

Holiday traditions light up campus

by Glen Davis & Gloria Yahn

The dome in Bryant's Rotunda sparkled with the reflections of hundreds of candle flames last Wednesday evening when students and staff gathered for the annual Festival of Lights. The popular nondenominational campus event, which also included the lighting of a Christmas tree by President Trueheart in the Bryant Center, began 14 years ago. It is a Bryant tradition that involves two of the holiday season's most venerable traditions: candles and Christmas trees. Let's take a look at the where, when, how, and why of these traditions, and a few other holiday traditions along the way.

Bryant's festival actually takes its name from the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah or Feast of the Lights. But the medieval Christian church also celebrated in December with candles, which it identified with Jesus Christ. Candles also were placed within houses and in windows to signify the presence of Christ.

In Ireland, in particular, candles were once lighted in the windows of homes as a signal to the local Catholic priest, who would sneak into the house during Christmas time. He would say a Mass unknown to the Protestant English.

Christmas trees were introduced in America by Germans and Hessians during the American Revolution. The first national recognition of the custom came with the first White House Christmas tree in 1856.

One of the first Christmas trees dates back to 1844 in England. Prince Albert and Queen Victoria had a tree at Windsor Castle for the pleasure of the royal children.

Decorating homes for Christmas also is an old practice. Before the current plastic Santas and artificial trees, flowers and other plants were used extensively to "deck the halls" at Christmastime.

A plant still popular in America as a

Christmas decoration is the poinsettia. The plant is named for the former U.S. ambassador to Mexico, Joel R. Poinsett, who in 1929 brought the colorful plant back to his home in South Carolina. Its "flowers," actually colored leaves, represent the flaming star of Bethlehem through its red bracts.

Christmas "charity" dates back to the early "doll-in-the-box" concept. On Christmas day, boxes were placed in churches for contributions of clothes, food, and toys, such as popular homemade dolls. More recently, the "doll-in-the-box" has given way to the "Christmas gift box" used by many charities.

Few Americans bother burning a "yule log" anymore, although it once was one of the most firmly entrenched of traditions. A log was brought home and placed in the fireplace and ignited with a twig saved from the year before. The log was to be ignited on the first try, or trouble would follow in the new year. Christmas stories were told during the 12 hours the log was supposed to burn.


Actually, if the Pilgrim fathers had had their way, we wouldn't even have Christmas. As Puritans, they hated all festivities, including Christmas. In 1659, in fact, the American colony Puritans passed a law stating that anyone found observing Christmas would be fined five shillings for each offense.

In particular disfavor with the Puritans



The Rotunda reflects candlelight at the annual Festival of Lights.

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

*Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah.
We wish all the members
of the Bryant family
a happy and joyous
holiday season.*

Bill and Carol Trueheart

How to be great at math: book by Bryant professor

Bryant professor Rick Smith has published a book on how to make every student great at math.

The book, "Mastering Mathematics: How To Be A Great Math Student," is on sale in trade and college bookstores and through direct mail coast to coast. Wadsworth Publishing, Inc., of Belmont, CA, noted for its list of mathematics books, is the publisher.

Smith, who chairs Bryant's math department, said he wrote the book not as a textbook but as a source of "friendly advice" and "concrete methods" he has been giving his own students.

"When I couldn't find a book offering

specific solutions," Smith said, "I decided to write one myself based on handouts I have been distributing for years."

In addition to royalties, Smith's book has brought him some notoriety. Several daily newspapers, including the *Providence Journal* and *Evening Bulletin*, have run stories on him.

"Mastering Math" is Smith's second book. He also has written four study guides for statistics courses. Smith holds PhD and MA degrees in math from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a BA in math from Queens College, New York. He has been teaching at Bryant since 1975.



Professor Rick Smith with his latest book.

Well Fare

Approximately 63 percent of Bryant's employees participated in the Wellness Clinic, the first phase of Bryant's Good Health Benefit program, according to the human resources office. The clinic was followed on December 4 with an "Alcohol and Drug Infostop," the first program to be run over the next year based on employee interests and needs.

Look for announcements of other programs. And take a few minutes now to read the following, edited from "Tips on Tippling," by Blue Cross & Blue Shield of RI.

Drinking plays a big part in our celebrations, sports events, and social gatherings--whether from habit or tradition. In some lives, it plays a bigger part than others.

Truth is, 10 percent of all Americans suffer from alcoholism, and that doesn't include the thousands of family members and friends who are drawn into this web of illness. What's more, drinking doesn't have to be done daily or weekly to have a negative impact on lives. Irrespective of age, sex or race, alcoholism takes its toll. It is not just an individual problem, but a societal one as well.

Who drinks and why?

Drinkers fall primarily into three categories: social drinkers, problem drinkers, and alcoholics.

A social drinker likes to drink when out with friends, for whatever reasons. Drinking socially is not a problem in and of itself, but done to excess, it can become one.

A problem drinker drinks for what he or she sees as a good reason: to reduce stress, forget a problem, build confidence. Problem drinkers are on their way to becoming alcoholics.

Alcoholics are ill and out-of-control, with a mental or physical compulsion to drink. They need professional help.

Knowing your actual limits when drinking would make it easier to drink. A body weighing 155 pounds, for instance, takes an hour to burn off 1.5 ounces of alcohol, although this varies according to a drink's level of ethanol. So don't try to free yourself from drinking responsibly with lines like: "I only drink beer." Or "I only drink wine." (12 ounce of beer = 5 ounces of wine = 1 ounce of liquor). Know when to say ENOUGH!

There are warning signs when alcohol is becoming a problem. Do you drink more under pressure? Do you occasionally gulp drinks? Or sneak a drink? Do you feel guilty about drinking?

You may need help. A list of drug and alcohol resources is available in the human resources office.

CMD has more to celebrate

Bryant's Center for Management Development has a lot more to celebrate tomorrow evening (Dec. 11) at its annual holiday reception.

This year the event also will serve to fete the nonprofit management certificate program launched this fall in partnership with the United Way.

And the holiday reception will introduce the first Nonprofit Management Advisory Board for the program--the first of its kind in New England and one of the first in the country.

The five nonprofit management courses offered on campus this fall drew 62 students from United Way and other agencies across Rhode Island and southern Massachusetts, according to Barbara Slater, The CENTER's noncredit programs director.

Enrollment is "beyond expectations," she said, adding that "we're particularly pleased with the range of people... attracted to this program, and the enthusiasm with which it has been received."

The reception runs from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Papiotto Dining Room. Among the speakers will be President Trueheart and United Way president W. Douglas Ashby.

Gifts exercising minds, bodies

Minds and bodies at Bryant are being exercised even more now by separate gifts to the College.

The Class of 1989's gift to Bryant, a bronze sculpture created by professor William Haas, graces the Archway area of the campus. It was unveiled and dedicated at a special ceremony on November 19.

The Jarvis Fitness Center, a gift of Clarence Jarvis '36 and other members of the Bryant community, has reopened after being enlarged in size and expanded in weight-training equipment. It was dedicated at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on November 14.

The sculpture, titled "Beginnings," is the first art work commissioned for the College. Mounted on a three-foot base, the 6 1/2-foot high sculpture represents the beginnings of culture and commerce and the concept that they go hand in hand in every great civilization.

Haas, President Trueheart, and Michael Mahrleg '89, chair of the class gift committee, unveiled the sculpture. They each made remarks at the unveiling, as did Charles Bradley '69, co-chair of the Parents' Council, and Leo Mahoney, Faculty Federation president. Those organizations and the Class of 1986 also donated money to the project. Vice President Les LaFond served as master of ceremonies. A reception followed the unveiling.



President Trueheart and Mike Mahrleg '89 unveil the Class of 1989's gift to Bryant.



Clarence Jarvis '36 tries out a Lifecycle in the fitness center named for him.

The fitness center now has 1,565 square feet of space covered with antimicrobial carpeting. It includes 16 Nautilus machines, three Lifecycles, 1,200 pounds of free weights, and 1,200 pounds of dumbbells. Open more than 90 hours a week, the fitness center offers trained instructors to teach you how to use the equipment correctly.

Cutting the ribbon at the opening ceremony was Karen Ferreira, fitness center manager. She was joined by Jarvis and President Trueheart, each of whom also spoke along with athletics director Leon Drury and Student Senate representative Larry Jasper. Trustee Lloyd Granoff served as MC.

Demonstrations of equipment and a reception followed the ribbon-cutting.

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were mince meat pies, made of desirable meats like duck, blackbird, and goose. A holiday favorite of the early Americans, the mince pie was made in the oblong shape of a manger with an image of Jesus on top. It was this reproduction of Christ that aroused Puritan wrath.

Fortunately, Southern colonists and the Quakers resisted the Puritans' anti-Christmas spirit with their own festive celebrations. And throughout the world today, we continue to celebrate the holiday season in our own ways, with our own traditions.

QUICKLY

...Bryant was well represented again at the annual conference of the Northeast Business and Economics Association, held in Newport this year. Papers were presented by professors **Kathy Simons, Chantee Lewis, Janet Daniels, Ron DiBattista, Larry Lowe, George de Tarnowsky, Paul Dion, Frank Bingham, Charlie Quigley, Alan Olinsky, Phyllis Schumacher, and Ed Popper.** Also participating as chairpersons or discussants were President emeritus and professor **William O'Hara** and professors **Dana Lowe, Sam Mirmirani, DiBattista, Simons, Dion, Larry Lowe, Bruce Buskirk, and Popper...**

...Professor **Robert Ronstadt's** article, "Resist! Postpone Outside Financing, and Cut a Better Deal," has been accepted for publication by *Success* magazine. Also, his article, "The Educated Entrepreneurs: A New Era of Entrepreneurship Education is Beginning," was reprinted in *Entrepreneurial Education...*

...Career services assistant director **Judy Clare** addressed St. Dunstan's High School students on careers in business in late November...

...Professor **John Jolley** talked about retirement to the Attleboro Rotary Club last month...

..."Are Buyers Misled by Their Perception of Salespeople: An Empirical Investigation," is the title of an article written by professors **Frank Bingham and Paul Dion.** It has been accepted for publication by the *Journal of Marketing Management...*

...Professor **Larry Lowe** addressed the annual dinner of Bryant's Delta Omega Society earlier this month. His topic: "Advertising and Ad Research"...

...Adjunct professor **Jessan Dunn Decredico** has been asked to be a feature writer/artist at the National Women's Museum in Washington, D.C. next spring...

...Professor **Robert Muksian** addressed faculty and students of the mathematics and computer science department at Rhode Island College. His topic: "The Awesome Power of Compound Interest"....

..."Estate and Gift Tax Planning Strategies for Accountants" was the topic professor **Eugene Amelio** talked about at the 38th annual Accountant's Educational Conference in Mansfield, MA...

...Professor **Mike Filippelli** spoke to Smithfield High School students in October about careers in accounting...

By the way..

by Gloria Yahn

● **Ray Fogarty**, of the Export Assistance Center, his wife, Phoebe, and their children, Ray and Meg, have **welcomed another son** and brother, Michael James, into their ever-growing family. Born November 12, Michael weighed 8 lbs. 11 ozs. Congratulations, Fogartys!

● A special hello to **Scott LeBeau**, public safety officer, who as a Marine Reserve, has been **activated and sent to Saudi Arabia**. As soon as an address for Scott is available, I'll pass it on to you. Meanwhile, our best wishes to Scott and all others who are there serving!

● Jo-Anne Lema, assistant vice president for planning, wants you to know that a copy of the **final report of "Parents of Inquiring Students"** is now **available** in the library for your review.

● **The Faculty Federation invites you** to share in the merriment of its annual **holiday party** Wednesday (December 12) at the new Crickets restaurant on Route 116. The fun begins at 4 p.m.

● Jean Dominici, chair of the **Council of Secretarial/Clerical Staff**, tells me the council is **sponsoring three needy families** for the holiday season. They provide a gift certificate for food and presents for family members. If you wish to donate to this worthy cause, send a check or cash to Jean in human resources.

● Get well wishes to professor **Bill Sweeney**, who is **home recuperating** from surgery. Anyone wishing to send a little cheer Bill's way can contact him at 42 Clipper Way, Bristol, RI 02809. Here's to a speedy recovery, Bill!

● As the new year unfolds I want to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Office of Public Information, to thank you for keeping us informed on what is happening with you and with those around you. And our **best wishes** for a happy and healthy **holiday season** and a prosperous new year.

New Faces



Douglas R. Levin
Assistant Professor, Science

Douglas Levin most recently was a physical scientist at a coastal engineering research center of the Army Corps of Engineers in Mississippi. Levin also has worked as a project and research geologist for several institutions and as a consultant in the US, Mexico, and Zaire. He holds an MA in geology from Boston University and a BS in biology from Farleigh Dickinson University, and is completing a PhD program in marine sciences/geology at Louisiana State University.



Dana Ruth Lowe
Assistant Professor, Accounting

Dana Lowe has taught also at Morgan State University, Loyola College and the University of Tulsa. A former banker and fitness center owner and operator, Lowe holds an MBA from Wichita State University and a BA in social anthropology from the University of Washington. She is completing a doctoral program in accounting at George Washington University.



Larry S. Lowe
Associate Professor, Marketing

Larry Lowe came to Bryant from Valdosta State College. He has taught

also at the University of Tulsa, Western Kentucky University, Loyola College, Wichita State University, and the University of New Haven. Lowe, who has business interests in two companies, holds a PhD in marketing from the University of Washington and an MBA and BS from Portland State University.



David S. Lux
Associate Professor, History

David Lux came to Bryant from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. He has taught also at Franklin and Marshall College and the University of Michigan. Lux holds PhD, MA and AB degrees in history from the University of Michigan, and has been awarded three fellowships.



Shirley Jo Miller
Assistant Professor, Marketing

Shirley Jo Miller came to Bryant from Emporia State University. She has taught also at the Universities of Missouri, Houston-Clear Lake, and Arkansas and Southwest Missouri State University. Miller holds a PhD in marketing from the University of Arkansas and an MBA and BS in education from the University of Kansas.

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