



## Bryant University International Business Program

Our program, ranked No. 18 nationally in the 2023 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.

### Inside this issue:

- IB Banquet Snapshots 2, 4, 5
- Graduating Student Awards 3
- 2023 BSIB Graduates 4
- Bryant IB Student Team Excels at IB Case Competition 6-7
- From the IB Director 7
- IB Practicum 8-9
- First-Year Experiences 10
- Reflections from an IB Senior 11
- IB Alumni Insights 12-15
- IB Alumna Takes Law Studies Abroad 15
- IBA Activities and Reflections from IBA President 16-17
- IB Program Activities 18-19
- Contact, Stay in Touch 20

## IB Graduating Seniors Celebrate During 2023 Banquet



On May 5, 2023, graduating IB seniors, Bryant faculty, administrators and staff celebrated the students' achievements during the traditional IB Awards Banquet.



Betty Robson

Keynote speaker Betty Robson, CEO, JF Moran, shared global stories and provided an inspiring outlook for the graduating students.



Julia Di Natale and Gabriela Reymont

Julia Di Natale '22, Change Management Analyst, Asset Management Division, Goldman Sachs and Gabriela Reymont '21, Associate Brand Manager, Premium Chocolate, Ferrero offered the alumni remarks.

The evening also featured student awards and superlatives, faculty remarks by Srđan Zdravković, Ph.D., Professor of Marketing and International Business and student remarks by Holly Chadwick, President, International Business Association (IBA).

Read more on pages 2-5.

### IB Banquet Snapshots



### 2023 BSIB Graduating Student Awards: Congratulations to the Awardees

IB Accounting:

Kevin Copeland

IB Entrepreneurship:

Michael Trask

IB Finance:

Clara Cole

IB Global Supply Chain Management:

Verónica Cruz Torresola

IB Human Resource Management:

Arana Torres

IB Information Systems:

Matthew Kiernan

IB Leadership and Innovation:

Holly Chadwick

IB Marketing:

Emily Magri

IB Team and Project Management:

Brianna Catino

IB Outstanding Academic Award:

Matthew Kiernan

Yobaccio Leadership Award:

Holly Chadwick



Dean Annavarjula with awardees: Kevin Copeland, Michael Trask, Clara Cole



Verónica Cruz Torresola



Arana Torres



Matthew Kiernan



Holly Chadwick



Emily Magri



Brianna Catino

### 2023 Language Study Awards

Chinese Language Studies Award:

Kevin Copeland

French Language Studies Award:

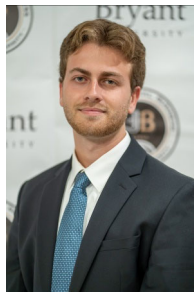
Verónica Cruz Torresola

Italian Language Studies Award:

Diego Rodriguez

Multilingual Language Studies Award:

Juliette Sasso



Kevin Copeland



Verónica Cruz Torresola



Diego Rodriguez



Juliette Sasso

### 2023 Commencement Awards

The Excellence in Information Systems Award:

Matthew Kiernan

The Modern Languages Department Award:

Darling Michell Pagan Antunez

The Roger W. Babson Award:

Louise Barro



Matthew Kiernan



Darling Michell Pagan Antunez



Louise Barro

## 2023 BSIB Graduates

Abby Marie Acone

Louise Madina Barro

Brianna Faith Catino

Holly Charlotte Chadwick

Raghav Rahul Chandak

Blanca Chasco Maso

Clara Anne Cole

Kevin Charles Copeland

Verónica Cruz Torresola

Courtney Marie Dye

Samantha Lynne Eastman

Ana Gabriela Gallardo De La Cruz

Sophie Glassman

Maxwell Jacob Gorman

Kyle Dow Henderson

Emma Teresa Jasper

Matthew Edward Kiernan

Angela Kim

Katherine Olivia Lennon

Emily J Magri

Emily Maria Marullo

Daniela A. Pacheco

Darling Michell Pagan Antunez

Aimee Marie Parenteau

Raquel Perez Alvarez

Ricardo J. Ponce Acevedo Jr.

Nicholas Andrew Quarella

Thomas Ralph Richardson

Bo Matthew Rinkus

Kyle Thomas Roberts

Emily Patrice Robinson

Diego Alberto Rodríguez

Leonelly Gael Romano Sedeno

Jenna Rose Russo

Juliette Anastasia Sasso

Julian Serrano

Michelle Adrienne Singer

Brice Sutherland Sinnett

Aidan Edward Smith

Isaiah J. Stephens

Ashley J. Suzio

Eric Stephen Sweeney

Arana Sofía Torres Alicea

Dilan Sebastian Torres Tupper

Michael Joseph Trask

Alejandro Emmanuel Vaquerano

Elena Vittori



### More IB Banquet Snapshots



## Bryant IB Student Team Excels at International Business Case Competition

A team of Bryant IB students traveled to St. Louis in April to compete in the Annual University of Missouri – St. Louis CUIBE Case competition. Eleven teams from ten universities participated in this three-day event. In preparation for the competition, the team - seniors **Holly Chadwick**, **Emma Jasper**, and **Aimee Parenteau**, and sophomore **Hailey Olshefsky** - worked with their faculty mentor **Jacqueline Saslawski, J.D.**, MPIA throughout the spring semester.



From left to right: Hailey Olshefsky, Aimee Parenteau, Holly Chadwick, Emma Jasper

“The team worked well together during the preparation and that spirit carried over to the actual competition. The four team members displayed camaraderie and mentorship to each other. They had integrity, creativity, professionalism, and collegiality throughout the competition. They applied their knowledge and experience to the case. As a result of how they tackled the case their presentation was outstanding! They achieved third place and I am very proud of them. It was so much fun coaching them and traveling to the competition. I also thank the International Business Institute at University of Missouri St. Louis (UMSL) College of Business for offering such a great competition.”  
**Jacqueline Saslawski**

“This Spring, I had the opportunity to participate in the 10th annual International Business Case Competition held at the University of Missouri - St. Louis. This competition was an enriching experience, and I encourage any student at Bryant to consider taking advantage of one of these events. During our three-day trip, we were able to learn experientially and put our knowledge and skills to the test. To solve the problem we were presented with, we utilized our critical thinking skills, the design thinking strategy, and kept an open mind to all possible solutions. Our hard work paid off, and we placed third among eleven teams. I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to work with an amazing group of women and apply my knowledge and skills to offer potential solutions to a proposed global issue. Overall, this experience helped me enhance my presentation skills, increased my confidence, and exposed me to overcoming challenges quickly.”  
**Holly Chadwick**

“The case competition itself was an exhilarating and nerve-wracking experience. We were presented with a real-world business problem and given a limited amount of time to analyze the situation, develop a strategy, and present our findings to a panel of judges. The pressure was intense, but it pushed us to work together as a cohesive unit, leveraging each team member’s strengths and expertise. Throughout the process, we faced numerous challenges and obstacles. We had to navigate through complex data, think critically, and

make tough decisions under time constraints. However, what made the experience truly rewarding was the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills we had acquired in our business courses. It was a chance to see firsthand how theory and practice intersected in the business world. Collaboration was key to our success. As a sophomore, I was fortunate to work alongside experienced seniors. They provided guidance, mentorship, and invaluable insights that helped shape our strategy. One of the most significant takeaways from this case competition was the opportunity to enhance my presentation and communication skills. We had to distill complex information into a concise and persuasive pitch, capturing the attention of the judges and effectively conveying our strategy.”  
**Hailey Olshefsky**



Team holding their 3rd place plaques; with final round judges

“No matter the limited span of 24 hours for preparation in the IB Case Competition, our all-women Bryant team was awarded third place among eleven competing teams. This immersive approach to experiential learning required constant teamwork and effective communication. The competition's prompt provided an opportunity to apply the knowledge acquired

## Case Competition cont'd

through the IB Program. With the global and open mindset of our team, we were able to develop innovative strategies using a variety of transferable skills. Traveling to the University of Missouri - St. Louis to compete and represent the Bryant IB Program was a privilege, to say the least. With our focus on positive collaboration, the team was able to achieve success and help bring recognition to the unique offerings provided by Bryant University's IB Program." Emma Jasper



Winning teams

The case was: "Digital Transformation of the Global Grocery Industry – a Strategic Response to a Disruptive Threat" and it was sponsored by Hussmann, UMSL, and the Consortium of Undergraduate International Business Education (CUIBE).

The winning teams were: Washington University— St. Louis (1st Place), University of Tennessee, Knoxville (2nd Place), Bryant University (3rd Place)

Participating schools: Bryant University, Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania, Illinois State University (2 teams), San Diego State University, Temple University, Truman State University, University of Missouri – St. Louis, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Washington State University, Washington University—St. Louis

## From the IB Director

By **Jacqueline Saslawski**

The focus of the fall newsletter was "in great company." Reflecting on this past year, I still love "in great company," so it was hard to pick a theme for the whole year. In the end, I feel that "prepared for the global future" fits well for the 2022-2023 academic year. The 2023 IB graduates are equipped to meet the challenges ahead. Their experience-packed global curriculum has provided them with the knowledge, skills, and mindset to adapt and succeed in our fast-changing global world. On top of that, they accomplished their rigorous studies and experiences on campus and abroad during the pandemic.

I love our IB curriculum and the cutting-edge interdisciplinary and experiential approaches it provides.

In the spring semester, IB juniors were able to put their knowledge and experiences into practice during the IB integrative four-course IB Block, becoming executives in a global business simulation. The rising sophomores have just completed their first year. Two of them share their experiences on page 10. The rising juniors are preparing for their fall study abroad experiences. IB seniors completed their IB Practicum projects (see pages 8-9). A team of IB students competed in the Annual University of Missouri – St. Louis CUIBE Case competition. As you probably just read on the left, they placed third! It was such a pleasure to coach them and to travel with them! At the end of the spring semester we celebrated the graduating students' achievements at the annual IB Banquet (see pages 1-5).

I am excited for all of them!

IB alumni are thriving and it is wonderful to see their engagement with the current IB students. In March, the undergraduate student organization International Business Association (IBA) hosted a large alumni panel for its members. Some of these alumni provided insights for this newsletter (Alumni, see pages 12-15; IBA activities, see pages 16-17).

This coming academic year comes full circle for me as I will have taught or interacted with the IB seniors since their first semester. I am looking forward to witnessing how their development culminates in their senior year and in IB Practicum.

In addition to the students and the alumni, the faculty, advisors, study abroad office, Bryant administration, university library, and relationships with the business community are vital for the IB Program's continued success. Thank you for your support!

Enjoy this newsletter and please have a great summer.

Sincerely,

*Jacqueline Saslawski*

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



At IB Banquet with my fall IB Practicum Singapore group: Alejandro Vaquerano, Michael Trask, Aidan Smith, myself, Elena Vittori, Brianna Catino

## Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 IB International Business Practicum and Awards

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 clients.

### Fall 2022 IB Practicum

These client companies provided valuable international business experiences to Bryant IB students in fall 2022: AVTECH, Darlington Fabrics, Hope Global, MediMynds, and TCIEExpress.

IB Program Director **Jacqueline Saslawski** who also teaches the Practicum class, hosted several guest speakers. **Keith Schneider** ('85), Chief Operating Officer for Goffa International discussed his international professional journey. **Manny Montalvo** ('94), President USA & Americas @ghd a Wella Company shared his international career journey at L'Oréal with the students.

### Spring 2023 IB Practicum



Fall 2023 IB Practicum class with judges Heather Masera and Will Nye (back row, second and third from left).

The following client companies provided valuable international business experiences to Bryant IB students in spring 2023: Ambilabs, AVTECH, APTelecom, and TAPKIT.

We hosted two guest speakers in the spring. **William St. Jean** ('81), retired at IBM, joined via Zoom for an engaging "Around the World with IBM on a Bryant Education" session. **Paul Blackman** ('79), Vice President of Paperboard at International Forest Products LLC, joined us in the classroom for a very interactive session on international careers and current global business issues.



Spring 2023 IB Practicum class with Paul Blackman (center)

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

### Fall 2022 IB Practicum Awards

Best presentations:

1st place - AVTECH

Louise Barro, Holly Chadwick, Raghav Chandak, Emma Jasper, Darling Michell Pagan Antunez

2nd place - TCIEExpress

Brianna Catino, Aidan Smith, Michael Trask, Alejandro Vaquerano, Elena Vittori

Best paper:

Hope Global

Abby Acone, Clara Cole, Emily Magri, Aimee Parenteau, Jenna Russo



## IB Practicum *cont'd*

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 **Michelle Baffoni**, Director, Systems Services and Support, Fidelity Investments, Adjunct Professor of Management; **Russel Sylvia**, Executive Coach & Career Consultant, Lee Hecht Harrison, Adjunct Professor of Management; and **Linda Woulfe**, International Trade Consultant and Trainer, Adjunct Professor, International Trade and Logistics at Bryant University. The final presentations were judged by **Heather Masera**, Talent Acquisition Consultant, Fidelity TalentSource and **Will Nye** (IB'21), Production Expeditor & Customer Relations Associate, TechniMetals.

### Spring 2023 IB Practicum Awards

Best presentations:

1st place - TAPKIT

Courtney Dye, Kyle Henderson, Thomas Richardson, Brice Sinnett, Ashley Suzio

2nd place - Ambilabs

Angela Kim, Katherine Lennon, Emily Marullo, Nelly Romano Sedeno, Dylan Torres

Best paper:

AVTECH

Kevin Copeland, Sophie Glassman, Kyle Roberts, Isaiah Stephens, Eric Sweeney

We thank the judges! The midterm presentations were judged by **Robert Massoud**, MBA, Lecturer of Management; **Mehreen Pasha**, MBA, Lecturer of Management and Marketing; and **Linda Woulfe**, International Trade Consultant and Trainer, Adjunct Professor, International Trade and Logistics at Bryant University. The final presentations were judged by **Paris Flynn**, MBA'23, IB'22, Building Belonging Task Force Graduate Assistant, Founder and Executive Director of the Wave Foundation; **Heather Masera**, Talent Acquisition Consultant, Fidelity TalentSource; and **Jocelyn L. Nacci**, VP Commercial Banking, Centreville Bank.



Spring 2023 IB Practicum class

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

Please contact Jacqueline Saslawski, [jsaslawski@bryant.edu](mailto:jsaslawski@bryant.edu), +1-401-232-6940 to 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 wonderful way to get involved with the IB Program. Please contact Jacqueline Saslawski, [jsaslawski@bryant.edu](mailto:jsaslawski@bryant.edu), +1-401-232-6940 to learn more.

## First Year Experiences



### By Ian Cannon

My name is Ian Cannon and I am an International Business major with a concentration in Leadership and Innovation Management and a minor in Spanish.

Having completed my first year as an international business student at Bryant, I'm happy to say my experience was interesting, exciting, and challenging.

I really enjoyed starting my IB journey with Global Foundations and Organizations of Business (GFOB), as it gave me a great base understanding of how business functions on an international scale.

The final Business Plan project helped me understand the business process and how to be a leader by working with a team to create a product in order to solve a global problem. My team and I were able to win first place in our class because we each understood our roles and were able to work together to design a cost effective and creative solution to Denmark's

goal of net-zero emissions by 2025. This experience taught me how to use critical thinking to solve business problems I had never dealt with before.

One of the biggest pieces of advice I could give to any incoming IB student is to join the International Business Association (IBA). This club meets every other week and it is a fantastic way to familiarize yourself with the IB students from your current year, as well as upperclassmen. Through the IBA, I made valuable connections with students who were kind enough to share their own unique experiences with the IB Program. Their input helped me understand what to expect from my classes, course load and what to look forward to when studying abroad. Also, it's a lot of fun. I enjoyed playing country bingo and Jeopardy, and winning raffle tickets for Bryant merch.

Next year, as a sophomore, my goal is to land my first internship. I plan to attend every career fair, and hopefully do an internship over winter break. Additionally, I'm excited to take classes like Marketing and Finance in order to hopefully find a second concentration.

When you're asked at 17 what you want to do for the rest of your life it can be overwhelming. I chose Bryant mainly because their IB Program was so highly rated. Coming into my first year I was

hopeful, but not sure if International Business would be right for me. I'm happy to say, after the first year I'm confident I made the right choice.



### By Almira Ramazanova

Hello, my name is Almira and I am an international business major with a minor in French.

As I was transitioning from high school to university, I was nervous. But after some time at Bryant, I realized how helpful everyone is. I am grateful for the help and resources available.

I especially appreciate the International Business Association (IBA). The IBA meetings and programs are so useful. The seniors on the IBA E-board constantly provide great information and insights.

I love the opportunities Bryant has given me.

## Reflections from an IB Senior

By **Holly Chadwick** ('23)

“Choosing Bryant, but more specifically the IB Program was one of the best decisions I could have made for myself. As a first-generation American college student, I was unsure about what university in the States would offer me. The extensive number of schools around the country was overwhelming and I was fearful about making the wrong decision. Looking back now, I am extremely grateful that I chose Bryant, and I wouldn't have it any other way. Bryant's IB Program's unique curriculum, extremely talented and personable faculty, and expansive opportunities have undeniably equipped me to continue to thrive in a professional and interpersonal environment globally. If I knew then what I know now, choosing a university would have been easy.

In most traditional classrooms, students are instructed to memorize material. We are trained to study out of a textbook and then asked to recite it on the exam; only to forget it the following day. Before Bryant and the IB Program, I thought this was what learning was, but if these past four years have taught me anything, it's that this traditional style of learning is dated, ineffective, and unstimulating. The experiential learning techniques embedded within Bryant's IB Program break down those barriers and have enabled me to find my passion and confidence in academics.

There is a lot to be said about the IB Program and the way it teaches students to succeed. The environment in which we learn is stimulating, competitive, and almost entirely experiential.

Starting my sophomore year, I had the opportunity to work hands-on with a client to help improve their business model and adapt to the ever-changing environment during the pandemic. Moreover, during my senior year, I worked with several peers to help consult a Rhode Island based global company about a potential European expansion plan. Each of these experiences has built up my confidence, as well as enabling me to improve upon both hard and soft skills.

Additionally, despite the pandemic, I was able to study abroad in Sevilla, Spain. This experience is by far the most memorable as it allowed me to bond with my fellow classmates, improve my Spanish language skills, and engage in a multitude of cultures. Moreover, not only did I get to take classes, travel, and indulge in different experiences, but I also had the unique opportunity to complete an internship, courtesy of Bryant.

The IB Program has made me the young woman that I am today, and I will forever be grateful to the students, faculty, and experiences that shaped me. I wish that I could go back in time and relive it, but since I cannot I just hope to be able to stay in touch with the students that come after me. Thank you, Bryant IB, for

giving me a family away from home, I am so excited to see what is to come!”

*More about Holly:*

**Holly Chadwick** ('23), Honors International Business, Concentration in Leadership and Innovation, Minor in Spanish

International Business Association (IBA) President, OIES Research Analyst, Omicron Delta Kappa member, Delta Zeta member, Phi Sigma Iota member

In April 2023, she participated in the IB Case Competition at the University of Missouri St. Louis (see article pages 6-7).

**Holly Chadwick** is this year's recipient of the Yobaccio Family Award for Leadership in International Business. She had the pleasure of joining **Dr. Elizabeth Yobaccio** for lunch in the spring semester.



Dr. Elizabeth Yobaccio and Holly Chadwick

## IB Alumni Insights

Recent IB Alumni shared their IB experiences and post-graduation paths with IBA members in March 2023. Five of the eleven alumni who presented agreed to share their insights in this newsletter. Please enjoy the write-ups of these successful recent IB alumni.



**Alexandria Iacoviello** (IB '22), IB Entrepreneurship and Spanish concentrations, Finance minor, Editorial Strategist, IBM Blog & Podcast

**“How IB has led to my current role:** The IB Program gave me a foundational understanding of how to conduct business with different cultures. Working at IBM, I often have team members and others I need to collaborate with globally. The basic knowledge of how to conduct the first five minutes of a meeting to the entire layout of that meeting was given to me through my courses. I have instinctual knowledge of how to run each meeting because of the principles all of my professors instilled in me.

**How IB has impacted my professional development and success:** I fully credit my ability to excel in my post-graduate role to the professionalism and expectations our IB professors demanded from us. I would not have had such a smooth transition

to the professional world if it were not for the way classes were structured, and even the continued attention to detail through Covid. It felt as if nothing had changed because we were able to hold our most difficult IB Block semester completely in person.

**Most memorable aspect of the IB Program:** The most memorable impact of the IB Program was the friends and connections I made during the process. There is a different type of bond with peers who have a respect for learning about various cultures as well as being academically motivated. These are the type of people you want to surround yourself with, the ones who lift you up and make you better. The peers and professors in the IB Program taught me to put myself outside of my comfort zone and it allowed me to grow so much personally and professionally. I carry that knowledge into my day-to-day life.

**Advice for current students:** My advice to current IB students would be to allow yourself to get closer to the community. Attend office hours of professors not only to better your grades but to build a relationship with them. At the very least, go to IBA and make some friends outside of classes. I will reiterate that these are the type of people you will want to surround yourself with. Sometimes we are too caught up in our own social circles to realize the benefits of connecting with those in a professional setting. Allow yourself to socialize with others in the IB community while you are still at Bryant.

**Advice for incoming students deciding on their majors:** I was back and forth with what I wanted to do. I was scared of the challenges that

university level language courses presented. I was also trying to decide which concentration had the best “ROI.” None of that matters unless you are enjoying yourself. I promise that wherever you decide to work post-grad will teach you how to do the job they want. And with the rise of Generative AI a lot of roles are being automated, so think about what you enjoy and what to study. Choose a major that teaches you how to think strategically and creatively. Bryant’s curriculum, especially that of the IB Program, will get you the job you want post-grad; it won’t necessarily be your specific concentration.

**Future plans:** I have not yet considered grad school, as I continue to work for IBM each day there is something new to learn from such a large and long-standing company. The opportunities are endless for education in my current field, but since I do love learning there may be an MBA in my future.

**Other notes:** I wanted to note that I believe it was the combination of IB Block, the IDEA Program, and the various leadership positions I received from those experiences that got me my current role. Although some things might be “requirements” for your major or graduation, that is because they are relevant and important. It might be hard to see it as a student, but lean into those unique opportunities Bryant provides within their curriculum because that will set you apart from the competition. I would also encourage you to network with Bryant Alumni, especially at companies you are interested in working for. Reach out and have phone conversations with alumni to learn more about what they do and how they got to where they are. Mentorship is even more important post-grad!”

*continued on next page*

## Alumni Insights cont'd



**Julia Di Natale** (IB '22), IB Marketing and Global Supply Chain Management concentrations, French minor, Change Management Analyst, Asset Management Division, Goldman Sachs

**“How IB has led to my current**

**position:** IB has led me to my current position because it equipped me with the skills, experience, and confidence needed to interview and secure a job at a Fortune 500 company. I was able to talk about our rigorous curriculum and educational experiences and that helped me stand out against other candidates.

**How IB contributed to my first**

**position out of college:** IB has prepared me with top notch presentation skills that I use in my daily job function. The dedicated faculty emphasize the importance of effective presentations and provide students with several chances to develop these skills. In just one year into my role, it is clear that my IB experiences have set me up for success.

**How IB has impacted my professional**

**development and success:** IB directly impacted my professional development through the various experiential learning opportunities embedded in the program. Semesters such as IB Block and IB Practicum offer students real-world experiences while we ran our own business through a global simulation or collaborated with a company to offer solutions that they greatly benefit from.

**Most memorable aspect of the IB**

**Program:** For me, the most memorable aspect of the IB Program is the mentorship. On one of my first visits to

campus, I met Danielle Nikosey '20, who helped me consider all the options open to me. She quickly became my mentor, fellow IBA Executive Board member, and most importantly a friend. This mentorship was only expanded with IB faculty both in and outside of the classroom. Professor Ganga Hewage became my Honors thesis advisor and encouraged me to submit my work to two high-level academic conferences, a rarity for undergraduate students. My work was accepted at both conferences, and she was there for me every step of the way as we traveled to present the research.

**How IB has shaped me as a person:** IB has shaped me as a person by bringing my previously hidden confidence to the surface and that has helped me realize that I can achieve even my biggest career goals!

**Advice for current students:** Take advantage of all IB has to offer! Going to classes is important, but you can get so much more out of your IB experience by joining IBA, attending IB events, forming relationships with IB faculty, and connecting with upper-class students and IB alumni. Always remember IB at Bryant is more than just a major – we are a family, and we are all there to support each other!

**Advice for incoming students who are deciding their majors:** The world we are living in is more connected than ever before, especially in business. Choosing a major with an international focus will positively set you apart in the job application process. IB is one of Bryant's highest and most consistently ranked programs and once you are in it you can understand why. There are so many international faculty members who have lived and worked overseas, and they bring those experiences back into the classroom. I would greatly recommend majoring in IB to any incoming student who would like to get the most out of their College of Business education.”



**Emily Katz** (IB '20), IB Global Supply Chain Management and Applied Analytics concentrations, Spanish major, Senior Analyst, Supply Chain Strategy, VF Corporation

**“How IB has led to my current role:**

VF is a global company operating in all three regions; I have calls every week with global partners, so the IB curriculum helped me to expect and account for cultural differences when working with those global teams across EMEA and APAC.

**How IB contributed to my first**

**position out of college:** I started at VF in a supply chain rotational program that had high exposure to supply chain leadership. The soft skills that I learned through the IB Program helped me to exceed right from the beginning (i.e., presentation skills, executive presence, time management, attention to detail, etc.).

**How IB has impacted my professional development and success:** Similar to the above question, the IB Program does a great job teaching professional skills that helped me to stand out against peers in my same position level. Presentation skills have helped me to accelerate my career growth quickly as I have proven I can present to a range of audiences across regions and leadership levels. No note cards!

**Most memorable aspect of the IB**

**Program:** Bonding with classmates, especially after study abroad. Having a group of peers who understand your workload, expectations, and responsibilities is a great way to form lasting relationships. You can learn

*continued on next page*

## Alumni Insights cont'd

from each other and share experiences that others wouldn't understand.

### **How IB has shaped me as a person:**

IB confirmed my love for traveling and exploring global cultures. The program gave me the skills to pursue an international career and has set me up to eventually live abroad (fingers crossed!).

**Advice for current students:** Work hard and the results will come. IB can be intimidating as you're hearing about the workload from current or past students, but just keep doing your best every day and you will succeed!

### **Advice for incoming students who are deciding their majors:**

No matter what you study, you will be building skills that are key to succeed in any career. Choose what you feel most passionate about. Research what jobs you could get from a certain major and reach out to alumni on LinkedIn who are in positions that you may like - use your resources!

**Future plans:** I'm planning to take on a new position within VF and get back into supply chain operations. I'm currently in strategy, which I love, but I'm ready to get back into the day-to-day craziness of supply chain operations, such as a planning role. I'm considering getting my masters eventually - likely in a few years!"



**Randall Davis** (IB '22), IB Global Supply Chain Management and

Information System Analytics concentrations, Spanish minor, Associate Supply Chain Consultant, IBM

**"How IB has led to my current position:** I am currently a supply chain technology consultant at IBM. I found my current position by applying online through IBM's opportunity portal. After going through a competitive four - round interview process I was selected for the position based on my prior experiences and willingness to learn.

### **How IB has impacted my professional development/success:**

The IB Program has had a significant impact on my professional success with the start of my career. This is largely due to the higher standards that the IB students are put under with the rigorous coursework. In my time within the program, I learned so much about showing up to work with a purpose and serving with an impact. The competition of the IB Program was also something that drives students to deliver. By my sophomore year, I had already started to go up in interviews against fellow peers looking for internships and opportunities. Additionally, while also working in group projects against other student groups, students are constantly challenged in a productive way. The competition encourages the growth of students and has led me to much success within my new position.

### **Most memorable aspect of the IB Program:**

Study abroad and IB Block are the two that come to mind. Studying abroad was an amazing experience to live and learn in a totally new environment halfway across the world. Every weekend was a new trip to another iconic destination in Europe. Having

the opportunity to live out of my backpack while also continuing my education at the same time was something I will be forever grateful for. IB Block being the second most memorable aspect due to its "challenge by fire" approach. Here is where I learned what I am capable of as a student and worker. The dedication and discipline that was required of me during this challenging semester really made me believe in the saying that pressure does make diamonds.

### **How IB has shaped me as a person:**

IB has molded me to become a more well-rounded individual. The high standards needed to be a part of the program as well as the competition required to succeed has empowered me to break out of any comfort zone I was used to. I am now much more comfortable with the uncomfortable, I embrace every challenge I face, and I see every problem as an opportunity to improve.

**Advice for current students:** Do not worry about the people that seem like they have it all figured it out already. Don't worry about who has a job or who has an internship, your time will come when you take the time to figure out where you want to see yourself in five years. I would try to avoid the rush to get just any job straight out of college. Take some time to think about the type of place you want to work and what you want to gain from your career. Thinking about it this way is going to be a much more productive way of starting your career.

### **Advice for incoming students who are deciding their majors:**

Just be open minded and don't fall in love with something right away, try different courses and see what you enjoy the most.

## Alumni Insights cont'd

**Future plans:** For the foreseeable future I plan on climbing the corporate consulting ladder here in New York with IBM. I am extremely excited and grateful for my current position and the experience I have gained here so far in consulting is unmatched.”



**Nicole Craig** (IB '22), IB Global Supply Chain Management and Spanish concentrations, Distribution Center Supervisor, The TJX Companies, Inc.

**“How IB has led to my current role:** An older IB student shared her positive experiences with TJX, which influenced me to pursue an internship with the company in 2021. I then received a full-time offer after graduation! I have been in a supervisory role for a year.

**How IB has impacted my professional development and success:** My global supply chain management concentration curriculum aligns with my first position out of college. The international background continues to open new doors for opportunities.

**Most memorable aspect of the IB Program:** The IB capstone projects were memorable experiences both in education and teamwork. IB has shaped me to be resilient in the face of adversity.

**Advice for current students:** Always challenge your career choice. IB is a dynamic degree! It provides you with the unique opportunity to explore different functions.

**Advice to incoming students:** You may never know what you want to be when you grow up, so follow your passions!

**Other notes:** I had the privilege of representing the Woburn DC as a member of the network assistance team for the newest Marshalls Distribution Center in El Paso, Texas in March 2023. As a former intern two years ago, I am now serving as a Building Champion for the Distribution Services Intern Program in Woburn this summer! I am also pursuing a three-month developmental assignment for a new role.”

## IB Alumna Takes Her Law Studies Abroad

By **Jillian Cash** (IB '21)

“During the 2022-2023 school year, I had the joy of earning my Master's of International and European Business Law (MIEBL) from the Universidad Pontificia Comillas. It was an incredible year in Madrid to pursue this dual JD/LLM degree.

During this experience, I learned about many aspects of International Law from distinguished professors. I visited European government institutions in Brussels, toured the Spanish Supreme Court, and traveled around Europe with new friends. This year in Spain has helped me refine my Spanish speaking and cultural competency skills.

As a capstone to the program, I wrote a Master's thesis titled “Analyzing the Ways that Intellectual Property Protections Spread or Limit Sustainable Technology in Developing Nations.” This paper analyzes strategies for developed nations to spread their crucial green technology developments to growing nations, as the effects of climate change mount. This was a great opportunity to understand the

convergence of IP protection, human rights, and sustainable development. This experience in Spain was unique and pushed me out of my comfort zone. Most law students take a traditional three-year program at their home university, but learning about International Law from professors around the world challenged my own perceptions of the American legal system. I grew my Spanish speaking abilities, traveled to experience new cultures, and made international connections with legal thought-leaders.

My experience at Bryant studying international business empowered me to take the leap and pursue this rigorous dual degree program. I studied in Salamanca, Spain, during my junior year. This allowed me to live with a host mom, work for a Spanish company, and become comfortable in a foreign country. I am forever grateful to Bryant for exposing me to incredible international opportunities and instilling a love for travel and cultural immersion.”



Jillian Cash at her MIEBL graduation

## International Business Association Fall 2022 and Spring 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.

Here are some of the events that IBA hosted in 2022-2023. *Fall event photos are in the Fall IB Newsletter.*

### September

IBA hosted an IB welcome session during **Welcome Week**. IB Program Director Jacqueline Saslawski prepared a video message from Madrid, Spain that welcomed the students at the session. IB students Sara Curry, Emerson Swartz, Veronica Levesque, and Giana Amaral recorded a video message from Aix-En-Provence, France.

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**.

### October

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

IBA participated in October **Open House**.

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 a **Study Abroad Experience Panel**. 28 IBA members enjoyed live presentations from IB students abroad in France (Giana Amaral and Veronica Levesque) and Spain (Alex Palermo and Lindsey Valeri).

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

### December

IBA tabled during Bryant's **Festival Of Lights**.

### March

IBA hosted an **IB Alumni Panel**. 11 recent alumni shared their IB experiences and post-graduation paths. IBA thanks Sam Bullock '22, McKinsey & Company; Nicole Craig '22, TJX Companies; Randall Davis '22, IBM; Julia Di Natale '22, Goldman Sachs; Bridget Gomes '20, Inspire Brands; Alexandria Iacoviello '22, IBM; Emily Katz '20, VF Corporation; Mateo Laverde, '20, Deloitte; Haley Lowell '21, Newell Brands; Eva Nesline '20, Citizens; and Danielle Nikosey '20, Wayfair for their participation in the panel.



IB Alumni Panel

### April

IB Director Jacqueline Saslawski, JD, MPIA and student presenters from the IBA hosted a rapid roundtable on the IB experience at Bryant and a panel on global experiences, global learning, and social impact during Bryant's 11th Annual Research and Engagement Day (**REDay**). IBA raised funds for Turkey earthquake victims.

IBA members shared their experiences with future Bryant students during IB faculty panels at **Open House/ Admitted Students Day**.

### May

IBA celebrated another successful year with the **final IBA meeting**, honoring IBA seniors with special graduation cords.

IBA co-hosted **IB Banquet**.



## From the IBA President

Dear IBA members,

I would like to congratulate you all on finishing the 2022-2023 academic year. As we all know, the IB Program is quite rigorous, yet also very rewarding and many of us have made great strides and accomplishments toward our futures while also pursuing involvement in other programs, organizations, and clubs on campus. I am beyond proud of you all and hope you are as well!

IBA has been a core part of my Bryant experience from the very beginning. During my first meeting, I knew that it was a club that I wanted to be a part of throughout the entirety of my time at Bryant. IBA has given me endless opportunities, access to a multitude of mentors, and a plethora of friendships that I will forever hold dear to my heart. I am incredibly grateful for having served on this E-board for three years running and it has been a pleasure to serve as your President this year! I am so appreciative of the E-board and general members that have stood by my side during this experience, I truly could not have done it without all your support. Additionally, thank you to each of you who attended a meeting or an event, your presence meant the world to me and our e-board, and it is honestly what makes IBA the community that it is! I will genuinely miss you all and

hope that our paths will cross again one day.

As the year comes to an end, it is officially time to announce the 2023-2024 E-board. I know that IBA will continue to prosper with this new leadership, and I am certain that I am leaving this organization in safe care.

Congratulations and good luck to everyone selected to serve on this Executive Board, I am looking forward to what you will all accomplish!

Also, if you have yet to check out our new merchandise website, courtesy of our fabulous Director of Marketing, Patrick Roth, please do so! There are a variety of options to choose from, and he is open to suggestions if there is something you would like to see!

<https://www.bonfire.com/store/bryantiba/>.

This is not a goodbye, but a see you later!

All the best,

*Holly Chadwick*



Holly Chadwick

## International Business Association E-Board

### 2022-2023 IBA Officers

President—**Holly Chadwick** ('23),  
IB Marketing, Minor Spanish

Vice President—**Alex Palermo** ('24),  
IB Finance, Minor Spanish

Director of Community Relations—**Lindsey Valeri** ('24),  
IB Global Supply Chain Management and Spanish

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

Director of Finance—**Julian Serrano** ('23),  
IB Finance, Minors Economics and Information Systems

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

Director of Operations—**Emma Jasper** ('23),  
IB Marketing and Spanish, Minor Team and Project Management

### 2023-2024 IBA Officers

President—**Alex Palermo** ('24),  
IB Finance, Minor Spanish

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

## Events and Activities Summer 2022—Spring 2023

Photos and write-ups from fall events are in the Fall 2022 IB Newsletter <https://tinyurl.com/Fall2022BryantIBNewsletter>

### May/June—NAFSA 2022 Annual Conference & Expo

Jacqueline Saslawski, JD, MPIA, Director of the IB Program and Lecturer at the Department of Management at Bryant University and William McShane, MPIA, Associate Director for Integrated Learning at the University of Pittsburgh's Katz Graduate School of Business, presented their poster "Meaningful Global Skills Development - On and Off Campus."

Jacqueline Saslawski also presented a poster "Global Experiential Learning that Builds Competencies for Enhancing Social Value."

NAFSA: Association of International Educators is the world's largest nonprofit association dedicated to international education and exchange. NAFSA's 10,000 members are located at more than 3,500 institutions worldwide, in over 150 countries.

### July—Résumé Boosters: Connecting Study Abroad to Career Prospects

IB Director Jacqueline Saslawski, JD, MPIA was interviewed by the NAFSA International Educator magazine for an article on career outcomes of study abroad. Read the whole article at: <https://www.nafsa.org/ie-magazine/2022/7/12/resume-boosters-connecting-study-abroad-career-prospects>.

### July—AIB 2022: Best Paper Award in Emerging Economies Research

The Bryant IB Program sponsors this annual award at the annual AIB conference.

After review of the nominees, a committee at Bryant selected: Arzi Adbi, National University of Singapore and Siddharth Natarajan, Chinese University of Hong Kong *Saving for Microenterprises: The Complementary Role of Mobile Money and Banks for Marginalized Individuals in Low and Middle Income Countries*

The Academy of International Business is the premier global community of international business scholars.

### September— Bryant Welcome Week

IBA hosted an IB welcome session during Welcome Week. IB Program Director Jacqueline Saslawski prepared a video message from Madrid, Spain that welcomed the students at the session. IB students Sara

Curry, Emerson Swartz, Veronica Levesque, and Giana Amaral recorded a video message from Aix-En-Provence, France.

### September —IB First Year Welcome

On September 21, 2022 IB first years met fellow IB students, faculty, staff, administrators, and alumni. A quick-paced, in-person and tightly packed program provided an engaging overview of the IB experience at Bryant.

### October—Homecoming

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

### September/October—PLAFF

The IB Program was one of the sponsors of the 30th Annual Providence Latin American Film Festival (PLAFF), which was held virtually from September 23 to October 1. Bryant has been part of PLAFF since 2010. Other Bryant sponsors included the College of Arts and Sciences, Modern Languages, Communications, English and Social Sciences, BUSCO, ISO, MSU, and CDI.

### October—CUIBE Fall Governance Meeting

Bryant is an active member of CUIBE, the Consortium for Undergraduate International Business Education. We hosted the CUIBE Fall Governance Meeting of the Consortium for Undergraduate International Business Education October 20-22 at Bryant and in Rhode Island, welcoming a group of international business academics from the continental U.S., Hawaii, and Colombia. *Full article available in the Fall 2022 IB Newsletter, pp. 8-9.*

### November—Bryant Day of Understanding

Bryant's third annual Day of Understanding focused on "Building Community." IB Program Director Jacqueline Saslawski, JD, MPIA; Robert Massoud, MBA, Lecturer of Management; Christopher Ratcliffe, MBA, Lecturer of Management; and Russ Sylvia, MBA, Adjunct Professor of Management, presented on "Building Community in the Workplace—What Can a New Hire Do?" The session, designed for students, featured a discussion on how a new hire can enhance their professional experience by finding and building their communities. Presenters used real world experiences to inform how to successfully engage with communities in the workplace.

## Events and Activities Summer 2022—Spring 2023 cont'd

### November—Lincoln High School Design Thinking Workshop

Around 30 Lincoln HS students participated in a Design Thinking Workshop that was led by **Allison Butler**, 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**, JD, MPIA and IB seniors **Darling Michell Pagan Antunez** and **Brice Sinnett** presented on their experiences in the International Business Program.

**Jacqueline Saslawski** is a member of Lincoln High School's International Business Program Advisory Board. For 2022-23, IB Senior and President of IBA, **Holly Chadwick**, was the Bryant Student Representative on that Board.

### March—CUIBE Annual Meeting

**Jacqueline Saslawski**, JD, MPIA moderated a panel on study abroad experiences at the CUIBE Annual Conference hosted by Loyola University New Orleans. Panelists **Maribel Franco**, San Diego State University, **Sara Easler**, University of Tennessee, **Kim Cahill**, Villanova University, and **Jolie Roetter** and **Frank Dubois**, American University discussed building diversity and inclusion in study abroad, first-year programming as a springboard to engage students, and study abroad experiential learning challenges and opportunities brought up by Covid-19.

### April—REDay

The 11th Annual Research and Engagement Day at Bryant University shared experiences and celebrated research projects and works of creative expression undertaken by students, faculty, and staff. IB Director **Jacqueline Saslawski**, JD, MPIA and student presenters from the IBA hosted a rapid roundtable on the IB experience at Bryant and a panel on global experiences, global learning, and social impact.

### April—UMSL IB Case Competition

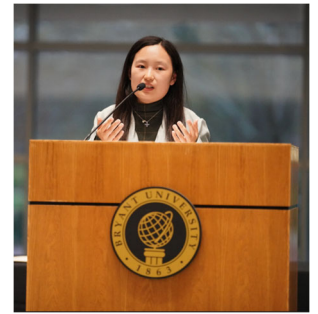
A team of Bryant IB students competed in the 10th CUIBE International Business Case Competition at University of Missouri-St. Louis. Read about their experience and 3rd place win on pages 6-7.

### May—IB Banquet

On May 5, the IB Program hosted the annual banquet. Please see pages 1-5 of this newsletter.

### ★ May—IB Faculty Receives Outstanding IB Research Award

This \$5,000 award from an anonymous donor recognizes distinguished faculty publications in the field of International Business. Only awarded when the award criteria are met, we are pleased that in AY 2022-23 this award went to **Cathy Zheng**, Assistant Professor of Finance for the lead article: Brockman, P., El Ghoul, S., Guedhami, O., Zheng, Y. (2022). Does social trust affect international contracting? Evidence from foreign bond covenants. *Journal of International Business Studies*, 53(6), 1011-1044.



Cathy Zheng

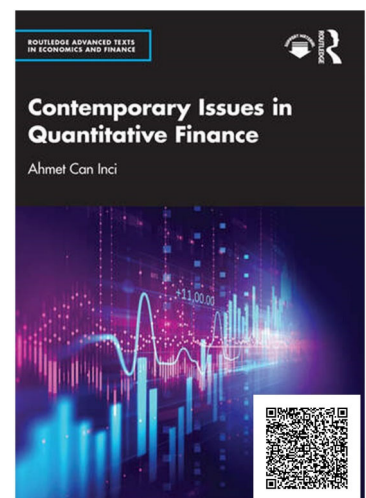
### May—World Trade Day

On May 31, Bryant and its Chafee Center for International Business hosted the 37th Annual World Trade Day. This year's event focused on the latest challenges affecting businesses, under the theme "The Current State of Trade." The day featured panels on trade finance to support exports, infrastructure to support international trade, supply chain challenges and opportunities, and a keynote on U.S.-China Relations: A Complex Paradigm. See more at <https://worldtradeday.bryant.edu/>.

### ★ IB Faculty Publishes Book



**A. Can Inci**, Ph.D., Professor of Finance, recently published a book about modern quantitative finance. A large part of the book is dedicated to international finance. Written with a global audience in mind, all the examples in every chapter throughout the book have an international perspective.



## Contact Us

International Business Program  
Bryant University  
1150 Douglas Pike  
Smithfield, RI 02917

Bryant University Website:  
[www.bryant.edu](http://www.bryant.edu)

Jacqueline Saslawski  
Director, International Business  
Program and  
Lecturer, Department of  
Management

Phone +1-401-232-6940  
E-Mail: [jsaslawski@bryant.edu](mailto:jsaslawski@bryant.edu)

Newsletter Editor and Design:  
Jacqueline Saslawski

We thank all contributors.



## Stay in Touch

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