

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Gloria Larson's Impact on Women at Bentley *By Grace Murphy '20*

On March 30, 2018, Bentley University officially named its Center for Women and Business (CWB) after its seventh president, Gloria Cordes Larson.

President Gloria Larson has played an integral role in the development of Bentley University's women's initiatives and programs, at a school once dominated by men and business-only curriculums. In 2011, Larson founded the Center for Women in Business and brought a significant focus to elevating Bentley's conversation on gender equity in the workplace, as well as advancing women from the classroom to the boardroom. President Larson is

set to leave her chair as Bentley University President at the end of the 2018 academic year, but she has not only had an impact on women at Bentley University, but also for women in business around the world.

Gloria Cordes Larson has had a career that many young people aspire to one day attain. She came to Bentley following a prestigious career as an attorney, public policy expert, and business leader. Upon graduation from law school, she jumped at the chance to run a statewide program for low income elderly in need of legal services. Gloria cites a lot of her professional growth to Pat Bailey, who hired Gloria at the Federal Trade Commission. Bailey was only the second female commissioner to be appointed by the President of the United States. "She changed my whole perspective: In the 1980s, I worked for someone at the highest level who happened to be a woman. She also hired women—three out of the four attorney advisors working for her were women. Pat was groundbreaking in

both a broad and personally defining sense." She was later appointed by

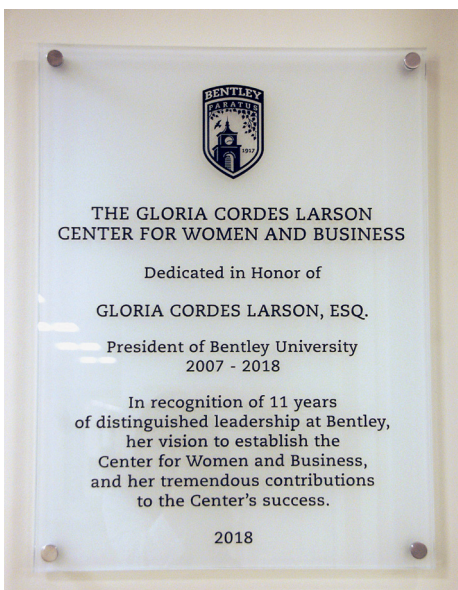


COURTESY JESSICA ANUVATTANACHAI

Grace Murphy

Governor Bill Weld to State of Massachusetts cabinet positions as Secretary of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation, and subsequently Secretary of Economic Affairs.

Upon her decision to come to Bentley, she recalled her first introduction to millennials, which occurred while recruiting law students at the University of Virginia. She felt they took a holistic approach to problems and seemed to have the passion to change the world. For the past decade, Gloria has capitalized on this holistic mentality and expanded Bentley's commitment to synchronizing a business and liberal arts education, while emphasizing student focus on technology through hands-on learning strategies. She was truly a force to be reckoned with, and young women around the world noticed this regionally recognized



TAKING THE INITIATIVE

Honors Program Launches Freshman Mentoring Program

By Adam Levesque '20

The transition to college can be a trying experience for any student. Moving away from home, meeting hundreds of new people, taking more difficult classes, managing a busier schedule. Many times, these changes are just as exciting as they are intimidating, but they can still be a significant source of stress for even the most prepared of students. It helps, though, for new students to have some resources at their disposal in order to ease this transition.



COURTESY: LUCA GUEVARA ZAMORA

Adam Levesque (left) and Andrew Oestreicher

At Bentley, students are provided a four-day-long orientation at the end of August, as well as a six-week long First Year Seminar course led by faculty and upperclassmen students, both of which help students adjust to their college and, more specifically, their Bentley experience. Personally, these programs helped me adjust to college life and to make friends among a class that, compared to my high school graduating class of 120 students, seemed too big to navigate. Because of these programs, I made many friends and felt much more comfortable at Bentley than I did when I arrived on my first day.

There was one community I was a part of, however, that I did not feel particularly connected to. That community was the Bentley Honors

Program. I did not live near any other students in the program, and I struggled to get close to my Honors Program peers, most of whom seemed to have already established strong connections. Additionally, I had a difficult process in discerning what honors courses I would take, what my future Capstone project would be, and how easy or difficult it would be to maintain the GPA necessary to stay in the program. I eventually answered these questions, but it took some time to receive a student's view of them.

I was not the only student who noticed these difficulties. Andrew Oestreicher, a current sophomore at Bentley and a member of the Student Honors Council, also saw the need to help honors students adapt to college and bond with other students in the program. After speaking with several other honor students and learning that they had gone through the same experience, he proposed that the Honors Program establish a mentor program. About his reasons for proposing the program, Andrew said, "I thought there was a need for something that helped students—particularly honors students—transition to Bentley, and I thought it would've been nice to have a mentor when I was a freshman." Instituted at the beginning of the fall 2017 semester, the mentor program aimed to help new honors students adjust to and learn more about the Honors Program from

a student's perspective. The mentor would also be a source of support for and serve as a recognizable face on campus for the new student.

Andrew spearheaded the initiative to institute the mentor program, writing the proposal to found the program and recruiting potential mentors. He then created the interaction guidelines that dictated what the responsibilities of the mentors were and how they could best interact with their mentees. Andrew enlisted fellow councilmember Luca Guevara '19 to pair mentors and mentees based on the similarities of their majors. The mentors received their mentee assignments and the interaction guidelines via email in mid-July. Mentors were then expected to email their mentees and keep in contact until meeting in person on campus. After this first meeting, they could meet with each other throughout their time at Bentley, supporting each other and offering advice whenever necessary.

The mentor program did not initially work as well as its participants and creators had hoped, however. Some mentees did not respond to their mentors' emails, and few pairs met in person more than once. Tabbi Levengood '20 said of her relationship with her mentee, "my mentee and I failed to connect over the summer, so we don't have a really strong relationship. I think with this program, you get what you put into it. If you don't communicate, you won't have that strong of a relationship." Because the success of the program hinges on communication between the two, a lack of that communication does not allow either the mentor or mentee to get everything they could out of the program.

(continued on page 5)

HIGH FREQUENCY TRADING

Finance Department Offers Four Year Path to Master's Degree

By Zoe Levine '20

Students at Bentley dedicate four years of their life to get their Bachelor's degree, and for myself included, those four years would include a degree in something business related, an internship or two, and some extracurricular activities.

That would have been the extent of my plan if you had asked me before I graduated high school. In the two years I have been at Bentley, I have continued to take on more challenges. Bentley's goal-oriented culture combined with a circle of motivated Honors students made me take on these challenges. Not only did I join a sorority, but I became the Risk Manager; not only did I become a mentor to freshmen, but I became an RA; and not only will I graduate on time with my Bachelor's in Economics-Finance, but I will also have earned my Master's in Finance through a new program just recently introduced.

The new four year combined BS/MS Program will allow a select number of students to take several graduate level courses before finishing their Bachelor's degree. This program is currently only available to students in the class of 2020, and in the major of Finance, Economics-Finance, or Corporate Finance and Accounting. The major benefit of this program is the expedited nature of it. Essentially, students condense their undergraduate courses into the first 5 or 6 semesters, then blending either undergraduate and graduate courses after that, with the last semester or two finishing graduate course requirements, all in a four year span. This is possible by streamlining some of the course offerings and content that might be similar between undergraduate and graduate courses, as well as requiring some summer coursework. According to the program director, Professor Claude Cicchetti, "This overlap of

courses will save you a substantial amount of time, as it will allow you to graduate in line with your peers, and you will not have to give up a year's employment and salary to gain a Master's degree." It is an incredible opportunity but will also be an immense challenge.

Being a member of the Honors Program has prepared me so well for this experience, and as it turns out, any Honors Program students can automatically qualify for the option if they are an EF, FI, or FA major. In fact, as of press time, there were 13 Honors students entering into this option for the spring 2020 graduation cohort, and 46 overall at Bentley. To those and so many other students considering this, the advantages are obvious: you graduate on time having not only a bachelor's degree, but also a graduate degree in the highly sought after and marketable discipline of finance.

As an Honors student, there are significant expectations that are placed upon me. The Honors Program has several requirements, with the most crucial being the academic standard all students in the Program must meet. But aside from the academic rigor, the small classes are a major perk to being in the Program, and I have found that I prefer the honors level courses to regular level courses. For example, in four semesters, I have taken seven of my eight required honors courses. In these courses, there's no safety in hiding among a big class; every student is expected to be engaged and participate. The other major requirement of the Program is a senior

year capstone project. The unique thing about this project is that it can be on any topic the student selects,

working directly with an advisor who is an expert in that field. In preparing to complete my undergraduate level courses a semester early through the BS/MS Finance path, I will have to complete my capstone a semester early as well. But it is because of the rigor of the Honors coursework and preparation of its students that they are able to automatically qualify for the BS/MS path if desired. Certainly, the Honors Program and the BS/MS Program have been extremely supportive and I feel prepared to take on the additional workload.

Being at Bentley has taught me to take on every challenge that I think I can handle, and to make the most out of the time I have here. When I went to the initial information session about this BS/MS Program, I heard sighs and whispers of panic when all the additional work was explained, but I was excited. The idea that I could enhance my learning, and finish school with two degrees was incredible. Now, when I go to interviews and tell them about the program, they are speechless. This extra degree in the same amount of time sets me apart from the competition. Not only am I going to have my Master's degree, but I will graduate at 21 years old with a Master's. Not many people can say



Zoe Levine

COURTESY, JESSICA ANUVATTANACHAI

(continued on page 6)

CALCULATED RISK

Actuary Major Growth Puts Spotlight on Professor Roth

By Tabitha Levengood '20

“What’s your major?” the infamous question that us college students despise hearing in small talk, almost as much as we hate hearing, “So what are you going to do with that after you graduate?”

For actuarial science majors, the hatred for these questions is heightened. We get the few people who actually know what actuarial science is and have a million questions. We get the people who think that it’s some sort of new age natural science. Worst of all, we get the people who just smile, nod, and pretend like they know what they’re talking about. However, among Bentley University students, this major is certainly well known, especially among the Honors Program Students.

Although the actuarial science major started small, it has been growing at a rapid pace. In 2017 Bentley graduated 22 actuarial science students, but that number is projected to increase to 32 in this year’s class of 2018. In addition, honors students represent 29% of all actuarial students and reflect that rapid growth. In the fall 2012 semester, there were just seven Honors Program actuary students; currently, there are more than triple that number.

The actuarial science major is rarely talked about around Bentley without the mention of the name Emmy Roth. In fact, the last name is not even necessary, when anyone speaks the name “Emmy,” everyone knows exactly who they are talking about whether they are involved in actuarial science or not. Emmy is known for a few things among the actuarial science community of students.

WEEKLY QUIZZES. Without a doubt, Emmy’s students can expect a quiz each week about the material covered

in the previous two classes. This seemingly torturous sequence of quizzes helps Emmy to achieve one of her main goals—for students to actually learn. She never wants students to merely regurgitate information; instead, she wants to see derivations of equations and the entire thought process behind an answer. In order to succeed in these quizzes (and in Emmy’s classes in general), you must completely master the information as you go rather than cramming before the midterm and final exams.

BEING FAIR. Emmy will go out of her way to keep every single one of her students on the same playing field. Although her philosophy of offering no makeup quizzes or exams seems harsh, she does it because of her commitment to being fair among all of her students. Inevitably either the first exam or the makeup exam would be easier than the other which would put certain students at an advantage to others. Emmy will spend hours upon hours writing new exams each semester to make sure that the exams are fair but also cover all of the material in the course.

DELICIOUS HOMEMADE COOKIES. Nothing can compare to the amazing cookies that Emmy makes prior to each exam. Although there is some sort of dread before heading into one of Emmy’s exams, her students can go in knowing that there will be a delicious snack waiting for them as they work. Whether the snack is a new recipe,

zucchini bread, or simply chocolate chip cookies, there is no doubt that it will be amazing and change the students’ outlook on their exam day.



Tabitha Levengood

COURTESY LUCA GUEVARA ZAMORA

ENSURING SUCCESS. Lastly, but certainly not least, Emmy’s commitment to the actuary program has helped to ensure student success. She consistently teaches at levels above what students see within actuarial exams and within the actuarial field as a whole. The higher-level thinking skills that are required to do well in Emmy’s courses (especially her honors courses) is what is necessary to succeed in the actuarial field in the future. In addition to preparing students, Emmy is also very committed to helping students find internships. She is in constant contact with actuarial recruiters and is quick to pass on student resumes. In addition, she continues to market Bentley University’s actuarial program, and brags on all of the success her students have. As to why she does it, Emmy remarked “For me, it’s not so much about the specific field of actuarial science, although I find the mix of math and finance both intriguing and challenging. My passion is helping bright, motivated students to (i) learn how hard they can push themselves, and (ii) achieve their goals.”

All in all, the heartbeat of the actuarial science program truly is its students and sponsoring faculty who keep all parts of the program operating. Emmy

(continued on page 6)

LEADING BY EXAMPLE *(Continued from page 1)*

university was becoming a strong player in the higher education arena. All this success was led by a woman.

Today, the CWB encompasses a plethora of programs that leverage best practices to provide education and tools to help organizations of all size and industry to foster inclusive environments. The policies introduced through the CWB focus on critical issues that impact workplace and gender diversity including: the multigenerational workforce; men in partnership to advance women; employee networks; wage parity; women's workplace retention and re-entry; pipeline issues; and many more. The CWB has programs for business professionals, like the CWB Corporate Roundtable that brings executives together to explore critical issues and identify actionable solutions to workplace diversity concerns. As far as student programming, the CWB excels. This past year, the Women's Leadership Program was launched and includes eight Honors Program students, with a design to empower young women by providing essential skills, real-world experiences and confidence needed to advance throughout their careers. The Center also has a successful student fellowship for both men and women.

The Men of Alliance group brings male students interested in gender equity and promoting a culture of active support for female peers in the classroom in hopes that a sense of inclusivity is brought further into workplaces. Freshman Hope Leonard is a marketing major and member of the Women's Leadership Program and is employed in the CWB office. As far as the CWB's impact on her Bentley career thus far she says, "working in the CWB has provided me with an environment where I can learn and work to advance the success of women while also having a network and support system to advance my own career."

Though these programs and initiatives are great on paper, their impact on the Bentley culture has been tremendous. Well over half of student run organizations are run by female students. Traditionally male-dominated majors like accounting and finance have seen drastic spikes in the male to female ratios. The way that Gloria commands respect from her male colleagues with such grace and ease is



COURTESY, JESSICA ANUVATTANACHAI

so empowering. Current sophomore and corporate finance and accounting major, Rowan Billingsley, reflected, "For me, having a president as inclusive and present as Gloria has really inspired me to be my best self in the classroom and throughout my Bentley career thus far."

It was a true honor to have attended Bentley under Gloria Larson's tenure, and there is no doubt her legacy will continue to shine through the Center for Women and Business. The impression she leaves is one of acceptance of all people, respect of one another and empowerment for young women to be tenacious and tactful as they advance from the Bentley classroom to the corporate boardrooms.

-Grace Murphy '20 is an Economics-Finance major

TAKING THE INITIATIVE *(Continued from page 2)*

Nevertheless, some mentor-mentee pairs, like Emily Marks '20 and her (multiple) mentees, did meet in person and maintain consistent communication throughout the year. "The honors mentor program has been a rewarding experience," she said. "I formed a relationship with my mentees last summer before arriving at Bentley so that they would have at least one friendly face on campus during their first few weeks. I enjoy answering their

questions and concerns, and, regardless if they have questions or not, we still meet up about once a month to catch up." Despite the program's reliance on effective mentor-mentee communication, Emily's experience demonstrates the positive impact the program can have if both parties put in the necessary effort.

Andrew remains positive about the future of the program. "We laid the framework and foundation for an even

more successful future," he said. Although it did not experience universal success in its first year, the program is still a testament to the positive change that students can enact within their schools. The mentor program is also an important student-led development within the Honors Program, and shows the commitment of its students and faculty advisors to improving the experiences of its members. After the experience from its

TAKING THE INITIATIVE CONTINUED

first year running, the Honors Program intends on making changes to the way it recruits mentors and connects with mentees in order to ensure the transition for incoming honors students

is as seamless as possible, and students get the support they seek out to the extent desired.

-Adam Levesque '20 is a Global Studies major

HIGH FREQUENCY TRADING (Continued from page 3)

that. This program shows potential employers that I have great time-management skills, organizational skills, and incredible drive and motivation. These are characteristics that will carry over to any job that I do.

This program is one that is unique at Bentley and I am so enthused that I will

be in the inaugural cohort. The group of people who were selected for the program are all highly motivated, and it will be so great to have each other for support as we go through this journey together. Several of us already know each other and these next two years will bring us even closer together. The

people, the credentials, the experience, and many other things are what made my decision to participate in this program an easy one. My time at Bentley has been a rollercoaster ride, and I am happy to keep on riding.

-Zoe Levine '20 is an Economics-Finance major

CALCULATED RISK (Continued from page 4)

is an exemplary Honors Program professor on her own, but the program certainly would not be what it is today without the commitment and support of her colleagues within the mathematical sciences department. As for the growth of this major, my pseudo

actuarial analysis indicates that Bentley should be prepared to accept more and more actuarial students both in and out of the Honors Program.

-Tabitha Levensgood '20 is an Actuarial Science major



We are pleased to recognize United Technologies Corporation for its generous support of the Honors Program and academic excellence at Bentley University.



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Laura Pianin '20 is a marketing and liberal studies double major, and Editor of Columnas