Historic inauguration presidential in all respects

by Bill Rupp, editor


The Bryant community experienced it all in late October when William E. Trueheart was inaugurated as the College’s sixth President. Bryant’s first-ever Inaugural, deemed a glorious success by the President and his wife, Carol, formally passed leadership of the College to him.

More than 1,400 special guests, dignitaries, faculty, staff, students, alumni, parents and representatives of 60 other colleges attended the 90-minute Inauguration ceremony in the Gymnasium. They gave the President two standing ovations.

A colorful procession line stretching from the Unistructure Rotunda to the Gym preceded the ceremony. It was led by the Army ROTC Color Guard. Following in order was professor Bob Birt, chief marshal; professor Joe Santos, College mace bearer; professor Marie Cote, faculty mace bearer; and professors Joe Ilaquai and Karen Calkins, faculty marshals.

The marshals were followed by Bryant’s faculty and administrators; alumni representatives from each of the decades back to 1920; delegates from other institutions and learned societies; government officials; Trustees; professor Henry Foley, platform marshal; the platform party, and the Presidential party.

The Hon. Bruce Selya, chair of Bryant’s Board of Trustees, draped the gold medallion, a symbol of President Trueheart’s position, over his head after swearing him into office. It drew one of the standing ovations. The federal appeals court judge than asked the President to be the first chief executive to sit in the new President’s chair on the platform.

“President Trueheart comes to Bryant as one of our own,” Judge Selya said. “We know him well.”

The Chairman added that he has no doubt President Trueheart will carry on the “splendid tradition of leadership at Bryant,” and that he “will lead us to heights never scaled before...and do it with warmth, compassion, and humanity.”

Remarks preceding the President’s installation, by one of his mentors at Harvard, Dr. Paul Ylivisaker, dean emeritus and Charles William Elliot Professor of Education at Harvard, were similarly flattering. He also assured the President that even though “it will be lonely at the top” from time to time, “you will never be alone.” The President embraced Ylivisaker after the dean’s remarks.

The President’s Inaugural address followed the installation. (See excerpts from it in a separate story in this issue.)

Other dignitaries and special guests who attended and made remarks included U.S. Senator Claiborne Pell; Lt. Governor Roger Begin ‘76, filling in for Governor DiPrete; Smithfield Town Council President Anthony Simeone; Vice President Les LaFond, representing Bryant’s administration; professor Leo Mahoney, Faculty Federation president; Harry Franks, Student Senate president; Alan Wardyga ’77, ’84MBA, Alumni Association president, and Ernest Fay, Parents Council co-chair.

Professor Pat Keeley presided over the Inaugural as master of ceremonies. All music was performed by Rhode Island’s own American Band. It played “Crown Imperial” as the procession, “Pageant Royale” as the recessional, and “Overture to Ruslan and Ludmilla” during a musical interlude. Mezzo soprano Beth Kershaw, wife of corporate giving director Homer Shirley, led the singing of the national anthem and the alma mater.

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An invocation was given by the Rev. Americo Lapati, Bryant Catholic chaplain. The Rev. Gail Helgeson, Bryant Protestant chaplain, gave the benediction.

Inauguration guests flocked to a "Festive Outdoor Garden" reception in the MAC immediately after the ceremony. Transformed by Newport's Perfect Surroundings, the MAC was decorated with large and colorful oriental kites of various shapes and designs dancing in the space over people's heads. On the floor were operating fountains banked with flowers and statues. Pathways throughout the "garden" were defined by foliage, flowers and trellises. Large urns holding 12-foot-tall bamboo sticks decorated with colorful streamers and placed throughout the "garden" linked the floor design and ceiling treatment. Free-standing canopies decorated with ribbons covered food stations. ARA did the catering.

Two events leading up to Inauguration Day, a Bryant Forum address by Soviet economist Andrei Anikin, and a performance choreographed especially for Inauguration week by the Festival Ballet of Rhode Island, each drew large crowds to Janikies Auditorium. Anikin's address (see separate story on it in this issue) was followed by a reception. The ballet, on the Saturday evening before Inauguration, was followed by a dessert buffet in the Rotunda.

A more formal setting greeted family and friends of the President and guests representing the Bryant community, academe, business, and government at the pre-Inauguration brunch in Salamsoune Dining Room. Brunch decor utilized the College colors of black and gold for place settings, china, and floral arrangements. ARA also catered the brunch.

Inauguration Day opened with a dedication and unveiling of the Presidents' Walk, a gift of the alumni association. The Walk recognizes each of the Presidents with laser-engraved stones bearing their likenesses, names, and years of service.

The Inauguration planning committee was chaired by Howard Kay, associate vice president for college relations, with Dick Alberg, dean of academic administration, as vice chair. Other administrative members included Judy Clare '66, who headed the reception committee; Paula Iacono '68, who handled arrangements for the brunch and Presidents' Walk; Priscilla Angelo, Elise Branchaud, Brian Britton, Tim Cartwright, Peter Mandel, Chuck Merrhew, Liz O'Neil, Bob Pariseau, Eleanor Read '52, Bill Rupp, Homer Shirley, Tim Sullivan '88MBA, and Rick Wheeler. Pat Keeley represented the faculty. Kathy Albanese, who coordinated invitations, and Sue Wardyes represented the clerical staff. Harry Franks served as the student member.
Excerpts from the President's Inaugural Address

Printed here are edited excerpts from the Inaugural Address given by President Trueheart on Sunday, October 22.

Members of the faculty, Bryant students, alumni, Trustees, staff, special guests, friends, and family: As I accept the Presidential medallion today, I feel a powerful mixture of honor, pride, and humility. Honor and pride because I have the special opportunity to lead an institution with such a distinctive tradition of educational excellence; humility because I am so keenly aware of the debt I owe to so many whose sacrifices over many decades persistently widened the needle's eye of opportunity to make it possible for me to stand before you this morning as the sixth President of Bryant College; humility also because I know how well Bryant College has been shepherded and shaped over the years...

Harry Jacobs, Bryant's first president and one of the most successful business leaders of his time, would have been pleased that his vision had been realized and satisfied that Bryant has executed consistently and well its historic mission—education for business leadership. The catalyst for the most recent stage of the College's transformation was the generous gift of 220 acres of land from another successful businessman and entrepreneur—Earl Tupper...Once again, Bryant had benefitted from a strong partnership with a business leader...Such partnership with business leaders is the recurrent theme of the success of the institution.

Since 1971, the slope of change for Bryant has been very steep. The rapidity of development has been so great that...one could characterize the transformation as nothing short of revolutionary...

One of my primary objectives will be to capture this momentum and channel its energy to renew and reaffirm our commitment to new partnerships. Together with our faculty, we will forge new linkages with business leaders...

Given Bryant's distinctive mission, its paramount objectives should be to: first, understand well the business world and its environment; and second, to ensure that its students will be well prepared for the demands of business leadership in the decades ahead. The leadership challenge is to achieve those objectives...

Harvard Dean Ylvisaker, professor Santos, and the President in procession

With respect to our faculty: ...Bryant should not, will not seek to emulate the "publish or perish" modes of major research universities...Rather, we must support and encourage our faculty to continue to be actively engaged in scholarship because it is so essential to the transmission of new knowledge to our students. Our objective must be to achieve excellence in both teaching and research, and reward both...

We must also engage businesses in our faculty development endeavors. Mutually beneficial joint ventures in research and executives-in-residence programs are just two examples of the manifold possibilities for partnerships in this area...

With respect to curriculum:
We must set as one of our highest priorities, the preparation of our students for functioning effectively in an increasingly global society...We must continue to improve our programs by systematically integrating our multicultural experience and expertise throughout the College.

We must also focus our intellectual resources on understanding and serving the developing nations of the world...Our students must understand those cultures and their relationship to their lives and work...

The interdependence of our global society is a powerful reality that we must recognize and embrace throughout our curriculum. If we fail to do so, we run the worst of all possible risks: that of becoming irrelevant. I won't let that happen at Bryant!

With respect to our student body:
A final area in which Bryant must do more is in recognizing and serving the international community that swells within the borders of the United States itself...If Bryant is

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President Trueheart spoke at the fourth annual Rhode Island Conference on Labor-Management Relations in early October. He was introduced by professor Hinda Pollard, president of one of the sponsoring agencies, the Industrial Relations Research Association, Rhode Island chapter. The conference drew more than 300 labor-management professionals, union officers, and government officials to workshops on topics such as health care cost containment, affirmative action, and employee relations.

The May, 1990 issue of Western American Literature will publish professor Nora Barry’s essay, “The Lost Children in James Welch’s The Death of Jim Loney”.

Alumni relations associate director Melissa Walker is a member of the program committee for the 1990 annual conference of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District I (New England and Canadian maritime provinces).

Professor Wallace Wood attended the three-week AACSB advanced information systems faculty development institute at Indiana University last July.


The Journal of Hospital Marketing has published in its fall issue a paper by professor Larry Lowe. Its title: “Pharmaceuticals Grey Markets Turn Off-White”.

Professor Bill Haas participated in an early-October panel discussion on ethics and fund raising at a National Society of Fund Raising Executives-sponsored program titled “Monkey Business in the Money Business”.

Export Center director and Rhode Island state representative Ray Fogarty has been honored with a State Guardian Award from the National Federation of Independent Business.
Gorbachev advisor: 'perestroika' seems irreversible

"Perestroika" is irreversible in the Soviet Union if the trends of the past three years are any indication. But that doesn't mean President Gorbachev will have free sailing to economic reform. Many significant obstacles remain.

So said professor Andrei Ankin, a chief advisor to Gorbachev on "perestroika" in the Soviet Union, speaking at Bryant in mid-October as part of the Bryant Forum series. Ankin is one of Russia's most influential economists and the leading Soviet expert on U.S. and international financial markets. He presented a remarkably candid look at the Russian economy in an address focusing on the outlook for American enterprise in the Soviet Union.

The financial crisis in the U.S.S.R. is the main obstacle to perestroika, Ankin said. Gorbachev's reforms can't succeed with an inflation rate approaching double digits, budget deficits equal to 12-13 percent of GNP, and a 15-18 percent annual growth in the money supply.

Russia's inflationary pressures are exacerbated by heavy food subsidies and price controls, Ankin said, forms of influence not known in other countries. Russia's balance of payments also are squeezed by a limited range of exports, mostly raw materials.

There are "quite divergent views in Moscow" on whether Russia should adopt a more market-oriented economy, Ankin said. He sides with those economists who say "Gorbachev's proposals are not radical enough."

In general, Ankin said, sharp cuts are needed in three areas of the Soviet budget: defense first; central investment, and the Communist party apparatus. President Bush can be a big help in the defense area, he said, "by meeting Gorbachev halfway in measures to cut defense expenditures." A meaningful agreement on disarmament would free up massive resources and turn military production into civilian use.

Specific reforms needed include: a freeze on incomes, which are rising quicker than productivity; a cut in food subsidies, if not liquidating them altogether; the privatization of government assets to absorb excessive purchasing power; the attraction of foreign private capital.

"We're not interested in any kind of a Marshall Plan for the Soviet Union," Ankin said. "We would hope for forms of aid that are profitable to the West itself."

Ankin said he is "moderately optimistic" that the doors in Russia can be opened to American business. The "inconvertibility of the ruble" is a principal obstacle, with the official exchange rate a joke. And you can't handle inconvertibility without curbing inflation.

Ankin concluded by saying that the "strength of the conservatives in Russia cannot be underestimated." There are still many influential leaders who feel "the iron hand of dictatorship" is the only way to solve the economic problems.

The most dangerous faction of these conservatives, he said, are those in the "party apparatus," who are afraid of losing their power. They can undermine any reforms.

College mourns death of Trustee Charles Healy

Sadness muted the post-inaugural joy at Bryant in late October when Trustee Charles B. Healy died suddenly on October 24. He was 52.

Healy, president of Bank of New England-Old Colony, was completing the second year of his first three-year term as a Board member. He chaired the Trustees' nominating committee and served on the honorary degree committee.

Charles Healy

Healy was named president of the Bank of New England-Old Colony in 1966 after Bank of New England, with which he spent his entire career, purchased the former Old Colony-Newport National Bank and renamed it. He served previously as president and CEO of Bank of New England-Bristol County, and as a vice president in the bank's Boston headquarters for 16 years before coming to Providence.

Active in many civic and community organizations, Healy had just been named the chair of a blue-ribbon, state-appointed commission on hospital care financing and service delivery when he died. His many other activities included the Junior Achievement of Rhode Island, the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce, the Japan-America Society of Rhode Island, First Night Providence, the Providence Public Library, the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the Providence Performing Arts Center, the Rhode Island Philharmonic, the Urban League of Rhode Island, and the Meeting Street School.

An Air Force fighter pilot for five years, Healy graduated from The Citadel, a military college, in 1959 with a degree in economics. He is survived by his wife, Maryanne, and four daughters. They made their home in Portsmouth.
Business Week editor to speak Monday

The editor and chief economist of Business Week magazine speaks at Bryant next Monday evening.

William Wolman, who supervises the weekly magazine's coverage of economics and finance, is the final guest of this fall's Leadership Forum series. He speaks at 7 p.m. in the Papitto Dining Room on the U.S. economy in the 1990s.

Wolman rejoined Business Week as editor in 1984 after serving as executive editor of "Business Times," a daily program on the ESPN cable network, for a year. He had worked previously for the magazine from 1974 to 1983 as deputy editor and senior editor of the economics department, and from 1960 to 1969 as economics editor and a member of the economics staff. From 1969 to 1974, Wolman worked for Citibank as a vice president in charge of economic publications, and for Argus Research, where he forecast economic trends.

Wolman has been a frequent guest on radio and TV. He has co-authored two books: "The Beat Inflation Strategy" and "The Decline of U.S. Power."

A native of Canada, Wolman graduated from McGill University and holds a Ph.D. in economics from Stanford. He has received a variety of journalism awards, including three for a Business Week special issue, "The Reindustrialization of America."

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unable to attract and retain a student body that is both internationally and ethnically diverse, we will all suffer a compromised quality of life...

It is perhaps noteworthy that Bryant College was founded the year in which the Emancipation Proclamation was signed...Now, 125 years later, a descendant of a people whose freedom was returned by that same proclamation faces the challenge of leading this institution...in a turbulent era in which we are engaged in wars on many fronts. Not the least of these is a multi-national economic war...

As in 1863, challenges to fundamental ethical values are at the heart of our troubled times, and these will have far-reaching effects on the tone and tenor of the relationships of future generations.

I am confident that with my colleagues and active supporters--our 26,000 alumni, our Trustees and business leaders--we will together win our battle to preserve our nation's economic strength and to protect our ethical values. Together, we will make Bryant a tower of intellectual integrity--and a paradigm of excellence.