**First-Year Gateway 2019-2020**

**Special Events, Guest Lecturers, and Speakers**

Throughout the year, Bryant offers a wide array of special events designed to enrich your educational experience. These events may feature speakers from the University such as President Machtley, a faculty member, or an administrator. The University also hosts a variety of distinguished guest lecturers and speakers. These individuals may be authors, researchers, entrepreneurs, community activists, or even global leaders. They have distinguished themselves in their chosen professions and have been invited to Bryant to share their knowledge and unique experiences with you.

**Bryant University’s Convocation**

**Wednesday, September 4, 2019**

**3:00 PM**

Convocation stands as one of the oldest of all academic traditions.  It is rich in pageantry and meaning for the academic community. The Bryant Convocation each fall celebrates the first gathering of the entire Bryant Community during the new academic year.  This is an important time, as we gather to recognize and greet each other and to welcome new members to our community.  Most significantly, the tradition behind Convocation calls for all of us to reaffirm our commitment to the shared values and the purposes that set us apart as a community dedicated to the educational enterprise.

**Student Engagement Fair**

**Wednesday, September 11 (1:00pm-4:00pm at the Fisher Center)**

The Involvement Fair will now incorporate 3 unique elements:

* Our traditional involvement Fair with the 100+ organizations and Greek chapters
* The organizations that are available to students looking for management 200 non-profit partners (this is in collaboration with Student Events and Orientation Programs)
* A selection of non-profit partners that will be able to share general volunteer and engagement opportunities/positions

**Ronald K. & Kati C. Machtley Interfaith Center’s Annual Ethics Event**

**October 23, 2019:**

The Ethics Event is a required for first-year students to attend through their LCS and Writing Workshop courses. Students will be asked to write a reflection on the event as one mechanism to process the Ethical Reasoning Gateway goal/objective.

**The Bryant IDEA: Innovation and Design Experience for All**

**January 20 – January 22rd, 2020**

The IDEA course consists of an intensive learning experience where students will apply design thinking to “real world” problems.   They will learn about theinnovation process in a true *“learning by doing mode*.”  Specifically, students will learn about two key elements for creating new innovations in any field:  ***design thinking and teamwork***.   During a 72-hour intensive experience, they work in teams on projects involving “real world” situations, ranging from the arts, to social services, to business.  Working in teams, students create solutions to the problems put before them.   Faculty, staff, student, and alumni mentors coach and mentor the teams during the innovation process, so that they can then apply those practices and techniques immediately to their projects.

**MYPath**

**Wednesday, February 19, 2020**

MYPath is a required for first-year students to attend through their Global Foundations courses. All sophomore students are also invited. The MyPath Showcase runs in the spring semester, so that students are better prepared to take advantage of what it has to offer. It provides an opportunity for students to connect with some of the most influential resources assisting with major choice: faculty and peers. A keynote speaker opens the event with the intention of giving students a unique perspective on how to find one’s path. The goal for the speaker is to deliver a message aligned with the MyPath@Bryant program’s mission of finding and following your passion, to tell his or her story about how they found their path in regard to major, career and life decisions, all while encouraging students to use the resources on campus and take advantage of all opportunities to make informed decisions. This sets the tone for the main part of the event, in which students can attend two, thirty-minute major/minor exploration sessions.

**REDay**

**Wednesday, April 15, 2020: No class meetings**

REDay stands for Research and Engagement Day. It is a day-long symposium in which faculty, staff, graduate and undergraduate students showcase their research, creativity and/or innovative academic accomplishments within our Bryant community. First-year students are typically encouraged to present and/or attend sessions throughout the day.

**Student Arts and Speaker Series (SASS)**

**SASS** brings a wide variety of performing arts, speakers and cultural programs to the Bryant campus, all focused on broadening our knowledge and enlightening students, faculty and staff on a variety of topics.  Past events have included:  Cal Ripkin, Jr.; Holocaust survivor and Nobel Laureate Elie Weisel; filmmaker Morgan Spurlock (creator of the “Super Size Me” documentary); poet Nikki Giovanni, and; Capital Steps Comedy Troupe, among others.

**CSLI After Dark**

This program is designed to provide the Bryant community with fun, exciting and diverse activities. CSLI After Dark provides opportunities for socialization, entertainment, engagement, and involvement for all students.  Past events have included trips off campus, coffeehouses, karaoke nights, game shows, performers, video tournaments, and much more.

**President’s Cultural Series**

This series delivers exceptional events distinguished by innovative learning experiences that integrate academic theory and real-world knowledge with character development. The series includes music, art, literature, theater, and other cultural experiences designed to enrich students’ lives and deepen their understanding of the arts, which is critical to personal development.