

The Student Voice of Bryant University since 1946

THE ARCHWAY



2014 COMMENCEMENT ISSUE



From the President



Dear Members of the Bryant University Class of 2014,

As you process through Bryant's historic Archway, prepared to receive your degree and begin the next phase of your life's path, the entire University community joins you in celebrating the successful completion of your undergraduate studies. We call this event Commencement because it is not just an ending, but also a new beginning as you enter the world ready to apply your knowledge, skills, and talents to make a difference and lead a life of character.

When you arrived at Bryant four years ago, you experienced many changes and exciting opportunities to expand your world: a new place to live, exposure to innovative and inspiring ideas in the classroom, a new group of friends, and an expanded global perspective of the world's interconnected cultures and economies.

Now you will experience a new set of changes as you leave campus to begin your professional life or continue your education in graduate school. Always recognize that change is a constant in life and you must embrace it and remain flexible in your approach. Most of you will have several jobs, some multiple careers, over your lifetime. Even the concept of retirement has changed with many people working well into their seventies – some beyond that.

Bryant has a 150-year tradition of exceptional education that anticipates the future, and our future students, in a changing world. Your undergraduate education is distinguished by the

University's core values, so that you remain open to the world of global opportunity and achieve your success over the long run, always seeking your passion.

Your graduation is an inflection point in your relationship with your alma mater. In the years ahead, there is a shared responsibility between you and the institution. At Bryant, we will continue to step boldly forward with strategic goals that enhance the value of a Bryant degree and increase the competitive advantage of your diploma. As new programs and courses develop, we will maintain our commitment to academic excellence, which will always remain the foundation of a Bryant education.

As a new graduate, you will now become a member of the Bryant Alumni Association. As such, you will belong to a powerful network of more than 40,000 accomplished individuals working throughout the world in a variety of roles and industries. For more than 150 years Bryant alumni have attained high standards of distinction, and they proudly pass that tradition on to you. We ask that you remain engaged with the life of the University, by providing financial support to our strategic priorities, employing Bryant students as interns and employees at your workplace, and more generally by serving as ambassadors of the institution in your new roles.

We hope that you will remain engaged with the life of the University and return to campus often to help support our trajectory of excellence, since your relationship with Bryant is meant to last a lifetime. And, as you return to visit your alma mater, the campus will always be welcoming and beautiful.

Kati and I, and the entire Bryant community – our trustees, faculty, and staff – are extremely proud of your achievements and potential. You have been a very special class and as you leave campus and move ahead in life, I know that you will build upon the extraordinary foundation the Bryant education has provided. We thank you for all of the richness you have contributed to the University, and we extend our very best wishes for a lifetime of success and fulfillment.

Sincerely,

Ronald K. Machtley
President

The Honor of the Commencement Issue *Class of* 2014

In order to celebrate the 151st Undergraduate Commencement, The Archway has created this commencement issue for the over 800 students who will graduate May 17, 2014.

Following tradition, we have compiled reflections from students who significantly impacted Bryant during their undergraduate career and have a memorable and insightful story to share. Choosing only twelve students to write a reflection was difficult, but with the help of a committee of fellow junior students from all walks of college life, the recipients were selected for 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 Sandra Enos and Rebecca Erikson, Associate Director for Events and Volunteers. These two

individuals were chosen because of the lasting impact they have had on the lives of many of the students of the Class of 2014.

It has been an honor to put together the Commencement Issue. The experience had been particularly meaningful as I have gotten to know and admire many members of the Class of 2014. It is my hope that this, your final issue of The Archway, will help you remember four years of great memories and experiences.

This issue is dedicated to each of your college experiences, from the moment you first stepped onto campus until you finally passed under the archway. I wish you all happiness as you start the next chapter of your lives as graduates of the Class of 2014.

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Walking through The Archway... a Commencement tradition

In addition to 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 Schwabb 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-Stratton 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 Silas Tupper, inventor of Tupperware, donated his 392 acre hillside Smithfield 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.

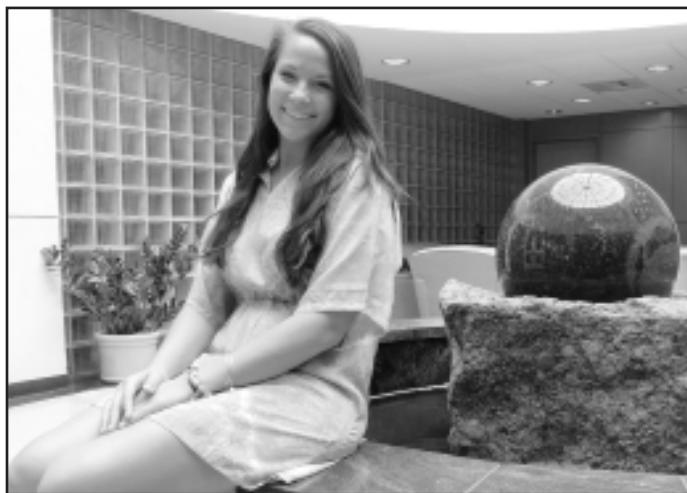
Today, the Archway remains the only physical link to the Providence campus. Frank Delmoncio, then Vice President for Business Affairs, and Robert Hillier, architect of the Tupper campus and designer of the sign for the front entrance, relocated the Archway between the two ponds en route to the Unistrukture.

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 resulted in worn dirt paths around the arch.

After 17 years of worn paths, the graduating class of 1987 donated a brick pathway built around the sacred arch. This tradition has shaped the behavior of thousands of Bryant University students on Tupper campus for the past 47 years.



Student Class Charge: Alisheya Luthman



President and Mrs. Machtley, Honorary Degree Recipients, Trustees, Faculty, Staff, Family, Friends and most importantly the Graduating Class of 2014; I am beyond humbled to be standing in front of you all today - our last time together as a class of Bryant Students - before we cross the stage and become Bryant Alumni. I stand before you at this moment feeling a barrage of different emotions. Like many of you, I feel wistful and sad that four years on this prestigious campus has come to an end. Our days of running to class after waking up late, trying not to run into the geese or praying and re-tweeting for that snow day from President Machtley are the simple things we will no longer be experiencing. All the times we struggled to write a last minute paper, saying we wouldn't make that turn in time of 11:59pm or finding out at the last second we had to present in a few hours because we forgot to check the syllabus, missing our friends and families while in different countries and saying we were flying home because we couldn't do it anymore, studying for hours to just barely pass, or staying up all night just because, were the moments that brought us here today. Events and classes, such as Business 101, IB Block, Actuarial Exams, study abroad, mid-terms and finals, all-nighters, Spring Breaks, and most recently senior week are the moments too, that have made each of our Bryant experiences unique. All the times we complained about Salmo food, yet fought the lines to enter for late night breakfasts, or chicken patty Tuesdays or Taco Thursdays are now memories of the past. The times we have watched and cheered loudly in the dog pound at Basketball games, or at other sporting events and have created amazing events for our organizations, our clubs and our involvements all are gone with what seems like the snap of our fingers.

Now, Dr. Seuss once said "Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory". Right now, I understand the value, as I believe you all do to. The value that all of these moments you and I have made into memories here at Bryant University are what we will carry fondly forward for the rest of our lives. The memories that will make us smile or laugh or even cry when we think about them, when we are traveling, or sitting in our future offices, or going out on the weekend, buying houses, starting families and at some point down the road, helping our own children make the decision of where to attend college.

Bryant has been our home away from home, our second family, our support group, and the thing we are holding onto with our dear lives... because now all the changes have begun. Especially seeing that we just walked under the Archway - something we have avoided for four years until this day. We are going from the college life; which consists of picking and choosing what to go to, taking personal days, staying up until the sun rises - to the "real world", with jobs and bills, student loans, a 40 hour work week, and a much earlier bed time. Shortly, we will each receive one of the highest honors Bryant University can bestow upon us. We will receive a diploma that signifies all the dedication and work we have put into this great institution, and it has put into us. Remember, what we were told at orientation would come "faster than we think?" Well, it has.

However, along with these sad and scared emotions, we should also feel excited and prepared for what we will be facing once we leave the grounds of Bryant University. Our class is made up of intelligent, strong, passionate, people. We are prepared and ready to make a difference in the world and in the lives of others. You should be excited for the chances and opportunities that are waiting for you; so take them and run with them. Tempt yourself with challenges, because as bulldogs, you'll never go down without a fight. The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams, and Bryant class of 2014, you have exemplified this over and over again through all you have done here. Continue to do it in the future. Remember, every single day you will be making a choice, and you have the ability to choose the best thing for yourself, the things that will challenge you and allow for you to grow even more. Use the skills that you have developed here and what you have learned from your experiences and go out and do what motivates you. Love what you do, whatever that may be, and continue to create yourself each day into the person you want to become.

I am excited, as should all of you, to also give back to this University for it has made us who we who are. The transition to the status of Alumni is monumental and means we have placed yet another piece of our puzzle of life into place. Bryant has taught each of us an irreplaceable saying, that "to receive much, you must give much." Bryant has given us the tools to start a new chapter in our lives and we should all remember that there is someone out there who needs these tools as well, and we can be the ones to help them get there. Bryant has helped bring you to this pivotal moment in your life, right here and now, and giving back to this great institution will also help someone else get here. It is important to remember however, to give back not only to Bryant after you graduate, but to your community, the world, and the people who surround you. Giving back is the greatest gift of all, because you never know whose life you will change, the difference you may make, or the smile you will create.

Bryant Class of 2014, as individuals, you are passionate, you are dedicated and you are motivators. As a class we are strong-willed, driven and collectively Bulldogs. We have created a legacy that no other class will be able to compare to.

Best of luck today and for the rest of your lives. Don't cry because its over... smile because it happened.

Congratulations and ... don't worry Bryant, the Class of 2014 will be back.

Sarah Al-Abdulgmoosen *Class of* 2014



People always ask me the same two questions. Question number one, “If you could do it all over again would you still go to Bryant University?” Yes, a thousand times yes! I would not change a single moment of my time here. I have met some of the greatest people throughout my four years, and I have built friendships with people that I hope will be in my life forever. With graduation upon us, I worry that that we’ll all lose touch once we’re out in the real world, but a quote from J.K. Rowling’s speech at Harvard’s commencement in 2008 gives me hope; she says “I have one last hope for you, which is something that I already had at 21. The friends with whom I sat on graduation day have been my friends for life.” – J.K. Rowling

Living in Kuwait made it a little difficult for me to visit schools before applying or deciding where to go. I applied to multiple schools, but did not know which one I truly wanted to go to. Two weeks after sending in my applications I got an email from John Eriksen, the Director of International Admission at Bryant and that’s when I knew this was the place for me. He was so welcoming and answered any and all questions I had; keep in mind I still hadn’t gotten my decision letter yet. The other schools I applied to never contacted me once. The day I got my acceptance letter from Bryant was the beginning of the next four years of my life. It was the first decision letter I got, and I did not care what the other schools had to say because I had already made my decision. I’m going to Bryant!

Question number two, “Are your parents happy you chose Bryant?” I remember when I first told my parents I made the decision to go here they said “What is that? No one’s heard of it before; maybe you should apply to UCLA or USC.” When I got to Rhode Island in August 2010, my mother says “What is this state? Sarah, where did you find this school?” Four years later, I’m graduating from Bryant, my brother Abdullah is a rising senior at Bryant, and my brother Faisal is transferring to Bryant from Pennsylvania State University. Ask me again if my parents are happy I chose Bryant.

The last four years at this incredible institution have been, needless to say, amazing! It’s very hard for me to digest the idea of leaving and not coming back in the fall. Everything I have done here has helped to shape who I am today. My freshman year I did something I would have never done in high school; I took part in the Extravaganza fashion show, which I was a part of every year since. Walking across that stage in front of my peers gave me a heap of confidence I never thought I had. My sophomore year I had the opportunity of becoming a 4MILE peer counselor. I wanted to help incoming international & multicultural students the same way my peer counselor helped me my freshman year.

My second semester sophomore year I was offered a Resident Assistant position and a job working at the Office of Admission as the International Admission Assistant. These jobs have given me the chance to give to current and prospective students what other people at Bryant have given me. A home!

My senior year I was selected to serve on the Bryant Senior Advisory Council, and represented Bryant’s Supply Chain team in the Bose Case Competition. We got first place, beating seven teams (Bentley and Babson included). Through the Amica Career Center I attained an academic internship for my spring semester. As some of you may know it can be a little difficult for an international student to get an internship. After relentlessly applying to over 50 companies, I finally got an interview with Health Enterprises, Inc. and when I got the offer I didn’t even blink. All I wanted to do was reply to the email with a “HELL YES I ACCEPT YOUR OFFER,” but the Amica Career Center would probably frown upon that. I’m glad that Bryant pushes its students to get an internship during their undergraduate years, because I have most definitely expanded my experience through my time at Health Enterprises, Inc.

“We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we’re curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths.” – Walt Disney

I am so thankful that Bryant helped me step out of my comfort zone and try new things, because now I know that I can do anything I put my mind to.

I would like to thank all the faculty, staff, and students who have played a vital role in my last four years. John Eriksen, you are the reason I came to Bryant and for that I am forever in your debt. A special thanks to Professor Teresa McCarthy for everything you have done for me and for everything you have taught me the last three years. Mom and Dad I dedicate my diploma to you! I love you both.

Class of 2014, we made it! Congratulations to everyone on this great accomplishment and I wish you good luck on your future endeavors. Now let’s go get our hard earned diplomas!



Delaney Carr

Following Bryant's Scholarship Dinner in April 2010, I entered my hotel room where I would stay before attending Open House the following day. The food, company, and conversation that night were all excellent. Unfortunately, I think I will forget most of that with time. However, I will never forget the emotion that overcame me that night. It was an unmistakable feeling: I was home.

Fast forward five months, and I was already moving into Hall 14 as a petrified, awkward, overly excited freshman. After settling into my room, I got a text from my soon-to-be roommate that she had arrived on campus. We'd texted occasionally in prior weeks but had never met. When I left the hall to meet her, she ran down the Hall 14 ramp and threw herself into my arms. Again, I felt like I was home. I'm proud to say that my graduation pictures today will be filled with her smiling face, as we have remained best friends throughout these four years.

Over the next couple of months, I made many great friends and created bonds that have only prospered throughout my time at Bryant. While I was succeeding academically and socially, the fall semester was still a challenging one for me. However, I had a third and final sign that I was right where I was supposed to be. Walking through the second floor of the Bryant Center on an October afternoon that was particularly difficult for me, a familiar face gave me the warmest, most welcoming smile that will be forever engraved in my memory. This simple, yet genuine gesture turned my entire semester around and assured me that Bryant was the place for me. While I didn't personally know him at the time, this staff member became one of my biggest role models and mentors here at Bryant.

Well, now that I knew I was home, where did I go from there? My first and second years were mostly spent creating bonds with some of the most incredible friends possible and were also focused on my choice of major. Coming in as an actuarial major, I knew I was talented in math, but I also knew I had a passion for education and for making an impact on people's lives. During my last Business 101 class my professor spoke of the importance of pursuing your passion in an extremely motivating way. This is what initially sparked my interest in changing my major and pursuing a path that would get me where I truly wanted to be. After much consideration, I officially switched my major to an applied statistics and applied psychology double major during the first semester of my sophomore year. This decision was followed up with a trip to Italy on the Sophomore International Experience, which truly opened my eyes to the world and instilled a passion for travel within me.

My junior year was when I began to flourish as a student leader and grow as a person. It was my second year as a Resident Assistant and a Student Ambassador. I started feeling like I was finding my place on campus. While I admired many of my peer student leaders from afar, I did not see much of the potential that was lying within myself. November of my junior year was a transformational month for me. That month, I was accepted into Omicron

Delta Kappa, Bryant's national leadership honors society and was also encouraged to apply for head Resident Assistant for my senior year. Until this point, I hadn't realized the impact I had on others and how respected I was by both students and staff on campus.

Finally, my senior year was one to remember. In all of my involvements, I began primarily overseeing some of the most respected student leaders on campus. These experiences were truly humbling, and through all of them, my confidence began to grow. I realized I could do absolutely anything I put my mind to, which encouraged me to pursue a master's degree in teaching, eventually aspiring to teach students in the inner city, where kids need education most.

All of these experiences and opportunities would be nothing without the amazing individuals at this school. To the faculty members who have guided me along the way, thank you for always believing in me, pushing me, and encouraging me to pursue my dreams. To the staff members who were only a phone call away 24 hours, 7 days a week, you are all truly incredible, and this school would be a lesser institution without your heart and dedication. Finally, to my friends, it has been a crazy but amazing ride, and it simply would not have been the same without you all.

Home. Bryant has been my home for the past four years, and, frankly, that is the most difficult part about today. How do you leave a place that has such a cherished spot in your heart? Well, you don't. Bryant will always be in my heart and will always be a part of me. I most hope to leave behind the notion of the importance of truly finding your passion, of doing what you love regardless of what others think. I hope that underclassmen have learned this from me and will pass on this lesson. There is nothing more important than pursuing what you're passionate about, and that is what I have learned most from Bryant.



Alexandria Clyburn

Class of 2014

I may be the only Ambassador who likes giving tours in the rain. The thing about our campus is that while it is beautiful, most people see its beauty during one of Bryant's great sunsets, when we walk to class on a crisp fall day and the leaves flutter in the breeze, or when it is warm and the "Bryant Beach" is crowded. For me, though, campus is beautiful at all times, even the cloudy and rainy moments, because being able to see the beauty during the rain is what being at Bryant for four years has taught me.

My time at Bryant has had its fair share of sunshine and also inclement weather. The first few rain showers came with the demands of being part of the volleyball team. I was being challenged and pushed to my limit, physically and emotionally. Away from my very warm comfort zone of Georgia and my family, I felt like I was drowning. I don't even remember most of my first semester freshmen year here because I was blinded by the rain surrounding me.

Spring came around, and I became involved in the Linked through Leadership program, and I started to see some sunlight. This weekly meeting of first and second year students began to be what I looked forward to the most. I started to have many more sunny days, as did campus. The flowers bloomed, and so did my identity. These new friends helped me to become the person I truly wanted to be.

Sophomore year I floated through volleyball season on a raft fashioned from the support of my friends from Linked through Leadership. I began to realize I could play volleyball and still get involved with other opportunities on campus. On SIE Spain and Germany, I was lucky enough to meet Professor Samter, the most important mentor in my Bryant career. Second semester, I was part of the LEAD institute and the LEARN weekend. Cue the sunniest days all year. This weekend was the single most impactful event in my time at Bryant. I was set on a path of involvement, of broadening my scope beyond my role as a student athlete, a path that helped me to grow, to find myself. I haven't deviated from that path since.

With those sunny spring semester memories and experiences to fall back on, I kept moving forward, even when the rainstorms still occasionally raged on. Winter break happened, and I returned to the warmth of Georgia, and I was able to be mentally reset by going to my happy place, Disney World.

Spring semester junior year I was still trying to find where I belonged. I was a junior in college and at times felt like I could not find a friend. Then Linked through Leadership again stepped in. I was selected to lead the LEARN weekend. The sunshine finally broke through the clouds. I went on CHANGE, the final step in the LTL process. This intense experience over spring break brought me closer to some of the people I had been friends with since freshmen year and opened my eyes to new people in my life. These amazing individuals reminded me why I pushed myself every day to continue to swim through the rain.

Eventually, it all paid off. My senior year has been phenomenal. I have really come into my own. I have a job on campus that I love, a solid group of friends who really encourage me to be myself, and mentors who push me still to be the best me that I can be. I performed in the play for the first time, something I'd always wanted to do. I found a place as a mentor in the Leadership Empowerment Experience, the newest branch of LTL. Now, as my senior year comes to a close, I want to thank each special person who has been there for me through everything. All the positive, all the negative, each of you has helped in some way to guide me to where I am today: a fulfilled senior, newbie RA, and graduate student.

The tan I have proudly earned this year from all the sun will last well into my adult life. Even though the rainy days still happen, I learned to appreciate the lessons from the dark times and the people who stayed with me in that darkness. I wouldn't have been able to get by at Bryant if I didn't see the beauty despite the rain. In the end, I learned that "life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass. It's about learning to dance in the rain."-Vivian Greene I wasn't really sure where to begin my piece about being a Bryant senior, probably mostly because I do not feel like a senior. I feel not quite a member of the class of 2014. Rather, I feel so much more a part of this university than just one class. As I walk through the Archway, I feel that what I leave behind is the Bryant University Community. I am proudly, gratefully a member of the Class of Bryant, a class that has been fostered and cared for by all of Bryant.





Kyle Ebersold



When I have been asked the question “Why Bryant?” for college, I usually give the following answer. I wanted to live and work academically in a place which was highly aesthetically pleasing and fostered a great sense of community. I also wanted to continue to build upon my passions and past leadership experiences, especially in music. And then finally the reason we all should really want to go to college: to obtain a highly respected, world-class education in a field I considered myself very passionate in. I’m sure now that my Bryant experience, while not everything I first expected, has been a life-changing choice that I’ll positively carry forward with me for a lifetime.

I auditioned for The Bottom Line a cappella group and joined Bryant Singers my freshman year with the goal of actively continuing my love for and personal passion in singing. At a largely business-focused university with no established performing arts program, Bryant Singers and TBL have effectively been my musical outlets for the past four years. I’ve enjoyed all of the special moments from meeting fellow musicians to bonding over the intricate differences of a major and minor chord to performing both on and off campus for an audience of just a handful to over a thousand people.

I’ve always been different with respect to music; if you ask me about myself, I will self-identify as an experienced singer with a passion for technology and business. As Business Manager for The Bottom Line (TBL) for the latter three years of my time at Bryant, I had the opportunity to hit a sweet spot among all of these interests. Subsequently, I have helped make countless major and incremental improvements in the operational effectiveness of TBL for a group that was only established in 2006. I actively applied

concepts from my management and CIS courses to my intensive leadership position in TBL where I proactively and passionately performed the duties of a vice president, secretary, public relations person, webmaster, and communications analyst.

TBL will forever hold a special place in my heart. I had no idea about the broader movement of college-level a cappella groups before becoming directly exposed to it, but I have since fully embraced the movement professionally and personally at every turn. I strongly believe music people are some of the most special people on the planet, whether you’re a musician or just an avid music listener. Every member of TBL whom I’ve had the great pleasure of getting to know the past four years has made my Bryant experience even more worthwhile. From TBL, I have made several lifetime friends whom I greatly cherish and who have influenced who I am today in the best of ways.

In the fall of my junior year, I quickly found myself in a before unseen realm at Bryant. My leadership as TBL’s Business Manager morphed into a dual role as a student representative for all of Bryant’s music groups as I worked to establish a planning committee for the first-ever Bryant Spring Music Showcase. The Showcase—a joint concert idea incorporating The Bottom Line, Bryant Singers, Jazz Ensemble, and Chamber Ensemble—required an intricate effort of considerably large proportions to drive it forward to success.

As the event’s inaugural Chairperson, my personal goals and passions adapted to a new and greater outlet to reflect a passionate performing arts presence at an institution with no established fine arts program. These past two years I have had the enormous pleasure of seeing through to success not one but two Bryant Spring Music Showcase concerts. At planning committee meetings I felt a sense of unity develop around our common ground of music and performing, and I felt a great sense of honor and pride in working with the committee toward such an important and noble goal at an institution like Bryant.

Furthermore, in my roles with TBL and the Bryant Spring Music Showcase, I have directly and indirectly enhanced the value of student life and the arts at our university in multiple facets. In doing so, I hope future generations of Bryant students will partake of my same musical passions.

Some may argue I made music too much of a priority for myself at a business school. I would submit my other dedicated involvements and academic achievements as evidence to the contrary, including my leadership of Beta Gamma Sigma International Honor Society and The Archway student newspaper, my membership in Omicron Delta Kappa and Omicron Delta Epsilon, the success of numerous class teams and groups I have been a part of, and my consistently high-level quality of coursework.

I very strongly believe that each individual should follow their own unique path and passion in life. Bryant’s Honors Program, of which I have been a member, maintains a mantra encouraging members to “take the road less traveled.” I disagree with this statement; I think it is of greater importance to forge your own road where no one has gone before. Is this more difficult? Most likely, but your professional and personal experiences will be even more meaningful as a result.

What’s next? I have no clue. But I do know that learning and music will forever be two of my greatest passions in life, and the friends I have met will forever be very special to me. Bryant has been one significant and treasured part of a lifetime journey—the journey of each individual’s own character of success.

Sara Elder *Class of* 2014

Degrees can be earned anywhere, but the person you become, what you discover about yourself, the memories you make, and the friends you meet are all a result of what college you choose to attend.

People always wonder how a literary & cultural studies and communication major ended up at a school known for its business majors. In hindsight, I realize I chose Bryant because I was afraid. I was afraid of pursuing my dreams and being a typical English major, so I used Bryant as a safety net. It didn't take me long to realize I still wasn't safe, because I'd never be happy if I wasn't doing what I loved. I fell in love with editing and publishing my freshman year and have been pursuing it ever since. Surprisingly, Bryant still ended up being the perfect place for me.

I had no idea Bryant would play such an integral part in shaping me into the person I am today. It took me until my junior year to realize everything I did at Bryant could not and would not have happened at a different school. I couldn't be more grateful to Bryant for giving me the opportunity to become a better person.

I held many roles on campus during my time at Bryant. One of the greatest things I did at Bryant was join Bryant Pride. I remember sitting in the first meeting and thinking "yeah, I think I'm going to like this." I made friends there I'm close with to this day, and Bryant Pride led me to do several things I consider among my greatest accomplishments in life so far.

I didn't expect to change anything at Bryant. Not many people expect to take part in changing an entire institution. I certainly didn't. What started out as a simple request to Residence Life to allow my best friend, a male, and I to live together became a campaign to enact gender neutral housing at Bryant. To me, gender neutral housing was a right and a freedom that students of all sexual orientations and gender identities deserved. That semester, I spent much of my free time in meetings to gather support and urge administration

for a gender neutral housing directive. A pilot program was then started my sophomore year, and the program expanded campus-wide my junior year. I could not be prouder knowing I was a part of such an important event in Bryant's progressive journey.

This unexpected plunge into activism was the start of something I continued doing until the day I left Bryant. After gender neutral housing, I helped lead a movement to create a much-needed lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) resource center on campus. I ran the resulting Pride Center as Student Coordinator for two years.

I was even lucky enough to combine my passions for LGBT activism, writing, and performing by creating and directing the first of a new annual event, The Coming Out Monologues. I was also able to work on a project I've always admired when we decided to create Bryant University's "It Gets Better" video. Over a year later, I had a freshman I had never met come up to me and tell me he recognized me from the video. He hugged me, told me what a great job I was doing, and said I inspired him. That was one of the moments when I just knew Bryant had been the right choice.

Some of my best memories took place in the Fisher Center, tucked away on the third floor in The Archway office. Even though I spent almost every Wednesday of every week of every semester there, my Wednesday nights were still never dull. I'm not sure how my fellow editors continuously listened to my rants about the lack of commas in articles or learning the proper place of an apostrophe, but they did. And I thank The Archway for making me a better writer, editor, and team member.

I was shy when I came to Bryant. This all changed when I discovered the Bryant Players. I was hooked after watching a few rehearsals and meeting the nicest, most welcoming, hilarious people. After that, I joined the executive board of the Bryant Players as historian; directed two improv shows, a musical, and a collection of short shows; and acted in five shows. I wish I could thank everyone I've known in the Players, past and present, for giving me endless nights of fun and some amazing friends. I wouldn't trade a single all-night rehearsal for the world. The confidence I learned from directing and acting in dozens of performances is something that will always be with me.

I want to thank everyone who's supported me through my time at Bryant. I had mentors in both the LCS and communication department who shaped me into a better student, writer, and creative thinker. Their wisdom and support will always be with me. My friends, both old and new, made my years at Bryant more dramatic, hilarious, and fun than I could have ever imagined. And my family supported me both in and outside of school. Whether it was my sister carrying my fridge to my dorm every year or my mom letting me come home for a weekend and make a mess of our house, my family made my time at school that much better. I have no regrets (okay, maybe a few!), and I couldn't be happier to be celebrating this day with the rest of the Class of 2014.





Sandra Enos



Each of the 64 million college graduates who has come before you has sat through a commencement speech and has heard (1) that they face a complex world, (2) that the future is uncertain, and (3) that there are lessons from the past that they would do well to heed. This occasion has played out for hundreds of years for millions of individuals just like you. Of course, two hundred years ago, you would all been white men, on your way to the ministry, a tiny elite slice of America. And, even centuries later, leading thinkers suggested that going to college shrunk a woman's uterus and would harm the fertility of our most promising mothers. And as recently as the twentieth century, prominent thinkers questioned whether certain minority groups were really "college material." But as we can see in the diversity of this year's graduating class, a university is a crossroads where students, faculty and staff from many places and cultures bring together their talents and treasures to a community where learning and thinking are embraced.

Our university should be a place where we are both embraced and challenged. It is hard for us to get our brains around the complexity and size of the world. Even those of us who are college professors are dizzied and dazzled by what the world presents us. Increasingly, a college degree is just the beginning of what you will need to succeed in the world. I don't mean here just financial success; I mean finding a life of meaning and purpose when there are so many factors in our culture that argue for the opposite. I am going to suggest that your real education starts right at this moment, the moment when you graduate and being to carve your own path in life. It sounds more romantic than it really is; it is hard work and the most important work that you ever will do.

Your college education should have provided you with much more than lists of skills and the mastery of information that matches with multiple-choice questions. We should have empowered you with a love of big ideas and

big questions. As Rilke wrote, "I beg you to have patience with everything unresolved in your heart and try to love the questions." We should have planted in your hearts and minds unending curiosity not just about your majors and minors or your chosen professions but about the larger world and your inner world. And these big questions should not just be analytical ones (how do things work?) but moral and ethical ones (how can we be satisfied with so much injustice in the world?)

If your education has served its purpose, you should feel yourself to be a very different individual from that eighteen year old who began her education just four short years ago. You are a digitally occupied generation. There are some technology prophets who believe that everything you need to know can be found on the internet; they argue that an online education is every bit as good as the time- and relationship-intensive education that we provide here. I am going to take issue with that point of view. You cannot Google your soul. You cannot rely on Facebook to map your life. A life lived on the distractions of email and text message is a surface cartoon-like life. And worst of all, this attractive and seductive form is where the newest developments seem like the best and truest. When in fact, as you build your life, you will understand deeply that it is people you may encounter as a surprise, and ideas that have lasted for decades and centuries that in the long run mean the most.

There is a tendency to believe that big data will tell us everything important, everything that can be known. Again, there are things that cannot be known by carving them into little bits, any more than one cannot understand the beauty of summer's day by measuring barometric pressure and ultraviolet rays.

We used to divide the world into corporations, non-profit agencies, and the government, and we suggested that each had a distinct role to play in our society—the corporations to make profits, nonprofits to do good and dole out alms, and the state to provide a basis for self-government. In the past few years, we have seen great change in change-making; everyone can be on board. Corporations can have social missions; nonprofits can be entrepreneurial; governments can be innovative.

No matter where you work or live, we are all called to make the world a better place, but we have a mixed record here. Lots of projects have failed, not because we lack generosity but because we have assumed that because we are at the top of the pyramid with resources that we have the best answers, that we have the right and privilege to improve others. Good intentions never make up for a lack of humility and neighborliness. These are great lessons that should guide your generation of philanthropists and change agents.

And as you reach full adulthood, it is your turn to guide and support, to encourage, to kindly teach those who know less and to accept lessons that others provide. Graduation is an exciting, terrifying, and celebratory time. I hope that you find work that is challenging and meaningful and that you return to campus and help us to teach, inspire, and educate students who come after you. We all need to be on board for that challenge, as well.

Rebecca Eriksen *Class of* 2014

Smile! All your hard work has paid off and today is surely full of lots of smiles. There are smiles all around you. Not only are you, your family and friends smiling, but we, the Bryant community, are smiling too. For this day is what makes our jobs rewarding. Many of us met you when you were still in high school, unsure of where you wanted to spend your next four years. We watched you move onto campus as a timid first year student and now today, you are walking under the Archway as a confident graduate ready to take on the world. There have been a lot of moments in between, but your time at Bryant started and ended with a smile.

For many of you, your first visit to Bryant started with a smile from a Student Ambassador greeting you as you drove onto campus for one of our open houses or other events for prospective students. Countless times, I hear the reason students chose Bryant is because of the smiles they received when they came onto campus. Think back to your first visit to campus and remember how important it was that you were greeted with a smile when you arrived.

A smile goes a long way, and it is too often forgotten. Many times, I overlook the importance of a smile. A family friend once told me to smile, even when the world seems to be crashing down around me, and it will make me feel better. She was right. Simply smiling changes everything. Don't abandon your smile when things are not going as you had planned. Just as there were bad days when you were at Bryant, there will be bad days as you continue through your life. My wish for you is that the not-so-good days are few and far between. Remember, how you handle those days shows your true character.

One of my favorite songs is "My Wish" written by Jeffrey Steele and Steve Robson and recorded by Rascal Flatts. The line that always stands out to me in the song is, "If it's cold outside, show the world the warmth of your smile." When you walk into work on that first day, bring your biggest smile and flash it to all you meet. You will be surprised how smiling will ease your nerves and the first day of work jitters. Be sure you acknowledge and give a smile to the person who is cleaning the windows or the security guard who checks your ID as you walk into the building. They will remember you and there is a possibility that your smile made a difference in their day.

Never forget to smile at yourself. We all do dumb things from time to time, and you are not immune to this. How you handle the foolish things you do is what makes you different. I am sure the senior Ambassadors will remember our Teambuilding trip to the rock climbing wall in 2011, where I fell about three feet from the free climbing wall, onto a huge, thick mat and managed to tear the ACL in my knee. There were days after the reconstructive surgery where I was pretty frustrated with my physical limitations, but today I smile at my clumsiness and am thankful for the good health I do have which allows me to do so many things.

Of course there will be those days when smiling just doesn't help. No matter how hard you try, you end up crying instead of smiling. Those are the days you need to recognize the best part of your day. It might seem impossible, but I guarantee that if you think hard enough, you will find at least one good thing that happened that day. It might be as simple as a beautiful night sky, filled with stars and a big ol' moony, as my dad always calls a full moon. Just take a moment to breathe and be thankful for just one thing. It will put things into perspective, I promise.

So take your smile out into the world. Show others the warmth of the Bryant community wherever you go. And don't forget to come back to campus from time-to-time and show future Bryant graduates the importance of a smile.





Remember when....

Orientation:

- All the Orientation leaders thought our favorite song was "Life is a Highway"
- Experienced the beginning of an obsession with Freshmen lobby ping pong
- Pots and pans were used as alarms to wake you up at 7 am
- Salmo was considered gourmet food

Freshman Year:

- You couldn't walk outside in the fall without hearing "Fly Like a G6"
- You posted pics on Facebook of your newly decorated cribs
- You won a fish at the Block Party and it died 4 days later when you ran out of fish food
- You spent all of your printing money on the Business 101 Plan
- You awkwardly left your door open with the hopes of making new friends
- Marge swiped your id for Salmo for the first time
- Why does no one remember going Around the World? Hmmmmm
- You went to TNR for the first time
- You were jealous of the 20 kids who got to take a picture with Common
- We partied with LMFAO before they were famous and you enjoyed the first outdoor concert in years
- All of your friends called you when Bryant made the list of "Druggiest Colleges in America"
- The rivalry between Bryant and Boston Barstool began
- The entire campus chanted U.S.A when Osama Bin Laden was taken down

Sophomore Year:

- No more "Undecided" status, time to declare your major
- Some of us got our feet wet in worldly travels by participating in the Sophomore International Experience
- You remember learning that the course evaluations you filled out every semester were essentially useless
- You thought it ended with BUS101, but soon learned that your Bryant career would be filled with group projects and surveys for days
- All of your friends spent the Super Bowl writing an assignment for Professor Murray on commercials.
- Greek Life got a little bigger when AOII came onto campus
- Big Sean came and did it, boiiiiiiiiiiiiiii
- Cheeks, the bunny, was kidnapped and found at Salve Regina, alive and well



Aubrey Mable and Neal Chuenprateep *Class of* 2014

Junior Year:



- Half of your friends disappeared because they actually went around the world... to study abroad
- Bryant Men's Basketball completed the largest team turnaround in NCAA Men's Basketball history and made it to the playoffs
- Men's Lacrosse won the NEC tournament and many of you traveled to Syracuse to support them against the eventual National Champions
- Baseball made it to the NCAA tournament after defending their NEC title
- After 16 years of service at Bryant, Dr. Thomas Eakin retired. We miss you!
- President Machtley started signing his campus-wide emails "Prez"
- The New Boyz got escorted off campus by DPS for partying too hard
- Bagpipe Dan premiered on the townhouse scene
- We found Nemo #snowday
- Our beloved Thursday night destination went bankrupt... RIP Effins
- A fancy new restaurant opened... inside of Salmo
- You couldn't go out without hearing Macklemore talk about poppin' tags
- The campus came together to honor the victims of the Boston Marathon bombings

Senior Year, but first, let me take a selfie....



- You were excited to cook in your townhouse for the first week until you secretly started craving salmo
- The Bryant Center became the Fisher Student Center and you eventually got used to the fact that it looks like an airport
- You were looking forward to winter ... until it was still snowing in April.
- You remember watching everyone jump in the pond after the Red Sox won the World Series
- Checking your Timehop everyday only reminded you how big of a loser you used to be
- Just when you thought President Machtley couldn't get any cooler, he gave us a snow day via Twitter (@BryantUPrez)
- #6thfan #Bryant
- What is WiFi.....?
- You were annoyed with the freshmen trolling around Rentes, even though that used to be you
- Effins came back to life and now they have pizza!
- With every email from Eileen, you were reminded that you only have a couple weeks left at Bryant and you would soon be an alumni
- The skunks came back... with a vengeance
- DPS shut down Ronzios due to "high activity on campus". Ummm what?
- The first entrance to the townhouses was under construction for what seemed like all year
- We realized that what matters most is not the grades or group projects, but sitting around late with your best friends reminiscing about the past 4 years and reliving the best memories
 - We walked underneath the Archway for the first time (hopefully) as the 151st Class of Bryant University... the historic CLASS OF 2014!

But first, let me
take a selfie



Victoria Frazier



I knew Bryant was the university for me the second I stepped foot onto campus that late May of 2009. A light mist was falling, yet the campus still beamed a radiant beauty that is hard to replicate. I quickly learned upon being accepted, however, that Bryant's beauty, does not stop at the mere aesthetically pleasing grounds on which its buildings stand. For it also lies within the community of Bryant that I no longer consider to be comprised of my peers, but instead encompasses students, faculty, and staff I can easily say have become a part of my family, and a part of me, forever.

My experience at Bryant has taught me that going to college is about so much more than the classes you attend, achieving your professional aspirations, and growing as an individual. While those three things are very important, Bryant exceeded all of my expectations of what a college could be. In Bryant I found a support system that rallied behind me at my most trying times. In Bryant, I found an army of individuals who convinced me otherwise at those times when I didn't think I could take one more step. In Bryant, I found a crying shoulder, a motivator, and the inspiration to give faith a fighting chance.

Nearly a year ago today, the day I am to walk across that stage, I lost my best friend, my biggest cheerleader, and my hero. I lost my Mom, at only 51 years old, of a rare disease called Scleroderma, an illness that for no rhyme or reason causes the internal and external organs to harden. The disease took away her lung capacity, her mobility, and her quality of life. I lost my Mom at a point one year from graduation, when I had just received my full-time job offer, and after she fought so hard to live long enough to watch me collect my diploma. After losing my Mom, I wasn't sure if I could finish what I had started.

But believe me when I say that my Bryant family wouldn't let me give up on my dream, or hers. In the Bryant community I found the fight to battle on, but I

found so much more that.

I found my AOII family, a collection of driven, passionate sisters that in a world of trying to be perfect taught me that nobody is. They showed me that laughter can cure almost anything. And at a time when I thought I would face my strife alone, they showed me the power of sisterhood in 62 women standing not behind me, but to the left and right, finishing the fight with me.

I found my ODK family, a group of incredibly intelligent, infectious giving, and talented individuals that showed me the value of giving even more back to the Bryant community in ways I didn't know I could.

At Bryant, I found faculty members, donating generous amounts to the Scleroderma Foundation, though it went above and beyond the typical job description. I found staff members who took hours out of their evenings to treat me to dinner, to celebrate my accomplishments, in order to remind me just how far I have really come. I found a University President and a First Lady who acknowledged my hard work and dedication by attending an event that I had put countless hours into planning, and sharing a meal with my friends, family, and the greater Bryant community. And in Bryant, I found countless life coaches, advisors whose positivity and good graces lit the way of the path I took to get to where I am today.

I will forever cherish the moments of uncontrollable laughter I experienced with my various roommates, floor mates, and best friends. I will forever remember the various victories I celebrated alongside team members cheering each other on in the spirit of good comradeship. And I will never forget what it feels like today to walk across the stage, graduating as a member of Bryant's Class of 2014 with my fellow classmates.

In embarking on a new chapter of my life today I am making a promise to myself, the university, and those who will pass through the Bryant halls for years to come. I promise to give back to Bryant to continue to strengthen the university the way the university has strengthened me. I cannot thank each and every member of the Bryant community who has touched my life and my heart along the way enough, but hopefully by continually giving back we may eventually break even.

To Dad: you showed me the power of hope, the importance of commitment to family, and the strength to finish the fight, for mom. I love you so much.

To Stephen: Congratulations, and thank you for being my rock, my cheerleader, and my biggest support system through one of the most difficult years I may ever have to face.

To Jackie...we did it! I love you, and I am so proud of you!

Congratulations, my fellow graduates! It is with great pride that I stand here with you all today, in awe of what we have accomplished. I am honored to be a member of the Bryant University Class of 2014.

To Mom, I love you and miss you so much. Thank you for always believing in me.

"When you get the choice, to sit it out or dance, I hope you dance."

Tyler Keating *Class of* 2014

"It is choice, not chance, that determines your destiny" – Jean Nidetch.

These words do not only conclude the Bryant University Scholarship Dinner each year, but have become words that I live my life by. My choice to attend Bryant more than four years ago has been by far the best choice I have made in my life. This institution has taught me countless lessons, both inside and outside of the classroom, which have shaped the individual I am today.

Reminiscing to move-in day of freshman year, the car was full, hearts were heavy, and hopes were high. Giving my grandparents one last hug before their departure was tough, but I was ready to tackle anything and everything that Bryant had to offer. If there was one thing I was sure of, it was that I was going to accomplish everything I possibly could to make my four years here as worthwhile as possible.

I hit the ground running during my freshman year by not only establishing a respectable GPA, but also being accepted into the Student Ambassador program. During my first visit to campus, it was this group of people who provided my family and me with a sense of comfort, while portraying Bryant in a positive light. I knew that being a part of this organization would give me the opportunity to do the same for future prospective students.

The next milestone in my Bryant experience came with my acceptance of the Resident Assistant position. Many people see RA's as the "fun police" on campus and people who sacrifice their social life (which is completely untrue). At face value I saw this position as a way to lessen my financial obligation and not have a roommate... this mindset was soon extinguished. During my first year as an RA, I not only found some of my best friends here at Bryant, but I was able to find out exactly who I am as a person. I have gained confidence through my leadership positions in the Office of Residence Life and an amazing support system that I know I can lean on in a time of need.

To begin my junior year, I made a decision that I regret not making earlier; I decided to pledge Sigma Chi. I say this because I became part of a highly regarded organization on campus, as well as something so much bigger than myself. Joining Sigma Chi has humbled me as a person and helped me to further develop into the man that I strive to be. Being able to share a common background and belief with an elite group of individuals has added a tremendous amount of perspective to my life, which I will carry with me forever.

Being involved in so many different facets of campus life has undoubtedly contributed to my success as a student. My various undertakings kept me focused on the importance of teamwork, communication, and effective leadership. I have also found that time management is crucial if you hope to succeed, no matter what the task may be (...I learned that one the hard way). Nevertheless, I have learned something through all my experiences as a Bryant student.

As I walk across the stage today, and receive the degree that I have been working for tirelessly over the past four years, there are a few groups of people who have contributed to my successes and deserve recognition.



To all of my professors: It has been my absolute pleasure to learn from you, as well as take guidance for the road ahead. I appreciate your knowledge, enthusiasm, and dedication to the students of Bryant, which has all contributed to the world-class education that I have received. Thank you for all that you've done and will continue to do for the Bryant community.

To my friends: It's been one hell of a ride. The memories that we have made over these last four years I will hold onto forever. There have been ups and downs along the way, but no matter the circumstance I wouldn't change it for the world. I have been fortunate enough to share my time here at Bryant with you all, and I thank you for making these the best four years of my life.

To my family: You have been right by my side throughout this entire journey, and I could not have made it to this point without your constant love and support. You serve as my motivation each and every day and never fail on providing encouragement when it's needed most. Mom, Faith, Grandma, and Grandpa today is your day as much as it is mine, and I'm so glad I could share it with you all.

It's hard to believe that Commencement day is finally here. All of the late nights, group meetings, and projects and papers have paid off. Today may mark the end of our journey as undergraduate students, but it also marks the beginning of a promising future that lies ahead. Congratulations Class of 2014! I wish you all the best of luck in everything you do, and I know for a fact that I will always be proud to be a Bryant Bulldog.



Kelly McFarlin



For two years I volunteered to be an usher at Commencement to say farewell to my seniors who had mentored me and been my close friends my first few years of college. My sophomore year my graduation date wasn't even on my radar, and junior year I knew I had one more year to go. I never thought I'd actually have my own Commencement – I felt like I would just keep volunteering and saying goodbye to my older friends one class at a time; never having to say goodbye to everyone at once. My own graduation always seemed so far away, but today it is finally here.

Last year, I had the task of placing the Commencement issue on each seat. I flipped through the issue and saw all the reflections the seniors got to write; it seemed like such a cool opportunity to be able to share your story with classmates, faculty, and families. As I placed each issue on the seats of the graduates I said to myself, "I want to be a senior in here next year." When I received the news that I had been selected to write a reflection I was ecstatic. I had no direct

say in this selection, but it was my involvements and my presence on campus and what other people saw in me that got me here today, and I am truly honored to share my Bryant story.

Before I even committed to Bryant, I knew I wanted to play rugby. I never imagined that one day I would be an all-conference player and the president of the club. I joined rugby because I missed being a part of a team and being active. I had never played rugby a day in my life but that never held me back, college is all about trying new things. Rugby was a stress reliever for me – whenever I started to feel overwhelmed with projects, papers, and classes there was no better remedy than going to practice and hitting a bag. Rugby taught me about teamwork, conflict, communication, leadership, dedication, and passion. From my first week at Bryant to my last it has given me so many amazing memories.

I am a firm believer that if you can think it, you can do it -- but sometimes I surprise myself by my own accomplishments. Entering college if you had told me I was going to join a sorority I would have said you were wrong. If you told me I was going to be a founding sister of a new chapter on Bryant's campus I would have called you crazy. However, being a founding sister of Alpha Omicron Pi has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my Bryant career and my life. Founding a sorority on campus has had positive moments, and some not so positive, but each experience has helped me grow and develop into a better person. Being in AOII has given me friendships, strength, support, and memories that I will be eternally thankful for.

The Linked Through Leadership Program has had such an impact on my time here at Bryant. I participated in the LEARN institute and I knew that one day I wanted to be the student standing in front of the crowd. I became a part of the Leadership Council in 2013 and was finally going to run the program I was so passionate about. At our first meeting of the semester Rich Hurley told us we were no longer doing the institutes. At first I was extremely frustrated, but we immediately began brainstorming for the new program and after a semester of hard work I helped create the new and improved Leadership Empowerment Experience program. Looking back, I could not be happier that they decided to change the program, and I am so honored that I got to be a part of creating this program that will still be here even after I leave.

Being a Bulldog Leader was one of the most gratifying experiences at Bryant. Going into my junior year I was a Bulldog Leader, and I got to welcome the Class of 2016. The next year I was given the opportunity to become Top Dog and to run the Opening Weekend program. In the week of training each year I met some of the most important and influential people in my life that I am lucky enough to call my best friends today, and I made lasting connections with first year students. Some of my happiest memories in my life come from the Bulldog Leader program.

I am very proud of all my accomplishments at Bryant, but none of them would have been possible without the support and guidance of so many people. From the day I arrived at Bryant to the day I have to leave, my family has been nothing but supportive and encouraging every step of the way, and I cannot thank them enough. To my friends – I won't remember all the classes I took, or all the people I got stuck working on group projects with, but I will remember all the relationships I built with you. I will cherish all your friendships forever. To the Bryant faculty and staff – thank you for believing in me, inspiring me, and teaching me each and every day. I have learned so many valuable lessons during my time here at Bryant, both in and outside the classroom. Lastly, to the Class of 2014 – congratulations, we finally made it! We all came here four years ago as individuals, but today we walked through the Archway together as one. It has been a pleasure getting to know so many of you, and I wish you all the best of luck in your future.

I used to tell people that my happiness comes from making other people happy, however recently I stumbled across a quote that completely changed my perspective. "Life is not about making others happy. Life is about sharing your happiness with others." Reading this quote made me realize that is exactly what I like to do. Life is a lot easier if you are happy, and I like to share my happiness with others. There are so many parts of my Bryant career that have made me so happy -- my friends, my team, my sisters, my classes, my involvements, and my community. When we all cross the stage today our minds will be flooded with overwhelming emotions of excitement, sadness, anxiety, and gratification, but don't forget to be happy!

Aaron Santos - Pereira *Class of* 2014

I feel that just yesterday I was getting ready to leave home and begin a new journey in college. As a first generation American and college student, I had no idea what to expect and had a million questions racing through my mind. I had no idea what to expect and had no idea that the next four years would go by in the blink of an eye. My experience began with a program called 4MILE. I remember my mother crying as we unpacked my room and the excitement I felt to begin a new journey in my life. Looking back, it is safe to say that this journey was nothing I ever could have imagined.

Freshman year seems like a blur to me now, but it was the building block for my Bryant path. I met some of my closest friends, got involved in many different aspects of campus, and managed to do well academically. I would like to think that I accomplished all of this on my own, but that would be a lie. I know that for myself, the student leaders, faculty, and staff all pushed for me to make the most of my time at Bryant. These student leaders encouraged me to reach for the stars and make the most of my time at Bryant. I became an Orientation Leader for the class of 2015, a Student Ambassador, and was hired to be an RA in Hall 15 for my sophomore year. Most importantly I became a member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity. Seeing all of the campus leaders in Sigma Chi made me want to do just as amazing things. They inspired me to take chances and make the most out of my college experience. If it weren't for them I would not be the person I am today.

Throughout my sophomore and junior years, I furthered my involvement on campus and became heavily involved in a few organizations. Through my work as the Coordinator of the Student Ambassadors, Interfraternity Council President, Residence Life, and other various involvements, one of the most important things being involved showed me was that I had a desire to help people. I wanted to be the same student leader that I had been exposed to as a first year student. Although I would not realize it for a while, I did have an impact on the students I worked with. As I am sure many of you graduating today have done as well.

More importantly, being involved taught me that if you do not enjoy what you do, then don't do it. This is something I hear all too often, but never actually listened too. It wouldn't be until the summer going into my senior year that I would truly take this advice. After interning within my major, I realized that it was not something I could do for 40 hours a week, let alone my entire life. I decided to go out on a limb and apply for a job that had nothing to do with my major. Looking back, I see this choice as a summation of my Bryant experience. This life choice was an echo of my time at Bryant. I decided to stay involved in what made me happy regardless of what the reward may be. Recognition is rewarding, but having the gratification of knowing you are doing what you love means so much more.

Bryant has given me the opportunity to make a change and try new things. If there is ever a time where you do not think you can accomplish something, think again. There were countless times I was ready to give up, but the Bryant community was there for me. Never give up and more importantly, never let what anybody says affect you. People will want to see you fail, but Bryant has taught me to prove them wrong. Bryant has reinforced how important it is to

remember where you come from and to be proud of everything you do. I would never have learned these lessons without those mentors in my life who have helped me get to where I am now.

To all staff mentors I have worked with in my time at Bryant, especially Becca Eriksen, Rich Hurley, Sue Zarnowski, Anna Takahama, Matt Kremeier, and Daphney Joseph: thank you for pushing me far out of my comfort zone. I will never forget how you truly exemplify doing what makes you happy.

To my fraternity brothers: you will never know how much you have taught me about true brotherhood and friendship. You all hold a very special place in my heart.

To my friends and roommates: Thank you for sharing countless laughs and memories throughout the years here. My Bryant experience would be nothing without all of my friends and brothers.

To my parents and family: thank you for making me the person I am today. Your support and love has been my driving force for my entire life, and I will never be able to truly express how grateful I am for all of your sacrifices. I love you!

900 words are not nearly enough to reflect upon my time at Bryant, but it has made me realize how far I have come in four short years. When we leave here today remember this, just because we may not be on the Bryant campus does not mean that the Bryant community is not with us. We are what make the Bryant community so special. Wherever we end up, take your personality and show the world what Bryant has taught you. You will always be a Bryant Bulldog. Congratulations Class of 2014! The world is at our fingertips!





Matthew Tomlison

The past four years will be impossible to put into a few words, but here goes. I think I have had a different experience than most of the senior class, but still a relatable one. I'm an international student from Kingston, Jamaica which is physically close but culturally far away. This is my best attempt to give an international perspective on the great experience I've had at Bryant. The support of my family, especially my parents, has been immeasurable. I also want to mention my aunts and uncles living in the US who have offered me a place to stay during short holidays and summer internships, a haven when I needed a break, and for their continual support with the start of my career.

My Bryant journey began the summer of 2009, the year before we all embarked on this journey. Pushed out of the nest by my parents, I attended a summer program here. It was my first time visiting Bryant, but I had already started envisioning being part of college life here. It was then that PwC and the ICC (Intercultural Center) started playing an important role in my life and both have been nurturing and ever-present figures throughout my college career. All of the groups I've been involved with on campus have become micro families to me, and I would like to thank my mentors at ACE (Academic Center for Excellence), Faculty Suite G, and in OCE (Office of Campus Engagement) for playing a role in my college career as well.

When I started at Bryant, Fall of 2010, I attended the ICC program 4MILE (an orientation program for international and multicultural students at Bryant). Without this program, I don't know if I would have adapted as well as I have to living and interacting in the U.S. During my freshman year, I was lucky enough to have mentors from both the staff and student peer counselors in this program. This program played such a huge part in my transition to Bryant that I wanted to be involved in the mentoring of new students and helping with their transition. I was also fortunate to meet someone who would also help me transition. He not only taught me aspects of New England's culture but made me feel accepted and defended my differences when he thought it was necessary. For this, I will always be in his debt.

At the end of freshman year, I felt very accomplished. By this time, I had been selected to be an ACE Tutor, a 4MILE counselor, a Faculty Suite assistant, and elected to serve as treasurer for the International Student Organization (ISO). Sophomore year would be my first taste of the real world. I had a very hard time balancing my academic life, my extracurricular activities, and my social life. Of my four years, I think I learned the most during this year. I learned that you can't do it all and most of the time sacrifices must be made. However, I learned that in the worst of situations it is best to make your mistakes into learning opportunities. My sacrifice was sleep (but I don't encourage it). Sophomore year also taught me that it's okay to ask for help and lean on your friends and family, because without them I wouldn't have made it out of that year or to graduation today.

SIE (Sophomore International Experience) was one of the only periods during sophomore year that I didn't feel burdened. I went to China with many of my closest friends; a trip that they had to persuade me to go on. It was then that I started understanding the concept of being a global

citizen, and that being from a different country didn't make you a good global citizen. Learning about different cultures and being welcoming and understanding of differences, that is what makes you a good global citizen. Based on this idea, I studied abroad (again) in Paris, France where I worked on my French as well as travelled to many countries, to absorb parts of different cultures across Europe.

After returning from Europe, I dove back into college life and was elected to serve as president of ISO at Bryant, sacrificing less sleep this time around, having learned some time management skills. In working with the ICC for both 4MILE and ISO, I wanted to help make a difference in student life for both international and local students. To help both sets of students integrate more easily with one another was a goal that I hoped to accomplish, and I hope this will be continued at Bryant.

I wanted to mention PwC's role in my Bryant experience. I had the privilege of attending a program by them or working for them each year I was enrolled at Bryant. This exposure to the business world has been invaluable, and I hope to repay their investment in me when I start full time this coming fall.

As I reflect on the past four years, I want to thank all the faculty and staff for getting us, the graduating Class of 2014, to where we are today. And I want to congratulate everyone here who is graduating today! We made it! (Even those of us who might have walked under the arch accidentally). A message I would like to leave with everyone today is that being comfortable in a different country can be hard, but it will help everyone to be more accepting and understanding. I advise everyone here to step outside their comfort zone and challenge yourselves; you might learn something new.



Another person named Rohan helped me move into Bryant on the first day of freshman year. This was one of the few of Rohan's I had ever met, and it's always shocking for me to meet another Rohan. From growing up being the one with the unique name, I found out suddenly that my name was not as singular as it once was. In fact, several other Rohans existed on Bryant's Campus (and even a Yohann). I would imagine that after hearing "Rohan," people would say "Which Rohan – the freshman or the junior... or did you say Yohann..." In a way, understanding how small I was in such a wide and expansive world was a lesson that started the moment I moved in.

Looking back on my four years, there were two pillars of my Bryant experience. (1) The opportunities with which we are presented that make Bryant such a great institution and (2) the people that Bryant attracts and are sought after. In other words, it's the people, and the things we did. But I'll start with what we did.

Being at Bryant has provided me with opportunities such as SIE China and working abroad for a summer in India. It has allowed me to take courses with faculty members that make sense of things, and push the learning outwards. My love/hate relationship with the Honors Program has allowed me to explore my passion, and study it with a microscope.

Beyond academics, in the past four years I have grown and developed as a person: I found a love for photography, creating portraits of people, for building things, for service to the community, and, of course, for coffee. I learned to be a productive human being. Do things, make connections.

The other important aspect of my time at Bryant has been the people. My friends, our clan, have been so critical to my growth as a person. There are three in particular. I remember meeting each one of my best friends, the three other members of our squad, and how we formed. I met Ishan first; our parents introduced themselves to each other the first day of 4MILE in the Bello Center. He is a character that the human race won't find the likes of in a million years; part grizzly bear, and the primary reason why I could never get any work done in my room. Ishan has taught me to accept people, all of them for who they are, and love them for it.

Ryan, the tall, wiry one from a little Massachusetts town: goofy, fun loving wanderer. Ryan sort of stumbled—or rather was dragged by Jon Lei—into the common room as we were playing mafia at the end of 4MILE. We still owe it to Jon for doing that. What other time would I have really met Ryan? I went on a run with him a few days later, and going down the hill, past the graveyard, I knew that I would be running a lot more over the next four years with Ryan. We never did run our marathon together, but he gave me water at the Mumbai marathon, high-fived at the Great Wall, hiked to the top of Monadnock, and built a coffee machine and a business plan together. On second thought, maybe a marathon would be too much. He taught me to rearrange priorities around people and new experiences, and take life as it is sometimes.

Sagar was my neighbor in the basement of Hall 14. With a slight accent, he is the most modest, clear-headed, and quietly confident individual that I know. And after four years, I still don't know when he is completely messing with me. Sagar has taught me what it means to be a good son and a good friend, and to believe in something great.

It was a perfect balance of membership in our squad. Our housing never changed over the years, and I take for granted how rare that bond is.

So freshman year happened. And the rest did, too. Between the weekend anthem, Wiz Khalifa's Black and Yellow, making new friends really fast and having some fade away just as quickly, sticking with the clubs I was passionate about and becoming a leader in some of them, I was discovering myself, my passions and forming opinions. I was learning how to do research and make decisions, and to be an informed citizen. It was all safe because I always knew I had a home to go to, either actual home, or back to our room with the squad.

And now my feelings about leaving Bryant are a cross between Donald Duck's excitement in "Oh boy, Oh boy, Oh boy" and Eeyore's melancholy, drawn out sigh, "oooh-kaaayy." It's the feeling of seeing the younger classes getting amazing new laptops and how we'll feel when we come back and there are new buildings and academic programs and opportunities. Bryant will continue to be great after we leave its campus, partly because of the work our class has done here. Members of our class have helped transform the Bryant Center, changed Festival of Lights, started the Cricket Club and others, revitalized Linked Through Leadership, set new records for fundraising for community organizations, and so, so much more.

I am excited for what's next in my life, but also recognize that I am leaving behind a certain way of life, one that I love. I will still remain close to my Alma Mater, giving where I can, and to my friends and faculty mentors. But all of the strengthening, stretching, and training we have done have led to this moment. We're all lined up on the starting line of a marathon, and the starting gun is about to fire.





Seniors Speak Out

"It is when you truly pour your heart into what you believe in, even if it makes you vulnerable that amazing things can and will happen. That very idea best describes my time as a Bryant student over the past eight semesters. It has been a journey of hard work, tears of joy as well as sadness, late nights, and many memories. Thank you to the friends who have stood by me, faculty and staff who have challenged me, and above all - my parents who have supported me. I am so proud of what we have done, continue to do, and will do. Class of 2014 - this is our day, let's celebrate!"

- Katie Phung

"Bryant University has made me appreciate education as an opportunity to uncover my passion. I firmly believe that passion is what every individual strives to identify in their life, and education provides a platform to do so. My Bryant experience has taught me to always give more and receive less. Set aside the recognition."

- Tyler Holden

"Bryant University, and Bryant Basketball, helped raise me from a skinny 18 year old kid from Australia to a 22 year old man and for that, will always have a place in my heart."

- Corey Maynard

"Coming into Bryant as a freshman, I assumed I would be a little fish in a big pond, but after the four years of nurturing this campus has provided me, the term 'little fish' has been removed from my vocabulary. Given the support of both friends and professors, I was able to take advantage of opportunities to succeed in and out of the classroom. I have no doubt that every Bryant experience shaped me to become a strong and successful individual."

- Sailaja Shri

"In my time at Bryant I have seen a great deal of growth at our university, and that growth has been fueled by us. This growth has built our community and our student body into a force that can contend with any school, on any level, in any manner, and that is something we can always be proud of."

- Paden Sadler

"Bryant has completely changed my life. In four years I have grown more than I could have ever imagined. I learned how to overcome adversity, how to delegate, how to appreciate, how to explore, how to challenge, and most of all how to love. The love I have for this University, and every person who has been a part of my journey, is something that can never be matched."

- Hillary Coombs

"It is difficult to write, in just a few short sentences, how incredibly thankful I am for my experience at Bryant over the past four years...and how excited I am to make new experiences as an alumna! Thank you to the professors who impacted me in ways which I could never show enough gratitude for, for the friendships I have made and will forever carry in my heart, and the incredible professional opportunities I have received. From my first move-in day, to getting involved with amazing organizations, to landing a fantastic job at EMC, all the way to a few too many fun nights at Rentes, I could never thank Bryant enough. Congratulations to my class - the future holds so much, but don't ever forget about your Bryant stomping grounds!"

- Jessica Kline

Senior Service Award

The Senior Service Award is a prestigious award presented to six deserving students from the graduating class. This award is designed to recognize those who have made a positive, lasting impact on the Bryant community through their outstanding service. A committee of peers, faculty, and staff, chaired by Student Senate representative Paden Sadler, selected this year's recipients.

Nominees were evaluated on numerous criteria, including their contributions to the overall Bryant community, their participation in student organizations, athletics, community service, campus employment, and/or academic/professional achievement, as well as any additional personal accomplishments 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. Each individual selected has helped to create a legacy of excellence 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 2013 Senior Service Awards recipients:

Sara Elder
Kelsey Nowak
Aaron Santos-Pereira
Paden Sadler
Jessica May Vickers
Margaret Wong

Senior Class Flag

Bryant University extends its gratitude to the late George J. Kelley '39, '69H, Honorary Trustee Emeritus, for his generosity in providing ongoing financial support for the purchase and display of a graduating class flag. The 2014 Senior Class Flag was designed by Student Alumni Association members Michael Shypski, Kristen Carter, Courtney Coelho, and Rohan Vakil.

This year's flag is a departure from the more traditional class flags of the past, incorporating different aspects of social media into the design. Inspired by the Oscar selfie which broke Twitter, the representation of the graduating class through an Instagram post with different hashtags seemed a natural fit for the class which maintains such an active presence, both online and on campus. The #ClassOf2014 is prepared to embrace new ideas and concepts and to leave our mark in the world as Bryant Bulldogs.

The senior class flag is a yearly tradition which leaves a lasting legacy for the Class for years to come. After Commencement, the 2014 class flag will join the other unique class flags designed over the years to be displayed in the Alumni Village at the Reunion @ Homecoming celebration each fall.

#Bulldogs4Ever #WeDidIt

Senior Class Flag Committee
Student Alumni Association

Senior Class Gift

As May has arrived quicker than most anticipated, it is hard to not look back on the memories made but anxiously look forward to what is to come in the future. Every year as the senior class gets ready to walk under the Archway, to truly mark the end of their undergraduate career, they also begin to think about the legacy they want to leave behind -- what is left after the footsteps fade.

The Senior Class Gift encourages students to leave behind a legacy through raising funds for a gift selected in the name of the senior class. This year, the Class of 2014 is happy to be raising money for a Class of 2014 Character of Success Scholarship. This gift is unique in the tradition of class gifts. This scholarship will be awarded annually to a rising senior who has exhibited a commitment to making Bryant University a better place and who has a demonstrated financial need. To date, the Senior Class Gift Committee has worked meticulously day-in and day-out to achieve the goals of raising \$40,000 with 50 percent of our class joining in and making their contributions

On behalf of the Senior Class Gift Committee and with the support of Stephen Luttge, Richard Hurley, and Sue Zarnowski, we want to thank everyone who has donated to the Senior Class Gift to help reach our goals and create such a meaningful and rewarding scholarship. This University has done so much for the individuals of the Class of 2014 that leaving behind a scholarship in our name is just a small token of the gratitude felt. As you can see, this gift encapsulates the philanthropic spirit of Bryant and this class.

So, congratulations to the Class of 2014. We did it! As you walk under the archway today, do not forget the legacy you have already begun to leave behind and the one you will continue to leave as alumni. As a class, we look forward to giving rising seniors, for years to come, the opportunities we were given, experienced, and reached for. Thank you and congratulations to the Class of 2014; you have done something truly amazing.

Mariah Burgess, Jessica Kline, and Michael Malenfant
James Rubino
Class of 2014 Senior Class Gift Committee Co-Chairs



From the Editor's Desk: Kelsey Nowak



As everyone I walk by and talk to tells me to enjoy my last few weeks at Bryant, all I feel is a bittersweet wave wash over me. But it isn't just bittersweet it's horribly-awesome, atrociously-wonderful, and horrifically-splendid. Bittersweet isn't strong enough to describe the weird feeling I have each time another day comes to an end. As much as I have been working feverishly for four years to get my degree and cross the stage – I'm not ready to go, and I don't want to graduate. Someone may have to pull me, carry me, and/or throw me across the stage. People think I'm crazy when I say this, but Bryant has become part of who I am.

From the first day I stepped foot on campus I had an "at home" feeling. It was a Bryant 360 event that hooked me and by the time I left campus that day I was sold. Bryant was perfect for me, and after seeing just two other mediocre schools before visiting Bryant that day, I told my parents I wanted to put my deposit in before leaving campus. I have had the best four years of my life (so far) at Bryant. The people I have met, the friends I have made, and the memories I will have forever are priceless.

It has been a crazy whirlwind that began with packing the car up in New Hampshire and unpacking a ton of crap I never even needed in Rhode Island. My parents and brother helped me decorate my room, put things together, and struggle to make an incredibly high lofted, twin extra-long bed for the first time (I still struggle with making my bed... I admit it). We went to the football game, got semi-sunburned and as my family walked me back to Hall 15 – my new home – I felt surrounded by the infinite opportunities that lay in front of me at Bryant. Then abruptly, my parents stopped short on the sidewalk and said goodbye. After all of the tears and hugs, I walked upstairs to my room hoping for a few minutes of crying by myself without my roommate or any then-strangers lingering around. But when I opened my door there were at least twenty people in my room (sorry Res Life – that was probably a fire hazard). I quickly wiped my tears away, put on my big girl pants, and met the people that became some of my good friends throughout college.

College has been four years of putting on big girl pants and doing things I didn't think I wanted to do – for example, my first Archway meeting. Going to the campus newspaper's meeting was the first place I had gone by myself since arriving at Bryant three weeks prior. In those first three weeks I didn't even go to the bathroom alone, but if I hadn't gone to that meeting, I wouldn't be who or where I am today.

I became the photo editor of The Archway after only my second meeting. I didn't realize where this craziness would lead to at first. In fact, at first I thought – this is great – I'm doing things that matter in addition to my school work; this is what success is! The next thing I knew I was in the Fisher Student Center (Bryant Center at the time) at 2 a.m. doing newspaper production as a freshman. I had never seen 2 a.m. except on New Year's Eve! Ask my parents – I need twelve hours of sleep... always. I learned really quickly how to function with only four hours of sleep... or less.

So here I am – sleep deprived, well-educated, and wishing I could stay at Bryant for just a little while longer. I have become a student leader, a better person, and especially during senior year – I have learned how to have fun and let go. I've learned how to balance more tasks, meetings, projects, jobs, and organizations than I know what to do with, but it has been these experiences that I look back at and say wow, I did that. What else can I accomplish?

To my parents – mom and dad – thank you so much for all of the encouragement, discipline, support, and love you have given me throughout high school that got me to Bryant and then through the challenging times at Bryant. I hope you have been practicing the "coupin" jokes, the kitchen island jokes, and of course I do expect some new material for the days that I call you guys saying that work is horrible and I wish I was pulling all-nighters cramming for finals back at Bryant. It will happen. Get ready.

To my brother Shane – you're starting college in about three months. Don't blink. It flies by so quickly – enjoy every last second of it. Enjoy the times that you're struggling with something because you're actually learning a lot from it. Relish the times you don't have to do anything except binge watch YouTube – these moments won't exist after freshman year. You should even enjoy the times you are so tired that you can't form English sentences – it makes for great jokes later. Enjoy every part of college and do everything you can. Go to all of the events, try out all of the local bars, and try the weird food your housemates cook. It's all worth it.

To my four grandparents – I am so lucky and thankful to have you guys. Thank you for all of your encouragement and love. Also – prepare yourselves – you're going to be seeing a lot more of me. Working full time is going to leave me with a lot of free time in comparison to my life at Bryant. Who's ready for a visitor?!

To all of the professors that had an impact on my four years here, you all know who you are. You have guided me through difficult assignments, you have helped me through personal matters, you have watched me succeed at times, and you have watched me epically fail at some others. Thank you for all of your support and guidance.

Bryant students – don't squander your remaining time here. Live it to the fullest. You can sleep when you're dead and watch Netflix when you're retired. This place has so many opportunities – take full advantage of them all because, before you know it, someone will be throwing you across the stage.

From the Dean of Students *Class of* 2014



Dear graduates,

Congratulations to all of you for achieving your goal of obtaining a Bryant University degree. No doubt, your college years have gone by quicker than you had expected. Take time to savor the experiences you gained alongside your fellow Bulldogs. Reflect on the rich personal and academic growth that you have experienced and be proud! The following is an excerpt from a song by Natasha Bedingfield that I feel beautifully captures this moment in your life...

“Reaching for something in the distance
So close you can almost taste it
Release your inhibitions
Feel the rain on your skin
No one else can feel it for you
Only you can let it in
No one else, no one else
Can speak the words on your lips
Drench yourself in words unspoken
Live your life with arms wide open
Today is where your book begins
The rest is still unwritten”

Natasha Bedingfield (song lyrics: “Unwritten”)

As you prepare to move on to a new and exciting phase of your life, there is a whole new wave of incoming students, restlessly anticipating what their Bulldog experience will be. And just as you benefited from the success of many Bulldogs that came before you, remember to continue your commitment to Bryant and to reach back and support those who follow your path to success. It is the lifetime commitment and rich pride of our alumni that make Bryant a truly special community.

So again, congratulations and continue to wear your Bryant colors with pride!

Take care,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "John R. Saddlemire".

Dr. John Saddlemire
Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students

