Excellent people

Meet this year’s Bryant University Alumni Achievement Awards recipients:

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD

Major General (Retired USMC)
Robert C. Dickerson, Jr. ’73

In high school, Robert Dickerson ’73 dreamed of playing for the Boston Red Sox and amassing a small fortune. Undaunted, however, he had other plans. After being picked #10 in the draft lottery for Vietnam in 1969, Robert went on to experience a remarkable 36-year career in the United States Marine Corps.

While moving up the ranks in the military and being a devoted husband and father, Robert found time to obtain master’s degrees from Central Michigan University and the College of Naval Warfare. Though now retired from military life, he is executive vice president for Marine Federal Credit Union, where he “takes care of this nation’s most precious resource – our young service members.”

Robert believes that anyone who gives 100 percent effort without sacrificing their values to achieve their goals is successful. “When the day is finished, your legacy is how you helped shape others’ lives.”

YOUNG ALUMNUS LEADERSHIP AWARD

Nicholas Bohnsack ’00

As operating partner and sector strategist at Strategas Research Partners in New York City, Nicholas Bohnsack ’00 has diverse responsibilities. From research and advisory work across various economic sectors to daily operations of the firm, he wears a lot of hats as one of three partners in this small strategy, research, and advising company.

“Starting our own firm has been, as you can imagine, both rewarding and challenging,” he says. “But the flexibility I have to pursue any project that will benefit the business is appealing, and Bryant’s focus on entrepreneurial thinking provided me the foundation to do this.”

This young business leader believes that leadership is an extension of trust. “My experience has shown that you must articulate a clear vision, hire good people, and understand that you’re not always right,” says Nicholas. “Treating people as you want to be treated is always the right choice.”

DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD

Peter Nigro, Ph.D.

Ask Peter Nigro why he became a teacher and he says without hesitation: the students. Peruse some of the e-mails the finance professor and Sarkisian Chair has received from current and former students, and it’s immediately clear the impact he has made.

They share career updates or talk about interests that were sparked in Peter’s classroom. Those connections he forged and the impressions he made helped Nigro earn recognition from Business Week in 2007 as one of 20 favorite business professors.

In the classroom, Peter combines his passion for education with more than a decade of experience as a bank regulator at the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency in Washington, D.C.

“This award makes me think of my former students, all of whom made me a better teacher,” he says. “To be honest, I can’t believe I get paid for doing what I love so much.”

NELSON J. GULSKI SERVICE AWARD

Diana (Policastri) Marro ’58

When Diana (Policastri) Marro ’58 thinks back to her time at Bryant, she remembers fondly an undertaking that is closely linked to her recognition as the Nelson J. Gulski Service Award recipient. Diana and her sorority sisters in Delta Sigma Chi joined with their brother fraternity to adopt a cottage at the State Home and School for Children.

After class, she and her classmates would spend time with the children reading or playing board games. Their efforts helped them win Bryant’s first community service award.

Today, Diana is a member of Bryant’s National Alumni Council and helps reconnect alumni with their alma mater. She also enjoys opportunities to interact with the University’s current students. “I get a great deal of satisfaction from sharing information and encouraging students,” she says. “These are some of the most important years of your life – make the most of each day.”
What’s new?

Students breathe fire into new club

Bryant is home to what is believed to be the country’s only university-sponsored dragon dance team. The 16-member team of students (many of whom are majoring in international business) has performed throughout Rhode Island since October 2009 and is coached by Kai Hu, a professor of physical education from the China University of Geosciences (CUG) who is at Bryant as part of a faculty exchange program. For more up-to-date news on Bryant’s science programs and facilities, go to:

> www.bryant.edu/science

All creatures, great and small

The Department of Science and Technology introduced a minor in biology this spring. Biology minors will be able to study and work in the science labs that were renovated and upgraded in summer of 2009. For more information on Bryant’s science programs and facilities, go to:

> www.bryant.edu/science

Alumni FAQs

Where can I buy Bryant apparel or other kinds of memorabilia?

Alumni merchandise is sold at the Bryant Bookstore and can be ordered online. Please visit the bookstore Web site at:

> www.bryantbkstr.com

How can I get a schedule of athletic games? Where can I get tickets?

Please visit www.bryantbulldogs.com to obtain information about upcoming athletic games. For all other athletic inquiries, please phone the Office of Athletics at (401) 232-6070 or email sportinfo@bryant.edu

How can I get an alumni card?

If you’re interested in using the library’s print or online resources, you can request an alumni card by calling the Office of Alumni Relations at (401) 232-6040 or via email at: alumni@bryant.edu. Visit their Web site for hours and more information at:

> library.bryant.edu

I want to find my college roommate. Can you help me?

Yes! You can look him or her up yourself online by going to www.bryant.edu/alumnicomunity. You’ll need the nine-digit ID number on your address panel of the Alumni Bulletin if you’ve never before registered for the online community. You can easily look up your fellow alumni:

- By class year
- By first or last name
- By state, country, or region

Or, call us at (401) 232-6040, and we will reach out to make the connection on your behalf.

Regional Alumni Network (RAN) events

A spirited group gathered to cheer on our Division I Men’s Basketball Team as they took on the Hoosiers at Indiana on December 28. Alumni in the above photo include (in alpha order) Roger Belanger ’80, Lisette (Duguay) Clem ’85, Joanne (Wilcox) Davignon ’85, Tom Galullo ’85, Walter Kenyon ’59, Matt McLaughlin ’92, Gerard Roy ’67, Le Tien ’98, and Jay Weinberg ’85.

Berta Hysell visited her former students in Puerto Rico in February. Pictured left to right are Francesco Piovanello ’94, Alfredo Fernandez-Morell ’94, Paco San Miguel ’86, Lina (Lopez) Lafayette ’86, Jennifer Carity ’94, Jose Martinez ’92, Blanca Alvarez ’90, Ana Suarez ’90, and Francisco Alba ’88. (Marcelo Gutierrez ’92 and Carlos Bruno ’86 missed the picture.)
Spring cleaning?

We want your Bryant stuff! Yearbooks, t-shirts, pennants, photos…anything you need to clear out for any reason, we’ll be happy to take off your hands. Call (401) 232-6040 or e-mail alumni@bryant.edu, and tell us what you’ve got!

A better view

Having trouble reading the small print? Check out the Alumni Bulletin online. As alumnus Art Simeone ’49 points out, “I can read and fully enjoy the publication on my PC with the help of the font magnification features now available.”

Thanks, Art, for sharing this helpful tip!
Regional Alumni Network (RAN) events

Former Bryant Basketball players joined for a half-court game before cheering on the current Women’s Basketball Team on January 30.

From left to right: Lynn-Ann Zoltowski ’05, Ann-Marie Harrington ’86, Patricia Sanetti ’86, Liz Davies ’96, Lindsay (Hermann) Lacey ’05, Tanya Iwanski ’04.

Alumni impart career tips

When all departments at Bryant work together, we can provide a truly wonderful experience for our students from orientation to graduation. Recently, the Office of Alumni Relations and the Amica Center for Career Services teamed up to form Student/Alumni Career Nights. At these career networking events, alumni speak informally one-on-one to students about specific career paths, industries, preparation, search strategies, and their experiences. It’s a great way for alumni to help out and give back to their alma mater. If you’re interested in hosting one of these events, contact Robin Warde at rwarde@bryant.edu.

Students had a great time hearing career advice and Bryant antics from the alumni in Boston, New York and Hartford this January. Alumni shared valuable insight about the career planning process.

Santa Monica’s Wilshire Restaurant was jammed with LA area alumni. Pictured are Jeffrey Geida ’96 and Sebastien Dubois ’98.

JANUARY 7, LIBERTY MUTUAL, BOSTON
Theresa Gomes ’07 and Derrick Pouliot ’07

JANUARY 13, FIDELITY, NEW YORK
Paul Epperlein ’03 (far left) and Jordan Stark ’02 (far right) with several current undergraduate and MBA students.

JANUARY 14, MET LIFE, HARTFORD
Nick Cianci ’06 (second from left) sharing a laugh with several current undergraduate and MBA students.

Several alumni from Panama gathered with students from the Sophomore International Experience program last January. Pictured from left to right: Pedro DeTresno-Reyes ’99, Roberto Halman ’83, and Julio Vasquez-Pretto ’88.

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It’s a concept that is almost unheard of in the modern mortgage-lending industry: long-term relationships. But that is exactly the foundation on which Province Mortgage Associates rests.

“I wanted to start a lending company where the customer service would be exceptional and the employees would all feel a sense of ownership,” says Province founder and president, David Currie ’93. “We want clients for life, and at the end of the day, it’s about providing them with the products and services they want and need.”

David knows a thing or two about being successful in the mortgage industry. Eight years working for two different mortgage companies, where he earned five awards for being one of the top producers, gave David the experience to set out on his own.

His culture of supplying great service and empowering employees is what drew other Bryant grads to Dave and his company. Don Wilson ’92, ’94 MBA, director of corporate relations and senior mortgage advisor; Rhonda DelSignore ’97, senior mortgage advisor; and Lynn (Cuzzi) Pearson ’94, mortgage advisor joined Province shortly after it opened its doors in July 2005.

One of the unique services that Province Mortgage Associates provides is the “MORE” Financial Wellness Program in partnership with employers. MORE educates about mortgage basics, credit repair, budgeting, financial and estate planning, and a variety of other topics at no charge to employees or their companies. MORE is a flagship, customer-oriented program.

“What I think is truly exceptional about Province is that when other companies were taking advantage of the real estate bubble, we stayed focused on the customer,” says Don. “We’re all proud to be on Dave’s team.”

This group of alumni is committed to “guiding you home”
The Alumni Attitude Survey, completed by Texas-based Performance Enhancement Group, was sent via e-mail to about 15,000 alumni, and responses came back from all class years.

“It’s important that we hear directly from our alumni, and that we act on their input,” notes President of the Bryant University Alumni Association Jim Magee ’88. “The feedback gives us an opportunity to refine our programs and communications based on hard data.”

Similar to other schools surveyed, Bryant alumni want to know that the value of their degree is higher today than it was when they graduated, and that the University (still College to many) continues to expand its reach and reputation. Bryant grads are also interested in our school rankings and the accomplishments of students. Bryant alumni believe there is an obligation to identify job opportunities for graduates and to provide networking opportunities at all levels. Alumni Relations has responded to this interest by increasing the number of networking events through the Regional Alumni Network, and by adding speakers and panel discussions that add value to the experience. The Amica Center for Career Education (formerly Career Services) is equipped to identify internships, mentors, and job shadowing opportunities for current students from among our alumni.

A series of communications questions highlighted the importance of electronic communications and an improved Web site – both high priority areas for enhancements. Still, the print medium isn’t going away soon, as alumni look forward to both the Bryant Magazine and the Alumni Bulletin for news on classmates, faculty, and programs.

Didn’t have a chance to fill out the survey? Make sure we have your e-mail by registering for the online community. www.bryant.edu/alumni

Alumni helping students

Steve Abouzeid ’01, of Meditech talking with a student at the March 3 Career Fair on campus.

Bob Calabro ’88, a Bryant Trustee and PricewaterhouseCoopers partner, met with students in the rotunda along with Gena Wilson ’08, Fanta Kaba ’08, Ann Ulett, and Ramkumar Palaniappan ’09.

Bryant alumni Francisco San Miguel ’86 and Jose Buenaga ’82 are joined by President Ron Macheney at a winter reception in Puerto Rico, co-hosted by the Admission Office.

The women’s basketball team presented the game ball to Bryant Alumna Pal Secka ’35, who played for Bryant in the 1933-34 season. The Bulldogs finished with a 13-16 season, their first in Division I (10-8 in our conference).
Regional Alumni Network (RAN) events

Several ski and snowboard enthusiasts ventured out to Loon Mountain for an Alumni Ski Weekend. Some of the alumni are pictured here with friends and family:

Back Row: Justin Germain, Sarah Campbell ’08, Danielle Gaudreau, Andrew Nunes ’08, and Brian Levin ’06

Front Row: Cairra Germain ’93, Madeline Brown, Kathleen Brown and Nixon Matthew.

Top numbers from Reunion 2009

$40,550
Raised by Class of ’69 in ’09

89
Number of the Class of ’89 who registered for Reunion

827
Number of alumni preregistered for Reunion 2009

13%
Of the 50th Reunion class were present for their induction in the Loyal Guard

827
Number of alumni preregistered for Reunion 2009

24%
Of the Class of ’54 donated to Bryant in ’09

All alumni are invited to Homecoming, but if your class year ends in a ’0’ or a ’5’ this is your reunion year. Don’t miss the festivities starting Friday, October 8, and running through Sunday, October 10. Register early for savings and to secure your hotel room close to campus.

Early registration opens May 1 at www.bryant.edu/reunion. This is our preliminary schedule – more activities to come!

FRIDAY

Alumni Golf Outing
Crystal Lake Country Club
Noon, shotgun start

Alumni Welcome Reception
Heritage/Papitto Dining Room, Bryant Center
3 to 9:30 p.m.

Evening Performance TBD
South Dining Hall
8 p.m.

Bryant Fireworks
Bryant Center Patio
9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

Alumni Reunion Breakfast
Heritage/Papitto, Bryant Center
9 to 10 a.m.

Student Leader Reunions and Homecoming Parade
South Dining Hall and other locations
10 a.m. to Noon

5th Annual Bryant Pride and GLBT Reunion
Rotunda
10 a.m. to Noon

Alumni Games
Locations TBD
10 a.m. to Noon

Back to Class
Locations TBD
10 a.m. to Noon

Reunion Barbecue and Celebration
Alumni Reunion Tent
11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Loyal Guard Luncheon
George E. Bello Center, Stephan Grand Hall
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

11:30 a.m. – Noon: Induction of the Class of 1950

Noon – 2 p.m.: Served lunch and photos

Tailgating
Reserved parking area
11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
No early admittance

Bulldog Fan Zone
Area outside Bulldog Stadium
Noon to 4 p.m.

Bryant Football vs. Sacred Heart
Bulldog Stadium
1 to 4 p.m.

Post-Game Alumni Celebration
with Live Band and Dinner
Alumni Reunion Tent
4 to 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY

Alumni Memorial Service
Bryant’s New Interfaith Center
10:30 a.m.

The 10th Annual Shawn M. Nunaney ’09 Memorial Cross Country Race/Walk
1 p.m.

Regional Alumni Network (RAN) events

Katwalk – 50 or so alumni reveled at the Katwalk in New York on February 19. Photo 1: Kristen McClain ’09 and Richard Bellomo ’08; Photo 2: Jeff Scribner ’05, Eric Bertrand ’94, and Mike Cochrane ’05

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Nick and Jean-Maxwell (Barker) ‘54 Catsakis of Nokomis, FL, recently celebrated their 50th Golden Wedding Anniversary with friends at a reception at Boca Royale Country Club in Englewood, FL, and a banquet at the Oaks Country Club in Osprey, FL. They were married on January 23, 1960, in Washington, D.C., where they worked until moving to Florida full time in 1989.

A group of alumni from the San Jose area met at the Grill on the Alley in February. Clockwise from top left, Jack Trifts, Dean of the College of Business, Christopher Warner ‘96, Mary Pitino ‘96, Julie DaRocha ‘10, Lorinda Eggers ‘04, Robin Warde, Director of Alumni Relations, Steve ‘65 and Sue Kelly, Ted ‘64 and Gail Arena.

TRIVIA:
What was the song they played during basketball warm ups in the 1970s?
E-mail your answers to alumni@bryant.edu.

Andiamo! Capisce?
That’s right, the next planned Alumni Travel event is to Italy! Save the dates of November 1 – November 9. It will be Sorrento with a side of Rome! Built on a long cliff, this lovely old town of exquisite gardens, historic buildings, and bountiful orange and lemon trees is the perfect base for excursions along the majestic Amalfi Coast.
With visits to the famous ruins of Pompeii, the Isle of Capri, and plenty of leisure time in Sorrento, plus an overnight in Rome, this tour provides some of the very best of Italy! Details to come... check the Alumni homepage for updates.

Alumni braved the unusual snowy February cold in North Carolina to cheer on our Men’s Lacrosse team for their season opener against UNC. Go Bulldogs! Several alumni joined Jim Darmon, Vice President for University Advancement, to warm up after the game at a nearby restaurant.

Campus visits made personal
Recent visitors to campus include Albert Stanwood ‘39 of Michigan who visited the Smithfield campus for the first time and stopped for a photo up in front of Bryant’s Archway relocated from the East Side Campus.

Alumni traveled in the snowy February cold in North Carolina to cheer on our Men’s Lacrosse team for their season opener against UNC. Go Bulldogs! Several alumni joined Jim Darmon, Vice President for University Advancement, to warm up after the game at a nearby restaurant.

Andrea Tizoli ‘96 and his fiancée Ilaria, both from Rome, Italy, visited Bryant in January and toured the campus with Finance Professor Betty Yobaccio.
Bryant is going places!

During the month of April, the University conducted an advertising campaign designed to reinforce our institutional visibility and awareness in key markets along the Atlantic seaboard and across the nation. The campaign featured a series of three print ads (with a faculty member from our College of Business, the College of Arts and Sciences, and a staff member) complemented by online advertisements. Our placements include The New York Times, USA Today; and The Washington Post, among other prominent media outlets. Each ad showcased Bryant’s leadership role in innovative education, our commitment to students who will be prepared to make a difference in the world, and our dedication to inspiring The Character of Success. We are pleased that this campaign allowed us to bring greater awareness to the University’s many achievements.

Support scholarships at Bryant

President’s Cup Golf Tournament

Save the Date: June 28, 2010 | Newport Country Club

TO RESERVE YOUR FOURSOME or for more information, contact Ed Magen at emagan@bryant.edu or (401) 232-4628 or John Garcia at jgarcia@bryant.edu or (401) 232-6573

Let’s ride!

Spring is here! Let’s get “in the wind.” The Office of Alumni Relations scheduled a special alumni networking event—a motorcycle run followed by a social gathering with food and drink. Register now for the ride on Sunday, June 6, 2010. In the tradition of most rides, Bryant’s riders will raise money for a cause. Register at:

www.bryant.edu/alumni_events

Partnerships

Notices received between 12/15/09 and 3/26/10

1999
Nicole Christa to Elia (Christa) ’98 and Neil Raymond ’98 on 1/18/09
Carena Grazz to Lindsey Wilk and Francis Doehner ’98 on 12/4/09

2000
Marie Ada to Jennifer (Newman) ’99 and James O’Neil ’99 on 9/29/09
Benjamin Robert to Kathryn (Hayward) ’96, ’10 MBA, and Robert Freese Jr. ’96 on 9/16/09

2001
Julie (Dubley) ’91 to Steven Johnson Jr. ’98 on 9/14/09
Deborah Boyle ’91 to Donghyun Lee on 9/15/09

2005
Anthony Carullo ’96 to Amanda Lizza on 6/27/09

Additions

Notices received between 12/15/09 and 3/26/10

1994
Tyler Paul to Kathleen (Barry) ’94 and Chris Cone on 12/29/99
Nina Catherine, Luke John, and Jake Robert to Katherine (Aucello) ’94 and Michael Goyette ’94 on 10/1/09

1995
Jazmyn Alyyah to Heather (Leapo) ’95 and James Callahan on 3/26/05

1997
Natalie Esther to Alicia (Kadlec) ’97 and Joseph Henderson on 12/19/09
Elizana Denise Carroll to Tyrella and Eric Aldy ’97 on 2/10/09

2002
Cameron Eileen to Kynthia (Mignosa) ’92 and James Robach on 1/19/10
Emma Elaine to Sarah (Wolff) ’02 and Joseph Silva Jr. ’92 on 9/30/09

2003
Zoe Grace to Hanna (Nielson) Stoy ’95 and Sean Jackson on 11/16/09

CORRECTION
In the January issue, we incorrectly identified an alumnus who helped us coordinate the 2009 Greek Reunion Facebook pages for Reunion @ Homecoming. Our debt of gratitude belongs to Eric Rothberg ’93. Sorry, Eric!

Calendar

New alumni events are added weekly. Check www.bryant.edu/alumni_events for the updated calendar.

Bryant, Smithfield, RI
May 3, 6:30-8:30
Student Alumni Networking Dinner
Bella Center, Grand Hall

Minneapolis, MN
May 13, 6:30-8:30
M&S Grill

Boston, MA
May 13, 6:30-8:30
Sip & Socialize at Bryant’s Alumni Open Mic Night

Lincoln, RI
May 10, 6-9
Catch a Rising Star Comedy Club

Bryant Campus
Graduate Commencement
May 20, 5 p.m.

Bryant Campus
Undergraduate Commencement
May 22, 10 a.m.

Harford, CT
June 3, 6-8
Thomas Hooker Brewery
Tasting Party and Tour

Smithfield, RI
June 6, 11-1
Let’s Ride – Bryant Motorcycle Ride

Pawtucket, RI
June 12
Paw Sox BBQ – 4 p.m.
Game – 6:05

Chicago, IL
June 15
TED

Philadelphia, PA
June 22, 6-8
U.S. Women’s Soccer League Club

Washington, DC
June 23, 6-8
TED

Contact Us
To submit personal or professional news and photographs, visit our Web site at www.bryant.edu and click on the “Alumni” and “Alumni News” links.

Contact us at alumni@bryant.edu or (401) 232-6040 with questions or ideas for future stories.

Alumni Bulletin staff

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR: Robin Tofte Romer
EDITOR: Elizabeth O’Neil
COPY EDITOR: Robin Tofte Romer
ASSOCIATE: Karen Maguire
DESIGN/PRODUCTION: Doug Brown

ALUMNI WRITER: Eileen Dwyer ’78
NEWS AND CALENDAR UNION: Kathleen Brown
PHOTOGRAPHY: Claudette Piette