

**BRYANT UNIVERSITY
THE HONORS PROGRAM**

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Volume 3, Issue 1

April 2008

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2008!

The Bryant University Honors Program would like to congratulate the eighteen candidates who are scheduled to complete the program this month.

Yet another spectacular academic year has gone by with another significant milestone for the Program. 1) A solid number of senior candidates, 2) largest number of registered course seats, 3) increased retention, 4) our two major co-curricular activities to Boston and NYC. And finally, 5) our first annual Capstone Project Colloquium held earlier this month.

While the national statistics average about 16-18% honors program completion rate, **25%** of the Class of 2008 completed their candidacy.

The eighteen candidates to complete The Honors Program are: Michael Aronson, Stephen Balkam, Taryn Beaudoin, Patrick Brosnan, Ryan Daley, Lisa DiNapoli, Denise Fuda, Shannon Griffin, Jared Hager, Matthew Holt, Daniel Keough, Kevin Levinson, Kristin Lynch, Bonnie O'Halloran, Michael Pickowicz, Kelly Redden, Ryan Scadding, and Amber Torrey. (I will need more room for this list next year)

These seniors will receive special designation on their transcripts, program and diploma at the University's Commencement on May 17.

Along with all of my colleagues from the Academic Affairs Division, please accept our congratulations on your effort and focus on academic excellence. On a personal note, thanks to the Class of 2008 for your confidence and loyalty.

Best wishes and good luck!
Kenneth J. Sousa, Ph.D.
Coordinator

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CLASS OF 2008 — STEPHEN BALKAM

Having transferred to Bryant less than two full semesters prior, selecting a topic for the proposal of my senior honors project was not an easy task. I sat in on at least four different senior presentations, attended some of the senior meetings, and read through financial magazines.

The idea of selecting a topic that was relative and also

current enough that it could help prepare me to enter the financial services industry was daunting. Dr. Sousa mentioned the idea of looking into the older generation entering the workforce or the Baby Boomer generation. As this idea began to flesh out I realized just how relevant this idea was, with the first member of the Baby Boomer generation reaching retirement age this year.

The next challenge for me was finding a member of the Finance faculty that would be willing to work with me over the next year to guide me through the complex process of compiling research and analyzing data into a coherent final paper. I was behind in my major because of my transfer status and had yet to take any upper level finance

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Program In Brief...

- 238 Members
- 3 students petitioned for membership Spring 2008
- Fall 2008 — 21 honors-designated course sections
- New Courses 2008
 - Core Concepts of Psychology
 - Anthropology of Globalization

CLASS OF 2008 — STEPHEN BALKAM (CONTINUED)

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classes.

Dr. Sousa recommended Dr. Peter Nigro, a very intelligent and hard working professor, who had worked on other prior honors projects with students. In our first meeting he said he would be my advisor under one condition, I had to be willing to commit 100 percent to this project.

My assignment for the summer was to research this topic as much as possible and to write the introduction and literature review for my project. Both of these items would end up being fully reworked as we met at the beginning of the semester, but by putting the work in over the summer it showed my commitment and also gave me a strong familiarity with the topic.

Right before we returned for the fall semester, I realized how lucky I was to have Dr. Nigro as an advisor, when he was recognized in BusinessWeek as a favorite undergrad business finance professor.

With all of the work that I had done over the summer, we were able to jump right into the project and look at what specific direction was the most interesting. I realized that most of the

studies I had read over the summer looked at the demographic breakdowns of the Baby Boomer generation and I wanted to look at something different. Dr. Nigro suggested I try to find the respondent level data for one of the samples I had looked at and we could create a financial preparedness

variable to analyze how the demographic information had affected financial preparedness.

Some of the biggest things I took away from this were that education level and gender were not a factor in determining financial preparedness for retirement. Also having a financial plan did significantly increase the likelihood of being financially prepared, but having a financial advisor did not. This is something I will take with me as I enter the workforce as a financial advisor. It made me realize that one of the most important interactions with a client is not necessarily based on making them large returns on their investments, but actually understanding their goals and what they would like to accomplish financially.

"I do not feel that my education here at Bryant would have been as fulfilling without this senior project."

When I completed this project its magnitude did not sink in right away. At first it was a long task that I worked on for about a year and I was happy to complete it. Now that I look back on this experience and realize there were members of the Bryant Community that did not even know me who came

just to hear my presentation, I understand the depth of what I have accomplished. This project was truly what the title said it would be, a capstone project. I do not feel that my education here at Bryant would have been as fulfilling without this senior project.

The quote by Robert Frost often used to describe The Honors Program *"Two roads diverged in a wood, and I — I took the one less traveled by, And that has made all the difference."*, couldn't be more true.

When I look at the select group of students who completed their seniors honors projects this year, I am proud to be considered a peer among them as a graduating member of The Honors Program.

CAILIN ROCCO '10 — LIFE AS THE HP ASSISTANT

This semester, I began my role as The Honors Program Assistant, working with Dr. Sousa and The Honors Program. After several months in this position, I have gained valuable insight into the program and what it takes to run such an organization.

When I began working for The Honors Program in February, my respect and admiration for the previous assistant, Kyle Audet, increased immensely. I never realized the effort that goes into the planning and organization of The Honors Program. From speaking to catering staff to organizing events, to writing emails to students and faculty, there is always something to do.

Although I have always considered myself to be a reasonably organized individual, I found myself barraged by assignments from every direction. There are always things that need to be done under strict time restraints, and planning to be done for future events. I have made lists on every piece of scrap paper in my office and answered what seemed to be hundreds of emails during the past three months.

Although it has been a challenge to adjust to this position, I have learned so much about The Honors Program, and myself as well. Working with Dr. Sousa has strengthened my views about the beneficial aspects of The Honors Pro-

gram, and the determination one must have to complete the four year journey.

As time has passed I have become more comfortable making decisions, speaking with outside companies, and running programs myself. This position has given me confidence to jump into unknown tasks and complete them on my own.

Even though I might have regarded Dr. Sousa's jokes about his busy schedule as humorous in the past, I have gained a whole new appreciation for what he does for the Program.

I have never known a man so dedi-

CAILIN ROCCO '10 — LIFE AS THE HP ASSISTANT

cated to his work. Dr. Sousa skips lunch on a regular basis to meet with his students and schedule events. Not only does he teach several classes during the day, but he serves as the Director of The Honors Program and an advisor for members.

I constantly see students visiting his office for personal reasons as well. I am constantly in awe of the time and dedication he puts into his many roles here at Bryant.

It's ironic that before my role here in Faculty Suite A began, I didn't read the Honors Bulletins thoroughly, nor did I respond as quickly as I should have.

"I have gained valuable insight into the program, and what it takes to run such an organization."

After realizing the importance of The Honors Program and what Dr. Sousa does, I can assure you, that I now read every email and try to respond with more alacrity.

This position has allowed me to more thoroughly understand the importance of this program and what it holds for its members in their future.

Working for The Honors Program can undoubtedly be stressful at times,

but I am so glad that I took this position. It has strengthened my beliefs in the Program and in my own qualities as well.

Having been able to sit in on the Jun-

ior Orientation Series and watch the Senior's Capstone projects, I have begun thinking about what project I would like to complete. The Honors Program is an important addition to a Bryant University diploma, and all of those who are graduating this year should feel proud.

I would like to congratulate the Seniors on their projects and wish them good luck in their futures. They have given me inspiration and I can't wait to choose my final Capstone Project next year, and embark on my own "road less travelled."

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY — BOSTON EXPERIENCE

The Bryant University Honors Program brought 14 members into Boston for a remarkable experience, on February 19, 2008. On this trip, students visited Hill Holiday, an advertising agency in the heart of Boston. It is currently part of the world's third largest advertising conglomerate. Hill Holiday boasts clients such as Anheuser-Busch, Dunkin' Donuts, Bank of America, Liberty Mutual, Chili's, AOL, CVS/pharmacy and Verizon Wireless. During this excursion students met with Bryant Alumni who work at the organization, view some of their advertisements, and learn about the secret future advertising of one of their top clients.

Junior, Brianna Mahan said that the trip was incredibly beneficial to all those involved and commented, "Being an accounting major, I hoped to learn more about the creative process of creating advertisements. Hill Holiday provided a perfect environment for us to openly ask questions and absorb everything they discussed.

It was also impressive to walk through the offices and notice the difference between a typical business firm, and the creative elements Hill Holiday incorporated into their office layout and décor."

Matt Veves, a sophomore, expressed his appreciation for the trip by stating, "After viewing advertisements from a consumer's perspective all the time, it

"Not only was the day informative, but it was fun. ... I would definitely go again."

- Matt Veves '10

was interesting to see them from the viewpoint of the producer. I enjoyed watching and dissecting the advertisements with the Hill Holiday executives. Not only was the day informational, but it was also fun. If I was presented

with the opportunity, I would definitely go again."

After touring the offices of Hill Holiday, students were taken to the Harvard Club for an Alumni reception, where they were able to interact with Alumni from the surrounding region.

Sophomore, Daniel Janus, commented "After a tour of the company, we left to the Harvard Club for the Alumni dinner where I was able to meet great people

in a pleasant atmosphere. Overall, it was a great day trip and it was a blast to spend it with the Honors Program and Professor Sousa."

For Paul Morana, a sophomore, the trip not only reaffirmed his interests in the field of advertising, but provided him with a pleasurable opportunity. "The evening culminated nicely with our visit to the Harvard Club. Stunning views combined with exquisite appetizers made for a festive mood. Most of the alumni were happy to share their experiences in exchange for news on current university activities."

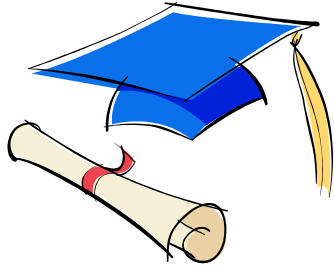
The trip was especially important to freshman, Donna Chan Wah Hak, who experienced her first trip to Boston. She expressed that "The alumni reception was wonderful. I got to meet some Bryant graduates who shared some of their college experiences with us."

Overall, the trip was a wonderful experience that allowed students to explore a more creative side to the business world, and see, through the alumni experience, what the future may have in store for them.

BRYANT UNIVERSITY THE HONORS PROGRAM

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"In order to succeed, your desire for success should be greater than your fear of failure."
- Bill Cosby

ALUMNI PROFILE — KRISTIN MILLIGAN '07

Kristin Milligan '07
Assurance Associate,
PricewaterhouseCoopers

What were your original thoughts and reasoning for accepting the invitation to the Program? As an incoming freshman I was grateful to get an invitation to The Honors Program and at first was hesitant to join in fear of overwhelming myself during my first year at college. After thinking it through, however, I wanted to be challenged, I liked the idea of smaller class sizes, and I wanted to stand out amongst my peers. I had also taken all honors and advanced placement classes in high school and wanted to continue on that path.

Did the Program change any of your perceptions on your major? Or how to approach your educational goals? I chose accounting based on my honors financial and honors managerial accounting classes that I took my freshman and sophomore years. I enjoyed them because they were challenging and I was still able to excel in them. Those types of classes gave me a sense of accomplishment and the Professors were great. The Honors Program encouraged me to become more aggressive towards my educational goals and the students that I was surrounded by in my honors classes challenged me and moti-

vated me to keep striving to excel.

How did the Program help in defining your career development? Or how you approached your career choices? In many of the same ways that the Program helped me academically, it helped me in my career choices. The Program demands hard work and dedication. It also motivates students to stand out and remain competitive. I chose my career based on my interests and curiosities. I knew it would be a challenging career path that required a great deal of hard work and self-development, but felt I was up to the challenge. The Honors Program helped instill that confidence in me and assisted in motivating me to want to excel.

How did your experience with the Senior Honors Project affect your educational experience? I really enjoyed my experience with the Senior Honors Project. It was definitely challenging to manage that amount of research and coordination my senior year on top of applying to grad schools, working in admissions, and maintaining my grades in my other

courses, but it taught me the importance of time management and dedication. It was a great experience to be able to work as closely as I did with Dr. Baran, my Honors Project Advisor, and Dr. Sousa, the Coordinator of The Honors Program. I learned so much from both of them. My favorite part of

the project was how interested I was in the research and in the conclusions I drew. Since I was passionate about the subject matter, I was passionate about the project and really

wanted to create a great final product. When it was completed, I felt a great sense of accomplishment.

All of those experiences prove to be valuable in my career as well. In my profession there are some extremely tight deadlines, especially when working on public clients that have to file by a very specific date, so time management and efficiency are absolutely crucial. I also work with and develop relationships with managers and partners on each of my client engagements, and working so closely with Professors and learning from their experiences, has definitely helped with that aspect of my job.

"The Program demands hard work and dedication ... it also motivates students to stand out and remain competitive."