Commencement ’91: pomp, circumstance, fireworks

A fireworks display Friday night sets the stage for Bryant’s 126th Commencement Saturday morning. Graduation day opens with the annual breakfast for faculty and staff to meet the honorary degree recipients.

The always-elegant breakfast runs from 8 to 8:45 a.m. in Pepitto Dining Room. Breakfast is followed at 9:29 a.m. by separate gatherings of faculty, staff and seniors for the long procession to the Colle
g track.

The procession, accompanied by a marching band, steps off at 9:35 a.m. from the Bryant Center Plaza. The bearer of the senior class flag will head the 850-student march across the football field and through the Archway. The long column, joined by faculty, staff, trustees, and the platform party, ultimately will stretch from the Bryant Center past the Unistructure, Gymnasium, MAC and tennis courts to the track.

Commencement will be held at the track rain or shine, beginning at 10 a.m. with the national anthem and an invocation. The graduation exercise will move indoors to the gymnasium only if there is life-threatening weather.

The Hon. Bruce Selya, Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit and chair of Bryant’s board of trustees, convenes the ceremony.

Greetings from the federal government will come from RI Senator John Chafee ’59H. Greetings from the state will come from Governor and Bryant Trustee Bruce Sundlun ’80H. Smithfield’s greeting will come from William Hawkins Jr., town council president.

President Trueheart will bestow six honorary degrees and recognize a seventh dignitary who receives his doctorate at the Graduate School Commencement Friday. (See separate story in this issue).

The Commencement address by Richard Darman, director of the White House Office of Management and Budget, follows the granting of honorary degrees.

Recipients of the Commencement and Student Senate Service Awards receive their recognition after Darman’s address. David Lachina then recites the student charge, followed by the senior class gift presentation by Ted Rykoski. Singing of the alma mater follows.

Seniors will receive diploma cases by major after the president confers degrees. Professors in the seniors’ respective departments will introduce them.

Catherine Parente ’78, alumni association president, will read the alumni charge.

Judge Selya adjourns Commencement. The platform party and faculty will lead a recessional from the track. Awaiting the new alumni will be separate receptions in the Rotunda, the Koffler Center Plaza, and the Bryant Center Plaza.

Juggling act to end for many grad students

A life of juggling course assignments with family obligations and on-the-job responsibilities ends Friday for many of Bryant’s MBA and MST students.

The ninth annual Graduate School Commencement begins at 4 p.m. in the Gymnasium. The ceremony will serve to free up many more hours each week for the graduate students to spend with their spouses and children and with their careers.

President Trueheart presides over the ceremony, which almost always includes an audience dotted with babies and young children. The procession of students, faculty, staff and trustees begins its march from the MAC at 3:45 p.m.

Commencement opens with the national anthem and an invocation. Convening of the ceremony by Jonathan Farnum, vice-chair of Bryant’s board of trustees, follows.

The president will confer an honorary doctorate on one of Rhode Island’s top corporate executives, Richard M. Oster. The chief executive of Cookson Group plc also will deliver the address. (See separate story on the honorary degree recipients.)

Presenting the MBA and MST candidates for their degrees will be James Robinson, vice-president for academic affairs. Janet Daniels, associate dean and director of the Graduate School, introduces the candidates. Catherine Parente ’78 will recite the alumni charge.

After the ceremony, the new alumni will recess to join their families and friends at a reception on the lawn between the Gymnasium and Unistructure.

Commencement speakers Darman (above) and Oster.
Honorary doctorates to go to seven

At its Commencements this year, Bryant awards honorary doctorates to the director of the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB); one of Rhode Island's leading corporate executives; an honorary trustee and alumnus; a former San Antonio mayor; the owner of the Pawtucket Red Sox Baseball Club; the chair of the New England Electric System, and a nationally known accounting professor.

Richard G. Darman, who will deliver this year's undergraduate Commencement address, Richard M. Oster, Karl F. Ericson '58, Henry G. Cisneros, Bernard G. Mondor, Joan Toland Bok, and Yuji Ilii will receive doctoral degrees. All but Oster, who speaks at the Graduate School Commencement, will receive their degrees at the undergraduate Commencement. Oster will receive his degree at the Graduate School event and be introduced and recognized at the undergraduate ceremony.

Richard M. Oster

As group managing director, Oster is the chief executive of British-based Cookson Group plc, a $3 billion manufacturer of specialty industrial materials. He also is the chair of Cookson America, Inc., of Providence, the largest subsidiary of the publicly held international conglomerate.

Much of Cookson Group's growth since 1979 is traced directly to Oster, who sold the family brass business, A. J. Oster Co., to the British firm in 1978. Cookson now includes 120 businesses in 60 countries, most in the U.S., Mexico, Canada, and the Far East. It has acquired more than 60 companies since the late '70s. Cookson America also has renovated the former Union Station in downtown Providence into a corporate showcase and a cornerstone of downtown redevelopment.

As a leading RI business executive, Oster also has been active in a host of other community endeavors. He chairs the state's EC '92 Commission and the RI Convention Center Authority, has served as a director of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, and has been a director and trustee of numerous business, educational, civic, and charitable groups, including the Meeting Street School and Big Brothers of Rhode Island.

Oster, of Barrington, is a 1956 graduate in industrial management and accounting from the University of Rhode Island. He holds several other honorary degrees.

Henry G. Cisneros

Cisneros served four terms as San Antonio mayor from 1981 to 1989 before opening Cisneros Asset Management Company and Cisneros Benefit Group in San Antonio, where he was born and raised. As mayor, he was considered the leading Hispanic politician and top municipal-government leader in the country.

Cisneros also has served on the San Antonio city council and on numerous Texas, southwestern and national business, government, and educational organizations. Among these organizations: the National League of Cities, which he served as president; the President's Bipartisan Commission on Central America, and the Bilateral Commission on the Future of U.S.-Mexican Relations. For his efforts, he has been honored extensively nationwide. In 1984, he was interviewed as a possible candidate for U.S. vice-president.

An academic by training, Cisneros has taught at the University of Texas-San Antonio and Trinity University in Texas. He holds a doctorate in public administration from George Washington University, a master's degree in public administration from Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government, and a master's degree in urban and regional planning and a bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University.

Bernard G. (Ben) Mondor

Mondor has owned the PawSox and served as its chair and president since 1977. He came out of retirement after a corporate business career to buy the faltering AAA International League affiliate of the Boston Red Sox. Since the late '70s, he has transformed the PawSox into one of the minor league's most successful teams while saving professional baseball for the state of Rhode Island.

Canadian-born, Mondor grew up in RI and returned to the state after serving in the Navy during World War II. He acquired his first company in the late 1950s. By the early '70s, he had acquired six more companies. He retired in 1973 after selling everything over three years.

Mondor has been honored frequently by professional baseball, baseball writers, and the numerous civic, educational, and charitable organizations for which he has donated time and raised funds. As a trustee, he has served Rhode Island College, the Community College of Rhode Island, WSBE-TV (Channel 36), and Attleboro/Pawtucket Savings & Trust. His PawSox always sponsor a host of scholastic, charitable and recreational activities each season.

Joan Toland Bok

Bok, a former Bryant trustee, has chaired the New England Electric System since 1984 after serving it in other executive posts over 16 years. Before moving to the system in 1968, she was an attorney in private practice and with a Boston law firm for 13 years.

Bok also has been very active in the community. In addition to serving as a Doctorates (Continued on page 3)
Alumnus, 3M exec delivers ‘last lecture’

A Bryant alumnus who is the 3M Corporation’s top overseas executive returned to campus in late April to deliver his “last lecture” before retiring this summer.

M. J. Monteiro ’50, ’90H, 3M’s executive vice-president for international operations, spoke on “Global Business Planning in a World of Change.” His address highlighted the noon luncheon that was part of a day-long visit. Monteiro also spoke to students in several classes and met with an alumni board gathering on campus that day.

Monteiro spent much of his time providing an inside look at 3M, which realizes almost half of its $13 billion in sales in foreign markets. The key to overseas sales, Monteiro said, is the hiring of and reliance on “seasoned local management teams” who adapt their business methods to local economies and cultures.

President Trueheart thanks Monteiro for his “last lecture.”

“3M thinks globally but acts locally,” said Monteiro. The corporation expects its overseas companies to be self-supporting and to rely on managers who

Monteiro (Continued on page 4)
By the way...

by Gloria Yahn

- Sandy Sylvia of the Bryant Center tells me her son, Marc, has been named Youth of the Year for 1990 by the North Providence Boys & Girls Club. A student at Davies Vocational School, Marc has been a club member for eight years and has been cited for his active volunteer leadership. Marc will represent the club in state competition next month. Congratulations and good luck, Marc!

- The admissions office was well-represented this year in the Boston Marathon. Paula Jacobs, admissions officer, and Jon Ellis, a student tour guide, both finished the race. Paula's time was five hours and Jon's was three. Congratulations to the both of them for their determination and success.

- Best of luck to Alex Saccoccio of the physical plant, who has been elected and installed as president SEIU Local 134. It is the first time in 20 years that the election has been won by a representative outside of Brown University. Nice going, Alex!

- A warm welcome back to Louise Ethier of the development office. On medical leave for several months, Louise returned to work earlier this month. It's nice to see her back.

- Conny Sawyer, faculty coordinator from suite C, tells me she has just become a grandmother for the first time. Phillip and Renay Sawyer are the proud parents of Kayla Suzanne. Born April 29, Kayla weighed 7 lbs, 15 ozs. Happy grandmothering, Conny!

- Pat Durand of human resources is the proud grandmother of Samantha June, who arrived May 1. Born to Pat's son, Jeffrey, and his wife, Jennifer, Samantha weighed 8 lbs, 4 ozs. This is Pat's fourth grandchild. Congratulations, Pat!

World Trade Day to focus on Pacific Rim

The seventh annual World Trade Day at Bryant next week (May 23) focuses on the Pacific Rim, specifically Japan and China and "the human face of doing business" in those countries.

Sponsored by the Rhode Island Export Assistance Center at Bryant, the half-day event will take a close look at the cultural differences that can make or break a business deal in China and Japan. Understanding Pacific Rim countries and their business customs, values, attitudes, behaviors and practices is considered vital to Americans who want to enter and compete in those markets.

World Trade Day will look specifically at the intricate codes that govern Japanese and Chinese business practices. The day also will include sessions on communicating with the Japanese market; the political and historic dimensions of doing business in China, and separating fact from fiction on China trade.

Among the day's speakers are Bryant professors Hsi Li and Bill Graves, Brown University comparative-literature professor Meera Viswanathan, Pan Pacific Inc. president Lee Ald, and Global Marketing Institute president Jerome Brightman.

Corporate sponsors are Associated northAmerican, Inc., of Cranston, and the Providence law firms of Licht & Semonoff and Tillinghast, Collins & Graham. Cooperating agencies include the Japan-America Society of RI and the World Trade Club of the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce.

World Trade Day opens at an 8 a.m. breakfast with President Trueheart, who will welcome participants. Cost is $35 per person.

Fall Convocation speaker announced

The Harvard professor directing the university's assessment of how its undergraduates learn best and get the most out of the "college experience" is the speaker for Bryant's annual Fall Convocation in September.

Dr. Richard J. Light, professor of education and public policy, will deliver the Convocation address and lead two sessions with faculty. As director of the Harvard Assessment Seminars, Light has brought together teams of researchers from its 20 colleges and universities to research how Harvard can be more effective in teaching and advising students. The consortium is now in its fourth year.

Light has spent the past 25 years teaching statistics and program evaluation with a focus on education. His work emphasizes how to collect and analyze information to improve program management.

A Harvard professor since 1975, Light holds a PhD in statistics from Harvard and a BS from the University of Pennsylvania. He has co-authored two books.

Light's Convocation address will look at educational assessment and some of the Harvard project's findings.

Monteiro (Continued from page 3)

understand their own markets.

Touching on the European market, Monteiro said, "3M produces 80 percent of its European products in Europe. It feels fully prepared to take advantage of EC '92."

Europe, however, will be "a tough nut to crack" for any company without a current presence there, Monteiro said.

Eastern Europe "is virgin territory, though," Monteiro said, with opportunities there despite the major obstacles those countries face as they transform from controlled to free-market economies.

Monteiro also provided the basic business principles 3M lives by. They include: take a global view, but act locally; managers who implement plans do the planning; keep goals clear and understandable; keep risks acceptable; leverage technology; manufacture locally; provide reasonable expectations; be a quality leader; use local management teams; develop staying power.

Monteiro has spent his entire 40-year career with 3M. A New Bedford native, he has been 3M International Operations' senior executive since 1981 and a 3M board member since 1986.