April Graduates Begin New Chapter

On April 28, another graduating class will cross the stage at the Civic Center. Before they don their caps and gowns, The Expression asked this semester’s graduates to recall their experiences here at Syracuse North. The first step on their journey began with the decision to attend Bryant & Stratton College.

Choosing Bryant & Stratton

“T[he]e chose BSC because I had completed a program many years ago here. I knew the classes would be small and the time to earn a degree would be short,” Lisa Green, a medical assisting major, recalled. “I also knew that I would be able to ask my instructors for help if I needed it. BSC is not like a community college that has huge classes and minimal contact with instructors.” Like Lisa, medical administrative assisting major Tracy Teachout had attended here previously and knew it would be a good choice when she decided to change careers.

Other students were drawn by the small class sizes, the friendly atmosphere, and the accredited medical assisting program. However, some Syracuse North students took most of their classes on another campus. Shannon Wynus and Jennifer Snyder participated in the satellite program at Jefferson Community College in Watertown, but took select courses at Syracuse North on the weekends.

Choosing a Major

“I chose health services because I have been an LPN since 1998,” Goldie Medick explained. “After being diagnosed with lupus, I couldn’t do the physical work as a nurse anymore. I’ve always enjoyed the medical field and wanted to continue to do something on the administrative side, so that’s where I began. As I researched what I could do with this degree, I realized that I wanted to be a fraud examiner for a health insurance company. To do so, I need a minor in criminal justice, so I began that pro-
gram. I’ll have that associate degree in August."

Bryon LaFlair liked the fact that his field required him to use his problem-solving skills: “I like to tinker with problems. If there is a problem with computers communicating with each other or with the network I will figure it out. It’s exciting to me to try and find out what the problem is.”

“I chose my major because it was in the healthcare field and I want to be the manager of a doctor’s office and make it the best one in the town. I want patients to feel comfortable with the staff and doctors. No one wants to go to a doctor’s office. I want to make their experience better for them. I believe every doctor’s office should have the best customer service that we can provide them,” Shannon Wynus, a health services administration major, said.

**Best Memories**

“My best memories had to have been when I and a few other students were studying for midterms and final exams all while listening to 90s music and having a blast finding ways to remember the course work. I have made a few friends along the way here; it is great to have other people sharing the same dream you have for the future,” Jennifer Erard, a medical assisting major, said. Rebecca Jones also has fond memories of “90s throwback jam sessions during late night study sessions,” as well as “practicing my clinical skills on my friends.”

“Enjoying all my classes with Mrs. Cameron” is Tracy Teachout’s favorite memory. Other students recalled classroom-based memories as well. “The first time we attempted venipuncture in Dr. Bob’s class is something none of us will forget,” Lisa Green told us. “The feeling that we’re all in the same boat, trying to get to the same shore, makes me feel like I’m not alone in this.”

**Teachers and Classes**

Jennifer Snyder and Shannon Wynus both cited Stephanie Pierce as a favorite instructor, while David Sutton mentioned instructors Steve Kempisty and Joe Hedger. Pat Cameron, Bill Rava, Deb Lum, CiCi Laughlin, Rebeca Bettinger, and Palma Savinelli also made a difference in the lives of this semester’s graduating class.

But most students said they enjoyed and appreciated each instructor they encountered. As Lisa Green put it, “I don’t have just one favorite, I have many.”

Not surprisingly, many students most loved the classes in their major, such as Advanced Coding, Civil Litigation, and Medical Laboratory. “Actually performing the things that I will be doing at my future job is exciting,” according to Lisa Green. “It helps build confidence
and makes me feel that I can really do this.”

“My favorite classes have been the seated classes that I got to take,” said Shannon Wynus. “I enjoyed my two weekend-format classes as both teachers made it fun to be there. Also, I would say my seated classes with Stephanie Pierce as she made healthcare fun and really showed us what being an office manager was like.”

**Looking Ahead**

While students Lisa Green and Tracy Teachout are planning to seek employment in their fields, other students are planning to continue their education. Some, like Goldie Medick, Bryon LaFlair, and Jennifer Erard, will be pursuing new degrees at Bryant & Stratton. Others, like David Sutton, will enroll in degree programs at other colleges.

No matter where the road leads, these graduates have learned not only the content of their disciplines, but how to find the dedication it takes to graduate from college. “Take it one step at a time,” David Sutton advised new students. “If this is your first time back in school after many years, take a couple of classes first to break yourself in and then add more classes when you feel like you can handle them.”

Goldie Medick said, “Don’t be afraid to ask questions! Everyone in the school is super nice and will help point you in the right direction. Show up to class and do your homework, and you’ll do well. You need to get up every day and make the choice to succeed.”

“My advice to future students is don’t give up. Some classes are more challenging than others and require a little bit more work and studying. I am 36 years old and I am a single mom of two very active little boys. I also work full time and go to college full time. If I can accomplish all that I have and graduate with my bachelor’s in health services administration, you can too,” said Shannon Wynus.

“Don’t every give up on your dreams. It may seem to be hard at times but with perseverance anything can be done. Even for someone as old as I am,” said Tracy Teachout.

“The advice I could give is to just breathe and relax when the classes get hard,” said Jennifer Erard. “The best thing to do is ask the teachers and or other classmates if you are stuck on something.”

“I am a 47-year-old disabled Amy veteran with a family. If I can go to college, anybody can,” said Bryon LaFlair.

“Don’t wait for the last minute to work on your portfolio projects and make sure you keep up on your homework by checking it daily and doing a little bit of something every day,” said Jennifer Snyder.

According to Rebecca Jones, “Don’t be afraid to ask for help when you need it.”

“Make your education a priority,” said Lisa Green. “Earning a degree is an elective decision. It’s very difficult at times and requires dedication on your part, but it is so worth it. I am so proud of what I have accomplished here. Now I’m ready to take on the world!”
Syracuse North’s chapter of honor society Alpha Beta Gamma held its induction ceremony on Thursday, March 22. In the back row, from left, are inductees Rita Best, Kassandra Dalton, LaToya Jones, Nickolas Lynn, Mary Pearsall, Natasha Roof, Danielle Swan, and Hope Yerdon. In the front row are officers Allison Hemingway (Evening President), Amanda LaChut (Day President), Lisa Green (Day Vice President), and Deb Lum (ABG Advisor).

Each semester, graduating students in the medical program take part in a pinning ceremony to recognize their accomplishment. From left are Sandra Timmons, Tracy Teachout, Kaylee Simpson, Michaela Reynolds, Amanda LaChut, Rebecca Jones, Jennifer Gleason, Lisa Green, Jennifer Erard, and Ashley Barnes.
Bryant & Stratton Athletics recently launched a new logo as our college plans to increase its sports presence with the start of a basketball team and a dance team. Go Bobcats!
Directions for Graduation Ceremony

Graduation rehearsal

Date: Friday, April 27, 2018
Time: 11:00 am
Place: John H. Mulroy Civic Center
        421 Montgomery Street, Syracuse

Graduation ceremony

Date: Saturday, April 28, 2018
Time: 11:00 A.M.
Place: John H. Mulroy Civic Center
        421 Montgomery Street, Syracuse

If you plan to participate in the graduation ceremony, it is important that you pick up your cap and gown at Bryant & Stratton College, North Campus, by April 20. There is no additional fee for caps and gowns; graduation fees are included in your tuition unless notified by Financial Aid. Tickets for family and friends will be distributed at the time you pick up your cap and gown.

Graduates will pick up their diploma immediately following the ceremony. If you do not pick up your diploma at the ceremony, you, the graduate, are responsible to pick up your diploma at the North Campus. Refreshments will be served following the ceremony where family and friends can take pictures in front of our Bobcats Banner.

Diplomas for BBA General Management graduates will be ready for pick-up the second week of June. Official transcripts can be ordered after grades are posted through www.bryantstratton.edu. If you have questions contact the North Campus, Student Services office at 315-652-6500 ext. 232. We will be glad to help.