

Alumni Newsletter

Volume Five, Number Three

Summer 1992

Editor: Jill T. Nosach '86

*Alumni
Weekend '92
Draws
Record
Attendance*

Attracting more than 850 alumni back to campus, **Alumni Weekend '92** was a three-day festival of fun...



Members of the 50th Reunion Class attending their introductory Loyal Guard Luncheon

From uproarious fraternity and sorority antics to dignified, sumptuous dinners...



Reminiscing sisters from APK



'92 Alumni Award Recipients flanked by Bill Trueheart, President, and Greg Parkos '50, '88H Chair-elect, Board of Trustees: Jeff Ferrante '81, Matt Boland '61, Gretchen Hofmann '83, Marie (Bonin) Cote '54

With special events for the reunion year classes of 1942, 1947, 1952, 1957, 1967, 1972, 1982, and 1987, as well as alumni awards, faculty book signings, and campus tours...



Showcasing our "future alumni" at the 10th Reunion Party by the Pond

Alumni Weekend '92 also featured an excursion to our former East Side campus complete with buffet and entertainment on the lawn of South Hall. Lively tours of the "old campus" were led by Marie (Bonin) Cote '54, Nelson J. Gulski '26, '72H, and Carolyn (Girelli) Skeffington '57.



Revisiting the former East Side Campus

To help plan your class reunion to be held during **Alumni Weekend '93**, please call Jill (Charpentier) Nosach '86 at 401-232-6040.

Vito Basile '56: Rebuilding a Life

At age 53, Vito Basile suffered a stroke causing him to lose his sight, his hearing, and his job. Now after only four years, he has rebuilt his life and edged out some 6,300 blind workers across the country to be named 1992 National Blind Worker of the Year.

After graduating from Bryant in 1956, Vito moved to Miami and began his 27-year career with the US Customs Service, working his way up to the position of director at the Port of Palm Beach. Working on illegal drug operations, Vito says he netted anywhere from 200 pounds to 6,900 pounds of cocaine.

In April 1988, Vito was assailed by bypass surgery, pneumonia, and brain lesions. Then he slipped into a six-week coma.

Miraculously he recovered and tried to return to work. "I had trouble accepting the fact that I was blind," said Vito, who used to golf and play racquetball. "I knew I was becoming a burden to the Customs Service."

Aided by his wife, Marianne, Vito received training and counseling from

the Lighthouse for the Blind. The program strengthened his self-esteem and empowered him to return to full-time employment. Vito now packages plastic utensils for the Lighthouse and enjoys taking walks and going bowling. "He has discovered there are things he can do," said Marianne Basile. "He's got some of his sense of humor back." He has also learned to ride the bus from his home in Palm Beach Gardens to the Lighthouse office in West Palm Beach.

Vito was honored as the 1992 National Blind Worker of the Year because of his hard work and ability to overcome overwhelming odds. According to Vito, "When I came here, I just wanted to be a good worker. I never thought I would be awarded for that. It just overwhelms me."

** Editor's Note: This essay is based on an article written by William Cooper Jr., staff writer for the Palm Beach Post. The article by Mr. Cooper appeared in the March 29, 1992, edition of the Post and was sent to the Bryant College Alumni Office individually by several alumni who read Vito Basile's story and were touched by his strength.*

Best of the BEST



F. Graveson, N.Savage, E.Koppel, W.LoSchiavo, B.Marchand, M.Butzko, T.Morra, H.Franks; J.Campbell, G.Lyden, M.Kensil, N.Puniello, S.Sigel; E.Almonte, R.Corsini, A.Gaudet, J.Delmonico, E.Rosenberg

The Bryant Enrollment Support Team (BEST) held six yield receptions this spring. These gatherings gave accepted applicants an opportunity to

talk with Bryant faculty, staff, alumni, current parents, and current students. Approximately 65 percent of the accepted applicants who attended one of the receptions deposited by May 1. Hosting the receptions were Mike Cassano '82, Paul Connery '81 and George Law '82, Joe Deegan '84, Ann Richards '88, Nick Puniello '80 and Chuck Carboni '88.

In addition to conducting the yield receptions, the 65 BEST alumni telephoned a total of 345 accepted applicants. Of these, 120 sent in their deposits by May 1. To become a BEST volunteer, call Eileen Chekal at 401-232-6442.

*Continuing
Your
Education*

Challenges and Opportunities, the second annual series of Alumni Continuing Education Programs, will begin on Tuesday evening, August 25, with *Dealing with Workaholism* from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Led by Barbara Slater, manager of evening non-credit professional continuing education courses at Bryant's CENTER for Management Development, this program will examine the difference between someone who simply loves his or her work and a workaholic. Participants will explore attitudes and beliefs about work and its purpose and formulate personal goals for achieving a more positive attitude about the role of work in their lives. Cost, including a light supper and all program materials, is \$25.

Back by popular demand, *Career Transitions* will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 26. Designed for career changers and job seekers, this program offers a panel of professionals to help you assess your skills, polish your resume, and prepare for a successful interview. Also, a panel of human resource professionals will discuss what companies look for in employees. The specially discounted price of \$20 includes lunch.

SAVE! Register for the fall **Challenges and Opportunities** package including both *Dealing with Workaholism* and *Career Transitions* and pay only \$40. Call Donna Harris at 401-232-6040 to register.

*Rhode Island
Chapter
Meets*

On June 24 the Rhode Island Alumni Chapter met to discuss plans for the upcoming year. Volunteers signed on for three specific areas: Bryant Enrollment Support Team (BEST); Career Services Network, and programming.

The programming committee met again on July 21 and will have events listed in the next Newsletter.

To join the Rhode Island Chapter, call Paula (Pascone) Iacono '69 at 401-232-6040.

*Job Fair
Attracts
Hundreds*



Bryant Alumni at the Job Fair

For the second consecutive year, more than 500 alumni from a consortium of nine area colleges were drawn to the

Hynes Convention Center in Boston, MA, to attend the **Job Fair for Experienced Alumni**.

Recruiters were on hand from nearly 60 companies representing several diverse industries. The job-seekers, all of whom have been in the work force for at least one year, also benefitted from a series of informative workshops.

For details on next year's job fair, call Judy Bellante at 401-232-6090.

*PawSox
Tickets Still
Available*

Bryant alumni night at the Pawtucket Red Sox is Thursday, August 27. Pawtucket challenges Richmond at 7:00 p.m.

Bryant box seats are available at \$4.50 per person. Please call Donna Harris at 401-232-6040 to make your reservations.

Library Policy

All alumni are entitled to access the Edith M. Hodgson Memorial Library at Bryant College simply by presenting their alumni cards. You are free to use the books, periodicals, and reference services in the library, as well as borrow circulating materials. If you have misplaced your alumni card, call 401-232-6040 for a replacement.

Boost Your Business

The Rhode Island Small Business Development Center at Bryant College is offering the following programs for new business ventures:

July 30	Business Startups: Planning for Success
August 6	Structuring Your Business Plan
August 13	Developing a Marketing Strategy
August 20	Financial Projections and Loan Requests
August 27	Business Plan Wrap- up and Review

For more information, please call the RISBDC at (401) 232-6111.

Mentors Needed

The Alumni Mentor Program, which pairs successful alumni with interested students, is looking for alumni in all fields for its fall program. To receive a descriptive brochure and application, call Donna Harris at 401-232-6040.

Calendar

Aug. 10	RI Golf Tournament
Aug. 25	Workaholism
Aug. 27	PawSox event
Sept. 16	Convocation
Sept. 23	NYC event
Sept. 26	Career Transitions
Oct. 1	Northern RI Chamber of Commerce Expo at Bryant College
Oct. 4	Kristen Hatch '91 Memorial Road Race
Oct.	Fairfield County, CT, Meeting
Nov.	Boston, MA, event
Dec. 2	Festival of Lights
Jan.	NYC event
March	Florida events
June 11-13	Alumni Weekend '93

Bryant Legacy



*Mathew Park '57 and his niece
Cynthia Stone '92*

On May 15 and 16 more than 1,000 new graduates were welcomed into the Bryant College Alumni Association. Receptions honoring their graduate and undergraduate accomplishments were held across the campus following the Commencement exercises.

Association President Catherine Parente '78 addressed the assemblies and the Alumni Relations Office hosted the receptions.



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Task Force Affects Alumni

One of the results of the Task Force on Alumni Relations which will directly impact alumni is the refocusing on communications with alumni. Through focus groups, it was discovered that most alumni enjoy the *Newsletter* and would like to receive it more frequently. Also, a more contemporary look may invite a larger readership. Therefore, a change in the next few issues of this piece may be noticed. Your comments would be most appreciated and should be sent to Jill (Charpentier) Nosach '86, Bryant College Alumni Relations Office, 1150 Douglas Pike, Smithfield, RI 02917-1284.

In dissolving the current hierarchical structure of the Alumni Association, we are implementing a geographically-based, task-oriented organization. Some of the changes initiated by the metamorphosis include:

■ The reformation of the **Rhode Island Alumni Chapter**: The first meeting was held on June 24. To participate in future events, call Paula (Pascone) Iacono '69 at 401-232-6040.

■ A strong emphasis on alumni assistance in student recruitment: thus the creation of the Bryant Enrollment Support Team (**BEST**). See page 2 for details.

■ Increased interest in career services for alumni: for example the Alumni Continuing Education series, **Opportunities and Challenges**, featuring fall programs on *Workaholism* and *Career Transitions*. See page 3 for details.

To learn more about your Alumni Association, please call Paula or Jill at 401-232-6040.

Student Alumni Association Elects Officers

The Student Alumni Association (SAA) has elected the following officers for the 1992-93 academic year: **President - Jennifer Banks '94** of Bethlehem, CT, who chaired this year's Festival of Lights; **Vice President - Kimberly Mascaro '94** of West Simsbury, CT, who chaired this

year's Toy Drive; **Secretary - Jennifer Kitlinski '93** of Waterford, CT, who is the immediate past president of the SAA; and **Treasurer - Annie Vaillancourt '94** of Bristol, CT, who served on the following SAA committees this year: Festival of Lights, Toy Drive, and Oozzball.