Graduates Say Goodbye to BSC

As they worked hard to finish classes, The Expression asked this semester’s group of graduating students to reflect on their time here at Bryant & Stratton. We heard back from graphic design majors Brooklyn Golden and Darcey Filsinger, business majors Renee Fairbrother and Owen Draughn, health services administration majors Larissa Collins and LaToya Jones, and paralegal studies major Christina Cote.

Deciding to attend
Our graduating students were drawn to Bryant & Stratton for a variety of reasons. Christina and Renee both knew people who had attended and had a positive experience. For Brooklyn, the fact that her transfer credits from Utica School of Commerce would be accepted made the choice a logical one. For Owen, it was the internship program that set Bryant & Stratton apart. Almost all the students cited the small size, friendly atmosphere, and flexible schedule as factors in their decision to choose Bryant & Stratton over other colleges.

Picking a major
“I’ve always been an art student,” Darcey explained, “but I took a high school Photoshop class and pretty much fell in love with it. It came in handy with my photography, and I loved creating funky and hilarious things! I didn’t even know about some of the other Adobe programs until I started here.”

“I have always had an interest in business,” Owen told us.

“Always value yourself and your time to meet your goals.”
-LaToya Jones

Darcey Filsinger
Graphic Design

Owen Draughn
Business

As an art student, I’ve always been interested in creating things that are visually appealing. I’ve enjoyed using Photoshop to edit images and design graphics. It’s been fun to experiment with different techniques and see how they can be used to achieve a desired effect. I’ve also enjoyed exploring the creative side of business, such as designing marketing materials and creating presentations. Overall, I’ve had a positive experience at Bryant & Stratton and have learned a lot from my time here. I’m excited to see where my future takes me.”

Throughout my time at Bryant & Stratton, I’ve been able to develop my skills and gain valuable experience in the business world. I’ve had the opportunity to work on projects that have directly impacted the company, which has been rewarding. I’ve also been able to build relationships with my colleagues and learn from their experiences. Overall, I’m grateful for the opportunities that have been presented to me and will take these skills and relationships with me as I move forward. I’m excited to see where my future takes me.”

“Always value yourself and your time to meet your goals.”
-LaToya Jones
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Renee heeded the advice of her manager, the same person who recommended Bryant & Stratton to her, when she declared a major in business, while Brooklyn wanted to take more classes from “incredible teacher” Lee Shelton.

LaToya said she chose her major “because I wanted to be impactful and in a leadership position in health care.”

“Working in the medical field is something I always knew I would be doing,” said Larissa. “Bryant & Stratton has helped me learn that I am not an in-the-field kind of medical person but still want to be involved.”

Christina had a more dramatic change of direction. “I started in medical assisting but had been doing medical for most of my life and it just didn’t hold my interest anymore. I have always loved law and at some point, I want to be a lawyer so I chose to go paralegal.”

Best memories
Several students cited the friendships they formed here as some of their best memories. Renee mentioned “signing up for next semester” and “finding out that I was on Dean’s List.”

“I’m really going to miss the graphic design department,” Darcey said.

“Some of my best memories were when we walked around campus as a class examining trees with our science class and some other things outdoors,” LaToya said.

Owen pointed to a very specific memory as well: “Walking into Mike Delorm’s classroom to raid the candy bag.”

Favorite teachers
“They have all been wonderful so it is hard to choose,” Renee told us.

LaToya had a similar point of view: “I really cannot say I have had one favorite teacher. I have had several who have impressed me with their dedication to their students and academic teaching skills.”

Among the teachers named as favorites were: Mike Delorm, Deb Lum, Bill DeForest, Lee Shelton, Annette Lombard, Palma Savinelli, Erin Vaccaro, Frank McCarthy, Kathy McDermott, Nancy Towne, Christie Folsom, Kara Lasorsa, and Trista O’Hare.

For Brooklyn, the answer boiled down to four words: “All hail King Rava!”

Favorite classes
Students also had a difficult time naming just one or two favorite classes. A few mentioned courses within their major, but electives like psychology also stood out.

“My favorite class throughout my years here was my ecology class,” Larissa said. “It took me out of my comfort zone.”

Future plans
After several semesters of study, it’s not surprising that some of our students are looking forward to a short break once classes are over. But they also plan on more education:

“After a little time off I plan to go on and receive my master’s,” Larissa said.

Brooklyn plans to “move to San Antonio, Texas, where I will be working toward a master’s in psychology.”
Cazenovia College and SUNY Cortland.
“I plan to work and decide what my next educational goal should be,” LaToya said.

Advice for new students
Our graduating students have wisdom to share with students who are just beginning their Bryant & Stratton experience.
“Always value yourself and your time to meet your goals,” LaToya advised. “Live your dream or work someone else’s.”
“Don’t give up,” Owen said. “Apply yourself and what you are learning.”
Larissa shared a favorite anonymous quote: “Whenever you find yourself doubting how far you can go remember how far you have come. Remember everything you have faced, all the battles you have won, and all the fears you have overcome.”
Other words of advice included the importance of asking questions, keeping up with work, having fun, and persevering.

While concurring with the need to befriend your teachers and reach out for help if necessary, Darcey also offered an insider tip: “If you want to use the vending machine, use ones. I had to get change for a five-dollar bill once and I was swimming in quarters.”

At left, business major Andrew Ingison displays his project for his sales class. He creates prints and these are just two that he’s been working on.
Each semester, graduating medical assisting students take part in a pinning ceremony to honor their accomplishment. This semester’s ceremony was held in conjunction with the graduation breakfast held on December 8. From left are Jennifer Stevenson, Lesley Avery, Mary Allen, and Nancy Stowell.

Don’t forget! The Winter 2018 semester begins January 10!