World War II may have brought the United States together as a nation, but for black Americans, it was a time of discrimination that extended to the military. It was not until late in the war that all-black units were given the opportunity to enter combat.

Pressure from the NAACP, the black media, some members of Congress, and the White House prompted the War Department to start a “separate but equal” training program for black aviators in Tuskegee, Alabama, which produced the “Tuskegee Airmen.” A total of 930 blacks earned their wings at Tuskegee. Of these, 450 fought overseas, 66 were killed in combat, and 33 were shot down and became prisoners of war. In 200 missions escorting U.S. bombers over Europe, the all-black 332nd Fighter Group did not lose a single bomber to the enemy. In more than 1,500 missions, the Tuskegee Airmen destroyed 261 German planes, damaged 159 others, bombed 950 supply and transport targets, and even sank a German destroyer.

The Airmen earned numerous awards and medals and became legendary for their courage and success. They are considered by some to have been the catalyst that brought desegregation to the U.S. Armed Forces.

As part of Bryant’s African-American History Month celebration, members of the New England Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen will come to campus on Sunday, February 25. There will be special showing of the HBO movie, “The Tuskegee Airmen,” and a question-and-answer period afterward. The event is free and open to the public.

Sylvia Spears Peters, assistant director of multicultural student services, is especially looking forward to the event. Many of her family members are traveling to Bryant that day because they have special ties to the Tuskegee Airmen. Sylvia’s uncle, 2nd Lt. William Hill, was a Tuskegee Airman from Rhode Island. He died when his plane went down over Lake Huron during a training mission on November 22, 1943, just three months after graduating from the program. Sylvia’s mother, Gloria H. Spears, still has her brother’s uniform and wings.

Members of the Multicultural Student Union (MSU), organizers of this event, hope to put the history back into African-American History Month by linking the past, the present, and the future. A visit from the Tuskegee Airmen promises to do just that.
**Quickly...**

Michael Thompson of information technology coordinated and hosted a one-day workshop/seminar for the New England Regional Computing Program (NERComP), titled "Help Desks: Implementation, Management, and Evolution." He also presented a case study at the seminar titled "The Evolution of the Bryant College Help Desk."

CIS Professor Wallace Wood spoke at St. Raphael Academy in December on careers in the computer field. It is the fifth year he has participated in the Explorer Career Exploration program of the Boy Scouts.

Deb Pasquarella, director of student activities, and Tim Lloyd, assistant director, attended the National Association for Campus Activities (NACA) Regional Conference in November.

Barbara B. Slater, assistant director of continuing professional education for the Center for Management Development, has been selected to participate in the 1996 Leadership Rhode Island class.

Steve Sutton, KPMG Peat Marwick Distinguished Visiting Professor of Accounting, has co-written two articles that were published in Research on Accounting Ethics, Volume 1, 1995. The articles are titled "Toward an Understanding of the Philosophical Foundations for Ethical Development of Audit Expert Systems" and "On Ethical Behavior in Social, Political, and Legal Environments."

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**Nearly $10,000 Collected, Donated from 1995 “Dress Down” Days**

Since 1991, Bryant employees have paid $2 each Friday to dress casually and $5 during special Dress Down Weeks. Those small amounts add up in a big way - nearly $10,000 was donated to 27 different charitable organizations in 1995. The biggest single-day donation of $461 went to the Oklahoma Relief Fund in April; Make-a-Wish received $765 from a Dress Down Day, Spring Break Week, and the Student Senate. Since the program was started in 1991, approximately $45,000 has been collected and distributed.

Members of the Secretarial/Clerical Council recently presented a check for $402 to Todd Sisson, director of the Community Counseling Center in Pawtucket. The Center works to keep families together in times of crisis, but in some cases that is not possible. The Center’s programs aim at minimizing the trauma of temporary separation. The Bryant donation, given well before Christmas, was used to give the children a great Christmas party and presents that they really wanted. It is the third year in a row that the Center received a donation from Bryant.

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**Tuskegee Airmen (continued)**

"The Movement Continues" is this year's African-American History Month theme at Bryant. Adina Barnes '96, president of the MSU, says members were inspired to change the name of Black History Month to African-American History Month by the recent visit of the South African Men's National Basketball Team. "The South Africans expressed pride in black Americans acknowledging their common roots and extended family in Africa," says Adina. "The name change is not intended to exclude; rather, it recognizes all people with African roots."

African-American History Month at Bryant kicks off February 1 with opening ceremonies at 3 p.m. in the Rotunda. A soul-food dinner will follow, along with a showing of the movie, "Panther."

Other events scheduled throughout the month include a fund-raiser at the Country Comfort with Reggae band "Noddaclu"; a gospel jubilee; a blood drive; "What's on Everyone's Mind" Speaker Series; historical movies; a Spike Lee marathon; a winter semi-formal; Extravaganza Night, featuring a variety and fashion show; a multicultural alumni gathering and more. Watch for complete information from the MSU on each event.

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**Lifesavers**

Bryant College received a 1995 "Award of Excellence" from the Rhode Island Blood Center at their annual banquet held in November. The award is given annually to groups who consistently exhibit the highest standards of support and cooperation for the Center's blood program and who excel in organization, recruitment, publicity and collections. Dr. Ronald Yankee (at far left), R.I. Blood Center medical director, presented the award to Bryant students (1-r) Jane Porter '96, Jen Wadney '98, Joe Finocchio '96, and Dave Soccodato '96. They represented the student senate and residence life organizations that had sponsored and organized blood drives at Bryant in 1995. Scott Ananian, from the Blood Center, is at the podium.
There are no windows in the Office of College Relations, but that doesn’t prevent the staff from finding out about all the good things happening at Bryant, and from making sure everyone else knows about them too.

After all, that’s their job. Within its three distinct areas – news, publications, and advertising – college relations reinforces Bryant’s message on campus and out in the world.

“Our goal is to make sure the College has one clearly-defined image that goes out to all our constituencies: prospective and current students, faculty, alumni, business leaders, and parents,” says Executive Director Beth Kelly. “While as a College we are made up of separate offices with separate responsibilities, we are one institution. Our job is to unify the communication of those different offices.”

“The exciting thing is that so much of what we do results in a product such as an ad, a brochure, or a news story. Many people who work at the College don’t have that,” Beth adds. “The frustrating thing is that the effect of that product is not always measurable.”

According to Beth, the one word that best describes college relations is service. “This office is composed of a group of specialists in the various areas of communication including media relations, design, writing, and advertising,” she says. “As such we are a resource and can advise other areas in the College on how to best meet their particular goals. It’s more than just creating a brochure for a department – it’s helping that department determine what is wants to accomplish.”

There are 10 full-time and two part-time staff members in college relations, plus a dedicated contingent of student workers. “This is the first time in almost four years that we have been fully staffed,” says Beth. Director of Communications Don DeMaio and Director of Publications Ann MacDonald started this fall, along with part-time Sports Information Director Margaret Fleischauer and part-time writer Nicki Toler.

Joyce O’Neill, designer/assistant director of publications and an almost 20-year Bryant veteran, has been working in the publications area since 1988. She emphasizes the cooperative spirit of the staff within the department and the College. “Even though we are a diverse group, this is a real team. We work together to make things look good, read well, and inform – and we put out a good product,” Joyce says. “And because of what we do, we have contact with many offices on campus and touch them all in some way. That makes us a real campus-wide department.”

Beth refers to the pace of college relations as “non-stop.” Each year the office issues hundreds of press releases, produces more than 200 publications, and places more than 150 ads. Staff specialties include in-house publication design, writing, production and print management. None of the advertising design is done on campus; the staff works with agencies to develop ad placement campaigns. In the news area, the department promotes college events and the achievements of students, faculty, and staff, and seeks out and places major College stories in the media.

In spite of its often hectic pace, the staff of college relations tries to maintain a good balance. The office holds a well-deserved campus-wide reputation for hospitality, holiday decorations, good parties and what Joyce O’Neill refers to as their “ongoing buffet.”

Publications Secretary Rose Marie Powell says that’s the way it should be – after all, busy people need to keep up their strength. “There is constant activity here,” she says. “Something is always happening. That’s what makes it such an exciting place to work.”
NEW FACES

TODD NELSON '95
Assistant to the Director of Conferences and Special Events
Todd, a 1995 Bryant graduate, was most recently a management trainee for Star Market in Cambridge. During his four years as a Bryant undergraduate, Todd served in a variety of positions including conference and special events coordinator, resident assistant, admission office assistant/student ambassador, orientation leader/freshman experience facilitator, Bryant Center manager, and treasurer and chair of Bryant Center attractions.

SPORTS WRAP-UP

by Margaret Fleischauer, sports information director

Bryant athletes excelled during the fall semester in golf, cross country, volleyball, soccer, tennis, and basketball. Here are a few highlights:

- The men's golf team won their 13th Northeast-10 (NE-10) Conference title in 15 seasons. Ray Issler '97 was named NE-10 Player of the Year for the third straight season, capturing the Individual Medal and qualifying for the ECAC tournament. Coach Archie Boulet was named NE-10 Coach of the Year for the 13th time.

- Jessica Duval '96 won the NE-10 Conference individual cross country title, only the third Bulldog to win the prestigious event. Diane Tedford '86 and Stephanie Witt '83 were the previous winners; Tedford still holds the meet record for the event with a 17:27 time over 5,000 meters.

- Women's cross country runner Mandy Lapierre '96 was named an Academic All-American for her performance in the NCAA regional meet. The senior tri-captain led all Bulldog runners with a 23rd place finish. Runners who finish in the top 25 and have at least a 3.25 G.P.A. qualify for Academic All-American status.

- The women's volleyball team (22-9) completed their fifth consecutive 20-win season, sharing the NE-10 regular season title with co-champion Bentley. It was the first regular season championship for the Bulldogs since 1991. Senior co-captains Meribah Dean and Keisha Gaillard were named first team All-Conference.

- Women's soccer player Michelle Osborne '96 was named Honorable Mention All-Conference. It is the second such honor for Osborne, who finished her soccer career as one of the best defensive players at Bryant.

- Meribah Dean '96 became the third Bryant player in five seasons to be named NE-10 Women's Volleyball Player of the Year. The senior outside hitter led the conference in hitting percentage and kills per game. Other Bryant volleyball players who have received Player of the Year recognition are Noelle Emmette (1991), and Maria Bras (1993 and 1994).

- Men's tennis player Roman Pavlik '96 won the Rolex Division II East Championship and finished 5th at the Rolex National Tournament in Boca Raton, Florida. The senior captain has been nationally ranked in recent pre-season polls. In addition, the Bryant men's tennis team has been nationally ranked in pre-season polls, the first time ever in Bryant history. The team starts their season in late March.

- The Bryant men's and women's basketball teams are off to a great start. Both teams were regionally ranked at press time. The men's team got off to a 4-3 start prior to winter break, the women 5-2. The men had a three-game California trip planned over winter vacation, while the women went to sunny Florida for the Sheraton New Year's Shootout.

- WOON Radio 1240 will broadcast seven men's and six women's basketball games this season. It is the first radio package featuring Bryant basketball since the late eighties.