Education: All in the Family

By Meg Wickman

Have you ever noticed that, at Bryant & Stratton, education is often a family affair? A student pleased with his or her academic experience might refer a loved one who is also interested in earning a college degree. In the case of Leslie and Kaitlynn Caldwell, the daughter brought her mother along. But, as Leslie pointed out, Kaitlynn was aware that her mom had been interested in attending Bryant & Stratton as far back as high school. Life and obstacles got in the way of her plans, according to Leslie, but once her children got older the timing was finally right.

“Kaitlynn had already thought she wanted to come here,” she explained. “She said, ‘You know, you should just come with me.’”

As for Kaitlynn, her interest stemmed from BSC’s strong reputation in the business world. “I was impressed by the fact that they have you do an internship, but you have to do the job search and interview.”

Leslie is also a fan of our business-oriented approach. “The instructors here at BSC are not just instructors; they are businessmen

Awards Ceremony Held Last Week

Each semester, Syracuse North celebrates its students at two awards ceremonies: one for day students and another for evening students. The most recent ceremonies were held on Tuesday, October 13, and honored students who had perfect attendance, earned 4.0 GPAs, and achieved Dean’s List status during the Spring 2015 semester.

Listed in this issue are the students with perfect attendance and those with 4.0 GPAs. Students who achieved Dean’s List status will be recognized in the next issue of The Expression.

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Associates Get Generous by Wearing Jeans

Twice a month the associates at Bryant & Stratton College are invited to participate in $5 Jeans Day. Typically these days are held on the 1st & 3rd Thursday of every month. Associates can pay $5 to wear their favorite pair of jeans to work. All money raised goes to charities, such as the American Cancer Society, CNY Food Bank, Vera House, Relay for Life, CNY SPCA, ACR Health and our personal favorite, the Students in Need Fund.

Each year the Assistant to the Campus Director asks associates to participate in a survey to determine which charities to raise funds for. The Students in Need Fund is especially important to our associates because donations go directly to our students here at the Liverpool campus. In the past, donations have been used to purchase gas cards or bus fares to assist a student getting to campus, to help students with book purchases, or even to brighten the Christmas holiday of a student in need.

These are just some examples of ways we try to ease the burdens our students and community face. It’s a way for our associates to show we care, while having fun and increasing our community engagement. So far in 2015, our associates have donated $1,060 by participating in the Jeans Days. So when you see an associate on campus wearing jeans, thank them for their generosity and commitment to our community!

Psychology Class Visits Library

On October 10, faculty member Erin Vaccaro brought the 26 students in her PSYC 101 class to the library to learn about the psychology-related print and online resources in the campus library and the college Virtual Library databases.

The campus head librarian Julie Zhu demonstrated the psychology resources on the library LibGuide web page, provided strategies to find reliable scholarly articles and eBooks in the library databases, and explained some common issues when creating an APA citation-style research paper.

Leslie & Kaitlynn Caldwell Keep Learning in the Family

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and women. They have real experiences to teach us and some of the instructors even have their own businesses.”

Once they enrolled, both Leslie and Kaitlynn appreciated our instructors’ commitment to making learning accessible. Business Instructor Regina Drumm and Math/Accounting Instructor Bill Rava were among the teachers praised for their ability to make their subjects interesting and understandable. English Instructor Deb Lum was another standout. “We never knew what fun we were walking into,” Leslie said, while Kaitlynn added that Deb is able to “brighten your day.”

Both Caldwells became active outside the classroom as well. Alpha Beta Gamma has given them the opportunity to make a difference in the community. As student ambassadors, they have welcomed the chance to address students’ concerns and help them feel comfortable.

When they aren’t in class, attending club meetings, or gaining experience at their internship sites, Leslie and Kaitlynn can be found in the Learning Center, where they are employed as work-studies/tutors. “The Learning Center has become a place that students feel comfortable asking for help and even just stopping in to say ‘hi,’” Leslie said.

Kaitlynn agrees. “I enjoy working with other students and having more of a connection with them, to make sure they are getting what they need.”

Both Leslie and Kaitlynn chose a dual major in Office Information Technology and Business. While Leslie plans to enter the business world once she graduates at the end of the semester, Kaitlynn intends to stay on campus to pursue her bachelor’s degree in business administration. “I still hope to volunteer with the Make-a-Wish Foundation,” Kaitlynn added, noting the site of her current internship.

No matter what the future holds, Leslie and Kaitlynn will carry fond memories of Bryant & Stratton with them. “My favorite memories will most definitely be the random discussions with other students. There has been a wide range of odd and hilarious topics,” Leslie said. Two examples originated in Deb Lum’s class: a Mad Libs activity led to a recurring joke about “purple panda poo,” while another activity resulted in the inevitable question: “Why is your goo different from my goo?”
Of Green Slime and Peanut Butter Cups

Last week students in Deb Lum’s Research and Writing I class finally got to play with “green slime,” after first learning to describe more familiar things such as peanut butter cups.

“The point of it is to practice descriptive writing and to incorporate as many senses as possible,” Deb said. “So we start with peanut butter cups and go through the five senses.” Students observe what the peanut butter cups look like still in the wrapper. Then they unwrap them and observe the sounds that makes. Eventually they get to describe the taste. Then students have to write a paragraph describing a peanut butter cup to someone who has never tasted one before.

Later in the semester students get to play with green slime, a mixture of corn starch, water and food coloring, something many students may not have previously experienced. The slime can be squeezed into a ball in the palm of your hand which feels like a solid, but as soon as you open your hand it flows through your fingers, all of which makes description rather challenging.

“It’s got cool characteristics,” Deb said. “It’s a liquid and a solid—you can break it and it melts.”
ABG Members Raise Funds for Good Cause

ABG, Bryant & Stratton College’s honor society, raised funds to combat breast cancer last week. Sharon Fehrman worked the table with fellow ABG member Leslie Caldwell. For Sharon, volunteering for good causes is nothing new.

“I’m all about helping the community,” Sharon said. “Breast cancer is personal to me.” She lost her mother-in-law to breast cancer, and her mother is a survivor. To raise funds ABG is selling ribbons, pins, cards, window clings and keychains. They have not yet chosen a charity with which to share the proceeds; however, they intend to keep it local, Sharon said.

Sharon also serves as VP of the North Syracuse Education Foundation, a non-profit group that raises funds and distributes grants for worthy education-related causes within her district. And she volunteers as a mentor at Cicero-North Syracuse High School, where she helps struggling students.

Sharon Fehrman raises breast cancer awareness through ABG.

WORDS OF WISDOM

“I would say attendance matters overall because it prepares students for the real world. It teaches them time management, commitment, and a host of other skills that they'll need to employ in a professional environment. No matter how well they interview, or what skill set they possess, they won't last long if they don't show up for work.”

Deb Lum

"Going to school should be like going to work: Show up on time every day and do your best."

John Adams

“Every class is a new opportunity to learn what you will need to succeed in your career. If you are not here, you have lost the opportunity to learn. You will have to work harder to catch up and will not have the full experience.”

Pat Cameron
Kayla Coates, left, and her mother Deborah were recognized at last week's awards ceremony. Both are enrolled in the HSA program. Kayla works full time and has a five-year-old daughter at home; so how did she manage all that and still get top grades? “We work our butts off and try to not fall behind,” Kayla said.
Students Get Noticed During Spirit Week

Kaylee Taylor, left, and Taylor Johnson participate in Team Spirit Thursday, part of Spirit Week.

Career Services Offers Interviewing Tips

**Before the interview:**
Research the company.
Get a good night’s sleep.
Arrive 10-15 minutes before the interview; you may be expected to complete some paperwork.
Dress professionally.
Bring a few extra copies of your résumé and a notepad to take notes.
Greet the receptionist and tell him or her who you are there to see.
Don’t overdo cologne/perfume.

**Questions you may be asked:**
Describe yourself. Discuss education, internship and career goals.
What do you know about our company? Use research obtained through website.
What are your strengths? Discuss 2-3 and back up with examples.
What are your weaknesses? Describe 1 area in which you are taking steps to improve.

**How would you characterize your computer, writing, communication skills? Use portfolio and/or experiences, back up with examples.**
Describe a time in which you had to use your problem solving or critical thinking skills. Use situation from work experiences, internship, team projects at school.
For other situational questions you are asked, base responses on previous or current work experiences; use examples that apply to the position for which you are applying.

**Questions to ask:**
Why is this position open? What type of candidate are you looking to hire?
Is there room for advancement? What challenges might I face with this position?
What are the key accomplishments you’d like to see over the next year? What software are you using?

**When will you make a hiring decision?**
When can I expect to hear from you?

**Other**
Turn off cell phone and/or pager. Be sure your home phone and cell have professional messages.
Maintain eye contact, speak in a good level of volume, show confidence. Be positive!
Bring portfolio; it provides an edge over other candidates.
Obtain business card(s); send out thank you letter within 24 hours.
Do not discuss salary unless it is brought up to you and you have enough information about the position. Provide a salary range based research through salary.com, etc.
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