Jack Welch, Bill Conaty '67, and Bryant University: A "Winning" Combination

Jack Welch signs copies of his latest book Winning, in which he wrote, "Some of the best executives I've worked with have attended places like Bryant."

The legendary CEO visited Bryant University on October 5 and participated in a Q&A session with an audience of 1,100 students, faculty, staff, and the public. The session, which was moderated by Bryant President Ronald K. Machtey, allowed people to ask what makes a good leader and how to lead a company to greatness as Welch did for GE. Welch’s answer to both questions was the same. "We’re in the people building business. Our core competency is building leaders, building people. Not technology; not finance; not marketing. You want to find the smartest, most capable, most passionate people, and help them be successful."

Welch said one of the best people he hired is William Conaty ’67, senior vice president of corporate human resources at General Electric. Conaty, a recipient of Bryant’s distinguished alumni award in 2000, accompanied Welch during his visit and stood to applause as Welch acknowledged him for his great contributions to GE.

“Bill’s position is arguably the most important because he builds people, teams, and goodwill in the corporate culture,” said Welch.

“It’s a real kick to be acknowledged by the ‘CEO of the Century’ in the book,” said Conaty, “But an even bigger kick for my entire GE human resource team to get recognition for the importance of their role in the success of the enterprise.”

The Path to Success
Bill Conaty is a native of Binghamton, New York, and graduated from Bryant with a B.S. degree in business administration in 1967. Upon graduation, he joined General Electric’s Corporate Manufacturing Management Program. After completing GE’s three-year management program and a tour of military duty, he joined the GE Transportation Division in 1971.

After rising through the ranks throughout the ’70s and ’80s, he became senior vice president of corporate human resources in October 1993 and now reports to GE chairman and CEO Jeff Immelt. In his current role, he has overall human resources responsibility for 320,000 GE employees worldwide.

Conaty has played an active role in Bryant’s growth and transformation. He continues to be an avid supporter of Bryant’s mission to empower students to achieve their best in their personal and professional lives.

“I received a great education at Bryant, and there are great opportunities ahead for every past, present, and future student as a result of Bryant’s rich history and continuing innovation,” Conaty said.

“Like GE, I think Bryant is in the ‘people building’ business, and those who have earned a Bryant degree are well prepared to innovate, create, and improve their organizations and their communities.”

After the Q&A session, Welch told President Machtey that during his visit, he had become even more impressed with Bryant University and its future alumni. And he’ll be watching for great things – and people – to come.

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Bert Jacobs (left), founder of Life is good®, stands with Troy Byrd ’01, founder of Bryant’s Global Entrepreneurship Program (GEP).

The mission of the Bryant University GEP is to develop outstanding global business leaders who will create successful entrepreneurial ventures and stimulate risk-taking and creativity to make a lasting impact on society.

**Life is good®**

“Achieve your dreams. Do what you like, like what you do,” said Bert Jacobs, co-founder of New England-based multi-million dollar apparel company Life is good®. Jacobs spoke to more than 300 members of the Bryant community on September 20 as part of Bryant’s Global Entrepreneurship Program (GEP) annual kickoff event.

Life is good® began with a dream, $78, and a positive attitude 12 years ago when Bert Jacobs and his brother John came up with the idea of a smiling stick figure, Jake, their motto, “Life is good,” and combined them on t-shirts.

Jacobs does not use trendy acronyms or fancy marketing terms in his story. “I’ve made a strategic decision not to use them,” he said. What he offered instead were some very simple principles that he used and/or learned along the way.

First, “Get instinct,” he said. Jacobs has observed that every successful business leader has a good gut. Secondly, he cautioned young aspiring entrepreneurs to understand from the start not to try to do everything themselves, but rather hire good people and let them do their jobs. And finally, Jacobs pointed out that every successful business is based on a solid foundation. “Ours is optimism,” he said.

“People responded to the optimism in our message immediately,” added Jacobs. “And we knew we were on to something.”

The road to success has been long, hard, and exhilarating for the Jacobs brothers, whose first year’s revenues from the sale of 48 shirts were kept in a shoebox. That hard work has paid off for the Boston-based company as they estimate that 2006 sales will reach $60 million.

The Life is good® leaders had a lot of energy and great ideas, but not a lot of experience, so they learned along the way. Sometimes they grew by being innovative and trying new things. Other times they learned by making mistakes.

“If we had a program like the GEP at my college, getting to where we are now would have been a lot easier,” said Jacobs.
**Community Service**
The RI Alumni Network sponsored a Community Service Project on Saturday, August 13 at the Briggs-Boesch Farm in East Greenwich, RI. There were eight alumni and guests who participated from 8:00 a.m. until noon harvesting vegetables. The produce that was collected was brought to the RI Community Food Bank for distribution.

**Golf Tournament**
The CT Alumni Network participated in the 2005 Buick Championship Golf Tournament as part of a Community Service Project that was held at River Highlands in Cromwell, CT, on August 27. A group of 12 alumni and guests assisted in the concession tents helping to prepare and serve food.

**Bryant on the Road**
On September 12, a group of 25 alumni employees of Bank of America gathered at the former Fleet Center in Providence as part of the Bryant on the Road series. RI Bank of America president Bill Hatfield joined Bryant president Ron Machlley in praising the mutual partnership between the bank and the University, which encompasses recruiting, internships and support for Bryant programs.

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**CALENDAR**

**Holiday Reception**
January 12, 2006
6:00 p.m.
Caparro Country Club
Guatemala, Puerto Rico
For alumni, parents, students, and prospective students.
RSVP to 401-232-6253.

**Interfaith Prayer Breakfast**
February 1, 2006
Bryant Campus

**President’s Cultural Series**
David “Fathead” Newman
February 16, 2006
7:30 p.m.
Bryant Campus

**Women’s Summit**
March 15, 2006
Bryant Campus

**Bryant at Red Sox Spring Training Camp**
March 19, 2006
Fort Myers, Florida
Barbeque, 11:00 a.m.
Game, 1:00 p.m.
Tickets are limited; contact Jenn Coleman at rsvp@bryant.edu for more information.

**Trustee Speaker Series**
Bobby Muller, President of the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation, and co-recipient of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize
March 23, 2006
6:00 p.m. (tentative)
Bryant Campus, Stepan Grand Hall

**Alumni Achievement Awards**
April 6, 2006
6:00 p.m.
Bryant Campus

**President’s Cultural Series**
Duke Robillard
April 6, 2006
7:30 p.m.
Bryant Campus

**Homecoming/Reunion**
September 16, 2006
Bryant Campus
Worldwide Bryant Connections

Chris Orcutt '06 finds nothing unusual about the fact that Bryant alumni are always in the stands to watch his rugby team play.

"I've been playing since I was a freshman and I don't think I've ever been to a game - home or away - where there weren't alumni in the stands," he said of the devoted fans who once played rugby while they attended Bryant.

It's such a close group that one player on the team is elected alumni chair; he's responsible for keeping the alumni up-to-date on what's happening with the team and e-mailing a synopsis of every game to the group. After each match, alumni and students get together to catch up on who's doing what. Every spring, alumni rugby players return to campus to play against the students. It's a chance to ruck, maul, tackle, and scrum with old teammates and make new friends.

It was at an after-game gathering last year that Chris heard the news that he was going to London for a summer internship. Someone mentioned that Craig Johnson '96, a former rugby player, worked in London. When Chris e-mailed Craig to introduce himself, Craig responded:

Gaytha Langlois Has Business Down to a Science

Gaytha Langlois, science and technology professor, has been teaching environmental science courses for more than 35 years. The Energy Management course of today, however, captures new issues and new cases, and reflects the shifting trends in public policy. And certainly, the students change.

"Today, students come to Bryant with a strong ecological background," said Gaytha. "They're already well versed in the various in environmental management.

"If we're able to raise their awareness about what they can achieve with their talents and education and help them realize their goals, we've done our job," she said.

Gaytha uses the word "we" often, because she believes that educating students and preparing them for what their futures hold is a community effort. "Since I first arrived at Bryant, there has always been a strong sense of community between
Fraternity gathers after Homecoming

35 years of Beta Sigma Chi fraternity brothers gathered together at a reception on campus after the Homecoming football game. Corey Durling ’75 and Frank Amodeo ’75 worked together with Alumni Relations to host this get-together for the brothers of Bryant’s first fraternity.
Homecoming 2005

Women's Soccer defeats Saint Michael's 1-0.

Go Bulldogs! Bryant's football team gave alumni, students, faculty, and staff reason to celebrate after their hard-earned win at Homecoming.

On Saturday, September 24, 2005, more than 4,000
Bryant alumni arrive on campus early to get caught up with old friends, to tailgate, and to cheer the Bulldogs to victory.

On Saturday, September 24, 2005, more than 4,000 students, faculty, staff, and alumni returned to Bryant's campus in Smithfield to watch the Bulldogs come out on top against the Pace University Setters (20-19 score) in a final-quarter nail-biter.

Students, alumni, and faculty enjoyed tailgating festivities prior to the game, and the Bulldog Fun Zone ensured entertainment for the whole family. Adults and children alike clambered to the tops of the huge, inflatable slide and the rock wall. After a full meal in the Alumni Tent, Homecoming revelers picked up cotton candy for dessert next to the carnival games.

Julianne Piccinilli Silva '00 and Ron Machlley unveil the Class of 2000's Senior Class Gift - the Alumni Wall.

Supporting students in and outside of the classroom. Faculty members (from left) Gregg Carter (with wife, Lisa), Sam Mirrani, Judy Barrett Litoff, Judy McDonnell, and Joe Iacqua socialize before the game.
LOYAL GUARD SALUTE

50th Reunion

Dick Connor '55 and wife Beverly show some school spirit before the game under the Homecoming/Reunion tent.

Bob Landry '55, co-chair of the 50th Reunion Event, reacquaints himself with former classmates in Bryant's tent at WaterFire in Providence on Homecoming evening.
Ultimate Frisbee is one of Bryant's most popular club sports.

(1-1) Donald Patterson '55, Ray Horbert, and Charles Kingsbury '55 stand behind their wives Betsy Patterson '55, Barbie Horbert '55, and Kay Kingsbury '55 (Co-chair of 50th Reunion Event).

Reminiscing in the Reunion tent are (1-1) Sue (Dex) Schlafman '55, Arlene (Osielski) Griffin '55, Tom Powell '61, Doris (Vanderheynst) Haskins '55, and Lorna (Burton) Avrich '55.

Sorority Sisters

Members of local sorority 
Alphi Phi Kappa gathered at 
Homecoming/Reunion for their 
50th year class reunion and met 
current students in the same 
sorority, now a national sorority 
called Phi Sigma Sigma. 
Back row, left to right are: 
Gerry (Sadler) Cote '55; 
Barbie (Lowe) Horbert '55; 
Kay (Barker) Kingsbury '55; 
Betsy (Jackson) Patterson '55; 
Jan Gafner '55; Claire 
(Belhumeur) Guillemette '55; 
and irene (Armoo) Colletta '56. 
Front row, left to right, are: 
Amanda Klepper '07; Britney 
Kelleher '07; Lorie Schlatterer '07; 
Brianna Sesto '07; Leigh 
DiAntonio '06; and Carissa 
Juliano '06.

Ron and Kati Machlley help to fight the WaterFire in Providence.
Class Steering Committees help alumni stay connected

When you were a student on the Bryant campus—whether it was Providence or Smithfield, part time or full time—you found a group of people who were a lot like you. You studied for exams, you commiserated on personal and school issues, and you celebrated successes together.

The job of the Bryant Alumni Office staff and the National Alumni Council is to help you and your friends stay connected with each other and the broader Bryant alumni network. To accomplish this more effectively, we're putting together Class Steering Committees so that there can be more one-on-one contact among alumni.

We're looking for people who want to represent groups of alumni. Ideally, each Class Steering Committee should have a representative from key segments like Sports, Greek Life, and Student Government. We also want people who have maintained a network of Bryant friends. You will contact five people from your class year, and those five friends will each be asked to contact another five and so on until all classmates are connected.

We started the Class Steering Committee for the Class of 1979, hoping that by asking classmates to contact their Bryant friends, we can more quickly and successfully connect you to each other.

It's an excuse to contact someone you haven't talked to in a while

If you're interested in joining your Class Steering Committee, contact us at alumni@bryant.edu. Enjoying themselves at the UCONN — Bryant basketball game and alumni reception in Hartford are (l-r) Jeff Rotatori '77, Buzz Waltman '76, Gary Kazanjian ’69, and Dave Ellison ’79.
We started the Class Steering Committees for this past reunion, and it was most successful with the 5th reunion Class of 2000. It is our
time to get to know more of them.
Buzz Waltman '76
National Alumni Council
President

Career Resources – Increasing your value on the job

Sure, you knew about Bryant’s Career Services office when you were a student. That’s where you went to find internships, search for a job, and meet with recruiters. But did you know that Career Services also supports alumni? And you don’t even have to be near campus to take advantage of many of the resources. This new column will provide helpful career advice.

Five Ways to Increase Your Value*

Whether you’re happy with your current role or you’re looking to climb a rung or two (or more) on your career ladder, it’s paramount in today’s workforce to go beyond your job description. You must be considered a strong asset to the people and mission of your organization. Here are five ways to provide what’s known as “value-added” contributions.

1. Attend conferences, trade shows, and training programs to increase your knowledge and your contacts. Staying up-to-date with the latest products and technology means that you can help your company maintain, or develop, its competitive advantage. Use the contacts you make to gather best practices information when you want to propose a new product or you’ve been assigned to a new project. Not only do you gain credibility by having such contacts, you show that you’ve done your homework.

2. Share information to develop a reputation as a contributor. Providing colleagues with your experience, insight, and resources marks you as a strong team player. It’s also a hallmark of leadership, a quality that senior managers look for when it’s time to promote employees. When you return from a conference, for example, share your key takeaways with managers and colleagues.

3. Keep your word. Earn respect by delivering what you promised, when you promised it. Successful people know that business is about relationships. Keeping promises lets people know that you take the relationship and the job seriously.

4. Volunteer for or initiate new projects to add job skills and increase your visibility. If that promotion you have your eye on requires skills you don’t have, serving on a project team may be just the way to attain a

proved track record. And because special projects are often approved and monitored at the executive level, you’ll get noticed by people who might not normally get to know you.

5. Be positive. Associate with the positive people in your organization. Speak well about your organization, internally and externally. Senior managers want leaders who support the company’s mission. And people would rather work with those who are upbeat and positive. If you have a criticism, pose it constructively and make it known you’re offering this feedback to make the department or company even better than it is.

*Adapted from Rapid Guide to Job Hunting, published by the Bryant University Office of Career Services.

Send us your question or suggestion for a Career Resources topic and we may publish it in a future issue of the Alumni Bulletin.

Check out Career Services’ Web site for more career development strategies and access to job listing databases: web.bryant.edu/~csoffice.
We continue to receive many responses to our What's Your Story? postcard. You're writing about how Bryant prepared you for your career and your life; recalling fond memories of faculty and classmates; and, you've even told us a few love stories. It's not too late to share your story — tell us in one of three ways:

Log on to
www.bryant.edu/mystery; or

Send an e-mail to
mystery@bryant.edu; or

Send a letter to
University Relations,
attention Tina Senecal '95,
Bryant University,
1150 Douglas Pike,
Smithfield, RI, 02917

Peter Dillon '91 and his wife Andi Keller

Creating and maintaining relationships: Bryant alum tells his story

No one story comes to mind, however I truly believe that much of my professional success has stemmed from the opportunities I had at Bryant in and outside the classroom.

I developed leadership skills early in my college career as Editor of the Ledger, Founding Father and Officer in Delta Chi.

So much of work in the "real world" is about creating and maintaining relationships. Many of the friendships I made throughout my four years have sustained the test of time and distance (I live in Kansas).

Delta Chi had and continues to have a strong emphasis on philanthropy. Today, I am very
“I share all this, because I believe that my experiences at Bryant College truly helped to shape my adult life.”

**Peter Dillon ’91**

Tuppers, and working two internships - one for R.I. State Government and the other for Collette Travel. Each had its unique challenges and opportunities, which at the time was more like learning on the job vs. the learning I was experiencing in the classroom. I often relate experiences I had at Bryant to employees who work for and with me as a way to share different perspectives on similar issues.
After All These Years:
Marge Yasick Still Checking Students Into the Cafeteria

If you've eaten lunch at Salmonson Dining Hall in the last 34 years, chances are you know Marge Yasick. She's the nice lady who checked your ID before you entered. She kidded around with you, maybe commented on last night's game. She's still at her station, checking the IDs of future generations of Bryant alumni.

Still Here!
Marge started her job in 1977. Back then, she checked each of 1,500 names on her paper list, which listed students by number, not by name. That didn't stop her from getting to know the students as individuals. Today, technology has eliminated the paper list, but not the friendships. In fact, many alumni stop by to see her when they visit campus. Their first comment is "Wow! You're still here!" Marge will be here, at her station, for as long as she can. A spritely 80-year-old, Marge said, "Bryant is a wonderful community and I love coming to work."

Their Biggest Fan
More than a friendly face in front of the dining hall, Marge is a familiar face at campus events. Over the years, she's attended many games. She'll clip newspaper articles about the players and post them at her station. "It's a small thing to do and I think the kids appreciate the support," she said. She's invited to the annual Senior Citizens Prom, sponsored by the Student Senate, each year. Marge is often seen at Homecoming, plays, and other special events. She especially enjoys the Mr. and Ms. Bryant shows. "The kids go all out and put so much effort into their shows," she said. Last year, she played Mrs. Claus at the Festival of Lights celebration.

Checking Her List
Like Mr. Claus, Marge knows when students are naughty or nice. For the most part, she said that "Bryant students are so nice. They make my job easy." But she does catch the occasional indiscretion. "I once saw a football player go through the door before his lady friend. I told him quietly, 'It's still ladies first, you know.' He apologized and never did it again. You wouldn't think a big guy like that would care, but he did."

Marge finds that Bryant students are very caring. They'll often bring her a drink from the cafeteria. On occasion, President Machlet will ask her if the students are giving her any trouble. "I tell him they never do," said Marge. "He says it's because they like me." Clearly, that feeling is mutual.

"Bryant is a wonderful community, and I love coming to work."

MARGE YASICK
The Online Directory on www.bryant.edu is easy to use. You can search for alumni by first or last names, or get a list of all your classmates by searching for your class year. Expand your networking opportunities by using the Online Directory to look up Bryant alumni by geographic location, career category, fraternity or a sport or club. For example a search for all alumni living in Hawaii netted 23 hits! Bryant has 433 alumni living in New York City with 16 in banking.

Have you reconnected with a fellow classmate through Bryant’s Online Directory? Or made a new contact that way? Tell us about it and we may publish your story in a future issue of the Alumni Bulletin. You can send us an email at alumni@bryant.edu or http://www.bryant.edu/bryant/alumni/mystery/index.jsp

School Spirit

Despite being Senior Vice President – Investments at UBS Financial Services in New York, Barry Ringelheim ’68 still has time to get involved with his alma mater. Shown here holding the Bryant Class of 1968 flag are the Ringelheim family (from left) son Max, 16; wife Marcia; son Harris, 20; son Brett, 12; Barry; and son Steven, 31. The Ringelheim family designed the flag and donated it to Bryant.

Thank you, Ringelheim family!