Expanding the World of Opportunity at Bryant

As part of ongoing efforts to address the challenges of a global economy, Bryant is introducing a Bachelor of Science in International Business (BSIB) this fall. This new degree prepares students to operate beyond current intellectual, technological, and geographic boundaries to create and carry out a vision that embraces global thinking and action.

A Distinctive Curriculum
The BSIB curriculum is being developed by a team of faculty members led by Elizabeth Yobaccio, chair of the finance department. The current proposal includes a set of core international business courses and general business courses, and will require a concentration in one of the functional business areas: computer information systems, finance, management, or marketing. The in-depth knowledge students gain from this concentration complements the broad perspective of the international business program, uniquely preparing Bryant graduates for competitive job markets.

A strong liberal arts component helps develop the critical thinking skills needed to succeed in this world economy. Students will gain first-hand experience of another culture through the requirement of an international educational experience; qualified students may do that by participating in the study abroad program.

International business majors will complete a 12-credit language requirement. Multilingual students with demonstrated fluency in two or more languages may pursue a minor in another liberal arts area in place of the foreign language. Students with English as a second language may pursue an English and cultural studies minor in place of the foreign language.

Practical Experience
The John H. Chafee Center for International Business will provide opportunities for students to gain academic credit and invaluable work experience through internships, research, and other projects. Through the Office of Career Services, students can also gain hands-on experience and receive course credit while working at local or regional corporations that conduct business internationally. Any alumni whose companies are interested in offering internships as research projects should contact Professor Yobaccio at byobacci@bryant.edu.

Student Life
Hall 6 will be renovated to create an Intercultural House and will offer learning and living experiences beyond the classroom. Special programming, such as networking events with Bryant alumni in international businesses, will take place in the residence hall. The Intercultural Center, which explores international and multi-ethnic issues and develops a supportive community for all, will play an important role in this new program.

Added Value
"This new degree is just one more way Bryant continues to enhance the value of its degree to alumni," says Judy Mastronardi, director of alumni relations. "Increased name recognition and a reputation for providing a competitive edge in the global marketplace reflects well on everyone associated with Bryant."
Alumni Database Upgrade

While the alumni records database is being upgraded, you may experience difficulty accessing your records. We apologize for the inconvenience and are working diligently to complete the upgrade as quickly as possible. Thank you in advance for your patience.
Holiday Spirit Lights the Season

December is the time of year to observe many holiday traditions and spiritual beliefs from around the world. On December 3, the Bryant community gathered together for a full-day celebration of the 27th Annual Festival of Lights. During the day, the Rotunda filled with students and staff decorating wreaths and cookies. Gingerbread houses were festively bejeweled with colorful confections for display at the evening meal. Mr. and Mrs. Claus, also known as Vice President Tom Eakin and his wife, Marj, even took time from their hectic schedules to make a guest appearance!

The traditional dinner, served to students by faculty and staff, was followed by a celebration of the Christmas, Diwali, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa holidays, which included singing and the lighting of the Christmas tree and Menorah.

*This event was sponsored by the Student Alumni Association, the Alumni Association, and the Office of Student Activities.*
Community Service

The Rhode Island Community Food Bank’s Golden Pallet Challenge drew 40 Bryant alumni and their guests in friendly competition against other Rhode Island college alumni. Team Bryant sorted 8,800 lbs. of food, for a total of 288 cases to be distributed to various agencies throughout the state.

It was this event last year that began Barbara Petrarca’s (Class of ’63) ongoing involvement with the Food Bank. Barbara, who has been a Thursday evening regular, says, “I was impressed with what they were doing. It’s close to home, it’s good physical exercise, and it’s very rewarding.”
College or University?

Your input regarding the discussion about Bryant changing its name from “Bryant College” to “Bryant University” has been extremely helpful. More than 60 percent of the alumni who responded to our request for reactions were in favor of “University”. For the most part, those who opposed it wanted to know more about any substantive changes we might implement.

Now, we are having further discussions to help us more clearly articulate how the name “University” might affect our institution. And regardless of the outcome, there are several Bryant attributes that would not change:

- Bryant’s commitment to providing an exceptional business education is an essential component of this school, now and in the future.
- Bryant’s mission would remain the same:
  “Bryant is student-centered, focused on excellence, and prepares its students to achieve their personal best in life and business.”
- Bryant’s friendly environment and concern for the success of each student is our primary focus. To retain that atmosphere, our intention would be to remain about the same size we are now (3,000 undergraduates).

You are part of the Bryant tradition of excellence. Your education has enabled you to achieve your goals. Whatever the ultimate decision regarding college vs. university, rest assured that you and future generations can proudly announce that you are Bryant alumni.

Got Contacts?

Maybe you’ve just moved to a new city. Or maybe you’re looking for networking opportunities. Even if you just want to get out more, think: Bryant College alumni events. Throughout the country, Bryant alumni get together to meet, reconnect, and have fun.

In November, 50 Boston alumni and their guests attended an alumni social at Hurricane O’Reilly’s. And on January 23, Celtics Night at FleetBoston drew 52 Boston alumni, including Alumni Association President Buzz Waltman ’76, to watch the Celtics overtake the Washington Wizards, 100-89.

If you’re interested in connecting with fellow alumni in your area, contact the Office of Alumni Relations. For more information on the Boston Chapter of the Alumni Association, e-mail bryantbostonalumni@yahoo.com.

Save the Date

Homecoming/Reunion
September 18, 2004 • Bryant Campus
Patricia (Farrand) Kordalski ’83
Owner, Long Elegant Legs

Ever had a hard time finding clothes that fit you well and thought, “Why can’t someone make clothes in my size?” For years, Tricia Kordalski wondered the same thing. At 5’10” tall (and yes, she played basketball while at Bryant), the clothes she could find to fit weren’t as fashionable as she’d have liked. In 1990, she decided to do something about that and, in the process, help other women in the same situation. Tricia began a mail-order business out of her home. The mission of Long Elegant Legs: to sell stylish clothes for tall women.

Having never run a business, Tricia hit the streets to learn. Literally. “I walked around New York City’s Garment District,” she recalls. “I asked the stores where they got their clothes, checked out the showrooms.” She contacted the owner of a shoe catalog, who shared his entrepreneurial experiences.

When her business first launched, it was exciting to receive seven orders a day. Tricia wrote each customer a handwritten note thanking her for her business. Today, with more than 300 orders per day coming in and 23 employees, Tricia is unable to continue the personal notes, but is still close to her customers. Many are familiar faces at the warehouse sales she holds in New Jersey twice a year.

And while the business has outgrown her house, it still allows her to spend most of her time with her two children, which was a key objective from the beginning. Her husband, Ron, works full time at the business, handling marketing and production. Tricia remains focused on product selection.

Tricia also remains inspired. “I get calls from customers who are so happy to finally have clothes that fit well and look good that they cry,” she says. “That feels good.”

For more information, go to http://www.longelegantlegs.com