

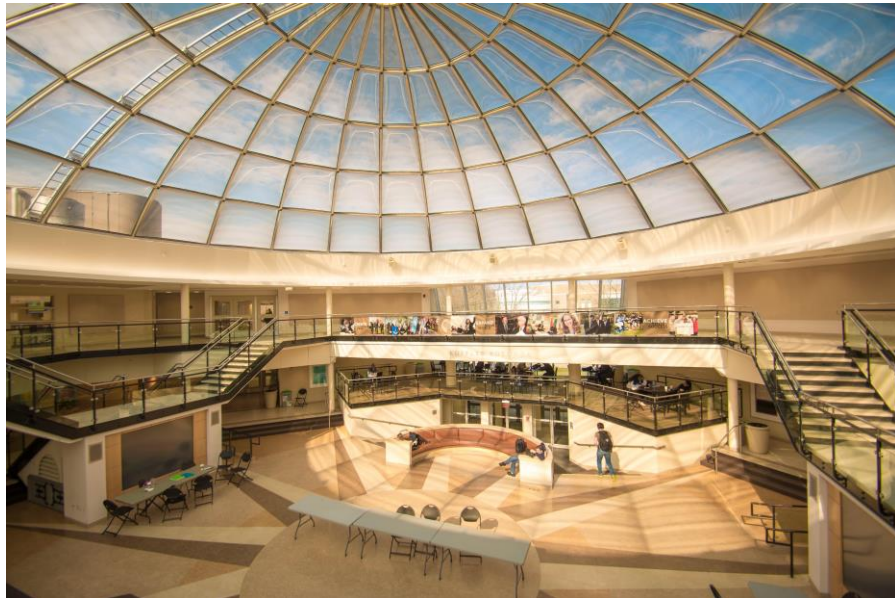
William C. Tondo

Class of 2019

Commencement Issue

Dear Bryant University,

Where did the time go? I remember orientation in June of 2015, where I met some of the friends that I am still close with today. I remember coming together and taking the “Class of 2019” photo on the Bello lawn. I remember my first day of classes, Hall 16 suites, and our first spring concert. I remember SIE Germany and Spain, and meeting the Co-Founder of Apple. I remember moving into a townhouse, my first job offer, and now picking up graduation tickets. But where did the time go? These four years went by so quickly, and I want to reflect what you have given me.



Bryant, you have made me a confident, more well-rounded individual, who is ready to take on the world. But if I could tell my younger self some advice, I would say the following. You will meet so many people amongst your four years. Be open minded. Everyone has a story, and let them tell you that story. You will build everlasting friendships. You will have people around you that will be there at your best accomplishments, and your toughest losses. Don't sweat over the small things, time passes and so do the little things that stress you out. You are never the smartest person in the room. Listen to the people around you and learn from them. And finally, fill your life with positivity, love, and compassion. The world we live in is filled with negativity, but always do the right thing. Bring that to every avenue of your life.

Bryant, I thank you for the opportunities you have given me here on campus. My time at the Dawg Pound has been filled with ups and downs. I joined many clubs, held leadership positions, raised money for various philanthropies, joined a fraternity, played intramural sports, worked in the president's office, and studied abroad in Sevilla, Spain. I gave tours as an Ambassador and interviewed

prospective students as an Admission Fellow. I was the Editor-in-Chief of The Archway Newspaper as a sophomore, and I got to interview Steve Wozniak, Steve Forbes, and John Kasich. I helped lead the charge to raise more than \$50,000 for cancer research at the Huntsman Cancer Institute. I sang Grease Lighting on stage as Danny Zuko in a Bryant Players production. I even had my sister join me at Bryant for her freshmen year. I can't wait to see what she accomplishes and how much she grows here.



Bryant, you have taught me so much. Yes, you taught me not to wait to do an assignment last minute. And I learned how to write a business plan and learned how to present a project, but you have taught me so much more. I learned to be grateful. I learned to be studious. I learned to be adventurous. More importantly, you taught me how to be a bulldog. A bulldog never quits on a fellow bulldog. They never give into fear or doubt. Bulldogs overcome challenges, and work for their goals. They remain calm when the world around them is in turmoil. Bulldogs have pride in their work, and humility in your accomplishments. Bulldogs are role models and Bulldogs are kind.



Commencement is a Happy/Sad feeling. The semesters were long but the years flew by. I am sad that my time as a Bryant undergrad is over, but I am so happy that it had happened. Thank you Bryant University, Thank you.

Sincerely,

William C. Tondo

Class of 2019