

# Alumni Newsletter

Volume Two, Number Three  
Summer 1989

*Litoff and Lyons*  
*Receive*  
*Distinguished*  
*Faculty Awards*



*Professors Mary  
Lyons and Judy  
Litoff*

Two outstanding Bryant faculty members were honored by the alumni association during Reunion Weekend. Professors Judy Barrett Litoff and Mary Lyons received Distinguished Faculty Awards at the dinner and awards ceremony June 10 in recognition of their professional achievements and inspirational involvement with students.

One of the College's most honored faculty members, Litoff has been teaching history at Bryant since 1975. Her genuine interest in her field motivates students to share her involvement, and they describe her as easy to talk to, readily accessible, and greatly admired.

An authority on midwifery, Litoff has published numerous articles and two books on the subject. More recently, she has written "Miss You: The World War II Letters of Barbara Wooddall Taylor and Charles E. Taylor," which she co-authored with University of Maine Professor David Smith. The first of a three-volume series that takes a look at World War II through the lives of ordinary people, the book which will be published this fall is based on the letters exchanged between her aunt and

uncle during this tumultuous time in history.

Litoff holds a PhD from the University of Maine and MA and BA degrees in history from Emory University. Among the Georgia native's community activities are serving as an overseer of the Lincoln and Moses Brown Schools and as a member of the Rhode Island Committee for the Humanities.

A member of the Bryant faculty since 1970, Lyons' field is business communications. A dedicated student advocate, her extensive committee work has involved her in many of the administrative decisions that affect students. Most recently, she served as executive secretary of the search committee for the new president.

Lyons holds PhD and MA degrees in English from the University of Rhode Island, an MBA from Bryant, and a BS in English from Simmons College. She is the co-author of a textbook on report writing for business. Lyons has served on the Rhode Island State Board of Regents and on the boards of the Rhode Island College Foundation and the Community College of Rhode Island Foundation.

*Alumni Tee Off*

All alumni and their guests are invited to tee off on Monday, September 11, at the Quidnessett Country Club in East Greenwich, RI, at the seventh annual alumni golf tournament. There is a limit of 128 players, and due to the popularity of this event, reservations will be taken on a first come, first served basis.

Each foursome must include at least two Bryant alumni. If you wish, the

alumni office will assign you to a foursome based on your handicap (no cheating, please!).

The \$100 entry fee includes lunch, dinner, greens fees, locker facilities, carts, pro shop assistance, and prizes. A special grand prize will be awarded to anyone making a designated hole-in-one. Call the alumni office at 401-232-6040 for reservations or more information.



*Six Alumni  
Honored at  
Reunion*

Six notable Bryant College alumni were honored June 10 at the annual awards dinner held during Reunion '89. Michael T. Martin '72 received the Nelson J. Gulski '26, '72H Alumni Service Award for his outstanding service to the College and to the Alumni Association. Distinguished Alumni Awards were presented to James M. Gibney '68, Margaret (Wallace) Lawson '53, and Joseph Ravalese Jr. '54 in recognition of their professional achievements and their exemplary service to the community. The recipients of the Bryant College Young Alumni Leadership Awards, presented for the first time this year, were Benjamin L. Edwards '83 and Mano B. Howard '80. They were cited for their creative and responsive leadership in business and industry.



*Michael T. Martin '72 and Dean Nelson J. Gulski '26, '72H*

Currently vice president for finance at Payne Elevator Company, Cambridge, MA, previously Martin was chief financial officer of Linemaster Switch Corporation, Woodstock, CT. He is a former Alumni Association president and former alumni representative on the College's Board of Trustees. During his tenure on the board, the College experienced tremendous growth and change, including the transformation of the Koffler Center into a state-of-the-art computer facility and construction of the Multipurpose Activities Center.

Gibney, who began his career as an educator teaching immigrant children to speak English, is now assistant superintendent of schools in Fall River,

MA. He is also an adjunct faculty member at Lesley College and chairman of the Advisory Council to the Dean of Continuing Education at Bristol Community College. Very



*Joseph Ravalese Jr. '54, Margaret (Wallace) Lawson '53, and James M. Gibney '68.*

active in the community, Gibney has received many honors for his civic activities. He continues to serve on the boards of the March of Dimes, Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter; the Boy Scouts of America, Moby Dick Council; and the Greater Fall River Chamber of Commerce.

Lawson is assistant vice president of marketing at the Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company, Hartford, CT. Previously, she was vice president and corporate secretary of the Greater Hartford Chamber of Commerce. A director of the Bank of Boston, Connecticut, she is first vice president of Junior Achievement of North Central Connecticut and was International Secretary of the Year in 1965. The first woman member of The Hartford Club, she served as president of that organization from 1983 to 1985.

Ravalese is owner and treasurer of the Tobacco Valley Sanitation Service Company, South Windson, CT. He was formerly executive vice president of the Wooster Express Company. His long and impressive list of community activities includes serving as a trustee of Saint Joseph College, West Hartford, CT., president of the Bryant College Alumni Association, president of the South Windsor Chamber of



Commerce, and president of the Hartford Chapter of UNICO National. Ravalese, who has hosted send-off receptions at his home for many incoming Bryant students, was the founder and first president of the Bryant College Hartford Alumni Chapter.

Edwards, who launched his career in the printing industry in 1983 by using his internship in the Bryant College publications office as a springboard for



*Benjamin Edwards '83 and Mano Howard '80.*

implementing his idea of transforming the final issue of the student newspaper, *The Archway*, into a Commencement magazine, received a prestigious national award for this past year's *Archway* Commencement issue printed by his company. The Potlatch Paper Company honored the Edwards

Printing Company, Prospect, CT, for excellence in craftsmanship and creativity for the printing and cover design of the *Archway's* 125th Commencement Magazine.

Edwards and classmate Jerry Schmidt '83 established the Edwards Printing Company in a rented garage after graduation from Bryant, working as production staff, management, and sales force. They now employ 17 people and enjoy a reputation as one of the finest four-color process printers in Central Connecticut.

Howard, president of Bend 'n Stretch, Inc., Hialeah, FL, is responsible for the apparel firm's manufacturing and financial operations. The company operates plants in Haiti and the Dominican Republic as well as in Florida and has a sales office in New York City.

The 2,500 employee multinational company sell its own Baby Luv line of infants' wear to large chain retailers and also manufactures other products for such labels as Izod and Oshkosh B'Gosh. As the third generation of his family to lead the firm, Howard is particularly credited with introducing automated equipment to the company which has experienced 30% to 40% growth in the past four years.

### *Reunion '89*



*A Saturday afternoon volleyball game sponsored by the Class of '84 was a great success.*



*Kay Kingsbury '55 and Chuck Kingsbury '56 take time out from the Frisbee toss to enjoy some banjo music.*

## *Chapter News*

The **Boston** alumni committee met at the Union Oyster House May 10 to discuss the schedule of events for the coming year. The next event is a Boston Red Sox vs. Toronto Blue Jays game August 16. The cost of \$15 per person includes a pre-game party at Howard Johnson's in Kenmore Square. Call **Nick Puniello '80**, club chairman, at 617-345-9611 for more information. Plans are also underway for a Boston Harbor cruise September 16, networking reception October 26, winter blues party February 3, and a comedy club event in April. An outing to Tanglewood with the Worcester, Springfield, and Hartford chapters is also under consideration. For more information or to be placed on the Boston chapter's mailing list, call the alumni office at 401-232-6040.

Members of the **Worcester** Alumni Chapter have invited the Springfield Chapter to join them for a hayride followed by dinner at the historic Salem Cross Inn in Ware, MA, on Saturday, November 4. Watch your mail in September for more information, or call Melissa Walker, associate director of alumni relations, at 401-232-6040.



*Enthusiastic volunteers at the "Life's a Beach" fundraiser (clockwise) Donna Nahigian, Ken Nahigian, Patrick Burns, Anne Northrup Burns, Gary Vierra, Paul D'Adamo, and Lynn D'Adamo, all members of the Class of '82 which sponsored the event.*



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## *Calendar of Events*

- Aug. 16 — Boston Red Sox vs. Toronto Blue Jays — game and reception sponsored by the Boston Alumni Chapter.
- Aug. 30 — Graduate School Alumni Council meeting.
- Sept. 11 — Annual Alumni Golf Tournament — Quidnessett Country Club.
- Sept. 16 — Boston Chapter harbor cruise.
- Sept. 21 — First quarterly Alumni Association board meeting.
- Oct. 22 — Inauguration of President Trueheart.
- Oct. 26 — Boston Chapter networking reception.
- Oct. 28 — Alumni Continuing Education Seminar — Bryant Campus.
- Nov. 4 — Worcester and Springfield Alumni Chapters dinner meeting — Salem Cross Inn.
- Nov. 30 — Second quarterly Alumni Association board meeting.
- Dec. 4 — Festival of Lights — Bryant Campus.
- Jan. 17 — Graduate School Alumni Council luncheon/speaker series.
- Feb. 3 — Winter Blues Party at Fanueil Hall sponsored by the Boston Alumni Chapter.
- Feb. 15 — Third quarterly Alumni Association board meeting.

## *Alumni to Learn Survival Skills*

“Survival Skills for the 1990s and Beyond” is the topic of a continuing education program for alumni and guests set for October 28. Co-sponsored by the Office of Alumni Relations and the Office of Executive and Professional Continuing Education, the daylong program will focus on practical skill building in five areas: leadership skills, coping with stress, personal financial planning, career options, and interpersonal communication skills. For more information, contact Melissa Walker, associate director of alumni relations, at 401-232-6040.

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*BC/BS Alumni  
Get Together*

More than 40 Bryant alumni employed by Blue Cross/Blue Shield of RI met April 11 at a reception hosted by Chairman of the Board Everett Wilcox '38 at the company's corporate headquarters in Providence. Prior to viewing the new "Bryant Today" video, they heard from President William T. O'Hara about the College's Year of International Awareness and curriculum innovations.

"The reception was part of this year's alumni corporate outreach program," according to Director of Alumni Relations Paula Iacono '69. "Blue Cross and other companies that employ large numbers of our graduates have been very receptive to on-site alumni functions, and we have received



*Chatting during the Blue Cross/Blue Shield reception are (left to right) Lewis Antone '59, Everett Wilcox '38, and President William E. Trueheart.*

overwhelmingly positive feedback."

Additional corporate outreach programs will be scheduled for 1989-90. Anyone interested in coordinating a reception should contact the alumni office at 401-232-6040.

*Ravalese '54  
Hosts Presidential  
Reception*

Alumni leaders from five states and spanning four decades gathered on the Bryant campus May 23 for a gala reception in honor of retiring President William T. O'Hara and President-elect William E. Trueheart.

Hosted by former alumni association president Joseph Ravalese Jr. '54, the event was a wonderful opportunity for past alumni association officers to meet current executive board members and club chairs, as well as acquaint themselves with the physical changes on the campus.

In his remarks to the group, Ravalese praised Dr. O'Hara for his accomplishments at Bryant and expressed the respect and affection alumni have for him.

Current alumni association president Alan Wardyga '77, MBA '84 thanked Ravalese for his generosity and continued support of Bryant. He also outlined the alumni association's goals now that the institution will be under the leadership of a new president.