



## Bryant University International Business Program

Our program, ranked No. 17 nationally in the 2024 U.S. News & World Report, immerses students in real projects with real companies fostering an exceptional international experience. Offered as a major and a minor.

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## CONGRATULATIONS! BRYANT IB NOW RANKED #17 NATIONALLY BY 2024 U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

### IB Juniors Spend Fall 2023 Semester Abroad



Florence, Italy

The IB Semester Abroad is a key component of the Bryant International Business Program. Equipped with a sound foundation in international business and foreign language, IB students spend a semester studying and interning abroad during their junior year. This fall, IB majors ventured to France, Italy, and Spain.

The IB Semester Abroad kicks off with a faculty-led program, exploring local businesses and organizations and discussing the latest international business cases and events in the context of the host country—immersing students in the history, language, and culture of their new home for the months to come.

Please enjoy the stories and photos from the study abroad experiences featured in this issue.

## From the IB Director

By **Jacqueline Saslawski**

The focus of this fall newsletter is “Meaningful Global Experiences.” Our student-centered IB program provides well-designed and relevant internationally focused, global experiences throughout the student’s journey. Our program has once again been nationally ranked by the U.S. News & World Report. We now rank #17! I am proud of this accomplishment and our continued rise in rankings. This achievement wouldn’t be possible without our demanding and innovative curriculum, which in turn is anchored in the interdisciplinary collaboration of faculty, our relationships with alumni and the business community, and the support of the university.

During my past four years at Bryant I have had the joy of accompanying students on their IB journey. This fall, I worked with the seniors in the IB Practicum capstone, many of whom I taught since they were first-year students. To accompany them on their journey and witness their growth and development is an amazing and rewarding experience. From their early days as first-year students in Global Foundations of Organizations and Business (GFOB) (as per fall 2024 BUS 100 for IB) to studying and interning abroad, the IB Integrative Block, and finally IB Practicum - with each IB Program milestone the progress is profound. I attribute the interdisciplinary nature of the IB program, the academic rigor that it requires, and the global experiential learning that takes place to student development and ultimate success.

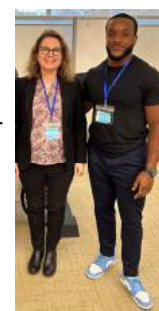
One IB milestone that greatly transforms students is the IB study abroad semester. Well prepared by Professor Lori Coakley’s faculty-led program in Florence, Italy, the students embarked on their academic and professional experiences. I then worked with them throughout the 2023 fall semester while they completed their international internships. I continue to use scaffolded unpacking assignments to set expectations, reflect on the internship and track progress on 21st Century transferable skill goals. At the end of the semester, students prepare an executive presentation about their internship experience. Unpacking their global experience enables the students to have a portfolio of

meaningful stories about their experiences. Please read about some study abroad experiences on pages 3—5.

The IB educational community is global and collegial. In July, I had the pleasure of presenting on the value of comprehensive global experiential learning in international business education with colleagues from Bryant, Saint Louis University, Morgan State University and University of Pittsburgh at the Academy of International Business Annual Conference in Warsaw, Poland. More info on page 12.



One of my favorite collaborations this fall was a presentation with IB junior Fabrice Mukendi during Bryant’s Day of Understanding. Our interdisciplinary presentation on electric vehicles looked at consumer decisions, global supply chain, environmental issues and human rights. See page 14.



The undergraduate student organization International Business Association (IBA) was very active this semester. In addition to regular meetings, members presented during several campus events and held their traditional Thanksgiving dinner. Read more on pages 10 and 11.

Enjoy this newsletter and please have a happy start of 2024.

Sincerely,

*Jacqueline Saslawski*

Jacqueline Saslawski, JD, MPIA  
Director, IB Program  
Lecturer, Department of Management

## Fall 2023 IB Study Abroad: Student Perspectives

This fall, three groups of Bryant IB students spent a semester abroad in France, Italy, and Spain.

The faculty-led program, taught by Lori A. Coakley, Professor of Management, kicked off the experience in Florence, Italy.

Students then studied at local universities and completed professional internships. The IB Study Abroad Semester is a vital and transformative component of the Bryant IB Program. Their IB and language classes prepare students for the global experience, and the immersive semester deepens their knowledge in an applied international setting.

The following are perspectives from some of the students who went abroad this semester.



IB Group in Florence



IB Group in Florence



Emilia Wojciechowska in Copenhagen

By **Emilia Wojciechowska** ('25) IB Global Supply Chain Management and Marketing, Spanish Minor, Honors Program

“The unique study abroad experience is the reason I chose to attend Bryant and it has changed the way I perceive the world. The four months I spent living in Seville, Spain is something I will always look back on and know that it shaped me into the person I am. Living abroad helped me learn that there is no limits to your goals and that you will be learning new things every day. After the two-week course in Florence, I am happy to say that I have an IB family that I will cherish forever. Going abroad, I did not know what to expect since it was a new environment and I felt like a freshman again, but with all the support from faculty, IB students (past and present), and my host family I can never forget these bonds. In Seville, I lived with a host mom who taught me to always say yes because you never know the different

opportunities that comes with your decision. I decided to stick with this especially with my internship and travels and was able to accomplish unimaginable things. For four months, I interned at Bengala Spain, an international hookah company as a marketing intern. From my past internship, I thought it was going to be a black and white 9 to 5 like job, but it was unlike my past internships and proved offices can still incorporate fun through various activities while still getting everything done. Unfamiliar with the industry, they worked with me to ensure I felt comfortable while practicing my language skills. These new skills complemented my studies at Universidad de Pablo Olavide. Spanish for Business was a class I thought I was going to dread, but it turned out to be my favorite class. I can use the information taught in real life which has encouraged me to love the unexpected. I took initiative to adapt to another culture and I am happy I was able to experience it through language, food, and ethics. Being able to immerse myself in a different lifestyle has paved the way for what I aspire to do in the future. The academic and work experience in Spain opened my eyes to the different things a new culture can open your eyes to, which will forever change me. I am happy to say that Seville will always be a home and the memories and bonds made will never be forgotten.”

*continued on next page*



## Abroad cont'd



By **Valeria Ortiz** ('25) IB Digital Marketing and Team and Project Management, Honors Program

"My fall semester abroad was truly an enriching and transformative experience. I studied abroad in Seville, Spain and am so grateful and glad that I have chosen this city and country to study in. Looking back at this experience, I am proud to say that I have grown personally and professionally to the point where I was able to cultivate new friendships, work in a Spanish company, expand my cultural knowledge, adapt to new cultures, and travel to multiple countries that I never thought I would have the opportunity to visit during the semester. My study abroad experience started in Florence, Italy, where Professor Coakley led our Bryant IB class for two weeks. The main goal was to expand our cultural knowledge from multiple European countries, develop and learn the importance of transferable and soft skills, and visit Italian businesses to learn about their background and how they do business. We were also able to

participate in a cooking class, tour multiple museums, visit the city of Bologna, and vineyards. I am confident to say that Florence was one of my favorite places to ever visit. The last four months after Florence, I studied, worked, and lived in Seville. I was placed with a great host family that I will forever be grateful for, took three classes at the Universidad of Pablo Olavide, and worked as a marketing intern at a virtual company called Instituto de Movilidad Sostenible. Through my various tasks, I was able to develop skills like communication, creativity, designing, leadership. I will continue to develop and demonstrate these skills in my future career. During the internship I had the opportunity to express my creativity by designing multiple announcements, posters, and events to gain a wider audience and encourage people to participate in these events. My internship abroad provided me comprehensive insights into the professional landscape and taught me so much in developing skills in the marketing department that are crucial for my future career goals. In addition to these academic and professional experiences, studying abroad was a transformative adventure. I fell in love with traveling. It exposed me to diverse cultures, delicious foods, new places, and simply appreciating the world's variety. This was extremely fulfilling. Seville is a place where culture, tradition, history, art, and entertainment are bursting with life. People are full of pride and passion for what their history is and what they offer today. This experience abroad helped me learn, appreciate,

enhance my education, and embrace many differences that my country of origin has, which left a mark on my growth as a person this semester."



By **Berenika "Nikki" Belenkiy** ('25) IB Finance, Spanish Minor, Honors Program

"My first time traveling to Europe alone, I was consuming an enormous amount of gelato, practicing a new language, trying every tapas option on the menu, reading Spanish books, working with authors, and dancing on terraces with friends. It is incredible to reflect and see how much I was able to do in just one semester. Coming home to the US, I can feel how much I have grown in so many different areas of my life. Being abroad you are faced with challenges that no matter how much you are told about studying abroad you can never fully prepare for them; but that is also the wonderful part. You get to truly experience a new culture, think on your feet in new situations, and learn that you can overcome more than you may think. I

think anybody who goes abroad can tell you about how it's not just about the travel it's also about learning how to figure out the bureaucratic part of each country, even the everyday tasks of grocery shopping and taking the subway to school; there's just so many different things that you don't think about until you are abroad. However, that is also the best part of it because you get to learn as you go and experience the global mindset that we discuss so much, especially in the international business program. You also learn so much about flexibility and being adaptable to new situations and I know for myself it can range from getting lost or just having a change of plans to having to figure out a whole new game plan. I know that those are lessons that I will take with me no matter where I go in life because it has made me a person who can think better on her feet while also being able to pivot my plans and still have a positive result. Something that I found interesting about studying abroad is that it almost feels like you are starting college again and you are a freshman because you are in a new environment, with new people, and adjusting to different ways of teaching. Even though this is a little bit nerve-wracking it is still so fun because you get to relive your freshman year with the excitement and the anticipation. You get to meet so many different people from so many different backgrounds. Through this study abroad experience I got the opportunity to make friends from different places in the US such as Texas, California, and South Carolina. I've also met so many people who

were from Spain—getting to practice Spanish with them, which is something I would never get the opportunity to do here in the US. It was also interesting to compare our college experiences.

The Spanish students do not live on campus; they either go to a school that is close to their home or they live in off-campus housing. Therefore, the way that students interact outside of classes is different. Living in Europe made easy to travel to different countries, so I got to meet other students while I was travelling. In Prague, I met girls from London, and in Spain, I met people from Scotland and Italy to name a few, and it is an experience like no other.

While I was abroad, I was lucky enough to have the experience to have an internship in a publishing company called Caligrama Editorial which is based in Seville, Spain. The company is based in Spain but works with authors in the US, translating their books and marketing them to the Spanish audience. Typically, we are on the US side working with companies from other countries but through this experience, I was able to understand what it's like to be a global business working with people from the US. This has given me so much more of an understanding of communication and how to best work with people from different areas and different upbringings. Importantly, this experience did not just highlight our differences but also the similarities that we all have. The similarities that I have seen are that

no matter where we are from, in the business world everybody wants to create quality products that represent their brand in the best light possible and represent their goals.

Also, it was interesting for me to compare work styles from working in the US and working in Spain. In Spain, that schedule is a little bit more relaxed, and many times they have a siesta built into it so people will be at work and then at 2 or 3 PM they will leave work and then come back at 5 PM.

Getting this opportunity to live, work, and study abroad I have learned skills and so many things about myself that I never even thought I could learn; whether it be in the more tangible aspects such as observing the culture around me or just reflecting on myself and seeing how much I've grown in my independence. This is an experience that I am incredibly grateful for, and I would say to any person who can that you should study abroad. You are not only going to learn more about other people, but you're also going to learn more about the world, you're going to get exposed to news in different countries, TV programs, how people speak, how they interact. It is something that you are never really going to get to understand from hearing about it. You need to experience it all first-hand. As I look back on my study abroad experience, I am proud of myself for taking on this challenge and for allowing myself to learn, grow, make mistakes, and come back a better version of myself and I wish that for all of you."

*You get to truly experience a new culture, think on your feet in new situations, and learn that you can overcome more than you may think.*

## My Summer in South Korea



By **Tyler Champagne** ('24) IB Global Supply Chain Management, Marketing, and Spanish

"Studying abroad in South Korea was an impeccable experience. I spent five weeks studying in the capital city of Seoul accompanied by Bryant Professors Kacy Kim, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Marketing and Sukki Yoon, Ph.D., Professor of Marketing.

While in Seoul, I had the opportunity to participate in the International Summer Program at Sungkyunkwan University (SKKU for short) which is the oldest university in South Korea and was founded in 1398. The international program at SKKU was second to none as it incorporated a wide variety of disciplines including art, history, business, computer science, etc. Essentially, the vast course selection allows pretty much any student the opportunity to study at SKKU regardless of their major.

However, the most enriching aspect of the program is the ability to make friends with other students from all across the globe. For example, I was the only American student in one of the classes that I took while in South Korea. This proved to be slightly awkward at first, but I was able to befriend students from Indonesia, Singapore, Germany, Brazil, and many other nations.

Moreover, it gave me a better understanding of how students from various countries viewed America and American culture. The thought of studying abroad in South Korea was a bit intimidating for me at first since I was largely unfamiliar with the culture there and I could barely speak any Korean. However, the people in South Korea were some of the kindest people that I have ever met.



They are more than willing to accommodate foreigners, even if they are unable to speak Korean. I remember I was hiking alone in a

national park one morning, when a group of Korean hikers asked me to accompany them on their trek up one of the mountains in the park. I was a bit dumbfounded at first since none of them had any idea who I was, yet



they were willing to include me in their group and even offered to provide me with lunch. Ultimately, I decided to join them and it proved to be one of my fondest memories while studying in the country.

In all honesty it feels somewhat superfluous to write about my experience. Nothing I say can truly capture what it felt like to be there, though if I had to put it into words it feels as though living a lifetime in a day is just a day in the life.

I highly encourage anyone considering participating in this program to do so. I promise you won't regret it.



## 2023 Go Global Awards

Each year, around 50 domestic and foreign government economic development agencies and 400 companies are invited to participate in the exclusive in-person final Go Global Awards event. In 2023, the Go Global Awards took place in Providence, November 6 - 8. It was organized by the International Trade Council and hosted by Rhode Island Commerce. Bryant University had a booth that featured the Graduate School and Executive Education, Chafee Center, International Business Program, and Global Supply Chain Program.

Two organizations that are part of the IB family received awards. AVTECH Software, longtime partner for IB Practicum (and other Bryant programming) and Rhode Island Israel Collaborative (five-semester partner for IB Practicum projects with Israeli start-ups) were recognized at the Go Global Awards.



AVTECH's Founder and Chairman **Michael Sigourney** along with President & CEO **Richard Grundy** accepting the award

### By AVTECH

“Warren, RI's AVTECH Software recently secured the prestigious PropertyTech Organization Award at the Go Global Awards, sponsored by the International Trade Council. Their Room Alert platform impressed judges with

its proactive protection of critical environments around the world, preventing costly downtime and safeguarding people, property, and productivity. AVTECH's third Go Global Award win was particularly meaningful given the awards program was held in Providence during AVTECH's 35th anniversary year, allowing them to accept the award in their home state.”



**Avi Nevel**, President and CEO of the Rhode Island Israel Collaborative (RIIC) accepting the award

### By RIIC

“At the Go Global 2023 Awards ceremony November 7th which was attended by 500 people from 83 countries in Providence, RI, the Rhode Island Israel Collaborative (RIIC) was the recipient of the coveted Bilateral Trade Association of the Year Award . The Founder and CEO of the organization, Avi Nevel, received the award on behalf of the organization and its board. The organization was recognized for its unwavering commitment, dedication and outstanding contribution to economic development, setting a benchmark for excellence in the global arena. The core focus of the organization is developing relations in business, academia and research between Rhode Island and Israel.

During the event, Mr. Nevel also participated as a panelist at the conference on a session with two other panelists from Romania and Turkey.”

## Fall 2023 International Business Practicum

### Fall 2023 IB Practicum



IB 490 class and judges after final presentations

The International Business Practicum is the capstone course for IB majors. This experiential course allows students to apply the IB concepts that they have acquired during their studies at Bryant to an actual global business challenge. Students operate as consultants for a broad range of clients recruited by the International Business Program.

The projects require students to apply the interdisciplinary approach so inherent to international business, while considering leadership and teamwork issues.

This capstone provides students the opportunity to think critically, synthesize research, apply analytical tools, and solve problems. Most importantly, they strive to add value to their client.

These client companies provided valuable international business experiences to Bryant IB students in fall 2023: APTelecom, Collette, and Opmed.ai (project sponsored by Rhode Island Israel Collaborative).

IB Program Director [Jacqueline Saslawski](#) who also teaches the Practicum class, hosted several guest speakers. [William St. Jean](#) ('81) shared his international career journey at IBM with the students. [Dominik Wellmann](#) ('98), Managing Director at Fire Service College and Capita Fire & Rescue/DFRP, Shipston on Stour, England, United Kingdom, discussed international careers with the students.



William St. Jean and the IB 490 students



Dominik Wellmann and the IB 490 students



Midterm presentations receive feedback from Bryant judges and class peers. Final presentations are judged by external judges.

We thank the judges for the midterm and final presentations. The midterm presentations were judged by **Ashley Suzio**, IB'23, '24 MBA Candidate; **Russell Sylvia**, MBA, Adjunct Professor of Management, Executive Coach & Career Consultant; and **Srđan Zdravković**, Ph.D., Professor of Marketing and International Business.

The final presentations were judged by **Maura Dowling**, CFP®, Senior Lecturer of Finance; **Heather Masera**, Talent Acquisition Consultant, Fidelity TalentSource; **Will Nye** (IB'21), Production Expeditor & Customer Relations Associate, TechniMetals; and **Linda Woulfe**, International Trade Consultant and Trainer, Adjunct Professor, International Trade and Logistics.

### Fall 2023 IB Practicum Awards

Each semester, the best final presentations and the best final written report receive awards.

Best presentations:

1st place - Opmed.ai

Olivia Angelo, Claudia Borri, Tyler Champagne, Sara Curry, Markell Owens-Brown

2nd place - APTelecom

Rodne Dorce, Juliette Golden, Valerii Mashkovtsev, Mariona Planes-Fortuny, Carly Quinn

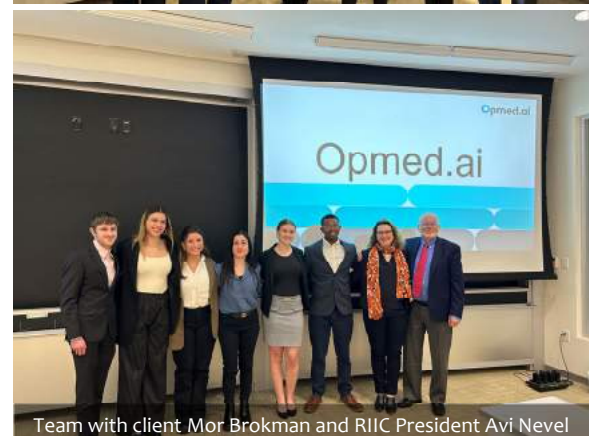
Best paper:

Collette

Giana Amaral, Veronica Levesque, James Olivieri, Emerson Swartz, Colin Theilig



Team with their client John Manock



Team with client Mor Brokman and RIIC President Avi Nevel

### Is Your Organization Interested in Doing an IB Practicum Project?

Learn more about the projects and discuss how an IB senior student team might provide actionable solutions to your organization.

### Would You Like to Become a Judge for Future Presentations?

Our students greatly benefit from the judge's feedback and it is a great way to get involved with the program.

Please contact **Jacqueline Saslawski**, [jsaslawski@bryant.edu](mailto:jsaslawski@bryant.edu), +1-401-232-6940 to learn more.

## International Business Association Fall 2023 Activities and Events

The International Business Association (IBA) is the IB student organization.

The IBA's mission is to improve general business awareness of students in the International Business program. Through the development of strong relationships with the surrounding community of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and other business professionals, IBA helps IB students develop a global understanding and appreciation for the complexities of studying International Business.

Following are some of the events that IBA hosted in fall 2023.



### September

IBA hosted a table at the **Student Involvement Fair**.

IBA welcomed returning and new members to the club during their **first IBA general member meeting**, which featured ice breakers, games and raffles. Raffles continued during each meeting this semester.

IBA co-hosted the **IB First Year Welcome**. During this rapid roundtable event, IB first-year students met IB students, faculty, staff, and alumni who shared their experiences and answered questions about the program.



### October

IBA co-hosted the **IB Tailgate** and **IB Tent** during **Homecoming**.



IBA participated in October **Open House**.





IBA hosted a **Study Abroad Experience Panel**. IBA members enjoyed live presentations from IB students abroad in Spain (**Emilia Wojciechowska** and **Berenika "Nikki" Belenkiy**) and France (**Arthur Tsimerman**).

IBA hosted the semi-annual **IB Headshot Event**. Students took professional pictures in front of the IB backdrop.

### November

IBA participated in November **Open House**.

IBA hosted its annual **IB Thanksgiving Event** at Tavolo. IB students and faculty gathered to celebrate the holiday.



### December

IBA tabled during the Festival of Lights Celebration.



## International Business Association E-Board

### 2023-2024 IBA Officers

President—**Emilia Wojciechowska** ('25),  
IB Global Supply Chain Management and Marketing, Minor Spanish

Until 11/24: President—**Alex Palermo** ('24),  
IB Finance, Minor Spanish

Vice President—**Arthur Tsimerman** ('25),  
IB Finance, Minor French

Until 11/24: Vice President—**Emilia Wojciechowska** ('25),  
IB Global Supply Chain Management and Marketing, Minor Spanish

Treasurer—**Lindsey Valeri** ('24),  
IB Global Supply Chain Management and Spanish

Director of Marketing—**Patrick Roth** ('24),  
IB Marketing and French, Minor Economics

Director of Events—**Carly Quinn** ('24),  
IB Accounting and Spanish

Secretary—**Kierra Kurtyka** ('24),  
IB Accounting, Minor Spanish

## IB Events and Activities Summer 2023–Fall 2023

### July—2023 AIB Warsaw, Poland: Best Paper Award in Emerging Economies Research

The Bryant IB Program sponsors this annual award at the annual AIB conference. This award is given to the best paper accepted to a competitive session at the AIB Annual Meeting with a research focus on Emerging Economies.

After review of the nominees, a committee at Bryant selected:

Andrés Vélez-Calle, Universidad EAFIT, Fernando Sánchez-Henríquez, Universidad del Desarrollo, Elizabeth Moore, Northeastern University, Larissa Marchiori Pacheco, Northeastern University: *Innovative Collaboration Among Developing Countries: The Role of National Innovation Systems in Latin America*



Awardees accepting the award from Bryant faculty at AIB Warsaw. Left to right: Cathy Zheng, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Finance; Jacqueline Saslawski, JD, MPIA, Director of the IB Program, Lecturer of Management; Eileen Kwesiga, Ph.D., Professor of Management; awardee Andrés Vélez-Calle, Universidad EAFIT; awardee Larissa Marchiori Pacheco, Ph.D., Assistant Teaching Professor International Business and Strategy, Northeastern University; Andres Ramirez, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Finance; Srđan Zdravković, Ph.D., Professor of Marketing and International Business

For other IB awards recognizing exceptional scholarship, visit <https://www.aib.world/aib-2023-announcements/congratulations-to-our-aib-2023-warsaw-award-winners-and-nominees/>



The Academy of International Business is the premier global community of international business scholars. Thirteen global chapters serve the AIB membership community.

### July—2023 AIB Warsaw, Poland: Panel Presentation

*Practical Approaches, Successful Student Outcomes – The Value of Comprehensive Global Experiential Learning in International Business Education*

Panelists: **Srđan Zdravković**, Ph.D., Professor of Marketing and International Business; **Hadi Alhorr**, Ph.D., Professor of International Business, Director Boeing Institute of International Business, Saint Louis University; **Omar Khan**, Professor of Marketing and International Business, Morgan State University; **Bill McShane**, Associate Director for Integrated Learning, University of Pittsburgh; **Jacqueline Saslawski**, JD, MPIA, Director of the IB Program, Lecturer of Management



Left to right: Srđan Zdravković, Jacqueline Saslawski, Bill McShane, Hadi Alhorr, Omar Khan



### September —IB First Year Welcome

On September 20, IB first years met fellow IB students, faculty, staff, administrators, and alumni. The rapid round table featured topics like Study Abroad, Global Culture, Foreign Languages, Honors Program, Explore IB Concentrations, BUS 100, IB Block, and IB Practicum.

IB alumna **Nicole Craig** ('22), Distribution IT Supervisor at The TJX Companies, Inc. returned to campus to share her experiences. More than 15 Bryant faculty, staff, IB students, and administrators joined the conversations.

We thank each participant!

### October—Homecoming

IB alumni, students, and faculty met at the tailgate event on October 15.



Left to right: Jacqueline Saslawski, Elzotbek Rustambekov, Holly Chadwick ('23), Emma Jasper ('23)



Left to right: Jacqueline Saslawski, William Swart ('22), Elzotbek Rustambekov, Associate Professor of Management



Left to right: Jacqueline Saslawski, Julia Di Natale ('22), Ashley Suzio ('23)

## IB Events and Activities Summer 2023—Fall 2023 *continued*

### October—CUIBE Fall Governance Meeting

Bryant is an active member of CUIBE, the Consortium for Undergraduate International Business Education. The fall meeting was hosted by Northeastern University. IB Director Jacqueline Saslawski attended.



CUIBE group at Northeastern University

“The Consortium for Undergraduate International Business Education (CUIBE) is a collaborative network of leading undergraduate business schools dedicated to advancing the field of international business education. With a focus on promoting academic excellence, fostering global perspectives, and preparing future leaders for success in the global marketplace, CUIBE brings together a diverse community of educators and professionals committed to sharing best practices and innovative ideas in the field of international business education. Through its conferences, workshops, and research initiatives, CUIBE aims to promote the development of globally competent and culturally aware graduates who are well-prepared to navigate the challenges and opportunities of an increasingly interconnected world.” <https://cuibe.net/about-us/>

### October and November—Fall Open Houses

Prospective students and their families explored Bryant.



### November—Bryant Day of Understanding

Bryant’s fourth annual Day of Understanding focused on “Equity in Action.” Sessions and events explored topics around various forms and means of Health and Wellness, Gender Inequities, Quality Education and Peace & Justice. IB Program Director **Jacqueline Saslawski, JD, MPIA** and **Fabrice Mukendi ('25)**, IB Global Supply Chain and Finance presented “EV—Unintended Consequences.” The presentation explored various aspects of electric vehicles, including battery components and mineral extraction, innovation, and human rights and environmental issues.



Coach Steve Ciocci, Jacqueline Saslawski, Fabrice Mukendi

### November—Lincoln High School Design Thinking Workshop

Around 30 Lincoln HS students participated in a Design Thinking Workshop that was led by **Allison Butler, Ph.D.**, Professor of Psychology at Bryant University. Several of the participating students are in LHS’ International Business Career and Technical Education Program.

IB Program Director **Jacqueline Saslawski** gave a short overview of international opportunities and the Bryant International Business Program.

**Jacqueline Saslawski** is a member of Lincoln High School’s International Business Program Advisory Board.



## Alumni Share Their Experiences with First Year Students

By **Jacqueline Saslawski**

The first year of college, and especially the first semester, can be a daunting experience. Everything is new and different: people, roommates, places, expectations, schedules, and so much more.

I teach students at various stages of their university career. Accompanying first year students is a rewarding experience. As a professor for Bryant's first year Introduction to Business course BUS 100 for IB, I have the privilege of accompanying the first year students during their first semester at Bryant.

The course introduces fundamental business concepts in the global economy. In addition to the concepts covered in class, students work in teams throughout the semester. The course is anchored around the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) and the students develop a business plan for an organization that aims to solve one or more UN SDGs in a foreign country.

Students make several presentations in class and to the public. The class is complex with lots of moving parts. Right at the beginning of their college career, students are challenged to work in teams, present publicly, explore new cultures, and balance all their course work with other classes and other demands.

Being at the beginning of their studies, it is also a time to think about functional concentrations. 'Might I be interested in marketing, finance ...?'—IB students have nine concentrations to choose from. They might wonder how international business will work for them. Other students are perhaps undecided as to whether they are going to major in business or want to pursue a non-business major.

This is where our alumni are terrific resources. They have had that Bryant experience, and they have the professional experience from their career.

Two alumni spoke at my BUS 100 classes this past semester.

**Manny Montalvo** ('94), President USA & Americas @ ghd a Wella Company shared his international career journey at L'Oréal with the students. **Manny Montalvo's** international career was very inspiring for the students. It made their program choice real and showed them what impact international experiences will have on their future.



Manny Montalvo (center) with BUS 100 students

**Valerie Leduc** ('03), MBA, SHRM-SCP, SPHR, Lecturer Management explored human resource management topics that affect global organizations. **Valerie Leduc's** many HR stories opened the world of human resources to the students.



Valerie Leduc speaking with BUS 100 students

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## Stay in Touch

Bryant IB Alumni LinkedIn Group: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/2904961/>