

# *Bryon Riesch Paralysis Foundation*

## **PERSONNEL RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Bryon Riesch named Marquette Commencement speaker**

Bryon Riesch, the president of the Bryon Riesch Paralysis Foundation, has been named the keynote speaker at Marquette University's winter commencement ceremonies. Riesch's speech takes place at 9:30a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 18, at the U.S. Cellular Arena, 400 W. Kilbourn Ave.

Riesch started BRPF in January of 2001. BRPF is a non-profit organization. The mission of BRPF is to find a cure for paralysis through funding the latest in medical research and to provide assistance to those that suffer from neurological disorders. Under Riesch's leadership, BRPF has raised more than \$1.6 million for paralysis research.

Riesch suffered a tragic accident after finishing his first year of college. It left him paralyzed, changing his life forever. Riesch earned the Faith, Hope and Spirit award from Froedtert Hospital in Milwaukee and also the 2005 Grad of the Year award from Southeast Wisconsin Goodwill for his ability to help people with disabilities find jobs in the community.

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Riesch was named Catholic Memorial High School's alumni of the Year for his volunteer work and advocacy for people who are paralyzed. Riesch is a motivational speaker, making frequent appearances at colleges, universities and high schools.

Riesch developed a strategic partnership with Carroll University for physical therapy students to do hands-on training working with people who have disabilities. The learning model has served as a benchmark for healthcare students across the nation. Some of the special events Riesch runs are BRPF's Annual Golf Outing for Spinal Cord Injury Research, Bryon's Run for Paralysis, Bowling for Byron and the BRPF Team Challenge.

The Bryon Riesch Paralysis Foundation's (BRPF) goal is to find a cure for paralysis through funding the latest in medical research and to provide assistance to those that suffer from neurological disorders.

For more information about Riesch's presentation, contact John Darrow at 242-768-2009.