

# Alumni Newsletter

Volume One, Number One  
Fall 1988

*Gala 125th  
Anniversary  
Reunion Draws  
Record  
Attendance*

"I wouldn't have missed this for the world! It was a beautifully planned and executed event," remarked Alexis Horowitz '83 in her evaluation of this year's reunion.

Her comments echo the sentiments of the more than 750 Bryant alumni who returned to campus June 10, 11, and 12 for the college's gala 125th anniversary reunion. The lush green lawns were finely manicured and the reflecting pool sparkled in the perfect early summer weather, welcoming alumni home whether it was their first visit to the Smithfield campus or their 100th.

A hard-working reunion committee had planned an exciting array of activities that kept returning alumni busy from early morning until late at night. Highlights included a jazz concert by legendary



*Minority alumni representing a range of classes from 1954 to 1988 attended a minority alumni reception during reunion weekend. They shared their feelings about the special problems encountered by minority students and suggested ways to address those problems. Enjoying some animated conversation at the reception are (left to right) Executive Vice President William E. Trueheart, Robert Mui '85 and Educational Opportunity Program Coordinator Roberta Hysell.*



*Caricaturist Neil Portnoy was a hit at Reunion Weekend.*

trumpeter, composer and bandleader Dizzy Gillespie, a casino night complete with piano player and black jack dealers in Civil War era costumes, and a dazzling fireworks display that lit up the Bryant skyline on Friday night.

*Sports Illustrated's* famed cartoonist Neil Portnoy amused alumni with his spontaneous squiggles that soon turned into delightful caricatures. "It was good entertainment and a great souvenir of attendance," commented Anthony Sacco '56, who also congratulated the committee on "an excellently planned weekend."

Perhaps the best souvenirs of all for alumni at reunion were the memories evoked by a return to a familiar place and a look back at their college days. The weekend was a special nostalgic time to renew old friendships and develop new ones with people who share a common bond.

Steve Kelly '65 of San Jose, CA summed it up for many of those at reunion when he said, "I owe much to Bryant and I'm thankful to all the people who put Bryant on the academic map and keep the graduates involved."

*Five Honored at  
Reunion*



*President O'Hara  
congratulates  
Distinguished Alumni  
Award recipient  
Steven Crowley '70.*

A Bryant College professor and four graduates were honored at the reunion weekend awards ceremony on Friday evening, June 10.

Professor of Mathematics Alan D. Olinsky received the Distinguished Faculty Award in recognition of his inspirational devotion to teaching and his dedicated concern for all of his students. A member of the Bryant faculty since 1967, Olinsky holds BS and MS degrees from Hofstra University. He is currently working on a marketing study for Correctional Industries of Rhode Island under a grant from the National Institute of Corrections.

The Nelson Gulski Alumni Service Award was presented to Karl F. Ericson '58 for his unparalleled devotion and service to Bryant as a student, alumnus, trustee, and friend. A member of the Board of Trustees from 1980 to 1988, he served as chairman from 1983 to 1986. He is credited with the conceptualization and implementation of the college's Strategic Plan. Ericson's Bryant activities have included chairing the Bryant Fund, as well as membership on the Alumni Executive Board and a number of college committees. A partner with Peat, Marwick, Main in Providence, Ericson is past president of the Rhode Island Society of CPAs.

Distinguished Alumni Awards went to three outstanding Bryant graduates. Steven Crowley '70, Money Editor on ABC's *Good Morning America*, is head of Crowley Broadcasting in Fort Lauderdale, FL, which produces "Money/Pro News," a nationally syndicated news feature, and "Smart Money," half-hour specials on financial topics.

Biagio M. Maggiacomo '41 began his business career with Greater Providence Trust in 1948 as a branch manager, rising through the ranks to assume the presidency of the financial institution in 1960, a position he held until 1972. In 1973 and 1974, he capped off an impressive list of public service appointments when he was charged with establishing the Office of Auditor General of Rhode Island and the Rhode Island Lottery Commission.

Donald F. Walsh '51 is president of EQUIFAX Services Inc., an Atlanta-based corporation providing information services and systems to business, industry and government organizations throughout North America. He is also a director of the Affiliated Companies of Equifax, Inc. Walsh is a past chairman of the board of the Private Industry Council of Atlanta and serves as a director of Atlanta's Better Business Bureau.

*Restructuring of  
Alumni  
Organization  
Aimed at  
Increasing  
Responsiveness*

The restructuring of Bryant's alumni association now underway is aimed at making the organization more responsive to the needs of alumni as well as to the needs of the college, according to vice president for institutional advancement Nena Thames Whittemore.

"The alumni need the association for business networking, career advancement, continuing education, and many other services," Whittemore says. "On the other hand, Bryant needs the expertise and support of its alumni in attracting new students, counseling current students about their careers, setting up more regional clubs, planning activities and reunions, as well as in fund raising."

Groups of alumni have been assisting the college in a variety of capacities over the years. Alumni volunteers have been working with the admissions office, career services, in development or serving on the graduate school advisory committee. Now all of these

separate groups will be tied into the Alumni Executive Board to simplify coordination and communication among the various groups and to make the board more task centered.

The college's alumni relations office is also being expanded as part of this revitalization effort. Melissa Walker, who was assistant director of alumni affairs for the past year, has been promoted to associate director. A search is currently underway for a new assistant director to complete the office staff.

"The purpose of these changes is to build a strong and vigorous alumni organization," according to Paula Iacono, director of alumni relations. "We're looking to expand the functions of the alumni association and to coordinate the efforts of the administrative staff as well as alumni, parents and friends, who are working for the benefit of Bryant. We believe the restructuring of the alumni association is an important step in this direction."



*Nena T. Whittemore*

## *Wardyga Heads Alumni Board*



*Alan Wardyga '77,  
'84 MBA*

Alan Wardyga '77, '84 MBA has been elected president of the Bryant College Alumni Association. An active member of the Graduate School Alumni Steering Committee for the past three years, Wardyga represented that group on the Alumni Executive Board last year.

The new president holds both undergraduate and graduate degrees from Bryant. He received his BS in accounting in 1977 and his MBA in 1984.

A group vice president at Eastland Bank, Wardyga heads up the asset based lending group in the bank's commercial lending department. Prior to joining Eastland in 1986, he was associated with Old Stone Bank for eight years.

Wardyga's wife, the former Diane Zordan, is

also a 1977 graduate of Bryant. The couple reside in North Smithfield with their two daughters, aged 5 and 3.

One of his first goals is to expand and reorganize the Executive Board. Under the new structure, individual board members will interface directly with administrative offices of the college and provide ongoing support, according to Wardyga.

"Certainly, one of the major responsibilities of the alumni association is to support the activities of the college," Wardyga says. "Bryant graduates also benefit from the alumni association in a variety of ways. For example, the association can continue to bring Bryant people together. It can provide an opportunity for business networking, and this is something alumni can use in their present careers."

## *New trustee hopes to bring alumni view to board*



*Daniel F. Schmitt '73*

Former Alumni Executive Board president Daniel F. Schmitt '73 hopes to bring the alumni perspective to his new position as trustee. The accounting graduate will serve a three-year term as alumni representative on Bryant's governing board.

A partner with Peat, Marwick, Main in Providence, Schmitt has been involved in alumni affairs for a number of years. He served as vice president of the Alumni Executive Board from 1981 to 1982 and president from 1982 to 1983.

"In my new position, I hope to act as a liaison between the two boards," Schmitt says, "and bring the concerns of Bryant graduates to the Board of Trustees as well as communicate to the alumni the initiatives that are being considered by the trustees. It's an exciting prospect to be a conduit of

information between the two bodies. I think it should make it possible for both boards to benefit from each other."

The new alumni trustee believes that the college's major goals should be to pursue accreditation by the American Association of Colleges and Schools of Business and to continue improving Bryant's academic credentials and reputation.

"Our goal should be one of overall academic excellence," Schmitt says, "and I believe we're definitely moving in that direction. We should be putting out graduates that are immediate and positive additions to the business world. As a member of the business community and an officer of a major corporate employer, it is kind of exciting to have input into that."

Elected officers of the Graduate School Steering Committee for the following year were: Ken J. Sousa '87 MBA, chairman; Frank S. Pate '79, '83 MBA, vice chairman; Rachel Paliotti '81 MBA, treasurer; and Audrey Pate '82 MBA, secretary.

Program chairs for 1988-89 are: speaker series, Richard L. Morin '85 MBA; alumni

reunion, Karen M. Flynn '83 MBA, '88 CAGS; trips, Kevin P. England '83 MBA and Rachel Paliotti '81 MBA; and membership, Alan S. Wardyga '77, '84 MBA.

Appointed to the Businessperson of the Year selection committee were Steve A. Matrone '87 MBA and Audrey Pate '82 MBA.

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### *Chapter news*

Southeastern New England — SNEAC held its sixth annual alumni golf tournament September 12 at the Quidnessett Country Club in North Kingstown, RI.

Worcester area — Worcester Alumni Chapter members gathered at the Yankee Drummer Motor Inn in Auburn, MA on October 13 for a networking party. Bryant grads living or working in central Massachusetts enjoyed hors d'oeuvres, exchanged business cards and made new contacts at this business/social event. Several Worcester area alumni are developing plans for a late winter or early spring activity. Anyone interested in taking part should call Peter Leasca '49 at (800) 252-8611, Al Cooper '69 at (508) 853-7788, Blain Marchand '83 at (508) 753-2924, or Melissa Walker in the Alumni Office at (401) 232-6040.

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## *Calendar of Events*

Nov. 1 — Boston Alumni Club Lunch — State Street Bank. 12 noon. Speaker: Susan Bleistift on “Central Artery and Third Tunnel Project.” Reservations: Nick Puniello '80 (617) 742-7788

Nov. 17 — North of Boston Alumni Networking Reception — Dandelion Green, Burlington Mall, 6-8 p.m. Admission: Bryant I.D. and business card

Nov. 18-19 — Unhomecoming Weekend.

Dec. 5 — Festival of Lights sponsored by SAA. Rotunda. 9:00 p.m.

Dec. 7 — Bryant night at Trinity. Performance of “A Christmas Carol.”

Dec. 29, 30 — Men's Basketball Invitational. 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Home

Jan. 18 — Grad School Luncheon Series — Turk's Head Club, Providence, 12:15 p.m.

Feb. 6-Mar. 2 — Annual Fund Spring Phonathon

Feb. 22 — Grad School Luncheon Series — Turk's Head Club, Providence, 12:15 p.m.

Mar. 2, 3, 4 — Men's and women's basketball playoffs. Location and time TBA.

Mar. 12 — Boca Raton Polo Picnic — Florida

Mar. 22 — Grad School Luncheon Series — Turk's Head Club, Providence, 12:15 p.m.

Apr. 19 — Grad School Luncheon Series — Turk's Head Club, Providence, 12:15 p.m.

Jun. 9, 10, 11 — Alumni Weekend. Bryant campus

Aug. 9-17 — International Finance in London Alumni Tour — hosted by Chantee Lewis

## *Memorabilia Make*

### *Perfect Gifts*

Looking for the perfect Christmas gift for the person who has everything? The Alumni Office carries a complete line of Cross pens decorated with the Bryant College emblem, alumni chains, Bryant ties and more. For more information, call (401) 232-6040.



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*Alumni Named  
to Presidential  
Search  
Committee*



*President O'Hara*

Five Bryant alumni have been named to the Presidential Search Committee formed recently to seek a successor to President William T. O'Hara, who has announced his resignation effective July 31, 1989.

John Renza, Jr. '70, a trustee, is vice-chairman of the Search Committee. Other alumni members are Karl Ericson '58, a former trustee, Jennifer Proud-Mearns '82, and two administrators who are also alumni, Director of Human Resources Janice Lewis '75 and Director of the Center for Management Development Timothy Sullivan '88 MBA.

Trustee Jonathan Farnum is chairman of the Presidential Search Committee. Professor Mary Lyons is serving as executive secretary. Other members of the committee responsible for conducting a nationwide search for a new president are trustees Monica Laurans and Charles Carey, faculty members Robert Farrar and Joseph Ilacqua, and students

Michael Howard '89 and Michelle Duprey '90.

President O'Hara, who guided Bryant through a period of extraordinary growth and development, announced his resignation September 20. During his tenure, he initiated the College's long-term strategic planning process, while paving the way for an expansion of the faculty and the construction of major new facilities. O'Hara said he was resigning "because the college has attained so many of the benchmarks I envisioned for it over a decade ago."

Chairman of the Board of Trustees Bruce M. Selya said he accepted President O'Hara's resignation with "deep and sincere regret." Selya remarked, "During Bill O'Hara's 13 years as president of Bryant, the College has attained an unprecedented level of excellence. Bryant is broader in scope and reputation due to Bill's vision, dedication, and experienced leadership."

*Leadership  
Council Brings  
Alumni  
Volunteers to  
Campus*

Alumni leaders from across the country who have been working in admissions and recruiting, club organizations, the career network and as fund raising volunteers were invited to campus September 30 — October 1 for Bryant's annual leadership council. "Alumni Volunteers: Partners in Bryant's Future" was the theme of the weekend event designed to assist the Alumni Executive Board in making plans for the coming year.

The broader focus of this year's conference

was the result of the restructuring of the alumni association to bring together under one umbrella the diverse alumni volunteer groups who work for the college.

The agenda included presentations and workshops on alumni chapters, alumni career networks, admissions, phonathons, the student alumni association, the graduate school and minority alumni affairs, as well as event planning and class reunions.