

# Alumni Newsletter

Volume Two, Number Two  
Spring 1989

*Reunion  
Weekend  
Will Have  
International  
Theme*

"It's a Small World," Bryant's Reunion Weekend 1989, on June 9, 10, and 11, will feature international fun and frivolity, as well as a global look at Bryant today.

Bryant's nearly 30,000 alumni now include residents of 19 foreign countries, as well as most of the United States. They have all been invited back to campus to celebrate the College's "Year of International Awareness" during Alumni Reunion Weekend.

From an international hors d'oeuvres buffet on Friday evening to an All-American barbecue on Saturday afternoon and a European breakfast Sunday morning, this year's reunion is certain to be a global gourmet experience. One of the highlights of the weekend will be the international dinner and celebration dance on Saturday evening at which President and Mrs. O'Hara will be honored for their 13 years of service to the College (see related story inside).

For mystery buffs, Friday evening will offer an audience participation theatrical production, "Murder by Invitation," sponsored by the Class of

'79 in the library. The infamous Jim Plunkett will provide the music at "Life's a Beach" in the MAC, while professional comedian Buckey Lewis will keep the Class of '84 laughing in the Student Center. The Class of '39 will be celebrating its 50th reunion in the Heritage Room, and Bryant athletes will be honored at the Athletic Hall of Fame Dinner in the Unistructure.

Rounding out the weekend will be a stress management workshop led by Center for Student Development Director John Winters, a presentation on pending tax laws by Professor Leo Mahoney, and a slide show titled, "Will He Get My Letter," a look at mail and morale during World War II by Professor Judith Litoff, whose book on the subject is scheduled for publication this fall. There will also be a host of other dinners, receptions, and class events throughout the weekend. For additional information, contact the alumni office at 401-232-6040.



*Roland Talbot '39 is 50th reunion chair. The Class of '39 will be inducted into the Loyal Guard, Bryant's oldest and most honored alumni group, at Reunion Weekend.*

*Officers Elected*



*Alan Wardyga '77*

At the February 28 meeting of the Alumni Association Executive Board, new officers were elected for the coming year. Taking office June 10 will be Alan S. Wardyga '77, president; Jeffrey Ferrante '81, vice president; Kenneth LaSalle '66, vice president; Catherine Parente '78, treasurer; and Nicholas Puniello '80, secretary.



The appointment of Dr. William E. Trueheart as the sixth president of Bryant College was announced on April 11, as the Alumni Newsletter was going to press. Trueheart, a distinguished educator who filled posts at Harvard University and the University of Connecticut before coming to Bryant as executive vice president in 1986, will succeed Dr. William T. O'Hara on August 1.

*O'Hara Tribute  
to Cap Reunion  
Dinner Dance*

A multimedia tribute to William T. O'Hara who is resigning after 13 years as president of Bryant College will cap this year's All Alumni Dinner Dance during Reunion Weekend, June 9, 10, and 11. Bobbi O'Hara, the president's wife, will also be honored for her significant contributions to the College at the Saturday evening event which will be the O'Haras' last official function at Bryant. All alumni are invited to join in bidding the O'Haras farewell at this festive celebration.

The program for the evening will also feature the presentation of alumni awards for outstanding achievement and volunteer service. Recipients of these prestigious awards are nominated by their peers and final selections are made by an alumni screening

committee. Among those to be honored this year are Benjamin Edwards '83, James Gibney '68, Mano Howard '80, Margaret Lawson '53, Michael Martin '72, and Joseph Ravalese '54.

The evening will begin at 7:00 p.m. with an international dinner in keeping with the theme of the weekend, "It's a Small World." Following the O'Hara tribute and the presentation of awards, there will be dancing until 1:00 a.m. to the music of the Mac Chrupcala Band.

Plan to enjoy this very special event with your classmates. Tickets are \$25.00 per person and can be ordered by returning your reunion registration form.

*LaPlume Named  
Businessperson  
of the Year*

The Businessperson of the Year Award was presented to Joseph E. LaPlume MBA '74 at the annual Graduate School Awards Dinner Dance held Saturday, April 15, at the Holiday Inn at the Crossings in Warwick, RI.

LaPlume has been president and chief

executive officer of the Bank of Southington in Southington, CT, since 1987. He was formerly vice president of the United Bank and Trust Company of Hartford and previously regional vice president for Citizens Bank in Providence, RI.

*Jim Plunkett  
is Back*

Entertainer extraordinaire Jim Plunkett is coming back to Bryant for Reunion Weekend this year. He will be featured at "Life's a Beach" sponsored by the Class of 1982, Friday evening, June 9. This event will benefit the Kevin McArdle '82 Memorial Scholarship Fund. Kevin McArdle was a member of the Class of 1982 who died in a tragic auto accident in 1981. All Bryant alumni and their guests are invited to join in the festivities which will include a wildest sunglasses contest.



*While making calls during the Bryant Fund phonathon in February, Paul D'Adamo '82, Gary Vierra '82, and Noreen Reilly '82 encourage classmates to attend the Kevin McArdle Memorial Scholarship fund raiser, "Life's a Beach."*

## Chapter News



*Alan Cooper '69, co-chair of the Worcester Steering Committee, presents President O'Hara with a bottle containing a ship constructed of the president's business cards.*

On February 16, over 40 **Boston** area alumni representing a 20-year span gathered at the Dockside Restaurant in Boston to renew acquaintances and hear about the many changes at Bryant since they graduated. Many of those who attended want to organize an alumni chapter. Boston Area Coordinator **Nick Puniello '80** says a steering committee will meet in the coming weeks for long range event planning. Anyone interested in serving on this committee or wanting to share an idea should call Nick at 617 742-7788.

**Chicago** Alumni Coordinator **David E. Gordon '67** hosted alumni and parents at a private screening of the new Bryant College video at the Hyatt O'Hare April 4. Following the video showing, the group responded enthusiastically to President O'Hara's presentation of Bryant's plans for the 21st century.

**Florida** alumni toasted President and Mrs. O'Hara at a farewell brunch March 12 at the Palm-Aire Country Club in Sarasota. **Dean Nelson Gulski '26, '72H**, former Vice President for Public Affairs Gertrude Meth Hochberg, and Professor Wallace Camper hosted the event.

**Hartford** area alumni leaders were invited to the Hartford Club February 6 to hear Sarkisian Professor of Business Economics R. D. "Pat" Norton share his recent findings on New England's economic climate. Trustee **Norman Sarkisian '53, '88H** and President O'Hara led an open dialogue on Bryant's impact on the Connecticut economy and plans for the College's future.

**Tim Barry '78** spearheaded the first gathering of the **Springfield** Alumni Chapter since 1962 at the Sheraton Tara Hotel March 12. Dean of Admissions Roy Nelson addressed the group at the wine and cheese reception.

Forty-three members of the **Worcester** Alumni Chapter gathered January 26 to honor President William T. O'Hara for his 13 years of service to the College. The event was organized by Chairman **Peter Leasca** and his steering committee. President O'Hara spoke about his study of the Japanese industrial economy, comparing Japan's support systems for industry with those of the United States. Worcester area alumni also came out for Bryant's men's basketball team February 25, when the home team challenged **Assumption College**. Assumption President Joseph Hagan, a former vice president at Bryant, greeted Bryant alumni, parents, and women's basketball team members at the pre-game rally.

## Grad School Luncheon Series



*Steven Mascena (left) of Mascena, Ecker & Associates chats with Graduate School Alumni Steering Committee members Richard Morin MBA '85 and Janice Black MBA '85 following the first in the series of Graduate School Alumni Luncheons at the Turk's Head Club, Providence.*

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(continued)

Bryant alumni participated in two other programs sponsored by the Office of Career Services this winter. **A. J. McNamara '61**, president of John Alden Associates, spoke during a program on “**Careers in International Business**” at the College February 21. Ira Magaziner, Bryant’s visiting scholar for global business studies, was the keynote speaker. Other panelists were Michael Black, director of the Providence World Trade Club, and Stacey Lyons, assistant vice president, Fleet Financial Group. On February 15, **Mary Beth Corrente '83**, assistant vice president at Citizens Bank, and **Sharon Lee McGarry Sinnott '80**, owner of Sinnott School/Placements Plus, joined Rosemary D’Arcy, director of Bryant’s Center for Management Development, and Professor Judith Litoff for “**Balancing Your Career and Your Life.**”

### *Calendar of Events*

- April 25 Alumni Executive Board meeting.
- May 13 Day trip to Quincy Market. (See related story under *Bits & Pieces.*)
- May 17 Alumni Luncheon Series, Turk’s Head Club, 12:15 p.m. Speaker: Ira Magaziner, Bryant College Visiting Scholar. RSVP: May 12, to Alumni Office. Admission: \$14/person.
- June 9-11 Alumni Reunion Weekend – “It’s a Small World” – Bryant Campus.
- June 10 Final Alumni Executive Board meeting of the year.

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### *Bits & Pieces*

For only \$10 per person, you and your guests can be part of an **Alumni Day at Quincy Market** in Boston, Saturday, May 13. In addition to unique gift shops and boutiques, you will be able to enjoy the New England Aquarium, the Museum of Science, Old Town Trolley Tours, and great restaurants. A motorcoach will leave the Bryant campus at 9 a.m. and return at 8 p.m. This event is sponsored by the Graduate School Alumni Steering Committee. All alumni and their guests are invited to join in the fun. Please make your check payable to Bryant College and mail it to the alumni office by May 3.

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“**Do I Need an MBA?**” was the topic of a seminar for undergraduate students co-sponsored by the Graduate Alumni Steering Committee and the Office of Career Services March 15. Among the panelists were alumni **Jerry Foley '88 MBA**, assistant product manager at Kenney Manufacturing; **Donna Nardone '85**, controller for Mutual Properties; and **Jerome Williams '76, '86 MBA**, deputy treasurer for the state of Rhode Island. Steven Mascena of the recruiting firm Mascena, Ecker & Associates addressed the marketability of the MBA.

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The George I. Alden Trust of Worcester, MA, has issued a \$25,000 **challenge grant** to Bryant that would endow a scholarship for minority students. The College has until June 30, 1990, to raise \$50,000 to meet the two-for-one challenge and establish the endowment. Alumni can help the College meet this challenge and build its financial aid endowment for minority students by restricting their annual fund contributions to this purpose or by making an additional gift. A note on the check or pledge form that the gift is to be restricted to the “Alden Challenge” is all that is required.

*(continued inside)*

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*Living with Work:  
'88 Grads Tell All*

Living through that first year on the job can be quite an experience for a new graduate. Eight members of the Class of 1988 came back to campus February 27 to tell this year's seniors just what it's like.

Through workshops on such topics as "I Hate My First Job! Now, What?" to "Relocating to a New City" and "Being a Woman in a Male Dominated Industry," last year's graduates shared their experiences with those about to enter the world of work. The program was sponsored jointly by the career services office and the Student Alumni Association.



*Class of '88 members who presented workshops are (seated, l to r) Patricia Coelho, David Penn, Michael English, (standing l to r) Elaine Pappas, Jeff Dolce, Caryn DeBonville, and Michael McKenna. Missing when the photo was taken was James Driscoll.*

*Alumnus Plans  
National Fund  
Raising Event*

David Kelly '83, a Bryant athlete, was involved in an auto accident on August 2, 1987, that left him with no feeling or movement from the chest down. He is one of more than one-half million Americans who suffer from spinal cord injuries. Each year, from 15,000 to 20,000 new cases develop, and two-thirds of these affect people between the ages of 16 and 30.

Kelly's friend Curt Randall Bayer is biking from Colorado Springs, CO, to Bristol, CT, in June to raise money for the National Spinal Cord Injury Association's research activities. For more information, contact Jill Nosach, assistant director of alumni relations, at 401-232-6040.