New Center Helps Small Businesses Go High-Tech

by Ann MacDonald, director of publications

Imagine a manufacturing company's training department demonstrating a new assembly procedure to employees at a plant located miles away — without ever leaving town. Or a jewelry supplier displaying a new line of products to interested clients — over the telephone lines. Or a Providence accountant going over a tax form line-by-line with a client — who is in California.

These are just three of the scenarios that will fast become a reality thanks to the new NYNEX Telecommunications Center at Bryant. The result of a joint venture between the College and NYNEX, the Center will help Rhode Island businesses grow and increase their productivity. It is the first such teaching and consulting laboratory that NYNEX has established.

The Center is expected to be fully functional by April. It will serve as a statewide resource to help individuals or small businesses understand how modern telecommunication technologies can be used to enhance their business outreach and reduce their costs.

To finance the Center’s operations, NYNEX is donating $200,000 for renovations and equipment, plus operating funds of $30,000 annually for the next two years. Bryant has provided space for the Center in the Koffler Technology Center, as well as other educational services and resources. Counseling services will be free to the small business community.

“The Center will help Rhode Island's small businesses take advantage of the opportunities that new technologies are bringing to the marketplace,” says President James A. (Dolph) Norton. "It provides state-of-the-art equipment, highly-trained experts, and training workshops dealing with telecommunications and data transmission issues.”

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QUICKLY...

History Professor Judy Barrett Litoff has published "A WAC from Maine in the South: The World War II Correspondence of Katharine Trickey," Maine History 34 (Winter-Spring 1995).


Management Professor Harsh Luther started the new year by appearing on WSBE-TV Channel 36, on the weekly show "13th State," which is hosted by Paul Zangari. Harsh spoke about his column in the Archway called "Inspiration Point." He also discussed his background, philosophies of education and non-violence, and stress management through yoga and meditation. This was his second appearance on PBS.


BY THE WAY...

CMD's Linda Asselin is a grandmother for the second time. Cortney Ann Asselin was born on January 4 to Daniel and Lori Asselin and weighed 6 lbs. 2 oz. Cortney joins her big brother Daniel Jr. at home. Congratulations to all!

Rich Dankel, director of Bryant Center Operations, and his wife, Sherrie Norman, are the proud parents of twins born January 30. Robert Norman Dankel and Anna Elizabeth Dankel weighed 6 lbs. 10 oz. and 5 lbs. 14 oz. respectively. Congratulations to the happy new family (and to Sandy Sylvio, secretary in Bryant Center Operations and self-appointed honorary grandmother).

New Center...

The Center will offer many different types of services. Video conferencing, for instance, makes it possible for a jewelry firm to showcase new products on computer screens around the country rather than through the more traditional jewelry show. Another application, known as remote collaboration, enables business people at workstations located miles apart to work together as if they were in the same room.

Small businesses that would like to produce their own newsletters or advertising flyers will be able to take advantage of training offered in desktop publishing. The Center will also provide assistance on how to market goods on the Internet and access the World Wide Web.

The Center's staff will consist of a project director and three student employees. The staff's job will be to invite business people to campus to learn about state-of-the-art telecommunications technologies. The project manager will also travel to business locations throughout the state for demonstrations and lectures.

The Center's services will be coordinated with Bryant's other business outreach programs and become part of the Center for International Business and Economic Development (CIBED).

Maya Angelou to Perform on Campus

Renowned author, poet, and playwright Maya Angelou will perform at Bryant on Monday, March 4. "An Evening With Maya Angelou," will feature a lecture by Dr. Angelou and readings from her collections of poetry.

Dr. Angelou is the recipient of numerous honors and awards that include a National Book Award nomination for "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," a Pulitzer Prize nomination for "Just Give Me A Cool Drink of Water 'Fore I Die," and a Tony Award nomination for her performance in the Broadway play "Look Away." She was Inaugural Poet for President Bill Clinton in 1993 and won a Grammy for "Best Spoken Word Album" in 1994.

Dr. Angelou holds honorary degrees from Smith College, Mills College, and Lawrence University.

"An Evening With Maya Angelou," sponsored by the Office of College Relations, will begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $3 for students; $5 for faculty, staff, and alumni; and $8 for the general public. They may be purchased at the Bryant Center Info Desk or the Office of College Relations. A limited number of tickets may be available at the door before the performance.
With a total of 75 years experience at Bryant among them, there's precious little the "Support Services Five" can't handle. Or, as Manager Paulette Bokoski puts it: "If you don't know where to go or what to do with something, we can direct you to the right place to have it done!"

From 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., five days a week, 52 weeks a year, support services handles all types of paperwork requests, says Paulette, from photocopying exams for classes to coordinating reports for board meetings.

But that, she adds with a smile, is only the beginning.

As a support function that caters to all College departments and formal student organizations, support services also copies and binds the faculty-authored, spiral-bound workbooks sold in the campus bookstore; turns out Bryant’s "personalized" correspondence, such as students' acceptance letters and inquiries about the College; purchases and delivers classroom and office supplies; and arranges for the computer, fax and copier equipment used throughout the College. Two student helpers lend a hand with general office work each semester.

In its effort to provide quick, reliable service, support services offers its "customers" three options for copy service. They can leave their order at the main counter just inside the front door, take their job to the walk-up window around the corner, or use the "express" line -- a copier they can run on their own if the task is a fairly simple one.

"I don't think people realize the amount of copying and printing we do in this office," says Paulette, who has been manager of support services for 12 of her 17 years in the department.

"Last academic year, the copy center accounted for 3,900,000 copies and 120,000 personalized letters. Add that to the million photocopies made on copiers scattered throughout campus, and that brings the total copies for fiscal year 1995 to more than 5 million!"

Support services also validates or encodes all employee I.D. cards to allow access to copiers and fax machines. "New employees stop by public safety to have their pictures taken, and then come to us to have their card activated," says Supervisor Carol Malo, who has 14 years' service with Bryant and is responsible for the encoding process. "Support services keeps changing," she adds. "As we increase our services, we have to be flexible. People's priorities have to be our priorities."

Treating others' priorities as their own has been the trademark of the office for as long as he can remember, says Copy Center Operator Gil Peterson. A department veteran who is celebrating 30 years with support services this year (27 of those years as Bryant's official pressman), Gil can recall just about any memorable event in Bryant College history -- as long as there was a brochure or an announcement to commemorate the occasion. "We moved in September 1971, and held the dedication in February 1972," he says. He pauses for a moment. "I have to picture the dedication book -- that's right, 1972."

Five days a week, 52 weeks a year, the demand for service is never ending. The key to keeping up the pace while remaining flexible and mindful of priorities is teamwork. So say Eileen McAluliffe and Elaine Roberge, support services clerks who, between them, lay claim to 14 years of service to Bryant.

"We really do work as a team, and we do our best to do our job in a courteous manner," says Eileen. "We take our job seriously but still seem to find the fun in it."
Students Hope to Change Electoral System in Rhode Island

Students in one of Professor Marsha Pripstein Posusney’s political science classes will hit the books and the streets this semester in an attempt to change the current electoral system in Rhode Island.

It’s all part of a new, experiential course she created titled “Theory and Practice in Politics: Electoral Systems and Electoral Reform.” Students will develop and implement a public outreach program to gain support for electoral reform and initiate a petition campaign to have the changes placed on the November ballot.

The class will begin by studying alternatives to the “first past the post” or “single member district plurality (SMDP)” system currently used in the United States for presidential, congressional, and gubernatorial elections. They will then explore alternatives to SMDP practiced in democracies around the world.

Explaining her inspiration for the course, Marsha says, “Educators have long realized the benefits of experiential learning. In the political science field, it has been politics. This course will enable Bryant students to gain practical experience in politics and enhance their commitment to democracy and civic involvement without partisanship.”

Few democracies in the world today other than the United States and Great Britain use SMDP, says Marsha. The system has been abandoned by many other countries because it can seat candidates rejected by the majority of the electorate.

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“Up With People” Musical at Bryant April 20, 21

For nearly 30 years, Up With People’s vibrant, uplifting performances have touched people’s lives in 3,200 cities and 70 countries around the world. On April 20 and 21, the group will perform their non-stop, two-hour live musical “Festival” in the gymnasium on campus. The performance serves as a prelude to the 25-year anniversary celebration of Bryant’s move to Smithfield.

Set in a street market, “Festival” is a time when people come together to rest from their labors, to connect with one another, and to celebrate. Vendors and street sweepers prepare for the day ahead as they dance to the music of “Festa Humana” and the Righteous Brothers’ “Unchained Melody” and perform Marvin Hamlish’s “Ordinary Miracles,” and songs from the ’50s and ’60s.

Original numbers with a “world beat” motif and traditional international songs and dances from India, Bulgaria, China, Mexico and South Africa will also be featured.

Show times are 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 20, and 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 21. Ticket prices are $5 for students and senior citizens; $7 for staff and alumni; and $8 for adults. Children under five are admitted free.

Tickets can be bought at the Bryant Center Info Desk and The Call (Main Street, Woonsocket), or at the door before each performance.

Christine Gagné ’96 will join the troupe in July and will perform in the United States and Canada for six months and in Europe, Asia, and Africa for another six months. She is in the process of raising $12,000 to cover her trip expenses.
Remembering Mauricio

A memorial service for Mauricio Beltran Restrepo '96, the 22-year-old Bryant student who died in December on American Airlines Flight 965 near Cali, Colombia, was held February 1 in Papitto Dining Room.

Mauricio had been traveling home to be with his family for the holidays. He was a senior marketing major and was finalizing the requirements for his degree and had applied to the Berklee College of Music, where he hoped to study guitar.

Mauricio was the son of Carmen Elena Restrepo of Colombia. Mauricio’s brother, Andres Beltran Restrepo, and his aunt, Maria Cristina Restrepo, travelled from Colombia and joined students, faculty, and staff in remembering Mauricio during a program titled, “An Angel Who Walked Among Us.” Diana Beaudoin, interim vice president of student affairs, offered opening remarks, and Father Douglas Spina, and Reverend Philip Devens, Catholic and Protestant chaplains respectively, conducted the service.

On a table at the front of the room decorated with white roses, carnations, and tulips, framed color photographs of

Mauricio stood to each side of his Bryant degree. It had been presented posthumously to family members earlier that day in a ceremony in the Office of the President.

A guitar belonging to Mauricio’s roommate, Alessandro Barnabo ’96, was propped against the table, a symbol of Mauricio’s passion for music. Alessandro had been learning the guitar from Mauricio, and they often played together into the wee hours of the morning. Another friend, Sergio Rodriguez, played the guitar and sang some of Mauricio’s favorite songs.

A video produced by Mauricio’s friends called “Moments of Love and Laughter: Mauricio,” showed photographs from Mauricio’s childhood to his days at Bryant. A shot of an extremely messy bedroom brought laughter from those who knew him well. A final photo showed Mauricio and a friend, arm in arm, waving to the camera.

Sylvia Spears Peters, assistant director of multicultural student services, offered a Native American “Honor Song” on the flute. “I feel honored and proud to have known Mauricio,” she says. “He was a kindred spirit who sprinkled a little magic into my life. I will be forever thankful for the gift of Mauricio.”

Rhode Island Electoral System

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result in the electoral dominance of two parties, and lower the proportion of women and ethnic minorities able to win office. Political scientists and practitioners have generally concluded that the system suffers from serious flaws in relation to the alternatives, with most countries employing some version of either proportional representation or preferential voting.

The class will choose which alternative model(s) they prefer, and target offices in the state (i.e. governor, state legislature, and/or state representatives to the federal legislature). After investigating what legal steps would be required to change the laws governing these elections, the students will develop and implement an outreach campaign aimed at getting popular support for the change(s) they seek. This may include door-to-door canvassing in nearby communities, setting up information tables in public places, and meeting with community groups.

John Anderson, a former Congressman (R-Illinois) who ran as an independent candidate for president in 1980 and is today one of the country’s leading advocates of electoral reform, is scheduled to speak at Bryant College on Tuesday, April 2, at 7:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. (Location will be announced.)
SPIRIT AWARDS NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to nominate any physical plant, public safety, clerical, or administrative staff member for a 1996 Bryant Community Spirit Award. Nominees should be employees who go above and beyond the call of duty and make their presence felt in the Bryant Community.

Nomination forms are available in the library, at the Unistructure reception desk, and at the Bryant Center Info Desk. Deadline for submitting nominations is Friday, March 15. The winner(s) will be announced at the Annual Service Awards reception in May.

Ray Fogarty is the 1995-96 award recipient. Past winners are Jean Dominici, Judy Clare, Shirley Plante, Bob Reall, Ginnie Bowry, Elaine Goodwin, Judy Dawson, and former Bryant employees Nadine Schiavo and Berta Hysell.

ON THE MOVE

Congratulations to the following individuals on their recent promotions:

David DeBlois: Director of Financial Aid
Sheila Leonard: Data Entry Clerk/Financial Aid Assistant
Jim Segovis: Director of the Center for International Business and Economic Development (CIBED)

SPORTS SCHEDULE

The schedule below is for home games only. For information about away games, contact the athletic department at 232-6070.

Saturday, Feb. 17
1:30 p.m. Women's Basketball v. St. Michael's
3:30 p.m. Men's Basketball v. St. Michael's

Thursday, Feb. 22
7 p.m. Women's Basketball v. Assumption

Tuesday, March 19
3 p.m. Baseball v. Johnson & Wales

Saturday, March 23
1 p.m. Men's Tennis v. Assumption

Sunday, March 24
12 p.m. Baseball v. Sacred Heart

Monday, March 25
3 p.m. Baseball v. Roger Williams

Tuesday, March 26
3 p.m. Men's Tennis v. St. Anselm
3:30 p.m. Women's Softball v. Roger Williams

Wednesday, March 27
3 p.m. Baseball v. Lowell

Thursday, March 28
3 p.m. Men's Tennis v. Babson

Saturday, March 30
12 p.m. Women's Softball v. St. Joe's (ME)

Sunday, March 31
12 p.m. Baseball v. St. Anselm
12 p.m. Women's Softball v. St. Anselm

Employees Earn Extra Days Off

Thirty-nine clerical, secretarial, and public safety employees have earned two extra days off for taking three or less sick days in 1995. Congratulations and continued good health!

Roger Acosta
Helen Ammerman
Linda Asselin
Victoria Atkins
Marcia Beaulieu
Irene Bedard
Robbie Camara
Sheryl Canis
Carol Coronado
Lorraine Cournoyer
Pauline Denault
Maureen Dubuque
Avis Hallam
Jeannette Harrington
Donna Harris
Robert Holmes
Jane Jones
Linda LaChance
Lorraine Lallier
Donna Lamirande
Sheila Leonard
Carol Malo
Eileen McAuliffe
Naureen Mc Dermott
Vivian Paquin
Gilbert Peterson
Claire Pitts
Harinder Rai
Wynette Richardson
Lois Schilling
Carla Scott
Dorothy Scott
Claire Senecal
Marilyn Serapiglia
Nancy Servoss
Judith Tomaselli
Denis Traficante
Gail Valentine
Bettie Weber