The IT Department is Here to Help

Whether they're taking traditional, online, or blended classes, a college education today requires students to be adept at using computers. However, no matter how skilled you are, questions are sure to arise. Don't worry, the IT department, consisting of Marie Radley, Bryan Yerton, and Matt Orman, is here to help.

The People

“Everything that I do now didn’t exist back then,” Marie Radley, Syracuse Region IT Manager, says about the early days of her career. She started out in business administration when the IT field was “computer science programming” and the Internet as a pervasive force was still in the future.

Marie was a data processing manager and eventually got a job at a software company. This job led her to go back to school for the management of information systems, which emphasized management but also provided a technical foundation.

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After the software company, she was employed as a LAN technician in a school, where she created a curriculum to meet New York State technology proficiencies. She was recruited by Liverpool schools, and found herself teaching skills like Microsoft Office and typing in a computer lab at Soule Road Elementary School. A friend saw a posting for the Bryan & Stratton job and told her she’d be foolish not to apply.

It wasn’t long before Bryan Yerton, then a student majoring in information technology and graphic design, became Marie’s work-study. Upon graduation, he responded to a posting for a part-time position with the department. Less than a year later he became a full-time employee. Like Marie, Bryan alternates between the two Syracuse area Bryan & Stratton campuses.

Matt Orman was also a BSC student before becoming an employee. He’d been working construction when an accident provided the impetus for his decision to change careers. He ended up with multiple degrees and a job that spans two departments: IT and maintenance.

Problems and Potential

The most common issue IT deals with is resetting passwords. This is a simple task to complete, but a forgotten password can cause major problems for students if they are trying to get work done on weekends or late at night. Therefore, Marie says, “it would be great for them to be empowered” to reset their own passwords. Luckily, a more user-friendly method of resetting passwords will begin in the fall.

Bryan says that the IT department can handle “pretty much anything that has to do with the network or computers here.” However, there are exceptions. A password reset will not alter a student’s bookstore password. Students who need a new bookstore password must request one from the bookstore. (The Learning Center is available to help with bookstore issues.) There are also limits to what the IT department can do regarding Blackboard, although those limits are expanding with more training and access.

What if students experience trouble with their own computers? “We’ll give them some advice,” Marie says, but issues with warranties, parts, and time make it problematic for the department to repair technology owned by Bryant & Stratton students.

Not surprisingly, the ever-changing world of technology has a direct impact on the role of the IT department. “Being in the technology department we have access to a pool of bright minds we can reach out to college wide,” Matt Orman explains. “The world of technology is vast and ever expanding. While we always like to have the answer, you learn that’s not always the case but allows for a chance to learn something new.”

Bryan Yerton concurs: “If you don’t at least skim now and then, you can fall behind in certain areas of the field fairly quickly.”

Words of Wisdom

The members of the IT department have some practical tips that will improve students’ experience with school computers. Marie says that students should be using One Drive: “They can get their stuff anywhere, and they have a ton of space there.” She acknowledges that “it’s a different way of thinking,” but believes that students will like it if they give it a chance.

Bryan would like to remind students that Mozilla Firefox is the recommended browser for using Blackboard. If students are having trouble with Blackboard, the first thing they should do to make sure they are using Firefox.

Matt has some advice about which computer a student decides to use. “I mostly recommend that they try to sit at the same computers they use in class. While they do have access to documents and all other resources no matter what station they log into, repeated use of the same machines allows for faster log in times and all around start up processes for the software.”

Finally, there’s the bigger picture of how technology affects our lives. Through her years in the field, Marie has seen the “fear and respect” that older generations had for technology be replaced by a tendency among some younger people to take technology for granted. She thinks it’s important for all of us to consider the boundaries of technology and recognize the consequences of our actions, particularly when we go online.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 21-24
Attendance Matters Week

May 28
Memorial Day/No Classes

June 5
Award Ceremony

June 18
Online Session I Ends

June 26
Student Barbecue

June 27
Online Session II Begins
Jamie Becker-Kekevian Discusses Being Both Commencement Speaker and BSC Employee

On April 28, Jamie Becker-Kekevian, who completed her business degree in December and was then hired as a financial aid advisor, represented Syracuse North as our student commencement speaker. The Expression recently asked her about the experience.

The Expression: How did you transition from student to employee?

Jamie Becker-Kekevian: While I was a student, I was a work-study in the Financial Aid department. When an advisor gave notice to leave for another job, I was asked to consider applying for the position. The opportunity was in perfect alignment with my graduating date. I have no doubt it was because of how professional I strived to be during my time as a work-study that I was considered.

TE: What was your reaction when you learned you’d been chosen to deliver the graduation speech?

JBK: I was both honored and terrified. I have never been comfortable speaking in front of a crowd so it was like being thrown in the deep end without floaties while still learning how to swim. I knew I had to do it, though. To be elected was a responsibility. My fellow classmates had faith in me to represent us, so I had to face my fear for them. It is only in working on our weaknesses that they become strengths.

TE: How did you decide what to include in your speech?

JBK: It was a process that took about a month or so to refine the content. When I felt inspired by a motivating thought or idea, I entered it into a rough draft I kept saved on my desktop. Eventually, the collection of thoughts were enough parts to create a whole. The end result was revised about three times with advice from Dean Pallone, Paul Applebee and Regina Drumm. I had to thank those who nurtured this odyssey of ours: thus the long thanks to the staff accentuating Melissa Seltzer (who was the reason I was confident enrolling). I knew I must highlight the choices we all made because of their worth to us. I quoted Henry David Thoreau in my speech using, “The price of anything is the amount of life you exchange for it,” because it really spoke to our individual and collective journeys.

TE: Describe the experience of giving the speech itself.

JBK: It was a perfect marriage of thrill and anxiety. The bright lights were SO hot. So many faces looking, waiting to hear what I had to offer. It was truly a serious charge to be given, to inspire and represent an entire room filled with victors. Time seemed to bend strangely while I was up there. I felt like the speech was taking forever but as it ended, it seemed as though I had JUST stepped to the podium. Quite the enigma.

TE: Discuss your involvement on campus since being hired.

JBK: It has been so amazing! I have been a part of a number of incredible adventures since being hired. Most importantly, I am just LOVING being a part of the enrollment process as a Financial Aid Advisor. I was asked by Chris Godleski in Career Services to be a guest speaker for the Boys Scouts of America addressing professionalism in the workplace. I also accompanied Sue Cumoletti to Albany to Lobby for the ETA (Extended Tap Program). I told my story to Senators, Assemblymen and Assemblywomen about the need for Financial Aid programs, the ETA program in particular. And I had the privilege of contributing my creative side to the student lounge and painted some claw marks on the post. Go Bobcats!

TE: What do you enjoy about working in financial aid?

JBK: Of course the fact that I am an integral part in making it possible for students to follow a path that helps them accomplish their dreams is motivating. BUT who I work with is the most enjoyable part of my job.

Regina Drumm, the Financial Aid Manager, is the best manager I have ever had. Her understanding and patience are unmatched. Wanda Maxwell is one of the smartest people with one of the biggest hearts I have ever met. She knows Financial Aid inside and out. She is the department’s “go to” person.

Joanne Gill is the Business Office Advisor, which is technically not FA but like a first cousin, if you will. I call her Jo-Bi because the force is definitely with her! I always love hearing her talking to family in Italy and singing along with the radio. It brightens my days.

They have a knack for helping me put things into perspective when I find myself overwhelmed (at work and in life). They are truly my work “family” and I love them all.
Lee Shelton’s Students Learn by Design

If you walk by room 118 and peek inside, you’ll be struck by two observations: the walls covered with the designs of past students and, if a class is in session, current students hard at work on their own designs. The graphic design curriculum includes courses in areas such as typography, page layout, and production, and, according to instructor Lee Shelton, this approach often allows students a more in-depth immersion in programs like Illustrator than they would receive in courses at other colleges.

For example, in Lee’s Image Technology class, students are focusing on the tools and capabilities of Adobe Photoshop. An early assignment is “basic color correcting” of several photographs. “We’re taking a picture that’s okay and making it really good,” says Lee. “We’re also teaching our eye to see possibilities.”

Although most of the students in class are graphic design majors, Leslie Orman, assistant to the dean, has been attending Image Technology this semester. A graduate of Bryant & Stratton, Leslie took several graphic design courses as a student and is now looking to update her skills for the sake of her own personal photography. It’s a great example of how graphic design knowledge can benefit anyone.

Currently, Lee teaches all the graphic design courses offered at North. However, when she graduated with her BFA in Illustration from Syracuse University, teaching was not her immediate goal. Instead, she worked in advertising for 20 years before returning to S.U. for her master’s degree in art education. While continuing to work full-time and raising her young daughters, she took five years to complete a program that would have been 18 months if she’d attended full-time. Her timing turned out to be perfect, since she graduated just as the ad agency where she’d been working closed its doors.

Her next full-time job, as a long-term substitute teaching art to children from kindergarten through second grade, was an opportunity to challenge herself and learn more about what she could and couldn’t do. “Learning is all about making mistakes,” she says. “If you’re not failing you’re not pushing yourself.”

This philosophy of allowing herself to experience failure in order to grow from it is one that she passes on to students today. Rather than expecting students to produce perfect work immediately, she reminds them that, in the words of Groucho Marx, “if you’re not having fun, you’re doing something wrong.”

One day she noticed a job advertisement for an adjunct instructor at Bryant & Stratton and decided to apply. With her depth of knowledge, Lee was able to teach classes in both graphic design, which is focused on print media, and the former interactive media design program, which dealt with web design. She was hired full-time after about three years. “I’ve been really lucky with jobs overall,” Lee says. “I get to do art every day and it’s so different.”
Recently Bryant & Stratton College hosted a weekend event for our basketball recruits. This was the first time a lot of these students had been on campus. This was a great chance for them to meet with faculty, staff, as well as Coach Dan Frisina and get a better idea of what we can offer to them as a college as well as a way for them to continue playing basketball. They came into town Friday night and were treated to a team social/dinner at Dave & Buster’s in Destiny USA.

The following morning they visited our campus for an overview of our college. They learned about the programs that we offer, scholarship opportunities, and the budding basketball program. They took a tour of the college and finished the day on campus with lunch. After lunch they traveled to the Cato-Meridian Community Rec Center where they were able to show off their skills and play for a few hours.

Overall, it was a great weekend. There were people from each department that helped make this event run smoothly and without their help it wouldn’t have been the success it was.
Welcome to Career Services!

Our offices are located across from the Information Services department when you enter the building using the main entrance.

The primary objective of Career Services is to assist students and graduates with career development, where they can use the soft and technical skills they have acquired.

You will need Career Services for...

- seeking employment opportunities while you are enrolled at Bryant & Stratton College.
- exploring ideas for your internship that you will complete in your final semester (90 hours for all majors except Medical Assistant students who complete 160 hours).
- assistance with your resume, cover letter, interviewing tips, salary negotiation, thank you letter, portfolio, etc.
- advice on business attire and professional etiquette as well as other soft skills/technical skills that employers desire.
- career advice either through your current employer or those for whom you may be interviewing.
- any point after graduation—we offer lifetime advisement!

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Learning Center Spring 2018 Hours

Monday: 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Tuesday: 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Wednesday: 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Thursday: 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Friday: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
What You Need to Know about ABG

What is ABG?
Alpha Beta Gamma (ABG) is an International Business Honor Society for students who attend two-year colleges. It is also a service organization, with chapters required to do at least two community outreach activities every semester. (These could be donations of time, money or products.) The group holds numerous fundraisers throughout the semester to prepare for these outreach opportunities. Membership is open to eligible students from all associate degree programs at the Syracuse North campus.

Am I eligible?
Participation in ABG meetings and events/fundraisers is open to anyone. However, in order to be eligible for ABG membership, a student must have completed 15 or more college credit hours. In addition, he or she must be of good moral character, possess recognized qualities of citizenship, and maintain a 3.0 GPA in his or her program major courses, as well as a 3.0 cumulative GPA.

How do I become a member?
· Students seeking ABG membership must pay a one-time fee of $64 (cash, check or money order payable to Alpha Beta Gamma - Mu Alpha Chapter); this includes lifetime ABG membership ($39) and the satin stole ($25), which is presented at the induction ceremony and worn at graduation. Regardless of when the fee is paid, students do not obtain ABG membership until they participate in the induction ceremony.

When are induction ceremonies held?
Ceremonies are held twice a year, once in the winter semester (January-April) and again in the fall semester (September-December). Ceremonies are typically held during Week 11 of the semester and take place in the event rooms (112/113/115).

When is this semester’s ceremony?
Inductions occur in the fall (September-December) and winter (January-April) semesters. There is no ceremony in the spring semester (May-August) due to traditionally low enrollment.

What are my responsibilities as a member?
ABG member responsibilities are two-fold. First is scholarship. Inducted members must consistently maintain 3.0 cumulative GPAs. Second is participation. Inducted members are required to attend at least 50% of all weekly meetings and at least one of the fundraisers.

What if I can’t meet these requirements?
Per national ABG standards, if inducted members fail to uphold the academic standards, they enter a one-semester probationary period. If, at the end of that semester, they are still not meeting these standards, their names are removed from the national ABG database and their membership is revoked.

Think ABG might be for you?
You’re always welcome to sit in on an ABG meeting. The group meets Wednesdays at noon (day students) and 5 PM (evening students) in room 103. Meetings are usually about a half-hour in length. You can also email Deb Lum, ABG’s Syracuse North Advisor, at dlum@bryantstratton.edu for more information.
The Business Professionals Club: Not Just for Business Majors

Our Mission:

The Business Professionals Club’s mission is to provide a forum for all academic degrees that not only teaches skills necessary in any field of business, but also illustrates how, and where, those skills benefit the student in general.

Club Goals:

- Recruit, mentor, and retain members
- Expand awareness of the club’s intentions
- Seek mentorship from area professionals
- Gain awareness of developing trends in business
- Arrange guest speakers to provide information
- Encourage and support memberships in professional organizations
- Arrange networking events
- Support the campus, charitable organizations and worthy causes through philanthropic endeavors
- Develop quality resume, cover letter, and other employment documents
- Develop business-related organizational skills by recording, organizing, compiling, structuring, and distributing minutes

Meetings will be held
Wednesdays 5:15-5:45pm in room 119
All majors are invited to join!!!