International Experiences @ Bryant

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Students led visitors through the Maritime Silk Road exhibit in the Bello Grand Hall on September 27 – 29.

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Dear Friends,

Bryant University believes that developing an international perspective is an integral part of our students’ Bryant experience and the Division of International Affairs makes great efforts to provide international opportunities both on and off campus. In this issue, you will read about last semester’s International Education Week during November 12 - 16, 2018, largely initiated and organized by Bryant’s international students, participated in by faculty and staff, and supported by school administration. A spectacular i2i show was held on Nov 30th (page 8).

“A Journey through the Maritime Silk Road” was a student-led exhibit and presentation faculty and staff, and supported by school international students, participated in by initiated and organized by Bryant’s international opportunities both on and off campus. In this issue, you will read about last semester’s International Education Week during November 12 - 16, 2018, largely

President Machlachy delivered a speech at the convocation event for Bryant Zuihai’s class of 2022 (Page 13). We will have exciting internationally focused programs in 2019 and I would like to invite the community to participate in these upcoming events that are designed to build a better Bryant international community.

Hong Yang, Ph.D.
Vice President for International Affairs
Charles J. Smiley Chair Professor

International Education Week 2018

Bryant hosted a series of events for the campus community to celebrate International Education Week in November. A joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education, International Education Week is held on campuses nationwide to highlight the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide. Led by the International Student Organization with support from the Division of International Affairs and the Center for Diversity and Inclusion, this year’s events focused on important international issues and opportunities.

“This is an event that we can use as a medium for students to internalize the different aspects of being an international student,” says Miguelina Feris ’20.

Monday, November 12

Bryant students participated in the Oxfam Hunger Banquet which raises awareness surrounding issues of hunger and food waste around the world, including in our own community. Keynote speaker Sue Anderhols, Director of Food Strategy R.I. , spoke to the crowd about her role addressing food related issues, the importance of farm to table, greater access to food, and how technology can help reduce waste.

Tuesday, November 13

An international alumni panel was held to help students think more globally about internship and career opportunities. The panel was moderated by Bryant students Mariola Czerwona ‘19 and Miguelina Feris ’20.

“This was an opportunity to listen to international alumni who are now successful professionals,” Feris said. “They know what it’s like to be part of this community and how everything works outside of Bryant.”

Alumni included: Dejongh "Dee" Wells ’95, from the island of St. John, is the host of the talk show and podcast Obsessive Sneaker Disorder. He also founded the Future Focus Media Co-op & Youth Training Institute, a film and photography production company that also teaches youth these skills in a hands-on manner.

Jude Addo ’11, from Ghana, is currently working in London as a director at the Standard Chartered Bank, a British multinational banking and financial services company.

Imanjana Dos Santos ’16, ’19 MBA, from Zimbabwe, who since graduating has worked as an associate in PwC Boston’s Risk Assurance practice and in Ghana in digital marketing.

Mihir Jain ’18, from India, currently working at Mathworks, managing a portfolio of 150 companies.

Wednesday, November 14

The community celebrated Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Lights, which is one of the most popular festivals of Hinduism. Led by College of Business Dean Madan Annavaraja, Ph.D, along with other university leadership, faculty, and staff, students celebrated at the Ronald K. and Kati C. Machlachy Interfaith Center. The celebration included traditional prayers, henna tattoos, live music, and dance.

Friday, November 16

William Ole Pere Kikanae, Maasai Tribal Chief, spoke at the Bryant International Forum about his work within the Maasai community, promoting education and the importance of the contribution of women in the community. His empowering talk highlighted his work to preserve the Maasai culture and traditional lifestyle. His visit to Bryant was exceptionally meaningful because a group of Bryant students, as part of their Management 200 service learning project, helped establish a library for a school which Kikanae was influential in building.

Students from Copley and Cassidy High School visited the “A Journey through the Maritime Silk Road” exhibit held at Bryant in September.

Students, staff and faculty from Bryant Smithfield and Bryant Zhuhai visited the JetBlue Headquarters in New York in August.

Letter from the Vice President

Bryant University
Sophomore International Experience takes students to Central Europe, South Africa

EASTERN EUROPE AND SOUTH AFRICA WERE ON THE ITINERARY FOR STUDENTS IN BRYANT’S INNOVATIVE SOPHOMORE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE (SIE) THIS SUMMER. AFTER SPENDING THE SPRING SEMESTER STUDYING ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL TRANSITION IN CENTRAL EUROPE, ONE GROUP HEADED TO HUNGARY AND CZECH REPUBLIC.

“The township of Khayelitsha was filled with an entrepreneurial spirit that made me want to do something amazing with my life.”

The trip, which also included stops in Germany, Austria, and Slovakia, “allowed me to further develop my independence,” said Alex Drezek ’20. “Learning about different cultures while being immersed within the communities allows you to have the same experience that locals do.”

Global Perspectives on Campus: Patricia Gomez

Hailing from McAllen, Texas, a small city along the Mexican border, Patricia Gomez, M.A., has been part of the Bryant University community since 2006 when she was appointed a lecturer of Spanish in the Department of Modern Languages. Now a Senior Lecturer, she teaches all levels of Spanish and serves as faculty advisor to Bryant University’s Spanish Cultural Organization (BUSCO).

“Students in my classes should expect to be confident when speaking Spanish,” she says. “I strive daily to increase the proficiency of my students and encourage them to study abroad.”

At Bryant, Gomez has led Sophomore International Experience (SIE) study programs to Latin America ranging from Ecuador, Panama, Costa Rica, Argentina and Chile and in 2009 and 2010 led a service-learning project to Peru, where she and her students worked with victims of sexual abuse and violence. She also has had an impact on the Rhode Island community where BUSCO works closely with the San Miguel School in Providence to help families break the cycle of poverty. She also serves on the board of PLAFF (Providence Latin American Film Festival) that Bryant has been a main sponsor since 2010. Gomez was recently appointed by President Machtley to serve as co-chair of the Women’s Initiative, charged with highlighting exceptional opportunities that inspire women to excel. “Bryant is a place to excel and seek opportunities that are abundant if you are open to them,” Gomez says. “We are a community that works hard at all levels to make sure our students have a pleasant and academically driven journey.”

Gomez is also a faculty advocate for the Multicultural Student Union and promotes and helps organize events such as Latin Night, Afternoon Abroad, and the “I Stand with Immigrants” panel.

IB students: Ready to work anywhere through study abroad/work abroad experience

MORE THAN 80 STUDENTS IN BRYANT’S INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS (IB) PROGRAM TRAVEL TO COUNTRIES ALL OVER THE WORLD EACH YEAR. OVER THE COURSE OF A SEMESTER, THEY STUDY THE BUSINESS AND CULTURE OF ANOTHER REGION AND INTERN WITH COMPANIES IN THOSE AREAS, ACQUIRING VALUABLE INTERNATIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE.

“Employers are looking for graduates who are passport-ready,” notes IB program Director Andres Ramirez, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Finance. “They want employees who are able to travel, have experience doing business internationally, and are highly adaptable.”

EMILY KATZ ’20 is currently studying at the prestigious Adolfo Ibáñez University in Villa del Mar, Chile, through the IB program. “Travel has opened my mind in ways I couldn’t have imagined,” Katz says. “It doesn’t just give you a new perspective, it allows you to combine multiple perspectives through experiencing other cultures.”

SIE begins the semester before departure with an introduction to cultural norms, historical reading and analysis, language study, and art appreciation. The course culminates with a two-week trip led by faculty and staff, during which students experience another country’s culture and learn how businesses operate globally. Professor of Economics Ramesh Mohan, Ph.D., has led an SIE trip each year since the program began.

“Traveling also increases your adaptability and your knowledge of other people, as well as your empathy.”

For Christopher Anderson ’14, now Central Canada District Manager at Schneider Electric, the experience he gained through the IB program and studying abroad at L’Université de Nantes in France gave him a distinctive advantage. “Being able to say that you have experience with foreign language and travel, and that you’ve had experience doing business internationally, is a great jump start to your career,” he says.

SIE students studied the business and culture of another region and intern with companies in those areas, acquiring valuable international work experience.
Stephanie Lherisson ’19: From Haiti to Bryant

Stephanie Lherisson ’19 had never visited Bryant before she arrived on campus a week before classes started freshman year. Coming from Haiti, she knew that she’d have to adjust to a new environment and a new culture – even the weather would be a surprise to her.

“I met all my closest friends at 4MILE, and I’ve stayed friends with them ever since,” says Lherisson. “I’ve made a lot of other friends here as well but the ones I made at 4MILE gave me a support system before classes even started.”

The program also introduced her to mentors including Rosedelma Seraphin, Bryant’s Coordinator of International Student Integration. “She’s one of the first faces I saw when I came here, and she’s someone I know I can always talk to about anything: school-related, personal, or about my future,” she says. Lherisson came to Bryant to learn how to make a difference. “I’m really passionate about equality and equity, and I want to help people find common ground, especially at a time when there’s so much division,” she says. Inspired by her mom, whom she calls one of the strongest women she’s ever known, Lherisson says, “I want to be a voice for people who have no voice.”

Her Politics and Law and Psychology majors help her figure out how to be that voice and how to reach as many people as possible. She loves how her Bryant courses have exposed her to a wide range of ideas and philosophies, and that they encourage discussion and contemplation.

“I’m excited that I get to take classes that I love,” she says, “classes that I can’t wait to go home and tell my friends or my mom about.”

Reflections on my summer course experience in Smithfield
By Jianzhi Liang ’21, Bryant Zhuhai

I am very happy that I chose to come to America and attend summer classes at Bryant’s Smithfield campus. It was a productive and meaningful experience during my summer vacation.

I discovered what the Smithfield campus actually looks like and realized that I had made a good choice in choosing to study accounting. I didn’t have any long-term goals prior to this summer session, but this experience helped me realize that I would like to earn my Certified Public Accountant license. I have made that a goal and I am thankful for Bryant University, the campus facilities, the faculty, and the classroom atmosphere.

I also volunteered to work for the STARTALK program, a Chinese language focused summer camp program held on campus. Through this program, I gained more confidence and helped develop my leadership skills. I also learned how to write a formal resume in English at the Amica Center for Career Education.

Staying in America for nearly a month was not enough time to learn all that I would like to learn from the outstanding faculty at Bryant, but it gave us time to enjoy life in America. It was a pleasure to build relationships with students and faculty in Smithfield and become friends with them. I also appreciate that they supported us and spent time with us.

This experience was unique. I experienced something special during this program and I feel that this may just be the beginning of my study abroad adventure.

Students lead Maritime Silk Road Exhibit

The annual Mid–Autumn Festival celebration at Bryant featured a student-led exhibit and presentation titled “A Journey through the Maritime Silk Road.” Bryant students representing Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Greece and other countries through which the Silk Road ran helped guests learn about each country’s history and cultural distinctions. A small-scale replica of the ship sailed by Admiral Zheng He during the Ming Dynasty during the 1400s was also on display during the September event.

“The Maritime Silk Road linked nations with exchanges of trades, cultures, technologies, regions, and ideas for centuries,” Vice President for International Affairs Hong Yang, Ph.D. “This is an example of integration of different cultures and connecting people, and it makes perfect sense to have this exhibit on campus and in our community.”

Student guides introduced their country’s history, culture and unique culinary traditions. Tables featured artwork and food samples. Visitors enjoyed experiencing a variety of cultures in one space. Many of the students involved said being part of the exhibit was fun and also a chance for them to learn more about other countries. Marisa Andreozzi ’20, the student lead for the project, stated that she “acquired a deep understanding of the development of the global economy as well as the evolution of our shared global cultures.”

“The spirit of the Mid–Autumn Festival is universal,” Yang said. “More than ever, diversity and international programs on campus are keys to fostering a diverse and inclusive community.”
Major Events in Pictures

Maylis Adjadi ’19 (left) speaks with Director of International Admissions Peter Lundbye (right) after her presentation for Global Community Hour featuring France and Benin.

Bryant students who will travel to China in January 2019 for their Sophomore International Experience meet with Bryant Zhuhai transfer students in Smithfield to build friendships and exchange knowledge about the local environments.

As part of a semester long series on human rights, Annelies Verstichel, Ph.D., (second from right), diplomat to the Permanent Representation of Belgium to the United Nations, spoke at Bryant about her work at the U.N.

Students perform Chinese music during the Festival of Lights celebration.

Bryant University Vice President for International Affairs Hong Yang, Ph.D. (right) with Yang Lin, Ph.D., Director of the Archeology Division at the National Museum of China (left) who was presented with a Cultural Ambassador Award at this year’s Mid-Autumn Festival celebration for his continuous efforts in promoting the U.S. – China friendship.

A journey through the Maritime Silk Road was largely driven by the hard work of Bryant students, who were eager to both share their own cultures and learn about unfamiliar places.

i2i, Bryant’s exciting annual cultural dance show is hosted by the International Student Organization. Each year the show brings the Bryant community together by giving the student body a chance to display their creativity and talent.

Bryant University Vice President for International Affairs Hong Yang, Ph.D. presented at the 12th annual Confucius Institute Conference in Chengdu, China.

International Education Week at Bryant featured, among other things, an Oxfam hunger banquet that was attended by Bryant University President Ronald K. Machtley and first lady Mrs. Kati Machtley.

From left to right, Bryant University President Ronald K. Machtley, former President of the United States George H.W. Bush, and Mr. Fan Jianquan look over a scale model of the Shu Fang Zhai portion of the Forbidden City in Beijing at an event at Bryant in 2008.

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**Bryant Zhuhai Summer SIE Program 2018**

The Bryant Zhuhai Sophomore International Experience (SIE) is a two-week program that gives students from Bryant Zhuhai the opportunity to travel to the U.S. and experience a different culture, American college life, and business practices through lectures, company visits, and interaction with their peers.

"We attended lectures with the visiting Zhuhai students, traveled with them and got to know them individually. It was an amazing two weeks of my life," said Maina Zou ’19, a Bryant Smithfield student counselor in this year’s program. "Not only did I learn from this program, but I also feel that the students really benefitted from the program as well. I can confidently say that the program gave us a taste of what American college entails and what students can do to prepare for transfer to Bryant and look for jobs in the United States."

"SIE was a really special and meaningful experience in my life," said Bryant Zhuhai student Layla Chen ’22. "It helped me understand more about American culture and American people. The most important thing is that SIE helped me overcome my fear of studying abroad alone."

The program took students to downtown Providence, where they toured the Rhode Island Statehouse, visited Thames Street, Providence Place Mall, and the Rhode Island School of Design Museum. Students also visited PricewaterhouseCoopers and Amazon Robotics in Boston, JitBlue in New York City, and the United States Capitol Building in Washington D.C.

"The program’s strength is in forging mentors, and guiding Bryant’s newest multicultural students toward resources that will be important for their success”, said Kevin Martins, Assistant Director for the PwC Center for Diversity and Inclusion.

4MILE (Multicultural and International Leadership Experience), a program uniquely designed for first-year international and domestic multicultural students, gives a long way each year toward acclimating this special cohort to campus. This year, 100 new international and multicultural students arrived a week before other members of the Class of 2022 in order to participate in team-building exercises, cultural and social workshops, and presentations and activities to jumpstart their success.

"The program’s strength is in forging connections to faculty, staff, student mentors, and guiding Bryant’s newest students toward resources that will be important for their success”, said Kevin Martins, Assistant Director for the PwC Center for Diversity and Inclusion.

**Bryant Plays Key Role in Signing of Sister City Agreement**

Bryant University President Ronald K. Machtley joined Providence Mayor Jorge Elorza and a delegation from Zhuhai, Guangdong Province, led by Chairman of the Zhuhai People’s Political Consultative Conference and President of the Zhuhai Diplomacy Association, Cheng Honghui, at Providence City Hall for the formal signing of a sister city agreement on December 4. Bryant has been an important connector in developing strong bonds between the two cities. Zhuhai is the home of Bryant’s sister campus in partnership with the Beijing Institute of Technology, Zhuhai. Bryant Zhuhai offers the only U.S.-China joint four-year undergraduate business degree program in China.

"It’s a great day when Providence joins in a sister city relationship with the cultural center and historic city of Zhuhai, China," Machtley said. "I am convinced that our collective efforts will make this collaborative project a tremendous resource which brings both cities rich cultural and economic gains."
History course comes to life as students come face to face with Auschwitz, Nuremberg

For two months last spring, students in Professor Michael Bryant’s “History, Law and the Holocaust” class learned about the most devastating genocide in modern Western history and its impact on the development of international law after 1945. During spring break, Bryant’s class traveled to Poland, Germany, and the Czech Republic to come face to face with the locations they had been studying.

“It’s one thing to learn about what happened in Auschwitz from a lecture and some photographs,” says Bryant, Professor of History and Legal Studies. “But it’s a far, far cry from going to Auschwitz and seeing the piles of material right in front of you.”

Upon visiting the sites, Lauren Sannizzaro ’18 said, and her classmates were “flooded with overwhelming emotion.”

“Just hearing about this sort of pure hatred and cruelty is enough to make anyone’s stomach turn,” she says. “However, seeing the concentration camps made it that much more real. It was horrifically gut-wrenching.”

In addition to visiting Auschwitz, the class traveled to Prague and to Nuremberg to see the Nuremberg War Trial Courthouse.

“We are always looking for ways to redesign a college education and make it even more compelling and more interesting for students,” says Bryant. “Taking a class that includes international travel can be very attractive to students.”

“I had never taken a history course on campus,” says Sannizzaro, a Marketing major, but her interest in doing so grew after she studied abroad in London. That experience “led to my love of travel and immersing myself in other cultures.”

For this trip, she says, studying the background of the sites on the itinerary proved helpful.

“It is a unique academic experience ... to learn about the topics and material in class before going on the trip,” she says. Actually seeing the historic sites led to “a deeper understanding. You can continue your learning and discussion with this new perspective.”

Remembering the late President George H.W. Bush at the Jianchuan Museum

The passing of former U.S. President George H.W. Bush ’08 saddened both the American and Chinese communities. As a former Ambassador to China, Bush was highly respected in China and was honored as an “Old Friend of China,” a designation that is reserved for only a very small group of distinguished individuals who have developed special ties to the country.

When President Bush received his honorary degree from Bryant in 2008, Fan Jianchuan, the founder of China’s Jianchuan Museum Complex was among those honored at Commencement. On December 8, 2018, Bryant University Trustee Louis Page ’59, P’17 and Vice President for International Affairs Hong Yang, Ph.D. joined Fan Jianchuan at the museum in Sichuan to pay tribute to Bush. The Flying Tiger Hall at the museum features the American Volunteer Group in China during World War II when the former president was a naval aviator.

Bryant Zhuhai holds Convocation for Class of 2022

Convocation for the incoming class of 2022 at Bryant Zhuhai was held in October on the campus of Beijing Institute of Technology Zhuhai. The event included a number of speakers including:

- Bryant Zhuhai Academic Dean Daniel Borgia, Ph.D., who welcomed new students, parents, faculty, and staff to the event.
- Bryant University President Ronald K. Machleffy, who encouraged students to pursue academic excellence and personal growth from the beginning of their four-year journey at Bryant Zhuhai.
- Hong Yang, Ph.D., Bryant University Vice President for International Affairs and Charles J. Smiley Chair Professor, who shared his cross-cultural experiences and some of the challenges that students may encounter when they start taking classes using a foreign language. He reminded students to have open arms for new friends, an open mind for new cultures, and an open heart for the new world.

CUG Professor Kai Hu visits Bryant

The U.S. –China Institute invited Professor Kai Hu from the Chinese University of Geosciences (CUG), the partner school for Bryant’s Confucius Institute, to visit Bryant and promote cultural exchange. Hu is an internationally acclaimed martial arts coach and judge. For the past nine years, she has worked closely with the U.S.–China Institute and Confucius Institute in creating opportunities to share Chinese culture. Hu played a vital role in assisting the U.S.–China Institute to establish the Dragon Dance Team at Bryant University, the first college dragon dance team in the U.S. During her visit, Hu performed at the annual Mid-Autumn Festival celebration and at Overbrook Academy in Greenville, R.I. A delegation from Bryant’s Confucius Institute was hosted by their CUG counterparts in Chengdu, Sichuan Province during the 11th World Confucius Institute Conference in early December.

From left to right, Bryant Honorary degree recipient Mr. Fan Jianchuan, Bryant University Trustee Louis Page, and Bryant University Vice President for International Affairs Hong Yang, Ph.D. pictured at the front of the memorial at Jianchuan Museum.
SABEH Expands to Schools in Beijing and Zhoushan

In collaboration with the U.S.-China Institute at Bryant University, the Sino-American Bridge for Education and Health (SABEH) brings K-12 teachers from around the United States to China each summer to share innovative education strategies with Chinese teachers. During July of 2018, SABEH sent three teams of teachers to China, including to its long-standing partner, the Fujian Institute of Education, as well as an expansion of the education program to the Beijing #35 High School and to the Zhoushan Greentown Yuhua International School.

New to SABEH this summer, Dee Hambucken taught at the Greentown Yuhua School and acknowledged that “while the primary goal of our trip might have been to share our techniques with Chinese teachers, I can honestly say that I learned as much from them in return. In retrospect, my time spent in Zhoushan was a life changing experience. It is clear that teachers everywhere have the same struggles, but at the end of the day the SABEH team and Chinese teachers alike care a lot about our students and want what is best for them.”

Joe Chismar was the lead SABEH teacher at the Beijing #35 High School this summer and reflected on his experience: “Teaching in China for the past four summers has opened my eyes to a whole new culture and, most importantly, has made me a better teacher. It has truly been a life changing experience. I hope that we helped inspire the teachers we worked with in Beijing, since they certainly inspired me.”

SABEH is currently developing summer programs with several more schools across China. For more information, go to SABEH.org

Lifelong Connections

On August 5, 2018, Tianfang Song ’15 and Lina Zhao ’16, ’17 MBA were married August 5, 2018 in a ceremony hosted at the Hilton Ningbo Dongjiang Lake Resort in Ningbo City, Zhejiang Province, China. The event was attended by family, friends, and Bryant international alumni. This is believed to be the first time in the 155-year history of Bryant that two Chinese alumni married each other. The U.S.-China Institute is proud to have played a small part in the story of their lives and wishes them a lifetime of love and happiness.

Kevin Gu ’16 and Bonnie Lai ’17 were engaged to be married October 23, 2018 at Hong Kong Disneyland. The couple met at Bryant in 2014, at an event organized for new students and have been together ever since. Gu, an accounting major is now working for Sprint, while Lai, a marketing major, is working for the Twin Dragon Resort in Guangzhou, China. They are planning a wedding reception for September 2019 in Guangzhou.

Kevin Gu ’16 and Bonnie Lai ’17 share their special moment with Mickey and Minnie Mouse.
Lunar New Year Celebration – Saturday, February 9, 2019
An annual cultural celebration that enriches the campus community through multiculturalism and diversity featuring performances and raffle prizes. Bryant University campus Chace Wellness Center Main Gym. Free and open to all.

Bryant International Forum
The Bryant International Forum is designed to be a campus-wide event that encourages conversations with a leader in international education who will deliver a public presentation and discuss international issues. Stay tuned to the Bryant Events Calendar for a forum during the Spring 2018 semester.

Chinese Tea Table
*Every Monday and Thursday*
The Chinese Tea Table provides an excellent opportunity for students who are interested in Chinese to practice the language and obtain tutoring assistance from native speakers. It is open to anyone interested in Chinese language and culture. Just show up. The Chinese Tea Table takes place in the Confucius Institute Library located on the lower level of the Chafee Center for International Business every Monday and Thursday from 2:00PM to 4:00PM throughout the semester.

Global Community Hour
One of Bryant’s signature educational activities to help build cultural competency will take you to new countries around the globe each semester. Hosted by international students and scholars. The Global Community Hour includes a presentation about the focus country’s culture and is followed by a small sampling of local cuisine. Seats are limited. For more information, contact the Office of International Students and Scholars at oiss@bryant.edu

**HSK Test**
This is a six-level, international standardized Chinese proficiency test designed to examine students’ ability in the application of the Chinese language in their studies and personal lives.

**YCT Test**
This is a four-level, international standardized test of Chinese language proficiency, designed to help young students evaluate their Chinese language skills.

**Registration Deadline**
10 days prior to the exam date
For more information, please contact Ping Wang at pwang2@bryant.edu or visit china.bryant.edu and click on “Test Services” through the Confucius Institute tab.

Stay tuned to the Bryant events calendar for further details on all Division of International Affairs events.