microcosm of society through activities, forums, and multicultural education.

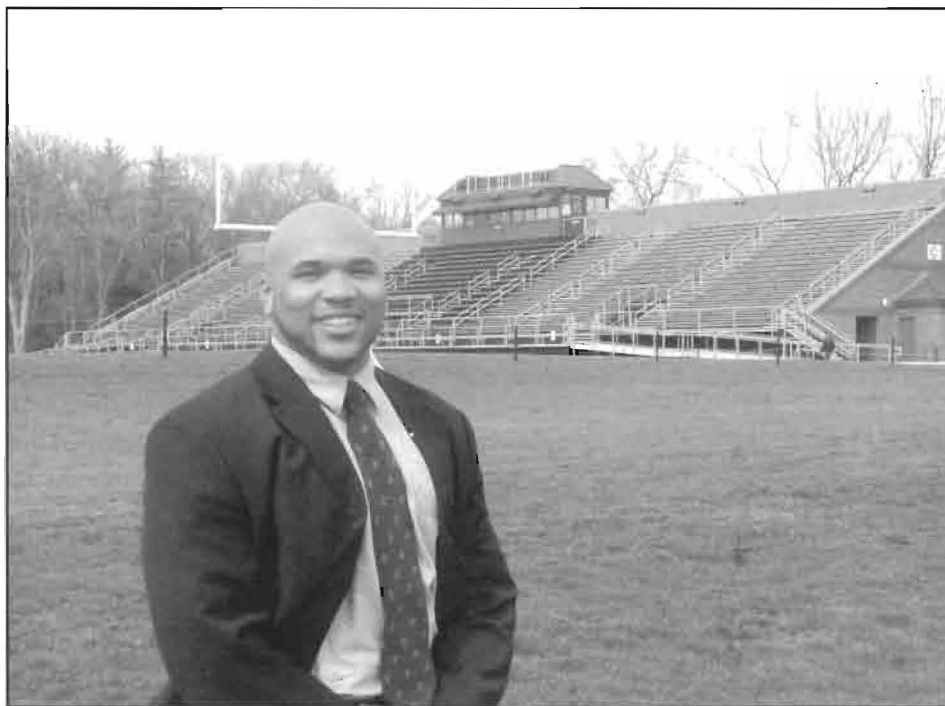
Lastly, as a son, grandson, brother, nephew, cousin, student, player, roommate, and friend I give thanks. I was told always give thanks, never forget where you come from, and remember who helped you get there.

Cherish every moment, give back, and above all else, no matter where life takes you or how difficult the road you travel, always let your light shine!

"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us."

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

It was the green fields of Bryant that enticed me to this small community and it is through the small gate- *the archway* that we take our first steps into the world beyond the Bryant community.



I've met along the way.

From Block Island get-aways to car trouble in Boston (always), from Extravaganza Night to being on stage in the spotlight, and South Street visits, Superbowl hypothermia and 'beef' on bro-sis, my **experiences** have been everything but **dull**.

Learning through my own

As a football player, managing my time proved to be essential. There is never enough time in a day and 'time,' I've come to find out according to the old adage, really waits for no one.

Plan ahead, and try not to abuse those precious power naps. You'll be amazed how much you get done in your free time.

Dom Fraone

These last four months I have had a mixture of emotions ranging from excitement and thrill, to anxiety and fear. What will I do after I graduate? What lies ahead outside the Bryant bubble? These questions seem so familiar, but, at the same time, all together new. It is as if I am taking one last exam that I thought I knew the answers to, and they hit me in the last two minutes of class. These are the same questions I came into school with! What am I going to do at Bryant? What does Bryant have to offer me? The answers aren't the same; but I know that things will find a way of working out for the best, because I wouldn't have made it this far if they don't.

In four short years I have been exposed to a lifetime of knowledge. My education has extended far beyond the walls of the classroom. Much of what I have taken away from Bryant is the education I received through my work and through the people I have had the privilege of meeting, working and living with. Each individual I've known here has in some way shaped my life, allowing me to become the man that I am today. I have learned the value of such things as sleep (after many all-nighters), quarters for laundry day, and how important water can be on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Of all the little lessons I have learned while here at Bryant, I would say that there are three things that I have learned above all else.

Without family to support and guide us, we may never have the courage to be who we want to

be. It was not until I arrived at college that I learned how truly important my family was to me. Through the course of my four years here at Bryant, my family has been there for me every day that I have needed them, in good times as well as bad. They have been my strength when I needed more, my confidence when it was low, and my hope when all seemed lost. I cannot even imagine where I would be if I did not have the love and support that my family has given me, and the sacrifices that they have made so I can have the "better life." There are not enough ways that I could ever thank my parents, sisters, grandfather, aunts and uncles for what they have done for me. Without them I would not have come this far.

I have learned the true value of friendship. I have been given the chance to meet and become friends with some of the greatest people in the world. These are the people that have become my family away from home. The best friends that I have been able to confide in, the girlfriend that I am able share dreams with, and the others that have been here to help me make it from one day to the next. They have helped me learn to value each day for what it is and to always have fun. I hope I have made the same impact in their lives that they have made in mine.

I have learned that you will never really know who you are

until you have tested yourself. Bryant has opened a world of opportunity to me and I have been given the chance to find myself. Through these opportunities I have grown to become the person that I wished to be. These opportunities have allowed me to find out not only who I am, but also who I could be.

College has played such a significant role in me truly finding



myself. Although I know I will be sad to be leaving, Bryant won't be going anywhere. The campus may change over the years, but I will always have the memories of my time here. Of all the things that I will take with me, the memories will be cherished the most. As one of my friends would put it, this is like the death of a Phoenix, a mythological bird that is born of fire and cannot be rivaled in beauty. When the Phoenix dies it bursts into ashes, however from these ashes rises another Phoenix of equal beauty. Even though our time at Bryant has come to an end, it is time to take the next step to something that will be just as rewarding.

Michael Gamble



Who can ever forget that first day on the Bryant College campus sitting in a line of cars that seemed to never end and drinking Dell's lemonade in your car while waiting for some kid with a flag to allow you to park. Finally, all the waiting just ends and you begin to unload all your worldly possessions for the next four years? And now four years later packing up everything and moving on to an unsure and scary future. Have these four years simply been that effortless, just move in, move out and study a little in between? Or rather have these years been a time to develop your independence, to gain a superior educational experience, make contacts and memories along the way or simply a chance to start over in life?

The questions are numerous however, one thing is certain for me. My experience at Bryant was precious because of the great sense of community the campus provided.

From the first day that I stepped on campus I was greeted by upperclassmen who made me feel instantly a part of the school. Starting with the resident staff to the Fraternity members who I was

soon after privileged to call my brothers, everyone seemed to glow with the same spirit for enjoying Bryant. That sense of community is a great asset that a small campus provides and I take pride in knowing that future generations will continue to be able to have a similar experience as Bryant moves forward.

So many great nights from that point on were spent sumo wrestling, swinging in the middle of rotunda at four in the morning, making music videos in the Bryant center, and many more memories too long to mention.

The Bryant experience is not really about the actual events that take place, but the people who took part in making it. Bryant has a great diverse campus that allows for students from different backgrounds to come together and mold into one community.

The close friendships that developed at Bryant will never be lost and the friends that we find it hard to keep in contact with will never be forgotten. I look forward to visiting Bryant as an alumni now and taking part in a great campus and bragging about the state of the art facilities that seem to be constantly improving.

Leaving Bryant to go into the world is an exciting time that we have been planning for since kindergarten. However, there are many experiences that we will never have the pleasure to be a part of again in Bryant. There will no longer be any all night study sessions or those all night paper-writing sessions. There will be no more late night Junction food runs

or trips to Subway hoping that they have not closed yet. We will never have a fire drill in the middle of the night or be able to be with so many close friends all the time. We will not get the chance to be a part of Stations of the Cross or represent our organizations at the awards dinner. There will be no getting burnt sitting out in the sun after running the torch from Providence to Bryant and then helping with the Special Olympics. These memories are what make Bryant a part of the students and the students a part of Bryant.

My advice to fellow graduates and those that are soon to be would be that as your time at Bryant gets more hectic, as the years pass, take time to appreciate the little things along the way and take time to thank those who helped you get where you are today. Of course, Father Joe acts as a guide to every student, but during my time at Bryant he has provided much needed guidance and encouragement through all four years and he deserves much of my thanks.

To the professors who have helped me along my way to becoming a better student and a better person for the future, I thank you. To the friends that helped with reading papers and keeping me up at night to study, I thank you. Most of all I would like to thank my family who encouraged me and provided support for me through my entire educational experience. It's now time for the Bryant graduates to move on and represent Bryant positively, but as we leave we know that Bryant will always have a place in our hearts.

Kaitlyn Spinelli



“Follow your own shining star. Keep to the path you have chosen. Believe in yourself and dream till your dream comes true.” This anonymous quote was written on a gift from my parents, given to me before I moved in to Bryant four years ago. I still have it, and it is the best advice I have been given throughout my life.

Today I look back at all my dreams I have had, and the accomplishments I have made here, and smile. Bryant has allowed me to develop my leadership abilities and impact the campus and surrounding communities.

Being involved with the Marketing Association and Delta Zeta Sorority has given me the opportunity to realize the value of community service and academics. I've had the opportunity to work with such great organizations like the Children's Miracle Network, Rhode Island Adopt-a-School, the Rhode Island Blood Center's blood drives, local food banks, and Special Olympics, to name a few.

These organizations have also given me insight into the valuable role that our alumni of this College play. As a member of the Marketing Association, I have had the privilege of asking alumni to return to campus and speak to students about their Bryant experience as well as their career choices.

I would recommend to all current students to become as actively involved in campus activities as possible. And for those graduating, it doesn't

stop here!

In my past years here I have also come to know some extraordinary people that I would like to mention.

My friends, the faculty, and the administration have all played major roles in helping me through my Bryant career. Thank you Delta Zeta for being my home away from home and allowing me to share in all of your lives. I love you all, especially my tree, the Rho's and the Upsilon's. I will always be here for you!

A special thanks to Marcia, Judy, Vicki, and Donna for being my surrogate mothers and giving me constant advice and guidance.

Thank you Student Activities, Dean Sloss and Professor Murray for your never-ending support.

And lastly, thank you Chris for being my everything. No mat-

ter what happened to me, or what I was faced with, you were always by my side.

Looking back, I am proud to say that I have always followed my own star and believed in my dreams. Our class has witnessed numerous changes in the world these past four years.

Through this, we have grown stronger. I know that who I have become during these past years has laid the foundation for the person I will always strive to be.

Thank you Bryant College for all the wonderful memories and experiences you have given me! I only hope that I can give back just as much to you as an alumnus.

Congratulations to the Class of 2003 and remember to “dream till your dreams come true!”





Kathryn Swiatek

As we come down to these final days at Bryant College, we all have our own mixture of feelings and emotions. Questions need to be answered that were never thought of before: Where am I going to live? What is the least amount of money I'm willing to work for? What color dress should I wear to the ball? Do I really need to go to that final? And the big one: What am I going to do now?

It's an uncertain time for many of us now as we begin to embark on that next chapter of our lives. As the pages have turned over the past four years, each of us provided another adage into that book that we have already started. For me, my time here has only begun the foundation of what is to come in life.

College has had its moments of wonderful times, as well as doled out its share of bad times. It's difficult to put those

moments of anguish behind us, because they have created a rift in our lives. Even if you haven't realized it before, we all learn from these experiences. Take what you can from the bad, and leave the rest behind. Everything happens for a reason, and there is nothing you can do to rewrite your story. These moments help shape you into the confident adults that we strive to become someday. You cannot change the past, but you can be prepared for the future.

The friends that I have met along the way have been the best investments I have made in my college career. These are the people that celebrate your achievements, hug you in your moments of pain, and cherish you for the person you really are.

These are the people that you can count on for anything, and don't have to question whether they will still be your confidantes after driving off-campus following graduation.

We have lived together as family these past four years, all sharing the same residence halls, meals, classes, and memories. Taking the time to establish these friendships allows us to build the types of relationships we will have in our social and professional

careers.

Meet as many people as you can over your college career—everyone has something different to offer, and it's a shame not to take advantage of that opportunity.

As I begin to think about what I would like the next chapter of my life to entail, I am confident that the steps I took in college were the ones that have prepared me for tomorrow. If there is one thing I learned, it was always be true to yourself. Do not minimize your feelings or think less of your capabilities.

The possibilities are endless, and if you believe in something and really want it, grab on and don't let go until you have it. Regret is for those who do not take the chance. Why regret going for something when you truly wanted it? Life would not be what it is without the spice of ambiguity. Remember who you are, and that you deserve to get what you put in. I believed in the things that I took hold of, but most importantly I believed in myself. Do not forget who you are; be true to yourself and the rest will just fall into place.

The final page of my chapter in college is about to end, but I look forward to beginning the next chapter with eagerness. For I know that the events ahead are filled with surprises and possibilities.

We each have something to offer and achieve in our lives. Think about this as you continue to turn the pages in your lives, and ask yourself: What do I want my next chapter to be?



Timothy Watt



I remember the apprehension and wonder that was Orientation. I remember the day that we moved in and meeting so many wonderful people. I remember the times when I couldn't wait to go home and the times at home, when I couldn't wait to be back here.

I recall meeting my best friends for the first time. I reflect on the joys of unplanned holidays as Physical Plant went on strike during the blizzard of my sophomore year (how can I forget the consecutive days of cancelled classes?). I reminisce upon the late nights studying (not as often as you think), and the late nights enjoying my friends' company (not as often as I would like).

I remember the days the Towers fell and the shock and awe that followed. I remember saying goodbye to old friends in May and saying hello to new friends in September. The good times and the bad have been many. I remember the person I used to be and I reflect on the person that I have

become.

These past four years have prepared us for the unknown of tomorrow. From our classes, to extra-curricular activities to learning how to survive without a meal plan in the townhouses, we have all become better prepared to deal with the possibility of tomorrow.

Today is called Commencement, not graduation. It is a time of new beginnings. It is a time to remember the past and learn from it, and then to take that first courageous step forward into the darkness that is the future. But perhaps that future is not as dark and scary as it seems to be.

Our successes have taught us many lessons, our failures many more. We have been learning how to walk the tightrope that is life over the past four years with a safety net.

Today is the first day we make that journey without a safety net to fall on. One of the greatest lessons I have learned is that we learn the most and earn the most personal satisfaction, when we take the biggest risk. What is more risky then moving out on your own, leaving friends behind and starting a new job?

While the unknowns of tomorrow may cause anxiety, remember how you have reached today. None of us could have made it this far without the support of others. Family, friends, faculty, and staff have all been an important part of our Bryant experience. These people and others are with you now and will be with you tomorrow. While the safety net has been taken away, you have

these people to catch you when you fall. Take solace and find strength in this fact, then thank these people for being there to catch you.

I would like to take this moment to thank those who have been there to catch me. Mom, Dad, Kelly, Melissa, and the rest of the family- thanks for always being there for me.

Matt, John, and all of L4 and K8- thanks for the good time boys. If you're ever near Boston, give me a ring. My future roomy - let the good times roll.

The rest of my friends (and coworkers)- thanks for some amazing memories. Hank, Mike, Karen, Father Joe, Prof. Sousa (or should I say Dr. Sousa) and more- your advice and support will not be forgotten. Thank you everyone!

My grandmother has an endearing habit of never saying "goodbye" on the telephone; instead it is "so long." You can always learn a thing or two from your elders and I think this is one of the times.

Today is not a day of "goodbyes" but rather of "so longs." I wish the Class of 2003 good luck! You have provided me with some amazing memories and friendships that I will never forget. I look forward to seeing you again soon. So long!

*"Two roads diverged in a wood,
and I- I took the one less traveled
by, And that has made
all the difference."*

*~Robert Frost,
"The Road Not Taken"*

Senior Class Charge: Audrey Doire

Graduates, here we are at the day we never thought would come. Somehow, we have managed to survive the past four years. Even despite those wonderful weeks, when by some small coincidence, all of our exams and term papers seem to be due. With all that behind us, we must now prepare for a new challenge, one that could make a cumulative final look enticing.

Everyone here celebrating with us today, and the world, expects us to leave here and accomplish great things. They will no longer accept the excuse "Hey! I'm still in college." Now we are expected to take the knowledge we have acquired and apply it to our lives. Everyone is waiting for us to stop talking about what we can do and actually go out and do it.

From the day we stepped on our first yellow bus and up until now our lives have been loosely mapped out for us; the directions clear. For the first twenty odd years our main focus was to be school. In school, the direction was simply to follow the crowd. It didn't take us long to realize that blending in made life much easier.

Now, however, the direction has changed. There is no map and blending in will only make things harder. However, if we take the education we have received and use it to benefit the world, as well as our own lives, the road may become clearer.

Core competency is a term that has been embedded in our heads since the first day of classes. Our professors have continuously stressed how important it is for a



firm to develop a characteristic that distinguishes itself from its rivals. A characteristic that is not only distinguishable but also considered to be a rarity and one that possesses value. This term should be further extended to include ourselves. In today's job market it is becoming increasingly more important that we have something to offer that no other candidate has. It is now our goal to find out what characteristic we contain that holds value and separates us from our rivals.

Basically, we have to get noticed and that will never happen if we just follow the crowd. We must break away from the pack and find out what makes each of us an individual.

I must admit it seems a bit odd to speak of individuality, when in front of me there are 500 people all wearing the same cap and gown, but it does help to further the point. Up until now we have all

had the same direction in life. All of us have been following the same map, the same trends, joining the same organizations, living in our own tiny world. Now we are all about to experience a different life, and a much larger world, one that is not concerned with our current social status. It is now time to prove what we are really made of.

Most of us are guilty of talking a good talk and never taking any action. Someone very close to me has always used one of cinema's history's greatest lines: "Are you going to sit back, and bark little doggie, or are you going to bite?"

Graduates, I leave you today with the same question. Are you going to sit back and bark or are you going to bite down with the teeth of a Bulldog and show them what the class of 2003 is all about?



In Memory of Jennifer Lesperance



Jenny Lesperance would have graduated with the Class of 2003. Unfortunately, she is not with us today. These are a few words from her family.

Instantly upon arriving on the campus Jenny was comfortable at Bryant. Students and staff were friendly, courses were interesting and the environment was conducive to her growth - her life could take many directions. She decided to major in marketing.

After completing her first year at the age of nineteen, Jenny was suddenly diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia when she was rushed to an emergency room with a high fever. Prior to this day, she had enjoyed nineteen years of good health. She was captain of her high school field hockey and tennis team and worked out at the YMCA. She had just begun a new job for the summer as well.

We now entered into a nightmare of uncertainty, fear and helplessness in silence. Family and friends supported us, keeping our

hope and faith strong. Jenny was truly amazing. She was the source of strength for everyone around her. Her bright smile never faded. Her love for life was expressed everyday.

She knew she could not control what life had handed her, but she could control her reaction and her attitude toward this new life.

During the next ten months, Jenny spent many weeks in the hospital, had four rounds of chemotherapy, and had a stem cell transplant. As all of this was going on, Jenny helped organize a team for the *Light The Night Walk* which raised over \$15,000 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. She was there the night of the walk after just having completed one of her chemo treatments.

Jenny's life changed but she held on to her dreams and worked hard trying to maintain as much of a 'normal' life as possible.

Administrators and professors were extremely helpful in enabling Jenny to take four courses at home. Classes were taped, students shared notes, e-mails were sent, phone calls made and even visits to the house. Her doctors and nurses were amazed at how she would write papers and study as she had

her transfusions. She worked through difficult chemotherapy treatments and the many side effects. Her professors did not expect her to complete her courses in one semester but she accomplished a 3.75 by the end of that semester.

After her transplant in December she again registered for four courses. She passed on March 17, 2001.

We met many wonderful people at Bryant- people we will always remember. You allowed Jenny to follow her dream and her control over a part of her life. Through her experience she learned she wanted to use her marketing skills to help out some how in the medical field. Where would her experiences and dreams have led her?

Thank you so much, Bryant, for the support and friendship that you showed our family.



Jenny (left) with her sister, Pam, on her first day as a freshman at Bryant.



Commencement Awards

Matthew C. Bjorkman

*George M. Parks Award,
Student Senate
Senior Service Award*

This award is presented to a bachelor's degree candidate who has done the most to enhance the reputation of the College through leadership qualities. He is from East Hartford, CT. His concentration is Accounting with a minor in Legal Studies. Matthew is also one of the recipients of the Senior service awards.

Timothy P. Watt

*Roger W. Babson Award,
Student Senate
Senior Service Award*

This award is presented to a bachelor's degree candidate who has become distinguished within the college community because of character, orderly mind, sound judgment, and systematic business habits. Timothy is from Manchester, CT. He double concentrated in Computer Information Systems and Marketing, with a minor in History. He is also a recipient of one of the Student Senate Senior Service Award.

Jessica V. Koller

Political Science Award

This award is presented for her outstanding achievement in the study of Political Science. Jessica is from Marbella Malaga, Spain with a major in Marketing.

Jessica Bradbury

*Bryant College Good Citizenship
Award*

This is presented to a graduating senior who has demonstrated the qualities of sincerity and vigorous industry in the interest of good citizenship and who has, by example, furthered better government both on and off the campus. Jessica is from North Scituate, RI. Her concentration is Management and a minor in Communication.

Tessa L. Lamirande

Applied Psychology Award

This award is for outstanding achievement in Psychology and has demonstrated her ability to critically think as a psychologist. Tessa is from Johnston, RI.

Hanna Hildmann

Sociology Award

This award is for outstanding achievement in the study of Sociology. Hanna is from Washington Depot, CT and majored in Marketing.

Jamie Posterro

*Legal Studies Award,
Leander Francis Emin Endowed
Homestead Award*

This award is presented for his outstanding achievement in Legal Studies. Jamie's concentration is Accounting. He is from North Grafton, MA. He is also the recipient of the Leander Francis Emin Endowed Homestead Award for achieving scholastic excellence in accounting.

David C. Joachim Jeremiah

Clark Barber Award

This is presented to an individual, who has shown a consistent record of academic improvement. Jason's concentration is management with minors in Communication and Psychology.

Lynne Bellizzi

International Studies Award

This award is presented for outstanding achievement in International Studies. She is from Spencer, MA. Lynne dual majored in International Studies and Marketing.

Michael Gamble

Kappa Tau Brotherhood Award

Awarded for exhibiting outstanding brotherhood and leadership in promoting policies beneficial to Bryant College and the entire student body. Michael is from Willmington, DE. His concentration is Applied Actuarial Mathematics with a minor in Communication.

Sarah L. Smith

*Pell Medal for United States
History Award*

Awarded to an individual for displaying excellence in the study of U.S. History. She is from Portsmouth, NH. Sara's concentration is History and Management.

Dana S. Scott

Honoring the Class of 2003



Reserve Officer Training Corps Achievement Award

Presented to an individual for having excelled in military science studies and other courses and who has shown superior leadership potential in the military science program and extracurricular activities. Dana is from Yarmouth, MA with a concentration in Finance.

Jaime Bess

*Female Scholar
Athlete of the Year*

Jaime is from Sandwich, MA with a double concentration in Accounting and English.

Scott Kennedy

*Male Scholar
Athlete of the Year*

Scott is from Oak Ridge, NJ with a concentration in Accounting.

Thomas Fischetti

The Wall Street Journal Award

This award is presented to a graduate who has shown distinction in the fields of economics, finance and investments. Thomas is from Milford, CT and is a dual major in Finance and Economics.

Jennifer Crisafi

Literary Studies Award

This award is for her demonstrated high achievement in and a strong commitment to the study of literature. She has a major in Management.

Justin Teman

Thomas A. Tipton

*John Hancock Insurance
Company Award*

This award is presented to (an) individual/(s) who have demonstrated superior achievement in the study of Applied Actuarial Mathematics. Thomas' major is also Actuarial Mathematics.

David J. Dexter

*George J. Kelley Award,
The Rhode Island Society
of Certified Public
Accountants Award*

This award is presented to a graduating senior scheduled to complete all degree requirements in May, who at the end of the fall semester had completed at least 102 credits at Bryant and is recognized and honored for having the highest cumulative grade point average. David is from Chepachet, RI. David is also the recipient of The Rhode Island Society of Certified Public Accountants Award, given to a senior who has demonstrated excellence in accounting studies and intends to pursue a career in public accounting.

Jaron Lariviere

Tonya Baber

*Anna M. and
Jere St. Angelo Award*

Presented to individuals for demonstrated scholastic excellence in accounting studies. Jaron is from Westboro, MA. His concentration is Accounting with two minors in Economics and Computer Information Systems. Tonya is from East Hampton, CT.

Her concentration is Accounting with a minor in Psychology.

Kevin De Sa

Steven Barbosa

CIS Department Award

Presented for excellence as a student who has enriched his CIS education through meaningful work experience and demonstrating an unselfish attitude towards others through active involvement in organizations, clubs or events.

Farai Mbigi

Communication Award

Presented to a graduating senior for outstanding achievement in the study of Communication. Farai is from Johannesburg, South Africa, and has a double concentration in Communication and Marketing.

Kyle Cehanowicz

*Jack Rubens Leadership in
Finance Award*

Given for outstanding leadership in the field of Finance. He is from Brewster, NY. His concentration is in Finance.

Brian Pacheco

*Jack Rubens Leadership in
Financial Services Award*

Given for outstanding leadership in the field of Finance. He is from Pawtucket, RI. He concentrated in Financial Services.



Senior Contributions

Senior Service Awards

Student Senate Senior Service Awards are presented to six deserving students of the graduating class to recognize their outstanding service to the student body of Bryant College.

Recipients were selected by the Student Senate Service Awards Committee, which was chaired by sophomore John Cullen.

Nominees were evaluated on various criteria, such as their dedication to campus life, their stature among their peers, their accomplishments of goals that enhanced student life throughout their Bryant years, and their eligibility as a degree candidate.

This year's award winners are no exception from the norm. Each, in their own way, has made a significant impact on the Bryant College community. Congratulations to each of the following individuals:

Matthew Bjorkman
Allison DeMuis
Margaret Grace
Tomeka Robinson
Kathryn Swiatek
Timothy Watt

Class Flag

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

The 2003 Class Flag was designed by seniors from the Student Alumni Association — David Dexter, Erica Gervais, Rebecca Harris, Brooke Schopp and Melissa Wilson. The class flag is carried today by David Dexter, Rebecca Harris, and Brooke Schopp.

“Building our future, one brick at a time”, symbolizes how Bryant has contributed to expanding our knowledge and character and has set the foundation for our continued success.

Senior Class Gift

This year, the co-chairs for the Senior Class Gift Committee were Dom Fraone and Janean Allen. They recruited a committee of six class members.

The gift this year will be an endowed scholarship fund, with the first scholarship being awarded to a student, in 2008 after the class of 2003's fifth year reunion. The goal is \$50,000, which includes a match from a Bryant trustee.

The Senior Class Gift Committee has been securing pledges, which can be paid over the next five years, since January.

Malcom “Kim” Chace, a Bryant trustee will be matching the gift by 80%, which he has done since the class of 2000. The Senior

Gift committee held two events this year. The first was a wine and cheese event, which was held on January 30.

Through the event, the committee was able to raise almost \$700 dollars for the gift. The second event was the Krispy Kreme event.

An alum who owns several Krispy Kreme franchises donated 50 dozen donuts for the event which was held on April 9.

Anyone who had made a pledge received free coffee and donuts, or for a donation to the class gift of \$2.00 or more you could have donuts and coffee. The class raised over \$4,500 in gifts and pledges at this event.

The gift committee also took part in the recent grad fair and secured another \$3,000 in pledges at the event.

The Senior Gift Committee has a second goal for the class besides raising the \$50,000 for the scholarship. They are hoping for 50% participation by their class members.

Alumni donors are key factors looked at, when publications like *US News and World Report* rate colleges.

With a 50% participation goal for the class, it would add just over one full percentage point to the College's overall participation goal, which currently stands at 11%.

Honorary Degree Recipients



Governor Donald L. Carcieri

Governor of Rhode Island

Don Carcieri was inaugurated as Rhode Island's 57th governor on January 7, 2003. His election followed a career in business that was crowned by his tenure as chief executive officer of Cookson America and joint managing director of Cookson Group Worldwide.

He retired from that position in 1997. Immediately after college, Carcieri taught math at Newport's Rogers High School and then at Concord Carlisle Regional High School in Concord, Mass. He then turned to business, where, over the course of 10 years, he built a career at Old Stone Bank, eventually becoming executive vice president.

In 1981 he headed the Catholic Relief Service's West Indies operation in Kingston, Jamaica, returning to Rhode Island in 1983 to join Cookson Group. Gov. Carcieri holds a bachelor's degree from Brown

University. He will receive an Honorary Doctor of Business Administration degree.

Charles W. Costello

Former President and CEO of Costello & Associates

Charles Costello is the past president and CEO of c.w. Costello & Associates, a management information systems consulting firm he founded in 1986. He formed a unique partnership with Bryant by choosing the college to train his company's new employees. By the time he sold the firm in 1998, the company had expanded to 850 employees. Now retired, he recently purchased two software companies.

Prior to founding c.w. Costello & Associates, he worked for New England Systems Engineer, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Massachusetts, and Keane Associates. Costello is a member of Bryant's President's Leadership Council. He holds a bachelor's degree from Northeastern University. He will receive an Honorary Doctor of Business Administration degree.

Lulu C. Wang

CEO of Tupelo Capital Management L.L.C

Lulu Wang is the chief executive officer of Tupelo Capital Management L.L.C., a New York-based investment firm. A chartered financial analyst, Wang has been engaged in professional money management since 1972. She was director and executive vice president of Jennison Associates Capital Corporation for 10 years before founding Tupelo Capital Management in late 1997.

Wang is director of the New York Community Trust, where she chairs the Finance Committee, and is on the boards of Columbia Business School, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and WNYC, among others. She received her bachelor's degree from Wellesley College, where she is a trustee, and holds an M.B.A. from Columbia Business School.

From the Editor-In-Chief, Emeritus

Cost to print 1 issue of *The Archway*: \$650

Cost of food to feed the staff on a production night: \$30

The experience of being Editor-In-Chief of *The Archway*: Priceless

This has been an amazing year for me, and the perfect way to end my career at Bryant College. I have had the chance to work with some incredible people and challenge myself everyday to try and accomplish my goals, and leave a mark on the place that I have called home for the past four years. My experiences here have run the gamut from being an Orientation Leader, to studying abroad, to spending my senior year trying to make the school newspaper worthy of the paper it is printed on.

Now in the last weeks of my college career, I look back and I realize what a lucky person that I am to have had the opportunity to do all of these things. For me and my classmates, college has been so much more than classes and homework. It has been about friendships, memories, and becoming a self-sufficient adult. Adult-wow! I shudder as I write that word. It is finally time to grow up and join that thing they call the “real world.” But before we do that, we have the chance to reflect and comment on our time here at Bryant, and that is the main purpose of this last issue of *The Archway*. I write this as the Editor-In-Chief, Emeritus-my time is over, and it has been a great one.



No reflection would be complete without some sort of inspirational quote, and far be it from me to disappoint. Maya Angelou wrote: “Let choice whisper in your ear and love murmur in your heart. Be ready. Here comes life.”

To the class of 2003: It is time to get ready because a new part of our life starts today. We now have the knowledge and skills that we need to go out and conquer whatever life has in store for us, and I am confident that we all will be success stories.

To my family and friends: You have challenged me, supported me, and made me who I am today. It is true that I am not the same person that I was four years ago and that is in large part because of you. On this day of commencement I will try my best to smile, though I know that the tears will be hidden somewhere behind it. It has been an amazing four years, and I know that I will take every lesson learned, all the laughter and all of the tears and hold them close to my heart forever. To end with one last quote-“Don’t cry because it is over. Smile because it happened.”

Best of luck to the class of 2003 in all your future endeavors!

Sincerely,

Maggie Grace

Maggie Grace

Archway Editor-In-Chief, Emeritus

From the Dean of Students



May 17, 2003

Dear Graduates:

It is always an honor to be asked to write to each graduating class. Marj and I have had such wonderful opportunities to spend time with you as we live and learn together. You have been a great class and we've seen a lot of positive change. It's a pleasure to congratulate you and wish you well in the next phase of your life.

This year's class has been special. We started the First Year Success Program as you entered. You've seen the development of new academic programs and new facilities. We've worked through a lot of change and you've worked with us. While this is not a perfect place,

we've worked together to make it better and we are appreciative of all your efforts. You leave a special legacy in a campus transformed.

You've reached a point of great accomplishment. The completion of a baccalaureate degree gives evidence that you have demonstrated the skills and qualities necessary for the awarding of that degree. You are ready to make a living and build a life. As you rightly celebrate, remember to thank those who've been with you on this journey. I'm sure there are many people that come to mind. Now is the time to let them know you've appreciated their support.

As you savor this special time, remember Commencement is also a beginning. A time when new opportunities await and chances to continue learning in life and professionally are widely available. Stay in touch with us and visit us. The Alumni Association is a great connection and we hope you take advantage of the many opportunities available through their activities and programs. Our hope for you is that you will seek your dreams, earn much, give something back and never stop learning. Best Wishes in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

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

