



Bryant University International Business Program

Our program, ranked No. 20 nationally in the 2022 U.S. News & World Report, immerses students in real projects with real companies fostering an exceptional international experience. Offered as a major and minor.

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A Publication for IB Friends

Fall 2021 IB Semester Abroad

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. 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.

This fall, IB majors, including seniors whose study abroad was postponed because of the pandemic, ventured to France, Spain, and the United Kingdom.

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



August 2021 in Seville, Spain

From the IB Director: Conducting Global Experiences During a Pandemic

By **Jacqueline Saslawski**

“ Last academic year was busy with multitasking and multiplanning: hybrid classes, virtual presentations, mixed events, and constantly shifting plans and approaches to experiential learning. This year, we remained highly adaptable, while enjoying a lot of in-person experiences.

We held a dynamic, virtual, high school global leadership academy in June 2021. Orientation and onboarding of new IB students was in person and all students were back on campus for in-person classes this fall semester. Key events, like Global Foundations of Organizations and Business (GFOB) Global Expo and Global Pitch, our own IB First Year Welcome and IBA events were all held in person.

Virtual remains an important aspect of conducting business, not only because of the pandemic, but also for location reasons. The senior capstone class 'IB Practicum,' an experiential course where students deal with the ambiguity of consulting projects in a global context, held its client meetings virtually as clients were based (or traveling) in other U.S. states and internationally.

Study abroad, which is a vital component of the IB program, successfully went ahead for London, England, Aix-En-Provence, France, and Seville, Spain. Navigating travel restrictions (and their loosening), visa delays, and daily changing news, all three programs started on time and completed the full semester. I had the pleasure of leading the three-week program to Seville!

Two groups, consisting of mostly IB juniors, will spend their spring semester in Italy and Spain. Longer

visa-processing times and ever evolving travel restrictions due to the pandemic required a lot of patience and flexibility from all involved.

We still hope that in 2022-23 we are back to the “normal” IB structure, with juniors going abroad in their fall semester. Bryant has been very supportive in adjusting course planning for IB cornerstone features like IB Block, shifting semesters or splitting sections across semesters, as necessary.

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

This fall, we received the wonderful news that our IB program is once again nationally recognized by the U.S. News & World Report. We rank #20! This is an amazing accomplishment and receiving such recognition is inspiring, especially during this time of pandemic conditions and challenges to international business education.

As always, I am proud of our students' accomplishments—they are what makes the IB program! This fall, one of our IB Block teams in “BSG” tied for 1st place globally and earned multiple global rankings throughout the semester. This global business simulation is played by undergraduate and graduate students around the world and is an instrumental part of the IB integrative block of classes during junior year.

I am also again grateful for the faculty support and mentorship for the IB students; the advisors' devotion to each student's unique goals and needs; the study abroad office's expertise in dealing with the latest pandemic-related issues; the Bryant administration for enabling the necessary flexibility to run our program components during a pandemic; the alumni involvement in various capacities like IB Practicum, class presentations, and the IB Alumni Advisory Council; the Chafee Center for recruiting and managing the clients for the IB Practicum; and the clients for trusting our students to tackle their issues. In addition, the IB student experience wouldn't be possible without the expertise of the librarians, career service specialists, and so many others from the Bryant community.

Enjoy this newsletter and please have a happy start of 2022. ”

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Saslawski

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



J. Saslawski (far left) with IB students in Seville, Spain

Fall 2021 Study Abroad: Student Perspectives

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

Faculty-led programs kicked off the experiences in Aix-En-Provence, Seville, and London. Then, students 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.

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



Will Houghton in London, England

By Will Houghton ('22) IB Leadership and Innovation and Chinese

"As an international business student I was truly lucky to be able to study abroad during this COVID-19 world we



At Stonehenge

live in. The Chinese program was able to study abroad in London, England! When we first arrived in London we had the faculty-led program with Professor Nigro. This was actually one of my favorite parts of the trip. Not only were we able to explore London and the rest of the UK, but we were able to get used to living in the city without the stress of school or the internship. We were able to adjust quickly. I not only enjoyed learning from professor Nigro, but I also loved the excursions we were able to attend in those two weeks. We visited Big Ben, Stonehenge, the Tower of London, the London Eye and many other places. Each new place became more interesting as we learned about the history of the city and the country.

Not only did we visit historical places we also met and networked with successful international businessmen

and -women. Professor Nigro set up a networking night with Bryant Alumni and it was a great to meet so many alumni. I truly enjoyed hearing their international experiences throughout that night. All the Bryant students became close throughout these weeks and we were able to explore the new country.

My internship is with a company

called Jalin Design. It is a luxury bespoke uniform company and I am a sales intern there. As a business student, going into the garment industry is a very big

jump from what I am used to. I wanted to expand my skill set and gain knowledge of other industries. I enjoy working at for Jalin Design. All my coworkers are extremely kind and I am able to experience an international company. Jalin Design deals with companies all over the world, from hotels in the Caribbean

I cannot stress enough how important it is for any student or IB student to study abroad. The experience is unmatched.

Abroad cont'd



Tower Bridge

to hotels in Singapore. As an IB student I am able to gain knowledge of what it is like to work for an actual international company and with international coworkers. I am able to see the hardships and the success of working internationally. I cannot stress enough how important it is for any student or IB student to study abroad. The experience is unmatched!"



Subway stop along the Thames



Bryant Alumni Reception at East India Club London, hosted by Dominik Wellmann ('98)



Samantha Bove in Seville

By **Samantha Bove** ('22), IB Finance and Spanish, Minor Mathematics

"Overall. This study abroad semester has been one of the best experiences of my life. I have been able to travel to a multitude of different countries, have met amazing people from all around the world, and have made Seville my home away from home. However, I think what makes this experience the most valuable is how it has made me feel comfortable being uncomfortable. I spend the majority of my day at work, at school, or on public transportation, surrounded by people with a far better grasp of the Spanish language than me. Therefore, I have been forced to adapt and grow in ways that I know will help me in the future.

Faculty-Led Program. The faculty-led, three-week program with Professor Saslawski was a great introduction to the country. Not only did we learn more about business in Spain, but we also were able to work closely with

the other Bryant students living in Spain. We formed bonds that would help us throughout the remaining 3.5 months in Spain!

I think what makes this experience the most valuable is how it has made me feel comfortable being uncomfortable.

Internship. This semester, I have worked as a communications intern for the non-profit Fundación Prodean. More than anything, this internship has improved my language skills. None of the individuals working at this company speak English and, for this reason, I have been forced to find new ways to communicate. Furthermore, I have improved my marketing skills, which will make me a more well-rounded employee entering the workforce. Here is a video (in Spanish) which explains the work that I have been doing: <https://fundacionprodean.org/la-voz-de-los-pajaritos-para-los-premios-mutua-madrilena-de-voluntariado-universitario/>."



Samantha Bove at her internship in Seville



Visiting Herba Rice Mill in Spain



At Estadio Benito Villamarín (Stadium for Real Betis Balompié)



At Agencia de Innovación y Desarrollo de Andalucía



Ben Clemmey in France

By **Benjamin Clemmey** ('22), IB Accounting, Minor Spanish

“Study Abroad: More than a Cultural Experience

Amidst the uncertainty posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, my hope of ever spending a semester abroad was fading. After receiving news that programs in Europe have resumed for Fall 2021, I was overflowing with excitement at the prospect of studying in Aix-en-Provence, France. Now having spent nearly a full semester in Europe, I have learned an important lesson: study abroad is more than a cultural experience - it is a formative experience.

Though I had been to Europe before, everything felt so new when I first landed in August. Within minutes of arriving in Europe, and learning that my luggage was misplaced by the airline, I began to ask myself what I got myself into. I remember quite distinctly how these feelings of uncertainty abated as I was received warmly by my host mother and a representative from my new university.

Every student goes through these same emotions within their first few days and weeks abroad. However, Bryant University was there every step of the way to ensure

Abroad cont'd

that I was comfortable in my new environment. As part of a two week faculty-led program, four other Bryant students and myself were accompanied by Professor Zdravković, in an introductory course to France. In this course, we spent class time learning about French culture, preparing for our internships, and acclimating to our new world. After class, many of these long August afternoons were spent outside the classroom, exploring the classic Provençal town with new friends, wine tasting at vineyards tucked away between the mountains or soaking in the sun on the beautiful beaches of the French Riviera. These first two weeks gave me the chance to immerse myself in French culture, meet new people, and find new places to explore.



At Château de Beaupré, Saint-Cannat, France

However, I knew over the next few months I would settle into a routine of work and classes. My first class in Aix was French. It was early on a Tuesday morning and I was exhausted from the adventures of the past two weeks. We began with an activity where we went around the

classroom and every student introduced themselves - in French of course. I swallowed nervously, my heart beating so loudly I was sure everyone around could hear it. However, as my turn approached, I became less and less nervous. I learned that my fellow classmates were just like me. Connecting with new people came naturally, as we all share the same interests - a love for travel, language, and culture. Though we had met in a class setting, our friendships bloomed far outside the classroom. Spending just a short few months together, these strangers became friends, travel partners, and a support system to deal with the emotional journey of being abroad.

Perhaps the most rewarding part of my study abroad experience has been the internship. Before I arrived in France, the idea of working in an office in a foreign country was daunting. Questions raced through my mind: How will I fit in? What will they expect from me? How can I contribute to the company?

Overcoming these fears brought forth by these questions was the first step in having a successful internship. Over the course of my eight-week internship, I worked at a French company, called Wi-Pool that specializes in the design and building of pools with movable floors. As a rapidly growing company within

Europe, upper management was looking for someone to help take their product to the American market. My boss held high standards for me in which he expected me to follow through with my work, allowing me to challenge myself to complete all tasks effectively and successfully. I conducted intense market research and competitor analysis. Leaving no stone unturned, I worked on devising a strategy for entry to the United States. I used all

Now having spent nearly a full semester in Europe, I have learned an important lesson: study abroad is more than a cultural experience - it is a formative experience.

the skills an education at Bryant has equipped me with to deliver exactly what was asked of me. Toward the end of my internship, I received an email from my boss. He

stated that he is not the type of person who congratulates his colleagues, but wanted to make an exception given the quality and the depth of work that I provided. He was thrilled that I was able to understand the challenges of my mission, and to subsequently deliver relevant analysis in both form and in substance. Though I felt my work was meaningful to the company, I knew after all that I had really succeeded in bringing value to the company.

By doing an internship abroad, I was immersed in such a rewarding, beneficial experience. An internship like this shows that one can successfully adapt to new situations and environments, which any future employer will find valuable. Stepping out of my comfort zone to work in a

Abroad cont'd

foreign office also shows employers that I am willing to go the extra mile to ensure success - an excellent way to set yourself apart from competition. The frustrations and challenges you face in your international internship only help you gain confidence in your own abilities. In overcoming the inherent challenges of studying and interning abroad, I was able to develop skills that provide me with a competitive advantage over international business majors that do not engage in such an experience.

Studying abroad opened my eyes to the world around me, an experience that I believe cannot be learned in a classroom. It required exposing myself to a new situation filled with new people and new experiences. While study abroad possessed its own challenges, Bryant's program allowed me to engage in authentic international business through my internship, further providing me with valuable experience that will inevitably assist in acquiring a job upon graduation. The program additionally permitted me to network, particularly within Wi-Pool, allowing me to develop professional connections that will persist beyond this study abroad experience. During my time abroad in France, I have learned and grown so much through numerous new experiences and opportunities, allowing me to more clearly define my aspirations for my future in international business."

continued on next page



At Orange Vélodrome (Stadium for Olympique de Marseille Football Club)



At ITER ("The Way" in Latin), international nuclear fusion research and engineering megaproject, St. Paul-lez-Durance, France



At Airbus Helicopters, Marignane, France

Abroad cont'd



Randall Davis in Cádiz, Spain

By **Randall Davis** ('22), IB Global Supply Chain Management and Applied Analytics, Minor Spanish
"Overall Experience. The past semester has been an unbelievable opportunity to experience something that I may never be able to see in the same light again. As a 21-year-old in one of the most uncertain times of the last decade, I was still able to visit multiple countries and go to school in a place thousands of miles away from anything I was remotely used to. This exposure has brought me new understanding of not only the world that we are a part of; but I have also learned more about myself in these past months than I would have ever thought possible. This experience has allowed

me to grow into a much more grounded, knowledgeable, and curious person. Every week is a new adventure if one wishes, and the excitement has never left me since I first stepped on Spanish soil.

Faculty-Led Program. The three-week faculty-led program was an insightful course led by our very own International Business Program Director Professor Saslawski. The program tries to expose students to both the business and cultural elements that differ here in Spain from what we are used to in the US. This is similar to the SIE [Sophomore International Experience] that underclassmen may have gone through in their sophomore year. In our class, we were able to attend one of the oldest universities in Spain before attending our host university for the rest of the semester. This University was extremely interesting, as one can imagine being from the U.S., as the school is older than our entire country.

This has been an incredible opportunity to improve both my Spanish speaking and analytical abilities.

This, combined with the multiple and extensive trips to local businesses and cultural sites, was a great way to start a semester abroad.

The internship. My remote internship was very similar to

one someone may have back in the U.S., with the only exception being the language. I have been working for a company that specializes in olive products and oils that are sold both internationally and domestically. The projects I have been working on have consisted of developing different brands for their release as a new type of healthy snack. For example, one product put simply is a small tin container of seasoned olives that make a good working or post-workout snack. This has been an incredible opportunity to improve both my Spanish speaking and analytical abilities. My primary role is market research and deals with comparing competing products to ensure our product is positioned as a high quality, and healthy alternative to your normal mid-day snack."



At Estadio Benito Villamarín (Stadium for Real Betis Balompié)

My International Experience at Bryant

By **Leon Schmid**

"Hello, my name is Leon Schmid, and I am a graduate student in the Bryant MBA Program. Originally, I am from Munich, Germany, and this is my fifth year in the United States now. My journey started in Connecticut during fall 2017. I attended Suffield Academy as a post-graduate high school student. That year was full of interesting and exciting experiences. I was new to the U.S., had to familiarize myself with the culture, new people, and a very different environment from what I was used to in Germany. But I quickly adapted to the new lifestyle of a U.S. high school student.

I was a football player at that time and one of the reasons I came to the U.S. was to get recruited for college football. I enjoyed my time with the football team at Suffield very much. We had a great team atmosphere, everybody was highly motivated, and we had a really good season. In the end, the year passed very quickly, and I became accustomed to the life here in the States and started loving it. I made really good friends and one of them was already committed to play basketball at Bryant. Eventually, I was recruited by Bryant as well and decided to come here.

Looking back, it was probably one of my best decisions so far. I had many great memories here, and have received a really good education. The best part about Bryant is always having your friends around you. They support you and make it a good time. Especially with the teammates from the football team, the bond became very tight because I was spending so much time with them and we went through many ups and downs together. I made very special friendships with many of them. It was a very family like atmosphere filled with fun, enjoyment, and support, but also a lot of competitiveness.

The other big part at Bryant was the academic side. I was an Environmental Science Major with a Minor in Business Administration. I really enjoyed my classes because I had many exceptional professors from whom I was able to learn a lot. My way of thinking was shaped in an entirely new way, and it truly broadened my horizon. The combination of science and business was highly interesting, and extremely important in our modern world. Every semester was posing new challenges and offering more opportunities to learn. In the end, the transformation that you undergo from freshman year to your last year is remarkable. I cannot believe how quickly everything went. It was too bad that Covid cut this

experience a little bit short. All of the sudden, it was already in my senior year and I graduated.

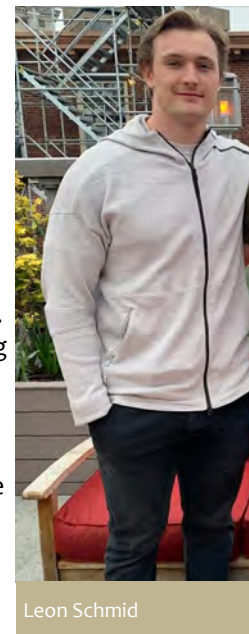
I decided to come back to Bryant and attend grad school. Now, I am in the MBA program and I also joined the track and field team. Sadly, I was not able to continue with football because of a long list of injuries and a couple of surgeries. However, not wanting to stop doing sports I found a new challenge in track and field, more accurately in shotput.

Once again, I have met great people on the track team and in the MBA program. Grad school is really interesting, and you spend a lot of time with classmates doing teamwork and projects. You become very close to them. On the other hand, I am loving my new challenge in shotput and I am very excited about our upcoming season and to spend more time with my new teammates - it is going to be awesome!

I am also working as a graduate student assistant for the International Business Program, learning a lot about our school from a different angle.

Overall, it was the best decision to come back because it is another year packed with fun and a lot of new things that I can learn. I am very glad about that.

While I am writing this little story about myself, it is already winter break. I have eight more months to go until I graduate in August. It already makes me a little bit sad because I am realizing that my time at Bryant is almost up. It went by so fast, and the worst part is that being around my friends will be over soon. However, I am also excited to go back home to Germany and be closer to my family. I have decided to get another degree in physics, so I already know what my plans are for after Bryant. That is the good part, but it still will be tough to leave Bryant - I will miss it dearly. One thing is for sure, I will come back to the US to visit my friends and Bryant rather sooner than later! But first, I have invited all my friends to come visit me in Germany so that I can show them where I am from – I am excited about that!"



Leon Schmid

Leon Schmid is the 2021-22 GSA for the IB Program, working with Director Saslawski.

Fall 2021 IB International Business Practicum and Awards

Fall 2021 IB Practicum

The International Business Practicum is the capstone course for IB majors. This experiential course lets students apply IB theory to an actual global business challenge. Students operate as consultants for a broad range of clients of Bryant's John H. Chafee Center for International Business.

These client companies provided valuable international business experiences to Bryant IB students in fall 2021: [ACS Industries, Inc.](#), [APTelecom](#), and [MDG Boston](#).

IB Program Director Jacqueline Saslawski who also teaches the Practicum class, invited several guest speakers. [Ashley Cardona](#) (IB '16) of West Monroe Consultants discussed opportunities in the field of mergers and acquisitions consulting, highlighting how this area is attractive for women and people of color. [William St. Jean](#) ('81) shared his international career journey at IBM with the students. [Linda Woulfe](#), international trade consultant, trainer, and Bryant adjunct professor and [Keith Yatsuhashi](#), Director of the U.S. Commercial Service Providence presented on consulting tips and international trade resources. IB students [Nicole Craig](#), [Julia Di Natale](#), and [William Nye](#) discussed their experiences in IB Practicum.

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

About the Chafee Center

The John H. Chafee Center for International Business at Bryant University is not only a resource for students at Bryant, but also a resource for Rhode Island and beyond.

The Chafee Center recruits companies to take part in the IB Practicum (also Global Supply Chain and MBA Practica) and then supports fruitful collaboration between student teams and clients.

Utilizing the student teams' brainpower, supported by their faculty, helps local, regional, and international companies identify challenges and maximize opportunities through capstone Practicum projects.

Fall 2021 IB Practicum Awards

Best presentations:

1st place - [APTelecom](#)

[Olivia Aiken](#), [Taylor Briggs](#), [Morgan Lestinsky](#), [Kieran Tindall](#)

2nd place - [ACS Industries](#)

[Samuel Bullock](#), [Vanessa Hurley](#), [Oscar Piñeiro](#), [Alexandra Sulmasy](#)

Best paper:

[APTelecom](#)

[Olivia Aiken](#), [Taylor Briggs](#), [Morgan Lestinsky](#), [Kieran Tindall](#)

We thank the judges for the midterm and final presentations. The midterm presentations were judged by [Mehreen Pasha](#), MBA, Lecturer of Management and Marketing; [Ganga Urumutta Hewage](#), Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Marketing; and [Srđan Zdravković](#), Ph.D., Professor of Marketing and International Business. The final presentations were judged by [Julie Janson](#), Head of Business Development, Night Vision Technology Solutions; [Keith W. Stokes](#), Director of Business and Development, City of Providence; and [Leslie Taito](#), Executive Vice President, Business Operations, Taco Comfort Solutions

IB Honors Student Presents Her Research at National and International Conferences

Julia di Natale (IB '22) is the President of the International Business Association (IBA), a member of the Bryant Senior Advisory Council (BSAC), Omicron Delta Kappa Vice President of Operations, an IB major with double concentration in Marketing and Global Supply Chain Management and a minor in French, and a student in the honors program.

Her honors thesis researches country of origin. Her faculty advisor is Ganga Urumutta Hewage, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Marketing. "Country of origin (COO) is an important topic that has gained much attention during the past decades. Our research investigates the role of purchase type (experiential vs. material) on COO decisions. We tested our hypothesis by framing a product as an experiential and material purchase and asking participants to indicate their preference towards a strong COO product," says Di Natale. "We find that for material purchases, consumers tend to have a higher preference for strong COO compared to experiential purchases. Our findings not only contribute to literature on experiential and material purchases and country of origin, but also help international marketers design effective advertising strategies."

She was accepted into two major conferences: the Society for Marketing Advances (SMA) Annual Conference, which was held in Orlando Florida, and the 2021 Global Fashion Marketing Virtual Conference at Seoul, South Korea.

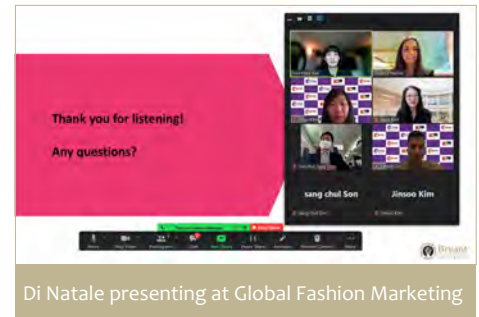
Interestingly, both conference took place on the same day in November 2021, but Di Natale was able to present

at both conferences. Her presentation was titled "Where Did This Purchase Come From? The Effect of Purchase Type on Preference for Country-of-Origin Label."

Conference participations were supported by the Honors Program, the Marketing Department, and the International Business Program.



Julia Di Natale and Professor Hewage at SMA



Di Natale presenting at Global Fashion Marketing



Di Natale presenting at SMA

Alumni News

This fall, Lyndsay Swanston (IB '21) started the Professional Diploma Program in Business Administration at UC Berkeley. She will also pursue her fifth year of NCAA eligibility, playing on UC Berkeley's Division I field hockey team. Lindsay is also working as a sales and marketing specialist for Scan Consulting Group.



Ines Terki Hassaine (IB '15) completed her MBA at INSEAD in Singapore in 2021. She has recently joined McKinsey as a consultant in London. "I have been working there for a few months and it has been a rewarding and interesting experience. I hope the IB program is doing as well as ever, and hope to be back on campus some day!"

International Business Association Fall 2021 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 2021.

September

IBA hosted an IB welcome session during **Welcome Week**.



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

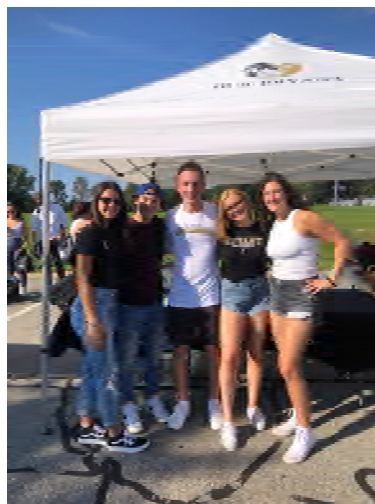


IBA welcomed returning and new members to the club during their **general member meeting**, which featured ice breakers, games and raffles. Raffles continued during each meeting this semester.



October

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



IBA co-hosted the IB First Year Welcome.



IBA hosted the annual IB Headshot Event. Students smiled for a new LinkedIn headshot in front of the IB backdrop.

November

IBA participated in International Education Week. IBA tabled on the first day and had a scratch map for students, faculty and staff to mark their home country or U.S. state.



IBA hosted its annual IB Thanksgiving Event at Condesa. IB students and faculty gathered to celebrate the holiday as a true IB family.



December

IBA participated in the Festival of Lights.

IBA decorated a window in the Fisher Student Center.

IBA tabled during the Festival of Lights celebration. They had visitors write their favorite holiday tradition on ornaments with their hometown and hang them onto the holiday tree.



International Business Association E-Board

2021-2022 IBA Officers

President—**Julia Di Natale** ('22),
IB Marketing and Global Supply Chain Management , Minor French

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

Director of Events—**Randall Davis** ('22),
IB Global Supply Chain Management and Applied Analytics, Minor Spanish

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

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

Director of Mentorship—**Nicole Craig** ('22),
IB Global Supply Chain Management and Spanish

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

2021 HS Global Leadership Academy—Perspectives from IB Student Mentors

A group of amazing high school students from several continents attended the virtual Bryant High School Global Leadership Academy in June 2021.

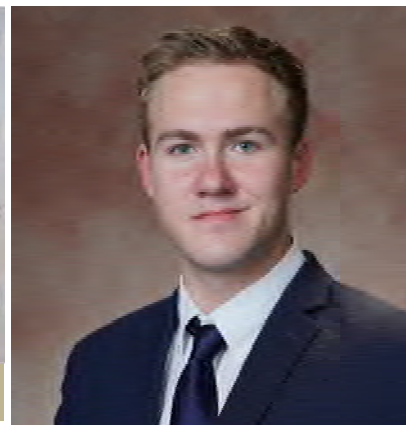
Student mentors **Nicole Craig** ('22), IB Global Supply Chain Management and Spanish; **Emily Marullo** ('23), IB Marketing, Minor Italian; **William Nye** ('22), IB Finance, Minor Mandarin; and **Patrick Roth** ('24), IB Marketing and French, Minor Economics; and faculty champions **Robert Massoud**, MBA, Lecturer of Management, **Srdan Zdravković**, Ph.D., Professor of Marketing and International Business, and **Ganga Urumutta Hewage**, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Marketing collaborated with **Jacqueline Saslawski**, JD, MPA, IB Program Director and Lecturer of Management, to run the program. The five virtual days from June 21-25 were packed with sessions and activities. The program culminated with global pitch presentations to three judges, where the teams presented their ideas how to tackle one of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in their chosen project country. This program was possible because of the support and devotion from Bryant faculty, students, staff, IB alumni, and IB friends who presented in the program and the Bryant Center for Teaching Excellence and the IT Department for making it possible to create a true Bryant student experience for the high school students.

The four IB student mentors worked closely with the

HS Program IB Student Mentors



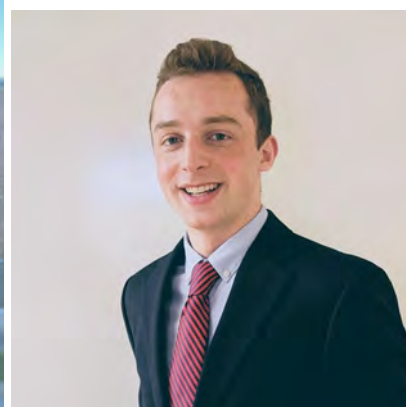
Nicole Craig



William Nye



Emily Marullo



Patrick Roth

participating HS students and the faculty. Here are some reflections about the experience.

Nicole Craig “As a mentor, I had the privilege to work with curious and well-rounded high school students.

We had the opportunity to share our stories with the students as well as hear from professors on essential skills. These students were engaged in the material and eager to learn more about the role of international business in the world. I am so lucky to have been a part of this

experience. I hope this program runs in the future!”

Emily Marullo “Over the summer I was able to be a mentor and participate in the Bryant High School Global Leadership Program. I was really excited to be a part of this program because I knew we would be implementing a lot of the knowledge I gained from GFOB. Watching other students who were so eager to learn about international business reminded me of why I chose to be an IB major. During the break-out sessions I was

able to talk to some of the students as we worked through design thinking, which most students at Bryant know very well after we participated in the IDEA Program in our freshman year. I think a lot of the students in the program really liked the design thinking method because it is a way of getting all of your ideas out. I also asked my group that I was working with why they chose to be a part of this program and they said they wanted to meet new people and get a feel for what college was like. I really liked hearing that because joining the IB program has allowed me to meet so many people that I might have not ever talked to and now I see them in all my classes. I also think that this HS program was a great intro to what classes at Bryant are like. Professors here rarely give lectures where they talk for the full hour, it is really interactive, and you are able to share your thoughts and ideas. I think that any student who wants to attend Bryant or join an international business program at any school would really benefit from this HS program because it shows you what it is like to think about different global issues and bring a solution to them, while also interacting with people who might have different ideas and thoughts.”

Patrick Roth “This past summer the Bryant University International Business Program hosted the High School Virtual Global Leadership Academy. This immersive, online program gave aspiring high school students the opportunity to learn

more about the functions of business in the global arena and develop their skills in confronting international challenges. Led by IB Director Professor Jacqueline Saslawski, with help from current IB students, alumni, and faculty including Professors Srđan Zdravković, Robert Massoud, and Ganga Hewage, the program was a great success.

As a mentor for the High School Virtual Global Leadership Academy, I gained valuable insights from many alumni and guest speakers, and was able to share my experiences with the students taking part. I had the opportunity to work alongside IB faculty and learn from their many years of experience in their respective fields. Thanks to the virtual nature of the program, several alumni were able to take part remotely and offer their advice and input to the high school students as they worked to complete their internationally focused projects. Perhaps the most fulfilling part of this program was having the chance to see so many members of the IB community at Bryant, past and present, come together to share their enthusiasm and expertise with a new generation.”

Program Contributors

Presenters:

Cédric Joseph Oliva, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Modern Language
Julia Di Natale (IB '22), President IBA
Allison Papini, Manager of Research Services, Douglas and Judith Krupp Library
Steven Perry, Senior Vice President, Darlington Fabrics
Kevin Keith Martins, Ed.D., Assistant Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Office of Institutional Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Andrew Kupec, Associate Director of International Admission
Cindi Lewis, Director of Global Education
Liam Hillery, Career Coach, Amica Center for Career Education
Mark S. Murphy, Director, John H. Chafee Center for International Business
Eileen Kwesiga, Ph.D., Professor and Chair of the Department of Management
Hillary Thomas (IB '14), Vice President, Westminster Tool
Erik Budlong (IB '12), Sales and Marketing Specialist, Consultant & Coach
Keith Schneider ('85), Class President, Chief Executive Officer at Goffa International Corp.

Global Pitch Judges:

Julia Di Natale (IB '22), President of IBA
Sailaja Shri (IB '15), Manager, Product Management, Mastercard
Mark Vozella, MBA, Lecturer of Management

Faculty and Mentors are listed in the article.



HS Students at Final Pitch with Judges, IB Student Mentors, and Faculty

Events and Activities Summer 2021—Fall 2021

Summer 2021 High School Global Leadership Academy

The Bryant University Global Leadership Summer Academy provided participants with five exciting days of virtual interactive sessions with Bryant international business faculty, Bryant student mentors, alumni, and business leaders. Ten students from three continents participated in the virtual academy in June 2021. Please read about the program on pages 14 and 15.

May/June—NAFSA 2021 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, Experience Based Learning Program Manager at the University of Pittsburgh's Katz Graduate School of Business, virtually presented a talk "Beyond Reflections: Designing Global Experiences to Foster Student Workforce Skills" and a poster "Integrating In-Demand Employment Skills Development in Global Experiential Learning." The prior two-year comprehensive analysis about how students gain transferable skills from short-term study abroad programs provided the groundwork for applications to other experiential learning programs.



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—AIB 2021: 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: Xiaoying Li, Qihai Huang, and Guowei Cai *Window Dressing or Enduring Commitment: CSR as a Strategic Tool in Cross-Border Acquisitions*

For other IB awards recognizing exceptional scholarship, visit <https://www.aib.world/aib-2021-announcements/congratulations-to-our-aib-2021-online-award-winners/>

The Academy of International Business is the premier global community of international business scholars. Thirteen global chapters serve the AIB membership community. Crystal Jiang, Ph.D., Professor of Management at Bryant University, is the Chair of the Northeast Chapter of AIB.

July—India Consul General Visit to Bryant

As part of their visit to Rhode Island, Randhir Jaiswal, Consul General of India in New York, and Navin Pathak, Chief Operating Officer of Entry India, visited Bryant University. They met with President Gittell, College of Business Dean Madan Annavarjula, and participated in a meeting with Chafee Center Director Mark S. Murphy, IB Program Director Jacqueline Saslawski, alumnus Erik Budlong (IB '12), and alumnus Chander Agarwal ('01) (who participated virtually).



From left to right: Erik Budlong, Navin Pathak, Randhir Jaiswal, Jacqueline Saslawski, Mark S. Murphy

September—Bryant Welcome Week

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



September/October—PLAFF

The IB Program was one of the sponsors of the 29th Annual Providence Latin American Film Festival (PLAFF), which was held virtually from September 24 to October 2. 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—Homecoming

IB alumni, students, and faculty met at the tailgate event on October 2nd.



October—IB First Year Welcome

On October 6, 2021, 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.



We thank the presenters who provided meaningful insights and captivating stories. In order of appearance, they were:

Jacqueline Saslawski, JD, MPIA, Director of the IB Program, Lecturer of Management; Madan Annavarjula, Ph.D., Dean, College of Business, Professor of Management; Veronica McComb, Ph.D., Dean, College of Arts and Sciences; , Professor of Communication; Srđan Zdravković, Ph.D., Professor of Marketing and International Business; Mehreen Pasha, MBA, Lecturer of Management and Marketing and Mark Vozella, MS, Lecturer of Management; Cedric Joseph Oliva, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Modern Language and Anthony Houston, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Modern Language ; Kristin Pidgeon, MA, MS, Associate Director, Undergraduate Advising Office and Rebecca Senna, M.Ed., Senior Academic Advisor; Cathy Zheng, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Finance; Cindi Lewis, MA, Director of Global Education; Julia Di Natale ('22), IBA President and Holly Chadwick ('23), IBA Vice President; and Sawyer Lea ('20), Financial Analyst at ACS Industries, Inc.

October—Bryant Day of Understanding

Bryant's second annual Day of Understanding focused on "Justice Begins with US." IB Program Director Jacqueline Saslawski, JD, MPIA; Robert Massoud, MBA, Lecturer of Management; and Christopher Ratcliffe, MBA, Lecturer of Management presented on "Justice in International Business." The session, which was open to students only, used actual events to discuss justice in global business. It featured a discussion on how individuals in an organization participate in decisions on justice - looking at the management and leadership aspects, different global perspectives, and the legal environment, norms, and business ethics informing how they act on justice issues. Beyond global corporate social responsibility, participants were prompted to think about their own role in the world of business.

Saslawski also presented as part of a panel on "The United Nations' Principles of Responsible Management Education Sustainable Development Goals in Business Courses, Research and Service," led by Michael Gravier, Ph.D., Professor of Marketing and Eileen Kwesiga, Ph.D., Professor of Management and Department Chair. Abhijit Chaudhury, Ph.D., Professor of Information Systems and Analytics and Maura Dowling, MA, Lecturer of Finance also presented.

Bryant University recently joined other global-minded schools to implement sustainability in curriculum by adhering to the principles of the United Nations' Principles of Responsible Management Education (PRME). This session showcased how PRME's Sustainable Development Goals are being implemented into Bryant's business courses, faculty scholarship in sustainability, and industry

Events and Activities Summer 2021–Fall 2021 cont'd

experts who are integrating sustainable solutions into business operations.

October—AIB Northeast Fall Conference

Crystal Jiang, Ph.D., Professor of Management is the Chair of the Academy of International Business Northeast Chapter. She is also the Associate Editor of the *New England Journal of Entrepreneurship* and Guest Editor of the *Journal of International Management*. Professor Jiang planned the fall 2021 AIB Northeast Conference, which was held in person Oct. 15-16 at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, CT. Andres Ramirez, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Finance, was one of the track chairs for International Accounting and Information Systems. Eileen Kwesiga, Ph.D., Professor of Management, was one of the track chairs for Ethics, Corporate Social Responsibilities, and Sustainability.

October—Senior Honors Trip to Seattle

Honors IB seniors Bradley DeMild, Nicole Craig, Alexandria Iacoviello, and Julia Di Natale (pictured in that order with Dean Madan Annavarjula) participated in the fall 2021 honors senior trip to Seattle. They toured various companies and participated in an alumni reception.



October—CUIBE Governance Meeting

Bryant is an active member of CUIBE, the Consortium for Undergraduate International Business Education. The 2021 fall governance meeting was hosted by Florida Atlantic University. IB Program Director Jacqueline Saslawski and Dean Madan Annavarjula both attended. Saslawski presented as part of a panel “Using COVID as a Context for Teaching About Global Change and Transformations” with Jonathan Doh, Ph.D., Associate Dean of Research and Global Engagement, Villanova University, and Cristina Robledo-Ardila, Associate Professor, Universidad EAFIT. Doh discussed how the pandemic and related global trends have affected business

education in general and IB education in particular. He provided updates on how the Villanova School of Business has responded, especially in the realm of virtual study abroad and virtual global consulting projects. Robledo-Ardila shared experiences, ideas and strategies related to her institution’s new curriculum design that has been undertaken to address the redefined knowledge, competences and skills students will need to face the largely unknown. Saslawski discussed the impact of COVID on global experiential learning at Bryant University. She shared her experiences about planning and going on her recent faculty-led study abroad program to Spain, running IB capstone consulting projects, and the broader implication on skills development in experiential learning during these pandemic times.



Dean Annavarjula and Jacqueline Saslawski also presented their proposal for Bryant to host the next CUIBE fall governance meeting, which was accepted. Bryant will be hosting the CUIBE governance meeting in October 2022.

November—ACBPP ACSEE 2021

The 9th Asian Conference on Business & Public Policy (ACBPP2021) / 11th Asian Conference on Sustainability, Energy, & the Environment (ACSEE2021) took place virtually from Tokyo, Japan, November 1-3.

Michael Gravier, Ph.D., Professor of Marketing, organized a pre-recorded video presentation titled “Showcasing Experiential CSR Learning at a Small, Private University.” Session panelists were: Michael Gravier, Eileen Kwesiga, Ph.D., Professor and Chair of

Management; **Charles Cullinan**, Ph.D., Professor of Accounting; **Jacqueline Saslawski**, JD, MPIA, IB Program Director and Lecturer of Management; **Kathryn Ostermeier**, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Management; and **Maura Dowling**, MA, Lecturer of Finance.

November—Grant Thornton Visiting Executive

Masaaki “Mike” Kotabe, Ph.D., former AIB President, AIP Fellow, Former Editor-in-Chief of JIM, and world renowned scholar was the 2021 Grant Thornton Visiting Executive this November. **Kotabe** presented “Stark Contrasts in US-Japan Global Supply Chain Management during the Coronavirus Pandemic.” **Kotabe** holds a joint appointment at the School of Commerce, Waseda University in Tokyo, Japan and at the Shidler College of Business at University of Hawaii at Manoa in the United States.

During his two-day visit, he met with faculty and leadership representatives. He also met with IB students to discuss careers in international business. Sponsored by accounting and advisory firm Grant Thornton, which has a longstanding partnership with Bryant University, this fall’s Visiting Executive focused on the topic of international business.

November—Readings Without Borders

Students, faculty, and staff came together during this multilingual reading event to celebrate the many languages that make up the diverse linguistic and cultural background of the Bryant community. They orated short readings centered around the theme of nature. Each reading was also projected with an English translation. This event was hosted by the Department of Modern Languages.

November—Lincoln High School Design Thinking Workshop

24 Lincoln HS students participated in a Design Thinking Workshop that was led by **Allison Butler**, Professor of Psychology at Bryant University. Six of the participating students are in LHS’ IB CTE program. IB Program Director **Jacqueline Saslawski** and IB Junior **Emily Marullo** presented on “International Business over Lunch” during the program’s lunch break.

IB Program Director **Jacqueline Saslawski** is a member of Lincoln High School’s International Business Program

Advisory Board. For 2021-22, IB Senior and President of IBA, **Julia di Natale**, is the Bryant Student Representative on that Board.



Lincoln HS Design Thinking Workshop with Professor Butler.

Rhode Island Latino Web Project

The Rhode Island-Israel Collaborative (RIIC) and the Rhode Island Hispanic Chamber of Commerce have partnered with the Israeli-based web technology company Wix and Israel Consulate General to New England to help Rhode Island-based Latino business owners take their businesses to the next level. This collaborative project also includes funding from the Consulate General of Israel to New England. College students who are fluent in Spanish and English are trained in website creation skills and then matched with Rhode Island-based Hispanic businesses to create a custom website.

This fall, Bryant students **Christina Camillo** (Marketing Major and Spanish Concentration) and **Darren Sousa** (Double major Spanish and Global Supply Chain), with the guidance of **Patricia Gomez**, Senior Lecturer of Modern Language, participated in the project.

IB Program Director **Jacqueline Saslawski** is a member of the RIIC Board.



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