



# BRYANT'S BUSINESS

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## International comings and goings

*Professor Ron Deluga and 21 Bryant students traveled to Europe again in January for the "directed international study." One of the sites seen was the Berlin Wall, at the end of a long train trip East toward the changing Communist world. It wasn't long ago that people behind the Wall and the Iron Curtain could only dream of traveling in the opposite direction. Senior Elana Tusman and her parents had that dream, and made it come true 16 years ago, when they left the Soviet Union for the U.S. and started their lives over again. Here are their stories.*

### *Students see capitalism at work at Wall*

Bryant students studying and traveling in Europe in January saw capitalism at its most basic at the battered Berlin Wall.

Pieces of the crumbling Cold War symbol were being sold to visitors, with pieces bearing a bit of graffiti fetching higher prices. Or, if the students couldn't find a piece they really liked, they could rent a chisel and hammer out exactly the piece they wanted to take home.

Ragged holes have been gouged out of the reinforced concrete wall, through which seniors Noel Hamilton, Betsy Lovequist, and Bill Shay chatted and shook hands with "friendly" East German soldiers. One kept saying that he was "very glad this is happening," the students said.

To Bill Shay, in fact, "it seemed like the East German guards were relieved that they could be friendly," that they were able to meet many people and explore freedom for the first time.

This East-West exchange was just a tiny spark from the "electric" atmosphere around The Wall, even weeks after the announcement that the barrier between East and West Berlin was to be breached and eventually razed. A common sight was East Germans swarming back through former checkpoints in The Wall with goods purchased in West Berlin.

The Eurail train through West Germany to Berlin, in fact, was jammed to the hilt with East Germans. Although the train ride from Leysin, Switzerland, where the students lodged, to Berlin took 30 hours and they were forced to sit on the floor for five to six hours at a time, senior Gwynne



*Bryant students at the Berlin Wall (L to R): Carrie Aulenti, Betsy Stewart, Sandy Weber on Noel Hamilton's shoulders, Betsy Lovequist, Tracy Hogan, Bill Shay, Gwynne Davis (back), Karen Duggan (front), and Kim Newton.*

Davis thought that the long ride brought the meaning of the trip closer.

Just seeing all the East Germans laden with bags, boxes, and suitcases full of Western items helped her understand them better, she said. They were reaching out and grasping any part of Western culture they could.

One of the two groups of Bryant students arrived in Berlin at 8 a.m. It seemed like a perfect day to visit a 'Communist' country, they said, rainy, cold, and dreary, just what many people envision. So there weren't many people around.

"But you could already hear the chisels banging at The Wall," said junior Karen Duggan.

Although the students said they felt the freedom of the people, some East Germans had mixed feelings about the recent changes. One East German woman said that the freedom was the best and the worst thing that happened to them: "We have the freedom, but it is turning our lives into chaos."

Others said they didn't want to lose the stability of a Communism system they have known all their lives. They are scared to let their wall of security be torn down.

The students had a difficult time describing their feelings when they arrived at the Wall.

"We went sort of not knowing what was happening. We knew that East Germany had been a Communist country and they had just opened

*(continued on page 3)*



### *Senior came to America from Russia*

by Darcy Case, intern

Bryant senior Elana Tusman and her parents are the subjects of a true life story that will appear in the March issue of *McCall's* magazine. Headlined "Coming to America," it chronicles their struggle to make it here as Russian immigrants willing to give up everything they had to become a part of the Western world.

Elana and her parents arrived late at night in Kennedy Airport from the Soviet Union with \$100, no knowledge of English, and no relatives waiting for them. The 22-year-old marketing major was six years old then, and she had no idea where they were going.

"I thought we were just going on vacation so I didn't understand why everyone at the train station (in Russia) was crying," she said.

She was not told they had left their homeland forever until they were in Austria.

The Tusmans were considered an above-average family in Donetsk, where Elana's father, Vladimir, was a civil engineer and her mother, Janna, was a teacher and editor with the equivalent of a master's degree in Russian language and literature. The Tusmans also had their own one-room apartment, a luxury for a young Soviet couple, with no need to share a kitchen or bathroom.

But Elana's recollections of Russia are not the "typical happy childhood memories, like birthday parties and games." She does not like to think about that time, in fact, because her memories are unpleasant.

Being Jewish, she remembers her kindergarten teacher "being mean" to her because of her religion. And her parents were not able to aspire to top jobs because of their religion. This discrimination was a prime contributor to their decision to go West. Fortunately, their application to emigrate was approved quickly—in about six months.

After waiting at a refugee center in Rome, Elana and her family were "adopted" by an American sponsor — the New Haven Jewish Federation. They were housed in a two-bedroom apartment. Elana went initially to a day camp. Her father went to work first as a janitor and her mother headed for an assembly line. He's now a vice-president with an engineering firm; her mother manages a dentist's office.

"At first the kids loved me, I was a novelty to them, the new kid on the block," she says of her first few weeks in the US.

But the novelty soon wore off and Elana became something of an outcast with her peers. They made fun of her accent, her clothes, and her family.



*Elana Tusman*

Her experiences spurred her to learn English as quickly as possible. In three months, she learned enough English to communicate with others and so they had no trouble understanding her. She continued to learn English at home by listening and imitating the television and radio.

Elana entered the first grade the following September at a Hebrew school. Since her classes were taught in Hebrew, Elana was essentially learning three languages at once: Hebrew, English, and Russian from her parents. But after she began to speak English more fluently, she blocked out her Russian and refused to speak it at home.

"I felt like all my problems were caused by being Russian and I blamed my parents as well," she said.

In Russia, Elana hated being Jewish, but in America, she hated being Russian. It was not until Elana was 14 or 15 that she began to relearn her native language. Although she could understand it — her parents still spoke Russian at home, she needed to learn how to speak it again.

Russia, of course, has seen dramatic changes in the past 16 years. Elana remains skeptical about the recent changes because, historically, any change has been suppressed. She feels that the changes in the surrounding Eastern European countries influenced the alterations in Russia. President Gorbachev's ideas are beneficial, Elana thinks, "but the people of the Soviet Union have to be convinced that the situation will not get worse before it gets better."

How did *McCall's* ever find out about her family's story?

She was asked by professor Ron Deluga to serve as a hostess to editor Anne Mollegen Smith '89H, who spoke on campus as part of the fall Leadership Forum Series. Throughout the course of the day, Elana and Smith talked — with Elana's background being a major topic. A month later, freelance writer Annie Gottlieb contacted Elana and her family. Look for a complete story in March.

## Diversity being feted during Black History Month



*President Trueheart opens black history month celebration*

Bryant continues its celebration of cultural diversity during Black History Month with four more events and the final days of an art exhibit this week. (See the schedule.)

The celebration began on January 31 with a kick-off address by President Trueheart in the Rotunda. It includes movies, international dinners, performing artists, a "brown bag lunch" series, an art exhibit, and other presentations and activities.

The Monday movie series also began January 31 with two showings of Bill Cosby's "On Prejudice." The second was followed by a discussion led by Charlotte Penn, director of the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

Performers have included the Andre Ward Jazz Group on February 1 and singer-dancer Jenifer Lewis

*(Wall continued from page 1)*

their doors to democracy, but we didn't understand the impact" said Shay.

All the students expressed a sense of amazement and awe, mostly because the changes had occurred so recently. They felt as if they were a part of history.

Berlin, of course, was only a small part of the trip. Munich, Salzburg, Paris, Amsterdam, Brussels, Milan, Rome, Geneva, and Barcelona were among the other cities visited by one or more of the 21 students. They usually split up into small groups to travel, do their research, or collect personal observations and first-hand experiences for their cross-cultural academic "projects."

Approved several weeks before leaving from Boston on New Year's Day on Swissair, the "projects" are what make this excursion much different than a typical tourist trek to Europe, said Ron Deluga.

"They force the students to analyze their travels, to ask more questions, to really get involved," he said. "They produce a much more intense and in-depth visit, which wouldn't happen if the students didn't have a project to complete and a journal to keep of their travels."

on February 10. A West African drum ensemble with an international dessert festival is February 21. "Extravaganza Night" on February 24 includes the "Shades of Brown" quartet, the Steele Drum Band, and a gospel choir in South Dining Room.

The brown bag lunch series on Tuesdays has looked so far at "ethnicity." Tomorrow's topic is "black women in history," to be led by professor Judy Litoff. Other topics include the Panama Canal, the Peace Corps, and China. Carol Word Trueheart, a former Peace Corps country director, will lead that luncheon.

The art exhibit is "Black Women: Achievement Against the Odds." It will be on display until Friday in the Bryant Center and the Unistructure.

A Chinese yo-yo expert performs in the Bryant Center Commons on Wednesday, with students enjoying an Indian dinner this Thursday and a Spanish dinner next Thursday. They've already enjoyed "soul food" and German dinners.

The schedule through February 25:

**Feb. 12:** Movie, "Ethnic Notion," Dorm 16, 7 p.m.

**Feb. 14:** Chinese Yo-Yo expert, Commons, noon

**Feb. 15:** Indian dinner, Salmanson & South Dining Room, 4-6 p.m.

**Feb. 20:** Brown bag lunch, "Panama Canal", Papitto Dining Room, noon

**Feb. 21:** West African drummers & international dessert festival, Papitto Dining Room, 7-9 p.m.

**Feb. 22:** Spanish dinner, Salmanson & South Dining Room, 4-6 p.m.

**Feb. 24:** Extravaganza Night, South Dining Room, 8 p.m.

Perhaps of even greater value to the students is the lessons they learned "about themselves and their ability to think on their feet," said Deluga, who now has completed eight of these academic-cultural-social sojourns.

The students learned how to handle stressful and confusing situations, and to deal with the group dynamics of traveling.

Successfully dealing with occurrences like this spawns "self-confidence," he said, an important by-product of the trip.

This year's group traveled more miles per person than any previous group, Deluga said. They let little grass grow under their feet, which was exactly what the students saw. There was no snow in Europe, and no skiing, except on glaciers.

The group lodged in a 35-room, family-run chalet, which served mostly French-Swiss and German-Swiss food. A surprising aspect of this year's trip was the personal interest the chalet's owner and his wife took in the students.

"Perhaps it was because they had children of their own the same age," Deluga said. "And they know how confusing travel in a foreign country can be. But they really tried to make it a home away from home. Leaving this year was quite emotional."

# QUICKLY

...“Nonblack Riots During the Civil Rights Era,” a paper written by professor **Gregg Carter**, has been accepted for presentation at the Eastern Sociological Society's annual meeting in March...

...A short story written by professor **Jim Ingraham**, “Breach of Promise,” has been accepted for publication in the *Heartland Journal's* spring, 1991 issue...

...Professor **Bill Sweeney** has been interviewed by *USA Today* and the *Associated Press* on his 1990 economic outlook, and spoke on the same issue to the Providence Rotary Club and the Credit Professionals of Rhode Island...

...SBDC director **Doug Jobling** spoke at the November meeting of the East Providence Chamber of Commerce. Topic of his address was how the center assists small businesses...

...Professor **Art Blackman**, an outreach representative of Samaritans of R.I., spoke in November on suicide prevention to students at St. Philip's School in Greenville, and on loneliness and depression to a senior residents' group at Providence Grace Church...

...In November's municipal elections, professor **Pat Keeley** was elected town moderator for North Smithfield and associate vice-president **Howard Kay** was elected to the Newport School Committee...

...Professor **Pat Norton** authored a story, “The 1990s: Boom, Bust and Perestroika in Rhode Island,” for the December issue of *Ocean State Business*. Norton and the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston also have begun the collaborative publication of a “Bibliography of New England Economic Literature”...

...**Rosemary D'Arcy**, of The CENTER, has been named chair of the advisory board for the annual national Conference on Management and Professional Development Programs...

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## By the way...

by Gloria Yahn

- A fond farewell to **Denise Joyce** from the public information office. Denise has accepted a position with an accounting firm as marketing coordinator. Denise's last day was February 1. Bryant's best!

- **Ginnie Bowry**, public safety, was named western regional vice president for the Rhode Island Crime Prevention Officers' Association. Congratulations, Ginnie!

- **Nancy Haverstock**, development office, has added a purple belt to her collection. An avid karate student, Nancy has two more belts to earn before she is ranked as an official black belt.

- **Bill Marr**, data processing, and his wife, Susan, became the proud parents of Samuel James on January 29. Samuel weighed in at 7 lbs. 9 ozs. Happy days and nights, Bill!

- **Avis Hallam**, secretary to President Emeritus O'Hara, has become a grandmother for the third time. Her son, David, and daughter-in-law, Tammy, are first-time parents. Alexandria McMichael, born November 17, weighed 6 lbs. 12 ozs. Congratulations, Hallams!

## "Awareness '90s" trade workshop Thursday

The Free Trade Agreement makes doing business in Canada easier than ever for US companies. A special workshop at Bryant on Thursday will show Rhode Island businesses how to explore some "Serious Trade Opportunities with Canada."

The day-long workshop is the first of a year-long series of "Awareness '90s" trade conferences. Each will be presented by the Rhode Island Export Assistance Center at Bryant, with a grant from the Rhode Island Work Force 2000 Council, and support from World Trade Center Rhode Island.

"Serious Trade Opportunities with Canada" will look at present and future markets, the business culture in Canada, identifying Canadian buyers, and the goods and services Canada is buying. Speakers and panelists include representatives from the Department of Commerce, the Canadian Importers Association, and the US Consulate General in Montreal. Governor DiPrete will make opening remarks.

Cost of the workshop is \$35 and includes a lunch and social hour at the end of the day. Call the export center at ext. 6407 for more information or to register.

## SBDC assisting fire victims

by Bill Dean,  
RISBDC assistant director

The Rhode Island Small Business Development Center (RISBDC) at Bryant has been helping 10 businesses destroyed by December's fire in the Riverside Mill Complex to get back on their feet.

Before the fire, there were approximately 60 small businesses operating in the Providence complex. Many had no insurance of any kind, resulting in a total loss of physical assets as well as revenue and profits.

Among the business-support organizations responding to the disaster with various forms of assistance were the US Small Business Administration and the RISBDC.

The SBA established a disaster-loan program in early January to make available to those qualified companies "business physical" and "economic injury" loans. These disaster-loan programs charge interest rates of four or eight percent depending on the type of credit and requirements.

All of the businesses interviewed by the SBA disaster team were referred to the RISBDC. So far, the RISBDC has provided consulting assistance to the 10 companies in these areas: business plans; financial projections such as pro forma balance sheets and profit and loss statements; cash flow projections; marketing plans; overall operations reviews, and general assistance in completing the various application forms.

## Learn a language on your own

Bryant's Language Learning Laboratory may be for you if your French, Spanish, Italian, German or Russian is a bit rusty, or if you would like to learn a foreign language on your own.

Professor Bill Graves reports that the new lab in M35 has the materials, the equipment, and the help to get you started on a foreign language study program. And on your own terms and at your own pace.

At the moment, Graves said, the lab has Foreign Service Institute self-study, audio-lingual programs for basic Metropolitan French, Latin American Spanish, Standard Italian, and Standard German. The lab also has a variety of audio and textual materials for introductory Mandarin Chinese and Russian.

"The really exciting news," Graves adds, "is that we are in the process of acquiring both computer-based and video resources for the study of foreign languages and cultures."

Call Graves at ext. 6384 for more information.



### **'Brown-bagging' with President**

*More than 60 people joined President Trueheart for his first "brown bag" lunch in the Papitto Dining Room last month. The luncheons are designed to allow President Trueheart and the vice presidents to directly address concerns from employees.*

## **Theatre troupe taking up residence here**

The Cumberland Company, Rhode Island's second largest nonprofit theatre, is taking up residence at Bryant for its spring season, which begins Thursday.

"The Three Musketeers" will open the swashbuckling company's season on campus with performances on Thursday through Sunday and February 22-25. Curtain time for each performance is 8 p.m.

The company then will produce Gilbert and Sullivan's classic comedy, "The Pirates of Penzance," beginning May 10.

The Cumberland Company is best known for its annual outdoor productions, "The Faire" and "The Haunted Monastery," which involve a blend of dance, comedy and drama. It was searching for an indoor venue for its spring season when Bryant offered Janikies Auditorium as part of the College's effort to expand cultural offerings and involve students in professional theatre productions.

Normand Beauregard, artistic director, described the spring residence as "a very pleasant turn of events." He said the company is bringing to Bryant a complete staff of theatre teachers, choreographers, directors and writers.

Call the Cumberland Company at 333-9000 for tickets.