

**BRYANT UNIVERSITY
THE HONORS PROGRAM**

HONORABLE MENTIONS

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CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2009!

The Bryant University Honors Program would like to congratulate the twenty-four candidates who are scheduled to complete the program next month.

This year marks another record class of candidates to complete the Program. The Class of 2009 will graduate 29% of the 83 members who entered in September 2005. It is a testament to this class that they exceed the national average of honors program candidates..

The 2nd Annual Senior Capstone Colloquium conducted earlier this month included twenty presentations on a variety of busi-

ness and business topics.

The candidates ...

Kyle Audet, Justine Boucher, Kristen Brekne, Daniel Calkins, Jessica Clark, Kimberly Cole, Kristen Collins, Greg Doane, Stephen Fitch, Brian Gailey, Jenna Greco, Evan Konstantatos, Erica Lawton, Brianna Mahan, Megan McCourt, Andrew Mesale, Matthew Moore, Gergely Nemeth, Steven Rosenblum, Apryl Silva, Kenneth Smith, Daniel Terrell, Sathivane Veeramoothoo and Sahlana Zutshi.

We will definitely need more room in next year's article.

These seniors will receive special designation on their transcripts, program and diploma at the University's Commencement on May 16.

On behalf my colleagues from the Division of Academic Affairs, please accept our sincere congratulations. The Class of 2009 should be proud of their accomplishments.

On a personal note, thanks for your commitment to the Program and your loyalty.

Best wishes and good luck!

*Kenneth J. Sousa, Ph.D.
Coordinator*

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Program In Brief...

- 268 Members active member
- In December 2008, four members graduated and completed Program requirements
- For AY08-09, seven members petitioned to join the Program
- 52 members from the Class of 2010 have submitted initial proposals for the Senior Capstone Project

SENIOR REFLECTIONS — CLASS OF 2009

Kristen Collins

As an incoming freshman, taking on the challenge of joining the Honors Program was both nerve-racking and exciting.

I looked forward to the professors and classmates that I would meet sharing similar interests as myself.

However, I worried that classes would be overwhelming, making it difficult to achieve a strong GPA. I worried that I would be taking on too much for myself as a new college student. I worried that perhaps I should have considered denying my invitation to the program.

But after four years of dedication and hard work, I now realize that my choice to participate in the Bryant University Honors Program truly shaped my Bryant career.

Throughout my tenure in the Honors Program, I

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CLASS OF 2009 — (NAME) (CONTINUED)

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have learned to view situations from different perspectives, challenge myself to learn new material and reach further and higher for new accomplishments. I have met faculty members with contagious levels of passion who have inspired me to delve deeper into what I was learning. I have surrounded myself with classmates who have often served as support and encouragement throughout four years of case studies, role playing, research papers, and assignments. I have engaged myself in classes and have extended my studies beyond simple textbook chapters and classroom lectures.

After completing seven honors courses and a challenging yet interesting research thesis on the effects of obesity on state health care expenditures, I have reached new levels of confidence in both my academic and personal abilities. I completed a goal of mine that I once viewed as impossible.

“... met faculty members with contagious levels of passion.”

As I prepare for graduation with an honors distinction, I feel inspired and motivated to take on new challenges, find new levels of success, and declare more impossibilities as possible.

Brianna Mahan

The Honors Program has been an interesting experience, an experience that has been an integral part of my four years at Bryant.

I initially started in the program because I thought I had to be in the program to get the scholarship, but then discovered the immense benefits of being in the program. The quality of class room discussion and teacher instruction is truly above and beyond in the honors program.

Even though students in the honors program may not have the highest GPA of the whole class, they work hard and care about the work they do, which makes the classroom experience even better.

“I feel incredibly accomplished for finishing the capstone”

The Honors Program also helped me develop a whole group of friends who have lasted all four years here. Many honors students end up taking the same classes together, which enhances the classroom experience even more. We also get to know our professors even better. Having multiple classes with the same professors can create a sense of ease and respect with that professor, which even further enhances our opportunity for learning and growth.

Finally, the capstone. The dreaded ... dreaded capstone. I am still honestly shocked that I don't have to worry about finishing it anymore. I feel incredibly accomplished for finishing the capstone, I feel like I have earned the right to the degree I am going to receive in a few short weeks.

A college degree means all the work you have put into it, and having completed the capstone, and choosing to stick with the Honors Program, my degree means a whole lot more to me than it would have if I hadn't finished the Honors Program.

ALUMNI PROFILE — KEVIN LEVINSON '08

Kevin Levinson, Class of 2008
Tax Associate
Pricewaterhouse Coopers

Discuss your current position, responsibilities and occupation.

I am a tax associate in small group within the PwC Boston office. I help prepare and review corporate tax returns. I interact with clients and consult with them on difficult tax issues.

What were your original thoughts and reasoning for accepting the invitation to the Program?

I was put into the honors program upon entering Bryant and had no clue what to expect from it. I decided I should accept the challenge as I knew it would help further my learning. I knew it would be a more difficult path but also more rewarding.

Did the Program change any of your perceptions on your major? Or how to approach your educational goals?

The program helped me to focus and manage my time better. With regards to my major, the program really didn't change my perceptions too much.

How did the Program help in defining

your career development? Or how you approached your career choices?

When the program got tough, especially around the time the capstone project was due, I realized that I could handle the pressure and buckle down and finish my work by the due date. This applies hugely in the field I work in today.

Tax has many strict deadlines and the pressure to get returns completed is huge. The program helped to realize that I would do

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ALUMNI PROFILE

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well in my new field of expertise.

How did the coursework alter your educational experience?

It enriched my educational experience. It was the cherry on top of the of my degree.

In retrospect, how did the membership in the Honors Program affect you? Education? Future goals? Perspective in your career?

Once again, it helped me focus and manage my time. This is hugely important when you get to the 'real' world.

In summary, what was your Senior Honors Project?

The economic effects of a tax reform. Changing the tax system from an income tax to a consumption based taxed would help solve the many adverse economic effects caused by the income tax.

What advice would you provide to an incoming freshman who is considering membership in the Program?

Definitely become a part of the pro-

gram and take advantage of the honors classes. Smaller classes with a more discussion based forum are the best way to learn. The honors classes provide that to the students. One piece of advice for you Project, do not procrastinate!

“... helped me focus and manage my time. This is very important in the real world”

Is there anything you believe would strengthen the Honors Program experience?

All the events that were planned helped to strengthen the program. Continue planning these events.

SO WHAT HAPPENED IN 2008-09?

Blogging Wild

In early August, to begin the transition for the Class of 2012, a new website was developed which included the implementation of a blog for honors members. The new blog provides the opportunity to compile and disseminate information to the community as well as prospective students to Bryant.

We were able to setup a variety of topics to post information on a variety of topics such as the NYC Experience, study tips, beginning your senior capstone project and subjects specific for the entering class. Since its inception in August 2009, the blog has logged over 2500 views; including 739 in its first month.

The blog helped to consolidate quotes and thoughts from both members and faculty. It appears that the the blog seems to have been a

positive addition to the honors website.

2008 NYC Experience

Again, a group of honors members and chaperones invaded The Big Apple. I think this time the city was more prepared for us. The Roosevelt Hotel were again our hosts providing extraordinary hotel rooms for our participants. A big thanks to Trustee Tom Hewitt for the hospitality extended at the Hotel.

The turmoil of the economy and the financial markets did affect the agenda and itinerary of the trip. However, when you are served lemons, you make lemonade. Our participants received a live appearance on The Early Show and received a “shout-out” from a CBS

anchor. We were called the “best dressed college students ever to appear in the plaza.” Watch out Hollywood, some of our members may be in pictures soon. We had a great time ... even though some people (no names mentioned ... Cote, Ensby, Carroll) ate so much at Carmine’s that my credit card was worn down. Then a visit to the Museum of Art (picture left)

Social Activities

The Student Honor Council has been becoming more active and visible with member. The picture below was our December 11th event at Fire & Ice and Dave and Busters. As you can see, honors members just simply like food (even Webb is excited without an airplane!)

Then, this semester, a laser tag event. Several people attempted to recruit me to attend ... I would be the most targeted person there :-).



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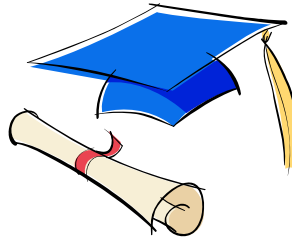
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REFLECTIONS FROM A FIRST-YEAR MEMBER — DAN WEBB '12

When I saw in my acceptance letter that I was invited to the Honors Program, I wasn't exactly sure what to expect, and if I should even accept the invitation. Would it be worth it? Is it a just a bunch of other work? After seeing Dr. Sousa's presentations at Open House, and later at Orientation, I was convinced that joining the Honors Program was the right move.

I knew that the professors who taught in the Program meant business when I received an e-mail from Rubin about a week before classes began, letting everyone in my honors Business 101 course that we had to have Chapter 1 read in time for the first class, which was one that was very fulfilling. Instead of the traditional business plan, we had the opportunity to write a marketing plan for an entrepreneur. I had never expected to be receiving real world experience so soon into my Bryant career.

This semester, my honors accounting course utilized many case studies to help apply what we learned in the classroom, and the economic policies of various presidential administrations were analyzed in my honors macro-economics course.

While I found that all of my honors

classes provided additional challenges that provide valuable learning opportunities, honors micro was particularly challenging. First, I found that the subject was one that took a good amount of effort to learn. In addition, Dr. Bates challenged us greatly, but it was very worthwhile.

Her course, despite the extra effort required, was very fulfilling, and it has become very easy to apply what we learned that semester to current events. In addition, Dr. Bates was

always eager to help students during her office hours, which is a characteristic I have noticed in all of my honors professors, for which I am quite grateful.

A couple of weeks ago, I was able to attend a few of the capstone presentations, and it was fantastic to see the results of the hard research effort made by the seniors. But it was also interesting for me, as a freshman, to see what would be coming down the road during the next three years.

As I look back on my first experiences in the Program, I am very glad that I made the decision to join, and I look forward to the future opportunities that it will provide.

"... it was fantastic to see the results of the hard research effort made by the seniors."

THE 2008-09 YEAR REVISITED

Boston Beanpot Competition

On February 21, a team of students from The Honors Program competed in the B-School Beanpot Competition; Boston's premier undergraduate case competition. Dr. Michael Roberto asked for volunteers from the junior and senior classes. Ten members expressed an interest in competing. This year marked the first time that the competition was expanded to schools outside of Massachusetts.

It was a successful first appearance for Bryant University ... one of the Bryant teams earned second place over the five-time championship team from Northeastern University.

The group included Chris Lussier '10 (Spencer, MA), Megan McCourt '09 (Chicopee MA), Gergely Nemeth '09 (Balatonfured, Hungary), Jeff Steacie '10 (Bellingham, MA), and Matthew Veves '10 (Hudson, NH). They returned to Bryant with a \$1,250 cash prize and bragging rights for their work in analyzing an unpublished case study about the strategic decisions of the online match-making company eHarmony.

We congratulate the fine work and effort of our talented teams.