Finance Students Get Real: Bryant's Student-Managed Investment Fund

Students studying finance and financial services at Bryant are getting a taste of what it's really like to work in securities and portfolio management.

Under his watchful eye, students in Professor David Louton's securities analysis and portfolio management courses are managing the Archway Investment Fund -- $200,000 of Bryant's endowment that trustees voted to serve as seed money for the university's first student-managed investment fund.

In order to get into the classes, students have to interview for the role of securities analyst. If accepted, they'll do what securities analysts do for the first semester: recommend stocks. If successful, they will be promoted to portfolio manager for the next semester, selecting and executing investment strategies.

Real-World Practice

on the board who can't make it to campus, Professor Louton brings them to class via conference calls and videoconferencing.

Although still in its infancy -- the first course was held last semester -- Professor Louton is optimistic that experience now than they were at the beginning. Mike Fisher '67, a member of the Archway Fund Advisory Board said, "There is nothing like hands-on, live experiences in dealing with the challenges of the stock market."
Real-World Practice

The idea is to provide students with real-world experience, first by simulating what they'll encounter to get a job and then by giving them real money to manage as practice for what they'll actually do on the job. The C.V. Starr Financial Markets Center (FMC), which receives real-time news, information, and data, transferred by live feeds through Reuters 3000, a financial trading system used by some of the largest financial organizations in the world, serves as their classroom and base of operations. Both the securities analysis and portfolio management classes occur concurrently in the semester so that the two classes can meet each week to present their ideas to each other, debate issues, and hear guest speakers. In both classes, students conduct themselves as if they were already at work. The students in securities analysis make recommendations to buy or sell stock that must be approved by a portfolio management committee.

Alumni as Advisors

Professor Louton assembled an advisory board comprising faculty, alumni in the financial services industry, and investment professionals (see sidebar). Board members share their insight on the fund's stocks, serve as guest speakers, provide one-on-one mentorship, and offer job search strategies. For those

Professor Louton is optimistic that this radically different approach is an effective one. The fund has tracked closely with the S&P 500 and the current value of the fund is approximately $210,000.

Contagious Enthusiasm

But mostly, it's been a satisfying experience because of the enthusiasm the project has generated. Students get excited about their stocks, enjoy participating in class discussions, and stay late to conduct research. Alumni and other members of the advisory board needed little persuasion to become involved and are even more enthusiastic about the

Get caught up in the excitement! If you are in the investments field and would enjoy helping Bryant students gain valuable experience, please contact Professor Louton at (401) 322-6743 or e-mail him at dlouton@bryant.edu. You can choose your level of participation.

Archway Investment Fund Advisory Board Members

Rodney Beillargeon '76  
Senior Vice President, Portfolio Manager  
Bank of America  
Providence, R.I.

Michael Fisher '67  
Managing Director  
Barclays Global Investors  
San Francisco, Calif.

David Louton  
Professor of Finance and Coordinator of C.V.  
Starr Financial Markets Center  
Bryant University  
Smithfield, R.I.

Barry Morrison  
Vice President, Business Affairs/Treasurer  
Bryant University  
Smithfield, R.I.

Jack Murphy '84  
Senior Portfolio Manager  
BKF Asset Management  
New York, N.Y.

Peter Nigro  
Sarkisian Professor of Financial Services  
Bryant University  
Smithfield, R.I.

Jerry Porter  
Director, Business and Industry Training  
Fidelity Investments  
Boston, Mass.

Steven Rohe '03  
Portfolio Manager  
R.W. Rohe & Company, Inc.  
Bohemia, N.Y.

Louis Silk '99  
NYSE Sales Trader  
Dennett Clancy, Inc.  
New York, N.Y.
National Alumni Council Update: First Annual Alumni Leadership Retreat
September 15-16, 2006

As part of this year’s Homecoming and Reunion weekend, Bryant will launch the first annual Alumni Leadership Retreat. Beginning on Friday, September 15, more than 100 alumni are expected to join student leaders for a series of workshops designed to build stronger alumni connections and provide a framework for future volunteer interaction between Bryant and alumni leaders.

The Alumni Leadership Retreat is an initiative of the National Alumni Council (NAC), which represents Bryant’s 38,000 alumni. The NAC strives to strengthen the alumni network by reinforcing the relationships alumni form with each other and with the university, and by identifying and developing future alumni leaders from the current student body.

Objectives for the inaugural Alumni Leadership Retreat are to:
- increase alumni engagement,
- raise awareness of the university’s challenges and plans,
- strengthen communication between university leaders,
- provide mentoring opportunities between students and alumni, and
- build camaraderie and unity among volunteers.

National Alumni Council 1st Vice President Ray Griglevich ’91, ’00 MBA, describes this as a significant and timely initiative. “Bryant’s growth doesn’t mean we have to lose the close community ties that make the university special,” he said. “This retreat is an exciting opportunity to bring key student, alumni, and administration advocates together so that we can grow in a collaborative and unified way.”

On Saturday morning of Reunion, September 16, all alumni are invited to attend the Affinity Group gatherings that will include alumni varsity games; the multicultural and international student alumni meeting; a reunion for Bryant’s gay, lesbian, and bisexual alumni community; and a reunion for the Student Alumni Association’s 25th Anniversary.

If you have an interest in taking a leadership role for Bryant now or in the future, you should be a part of this important retreat. For more information on the program, contact Robin Warde, Interim Director of Alumni Relations at (401) 232-6253, visit www.bryant.edu, or e-mail alumni@bryant.edu.

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Community Service
Rhode Island Food Bank
April 27, 2006
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Email alumni@bryant.edu for on-line registration information or call 401-232-6539 to volunteer

Community Service
Special Olympics
May 7, 2006
Morning and afternoon shifts available
Email alumni@bryant.edu for on-line registration information or call 401-232-6539 to volunteer

Golf Outing
Jason Constantino Foundation Invitational
May 12, 2006
Crumpin-Fox Club
Bernardston, Mass.
Contact Rich Pavan at richp@smithpavanocpa.com

Golf Outing
4th Annual Di Morrissey '82 Memorial
May 13, 2006
Keney Park Golf Course
Hartford, Conn.
Contact Kevin Morrissey at secondchanceproperties@yahoo.com

Undergraduate Commencement
May 20, 2006
Bryant Campus
10 a.m.

World Trade Day
May 25, 2006
Bryant Campus
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Visit www.chafeecenter.org for more information.

Boston Area Regional Network
May 31, 2006
MIT Museum
Cambridge, Mass.
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Email alumni@bryant.edu for on-line registration information or call 401-232-6595 to RSVP

Connecticut Regional Network
June 1, 2006
Mohegan Sun
Uncasville, Conn.
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Email alumni@bryant.edu for on-line registration information or call 401-232-6053 to RSVP

Golf Tournament
Bryant Black and Gold Athletics
August 1, 2006
Cranston Country Club
$150 per player/$600 foursome
Contact Theresa Garlacy at 401-232-6360 or tgarlacy@bryant.edu for brochure

Homecoming and Reunion
September 15-17, 2006
Bryant Campus
Registration information will be mailed.

6th Annual Shawn M. Nassaney Race/Walk
September 17, 2006
1 p.m.
Bryant Campus
Visit www.shawnmnassaney.org for more information

Golf Tournament
3rd Annual President's Cup
September 27, 2006
Newport Country Club
Newport, R.I.
$2,500 foursome
Contact Glenn McQuade at 401-232-6442 or gmquade@bryant.edu for brochure

Bobby Muller (right), Vietnam veteran and chairman and co-founder of the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation, and Garrett Reppenhagen, veterans coordinator of the same foundation and veteran of the War on Terror spoke to the Bryant community about the readjustment challenges of returning veterans on March 23, 2006.
W. Dustin Goldstein '95 has always been a busy individual who likes to explore new countries, new interests, and new challenges. He believes that the experiences and education he received at Bryant have greatly contributed to his success, and Bryant's emphasis on globalization will help future alumni succeed in an international marketplace.

"Global education is a requirement for survival in the workplace," Dustin said. "Bryant's commitment to preparing students for the global business environment is at the forefront of preparing tomorrow's leaders for these important challenges."

Dustin is director & senior cash flow advisor in the Transaction Banking Division of ABN AMRO Bank in Chicago, one of the largest global banking groups, and the largest foreign bank in the U.S. According to Dustin, Bryant's finance concentration prepared him well for his current job. Prior to his current role, he was vice president-sales for southern Europe for the Working Capital unit with ABN AMRO, based in Madrid, Spain. Before that, he was the country head of global cash management sales for Spain at HSBC for more than three years.

But Dustin isn't all work and no play. In September 2005, he came back to the Smithfield campus for Homecoming/Reunion. "A whole group of friends and old roommates from my graduating class planned to attend our 10-year Reunion, and I wanted to be there," he said. Dustin also met the recipient of his Partners-in-Scholarship - an annual gift intended to support students at the University of Pennsylvania.

Nancy (McHugh) DeViney '75 defines success as much by what she hasn't done as what she has. She didn't take every professional opportunity that came her way to advance her career to where she is now — vice president of values and organizational capability at IBM.

Instead, Nancy assessed each career opportunity as it came along and decided whether it would be something she enjoyed doing and if it allowed her the family time she needed. "Finding the right balance between family and career is a challenging task," she said. "It is important to take time away from work to spend with loved ones and pursue personal interests." Nancy is co-chair of IBM's U.S. Women's Council, which supports the ongoing advancement of women at the company through mentoring, networking, and flexible work options. In fact, Nancy sees a direct benefit when mothers are in the workforce because they have the so-called soft skills that make them excellent managers and team leaders. "Women tend to encourage broad thinking in a collaborative manner and create flexible work environments with discipline and focus," said Nancy. "That's a winning combination in today's on-demand world."

Nancy was awarded this year's Distinguished Alumnus/A Award.
Bryant Alumnus Rocks Student’s World

Timing is everything. When Nicole Pesapane ’06 walked into Bryant’s career services office to find out what internships were available in the spring of 2005, she knew only that she was interested in the entertainment industry. It just so happened that, earlier in the day, alumnus Mike Greco ’93 called Barbara Gregory, associate director of career services and coordinator of academic internships at Bryant, because he wanted to bring a Bryant internship to MTV. Greco is senior vice president, programming and sales research, at MTV. “MTV may be a creative industry, but it is also a business, so having Bryant interns who have a strong business foundation is a logical connection,” he said.

Preparing for Success
Nicole contacted Mike and soon became the first Bryant intern at MTV in the summer of 2005. She worked in Mike’s department with the people who oversee programming operations, scheduling, communications strategy, and competition tracking, which greatly complemented her concentrated area of study at Bryant — marketing. The complexity involved in managing a successful television network was a learning experience for Nicole, but one for which she felt prepared. “I was a little nervous at first, but within a short period of time, I was able to relate what I was doing to what I had studied in class,” said Nicole. “Bryant’s marketing curriculum reflects what’s going on right now in the industry.”

A Valuable Experience
Nicole’s primary responsibility was working with Nielsen ratings, which provides quantitative data about what consumers are watching on TV. But while she was there, MTV launched a new television network (LOGO, a gay-themed channel), planned and promoted the 2005 MTV Movie Awards, and, of course, there were meetings to attend. “That’s the kind of experience that will be an advantage to Nicole,” said Mike.

For many students, an internship is their first professional experience. Practicing office etiquette, becoming familiar with industry terminology, and getting hands-on experience raises students above the competition because employers want people who can hit the ground running.

Now in her senior year, Nicole has begun her job search. Thanks to her internship experience, she feels prepared. And thanks to Mike, more Bryant students will have the chance to explore an exciting company through an internship.

To find out how you can provide Bryant students with valuable learning experiences through an internship at your organization, please contact Barbara Gregory in the career services office at (401) 232-6355 or e-mail her at bgregory@bryant.edu.
Alumni Events

Gathered on campus for an alumni basketball game on February 18 are (standing, l-r) Tony DeQuattro '67, Patricia Migneault Sanetti '86, Liz Davies '96, Jason Noel '04, Tanya Iwanski '04, Assistant Women's Basketball Coach John Hogan, and Mary McConnell (kneeling, l-r) Ann-Marie Harrington '86, and Colleen McLaughlin '04. Liz Davies and Ernie DeWitt '78 were recently named to the Northeast-10 Conference 25th Anniversary Basketball Team.

Bryant basketball alumnus Ron Harrison '84 (far right) flew in to Las Vegas from California to cheer on the Bulldogs against UNLV. He is pictured here (r-l) with his son Trent, wife Beverly, and Interim Director of Athletics John Ruppert.
More than 60 prospective students and alumni gathered in Puerto Rico in January to hear about Bryant from President Ron Machlley. Pictured here (l-r) are Karina and Jose Martorell ’92, Rose Marie Wirshing ’92, and Paco San Miguel ’86.

Harold Peacock ’98 (left) hugs Adam Muccino ’07 in congratulations during the grand unveiling of the new Bryant radio station (WJMF) facilities on February 15, 2006. Peacock, under the name DJ Bishop, hosts a syndicated internet radio program that is carried on air at WJMF every Saturday from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Norm Abram of This Old House (right) is pictured with Bryant alumnus Dave Chastanet ’78 for an early January segment of the PBS show. Chastanet, a Phi Sigma Nu brother, is the general manager of New England Woodworking in Middletown, R.I. (picture used with permission from The Sakonnet Times, photographer Dan Hunt.)

John Spatcher ’78 (left) meets John Higham ’07 at the Bryant Student Career Fair 2006. Spatcher is a partner at Blum Shapiro, a CPA firm in West Hartford, Conn., and has recruited on campus for many years. More than 650 students attended the annual event, meeting representatives from 92 companies - many of whom were Bryant alumni.

(l-r) Sue Sampson and Ellen DeLucia ’75, co-presidents of Home Dec In A Sec; Becca (Baker) Collemer ’95, ’01 MBA, president of Curves in Barrington, R.I.; and Tricia (Ferrand) Kordalski ’03, president and founder of Long Elegant Legs, were all on campus to present at Women’s Summit 2006 on March 15.
Solomon A. Solomon ’56, ’64 Reflects On 50 Years With Bryant

Sol Solomon had just returned from military service in the Korean War, eager to earn the college degree that his GI Bill entitled him to. He headed to Bryant, which at that time offered a retail management degree – an education that would come in handy while Sol worked for the famous department store, Bloomingdale’s. "I wouldn’t be where I am today if it wasn’t for the GI Bill,” he said. “I was just out of the service and this was the first big step I took in the retail business.

His contributions are too many to list in total, but comprise several positions on Bryant’s National Alumni Council, including president. He received the Nelson Gulski Service Award in 1990 and is the only alumnus to have been granted the Key to the City.

Hope High School’s athletic facilities for games. And, of course, there were no computers.

More than 50 years later, Sol still heads to Bryant on a regular basis, not as a student but to provide his leadership and insight in the many roles he’s had since he graduated from Bryant in 1956 and then again in 1964, with a teacher’s certification.

said Sol. He is quick to list the features and accomplishments of today’s Bryant. For one thing, students no longer need venture any farther than the world-class George E. Bello Center for Information and Technology to study. Bryant now boasts the new Elizabeth and Malcolm Chace Wellness and Athletic Center, a baseball and softball complex, natural grass field hockey complex, tennis courts, a golf practice green and driving range, and more. The university is recognized as one of the Top 25 Most Connected Campuses by Princeton Review for its commitment to technology. As for parking, well, the meters...
education that would come in handy while Sol worked with his father at the family's clothing store. It was 1953.

Sol remembers that the mostly commuter population on the campus's original East Side location had to park on the street and race out every hour to feed the meter another nickel. Students studied and did their research for class projects at the nearby Todd Wharton Library. They used

"I wouldn't be where I am today if not for this university."

Sol Solomon '56, '64

of 1956 Reunion Committee.

Bryant, Sol is proud to say, offers the same quality education that it has for generations. "Bryant training pays off. I wouldn't be where I am today if not for this university."

are gone but it's still a hike from car to door. Some things never change.

If you are celebrating your 50th reunion this year, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (401) 232-6040 or alumni@bryant.edu for registration information.

Forming an ivy chain for graduates are eight classmates from the Class of 1956.

Top row, right to left, are Mary (Flanagan) Golden, Bertha (Duffy) Couture, Mary (Fitch) Haley, and Audrey (Perreault) Sprague.

Bottom row, right to left, are Carole (Ferrari) Lawson, Ellen (O'Brien) Wright, Peggy (Harrington) Cassels, and Shirley (Bourbeau) Shehan.

Mary Golden, Ellen Wright, and Peg Cassels are all part of the Class of 1956 Steering Committee, formed to encourage former classmates to return to Bryant and reconnect with others for their 50th Reunion.

This photo is from the 1956 yearbook. If you can tell us more about the ceremony and the names of the graduates in cap and gown, please send an e-mail to alumni@bryant.edu. Or send a note to Alumni Relations, Bryant University, 1150 Douglas Pike, Smithfield, RI, 02917.
Career Resources: Working a Room

You walk into a room filled with clusters of people shaking hands, talking, and laughing. Your palms get slick, your stomach clenches, and you can't remember why you thought it was so important to attend this networking event. You could turn around and walk right out of there.

Yes, you could. But you'd miss the opportunity to meet valuable contacts who could increase your business. These tips will bolster your confidence and increase your RWQ (Room Working Quotient) in no time.

Before You Go
- Read the day's headline news stories. This could provide you the chance to start — or stay in — a conversation.
- Put a stack of your business cards within easy reach, either in the front pocket of your jacket or an outside pocket of your handbag.
- If you're planning to meet a specific person, find out the latest news about him or her company or industry so that when you do meet, you'll have something to say.

While You're There
- Remember that most of the people in the room are in the same situation as you are: they don't know anyone else. Think of yourself talking to; it will look like you have no interest in who you're talking to (which may be true, but it's still not polite).
- Introduce yourself even if you know the other person's name in case she forgot yours: "Hi Sue, Mary Jones from ABC. We met at the Starlight fundraising dinner last month."
- When meeting someone for the first time, repeat his or her name throughout the conversation to help lock it into your long-term memory.
- Avoid staying with the same person for the duration. Always have three or four phrases to excuse yourself from a conversation. For example, "It was great to meet you/see you again. Enjoy the event." The key here is to shake the other person's hand, which is a firm, but polite, exit.

After the Event
- On the back of each business card you received, write the date and name of the event. Also make a note about topics you discussed, which gives you an opportunity to make contact again. You could send a brief e-mail message such as, "It was great to meet you last week at the chamber event. I enjoyed our conversation about..."

ADDITIONS

Brett Jennings '88 to Mary Anne and Robert J. McCarthy '88 on 12/20/05.
Declan Harrington '04 and Ryan Andrew on 10/09/04 to Margaret and Sean R. Smith '88.
Molly Kathleen and Sean Thomas to Kimberley A. Bryant '88 and Timothy Rourke on 07/26/05.
Olivia Maria to Jennifer and Gary A. Miller '89 on 07/07/05.
Olivia Jane to Karen (Zapiewski) '90 and Brian Holbrook on 10/23/05.
Adele William to Karen Campanella and William P. Kunz, Jr. '06 on 06/15/06.
Lindsay Grace and Christopher John to Kimberley A. (Dyson) '91 and Craig J. Jannuzzi '91 on 11/04/04.
Kyle Frederick to Deborah L. Linnon '91 and Robert Mandroka on 11/22/09.
Olivia Rose to Allison L. (Zevi) '92 and James T. Richardson '92 on 12/06/06.
Cecilia Maria to Antonia and Charles C. Greenwald '92 on 09/20/05.
Andrew Augustine to Jennifer (Newcomb) '92 and Michael Kirby on 02/27/05.
Kasey Patrick to Nicole and Peter J. Roy '92 on 09/06/05.
Samantha Margaret to Jennifer L. (Ketlar) '93 and Brett Foster on 10/11/05.
Brandon Michael to Sara J. (Jacques) '94 and Michael P. Richard '93 on 09/21/05.
Abigail Rose to Kelly (Harrigan) '93 and Chris Welch on 09/19/05.
Jake Samuel to Melanie (Samuelian) '93 and James O'Brien on 09/09/05.
Eliot Kevin to Brenda and Lars E. Pluss '93 on 08/07/05.
Kevin Matthew to Michele (D'Abate) '91 and John Glen on 06/20/05.
Ashley Veronica to Melissa B. (McInerney) '91 and Andrew Vallilla on 10/27/05.
Marco Simone to Jennifer (Giammo) '95 and Steven L. Katz '92 on 11/09/05.
Connor Joseph to Tammy Manrique '94 and Joseph McKay on 04/24/05.
Colin J. to Carla A. (Fazzulo) '94 and John J. Donadio on 06/19/05.

PARTNERSHIPS

Denis A. DeSaulniers '64 to Lisa A. Bouvier on 08/20/05.
Peter E. Clarke, Jr. '77 to Emme Eker on 05/27/04.
Sean R. Smith '88 to Margaret Drolet on 09/17/02.
Deborah S. Weidner '91 to Robert T. Mandroka on 08/12/05.
Sandra G. Hostler '91 to Christian Lund on 08/07/05.
Adrienne B. Sholtis '93 to Jim Lisk on 10/01/05.
Kimberly A. Robinson '92 to Shanghai Mechanics on 09/22/05.
Dawn T. Gentner '93 to Jonathan Kelly on 10/02/02.
Scott D. Alexander '92 to Randi L. Crittenden on 10/05/05.
Bryan G. Cooper '96 to Michelle Farina on 09/10/05.
Stephen G. Forest '95 to Maureen E. Murphy '97 on 11/26/05.
Denis A. Hoelle '97 to Lara Mair on 08/20/05.
Kimberly C. Talbot '94 to Jeffrey M. Durkin on 08/07/05.
Megan M. Denniss '96 to Daniel Bergey on 03/01/05.
Raymond A. Belanger, III '97 to Amanda L. Kueker.
Matthew S. Godfrey '97 to Susan Sandler on 09/17/05.
Janet M. Rooney '98 to Denny Wolfe on 09/24/05.
Alan C. Reyes '99 to Lorraine F. Harrigan on 07/06/05.
Keli M. Young '98 to Robert B. Berenson on 07/28/05.
Christina M. Sigler '98 to Gregory Galvez '96 on 09/16/05.
Susan Krae '98 to Adrian Dalton on 11/15/05.
Charles C. Roth '99 to Jaclyn A. Grieve '90 on 06/18/05.
Michael A. Marin '99 to Susan L. Shute '99 on 09/04/05.
Jennifer L. Kaczor '99 to Brett Penkun on 06/18/05.
John F. Stevens '99 to Sara-Jean Barrett on 10/01/05.
Samantha R. Kaczynski '99 to Albert Jager on 03/01/05.
Admission Applications Set Bryant Record

A recent article in the Boston Business Journal noted that college applications are on the rise in most greater-Boston colleges and universities. Average increases range from 6 to 16 percent.

At Bryant University, applications have reached an all-time high. Admission officers are currently processing 5,823 applications—a 38.2 percent increase over last year’s previous record applications.

“It seems obvious that there is now widespread recognition of our transformational changes,” said President Ronald K. Machtaley.

Some of Bryant’s growth includes the following:

- The change to University with a College of Business and a College of Arts and Sciences.
- Significant recruiting of the best available faculty.
- Expanded student-life initiatives.
- Cutting-edge technology (Bryant was again voted as one of the Princeton Review’s “Top 25 Most Connected Campuses”).
- A more international focus, including the establishment of a U.S.-China Institute.

- A state-of-the-art Communications Complex.
- An award-winning athletic program.

“While many colleges and universities are experiencing a bump in their application numbers, Bryant University has seen a surge this year,” stated Lorna J. Hunter, vice president for enrollment management. “The new College of Arts and Sciences has had significant growth in applications, as has the College of Business. In this pool of outstanding applicants, there has also been an increase in the number of women and students of color who wish to come to Bryant.”
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/mystory; or

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

Send a letter to Alumni Relations
Attention Eileen Deary '79
Bryant University
1150 Douglas Pike
Smithfield, R.I. 02917

(I-r) Steve Kelly '65, Jan (Eaton) Walker '64, Everett Walker '63, and Joe Minio '65 enjoy the ocean views from Minio's summer home on the beach in Westbrook, Conn., in October of last year. Kelly was visiting from the West Coast.

Creating and maintaining relationships: Bryant alum tells his story

I just returned from a trip "back east" where my wife of almost 40 years (a non-Bryant alum) and I got together with several groups of Bryant alumni. Your request for a story highlighting friendship could not have been more timely.

First, let me say that most of the very good friends that I had in the early '60s at Bryant I continue to maintain. On day of the trip, I was at a wine bar in San Francisco with a group of four. This group is extremely close and our only rule is that we not talk about losing our hair or gaining weight. Anything else is fair game.

Reuniting with Friends on the East Coast

Unfortunately, we have friends from Bryant who, due to health or time constraints, are unable to fly to see us in San Jose, California. So we...
"My best friends of today are the same friends I had at Bryant four decades ago. Who could ask for more than that?"

Steve Kelly '65

weekly if not daily basis. Our respective spouses have also become close friends.

West Coast Alumni

With respect to us alumni who live on the West Coast, we get together every couple of months for birthdays, weddings, or just to celebrate the dawn of a new day. The core of this group was at Dyer House (Providence campus) together, and we have a special one-week gathering on the Pacific Ocean every year. At each gathering, we have invited guests from our past at Bryant—some coming from as far as London! During these “meetings” we discuss the International Monetary Fund crisis (joke) and enjoy a couple of cold ones.

Remembering the Faculty

Certainly, Bryant had its "personalities" in the faculty. But there was never a question in our minds that they all wanted us to absorb as much as we could while in their class. Since I was older than many of the students, I was able to become personal friends with several members of the faculty.

All in all my best friends of today are the same friends I had at Bryant four decades ago. Who could ask for more than that?

Steve Kelly
San Jose, Calif.
Class of 1965
Where Are They Now?
Berta Hysell, former director, Multicultural Student Services

When Berta Hysell began her 17-year Bryant career in 1977, her job was to recruit students of color, raise awareness of diversity issues on campus, and work with the 11 students of color attending Bryant to help them achieve their goals. In her trademark warm, caring — and forthright — way, Berta was a strong advocate for diversity, tirelessly campaigning for opportunities and resources. She was also a go-to person, someone students and staff could depend on for guidance. What made Berta so special was that she knew who needed which kind of guidance and when. So you knew that when you went to Berta, she was as likely to hug you as she was to hold you accountable — but she was always fair.

Bryant has changed since Berta left in 1994. There are 320 students of color and 64 international students in Bryant's undergraduate student body. The comprehensive Intercultural Center builds on the foundation Berta established and is made up of the Multicultural Student Union and the International Student Organization.

“Maybe students learned something from me, maybe, but it doesn’t compare to how much they taught me about life.”

ROBERTA (BERTA) HYSELL

Keeping Busy
Berta, thankfully, has not changed. Technically, she's retired, but that doesn’t compare to how much they taught me about life.” She still has plenty of occasion to be inspired by who are changing careers or retiring, helping them overcome their doubts and fears. She uses a technique she learned from José Gonzalez ’89 when he was a student tutor. When he’d encounter students who were afraid to try something new he’d ask, “Don’t you find that limiting?” Berta laughs her full and easy laugh: “Isn’t that just great? I love that!”

Berta rounds out her activities as a member of the Red Hat Society, a social organization whose mission is to reshape conventional ideas about what women over the age of 50 should or should not be doing. It seems Berta has always worn a red hat, on the inside. “I didn’t give a hoot what people thought of me when I was younger...and I'm even worse now!” For anyone who has ever benefited, or will benefit, from Berta’s honest and earnest approach, it’s a very, very good thing.
Connect with other Bryant Alumni online

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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/mystory/index.jsp

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