Historic $75 million campaign will define Bryant’s future and set pace for others to follow

Bryant’s Board of Trustees has approved a $75-million capital campaign, Expanding the World of Opportunity: The Campaign for Bryant’s Bold Future, the largest fundraising effort in the University’s history. Bryant has already raised more than $40 million toward the campaign goal, exceeding the total amount raised in Bryant’s previous capital campaign, which successfully concluded in 2014. The historic new campaign’s initiatives include:

- Scholarship dollars to attract the best students from all segments of society, and to ultimately produce the finest graduates and leaders
- Attracting and retaining academic leaders and faculty who are world-class thought leaders in their respective fields, and who represent teaching excellence;
- New facilities including an Academic Innovation Center. The school plans to break ground on the landmark center in fall 2016.
- Resources to cultivate a global perspective so that every graduate is prepared to understand international business and cultures.

Bryant yields “better dividends than GE stock.”

“The distinctive Bryant experience has significant value and is a strategic game changer in higher education,” said University President Ronald K. Machlesky at a gala event for Bryant’s leadership donors on Sept. 12.

At the event, Trustee Robert P. Brown ’86, president of the Global Bond Division of Fidelity Investments, said he decided to double his previous Campaign gift, one of the largest in Bryant’s history, because of “the power and the draw of Bryant and what it had taught me. Success is about education,” he said, “but most importantly, it’s about leadership. We have an exceptional administration and remarkable faculty. Together they create a foundation of excellence for cultivating and teaching our students.”

William J. Conaty ’67 and Michael E. Fisher ’67, Campaign Co-Chairs

The Chairman of Bryant’s Board of Trustees, William J. Conaty ’67 cited Bryant’s exceptional education and sense of community as reasons behind increasing his generous, seven-figure support of the Campaign and mentioned that his investment in Bryant athletics has returned better dividends than GE stock.

“Now is the time to do it [donate to Bryant]. The University has a clear strategic vision, and we’ve got a phenomenal team to realize that vision.”

Ranking high in a variety of categories Bryant is a school that attracts its “right fit” students from the start of their high school career. “Our first office was so tiny that if you opened the door, you fell down a hole that was stairs to the basement,” says Alice I. Sullivan, Chairperson of the Collette Board. “Now we are a worldwide company with offices in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom.”

From Collette’s first alumni hire in 1992 – William Dziura ’83, now executive vice president of information technology – the company saw the star power present in so many Bryant alumni. “We definitely seek Bryant alumni,” says John Galvin ’91 MBA, chief financial officer and member of the Board of Directors. “Giving back is a big part of the Collette culture, and I’m very appreciative of that fact.”

Founded in 1918 by Jack Collette right after World War I, the Collette story is one of “hard work and a passion for travel.” Collette grew its travel business from a jitney bus exploring the East Coast to tours throughout New England into Canada. When he sold the business to Dan Sullivan, Sr. – a WWII veteran who worked in the same building – in 1962, it was still fairly small.

“We definitely seek Bryant alumni,” says John Galvin, chief financial officer and member of the Board of Directors. “Giving back is a big part of the Collette culture, and I’m very appreciative of that fact.”
Redesigned classroom promotes ‘learning-by-doing’ approach

Thanks to an anonymous donor, the Bello 102 seminar room has been redesigned, becoming a space that promotes group and one-on-one interactions. The room features 90-inch screens that allow sharing of content at the touch of a button. Bryant faculty members applaud the redesign, citing the benefits for students.

“The Active Learning Classroom promotes the ‘learning-by-doing’ approach to education,” explains Associate Professor of Management Michael Roberto, D.B.A. “Students don’t sit and listen to a lecture. They work on projects and team tasks. The faculty member then becomes a facilitator, coach, and guide. We can engage in applied learning, not textbook learning. “Students can quickly and easily display their work to the class, so that they can receive constructive feedback and perhaps debate,” Roberto adds. “The videoconference technology enables us to bring outside experts into that discussion. Students benefit because they retain more knowledge and develop skills more effectively through active learning.”

Bob Shea, Ph.D., assistant vice president for teaching and learning and director of the Center for Teaching and Learning concurs. “Faculty have worked hard to develop outcome-based curricula that define what our graduates should know and be able to do. Significant among those outcomes are the skill sets employers value critical thinking, effective communication and teamwork. This classroom, and the pedagogy it supports, will ready our students for success at Bryant and beyond.”

Regional Alumni Network (RAN) and other alumni events

May 15 | New York, NY
David Suaviso ’96, Jennifer Quinn ’95, and Philip Keren ’81 enjoy a rooftop gathering at the Ava Garden in New York City.

May 17 | Hempstead, NY
The Bryant men’s lacrosse team, after a stunning upset of Syracuse in the NCAA playoffs, met their match on neutral ground against Maryland. A crowd of cheering alumni was there to celebrate Bryant’s sensational 2014 season.
Kathleen A. Simons, D.B.A., ’82 MST
Professor of Accounting

Fresh out of college, Kathy Simons taught elementary school while earning a master’s in education. Working at H&R Block at night, she decided to pursue a graduate degree in taxation and enrolled in Bryant’s MST program, where she met several local practitioners and eventually accepted a job in public accounting. She then earned the CPA designation, was accepted into a doctoral program at Boston University, and started teaching at Bryant, while completing a Doctorate in Business Administration.

“I saw Bryant as a way to combine a passion for teaching with an interest in financial accounting and taxation,” says Simons, who teaches both graduate and undergraduate courses. Thirty years later, she is still doing what she loves. Her classes have a reputation for being tough, yet students recommend them to their peers.

The material is difficult, but I believe my students understand that I am truly interested in their success,” says Simons, who received the 2008 Distinguished Faculty Award from the Bryant Alumni Association, and the Excellence in Teaching Award in 1990 and 2013.

Simons notes that plenty has changed in teaching accounting over the years, particularly with the proliferation of technology in the classroom and within the profession. “To me, though, the most notable difference today is the incredible number of commitments students have – so much more than 30, 40, or even 50 years ago,” she says. “This emphasizes the need for faculty to communicate the material in an efficient, understandable manner.”

What hasn’t changed, she adds, is that Bryant remains committed to providing a quality education, combining business and liberal arts to prepare its students to become well-rounded global citizens. “Our students are very motivated and well versed in all aspects of accounting, but they also have a variety of interests,’” she says.

Many alumni have kept in touch with Simons over the years as they have gone on to become CPAs, staff accountants, managers and partners in accounting firms, and professors at universities. “They are engaging, well motivated and well versed in all aspects of accounting, but they also have a variety of interests,’” she says.

Michael Bourgeois ’98
IT Business Analyst, Merck Millipore

When it came to choosing a major, Michael Bourgeois ‘98 found a way to combine his natural love of technology and business. A self-proclaimed “computer nerd,” he says he was initially thinking of computer information systems as a career.

“My father owned and operated a small business, and he taught me my first lessons in managing relationships,” he says. “My interest grew throughout high school with classes in marketing, business, and management. Bourgeois chose computer information systems when he “recognized the tremendous growth opportunity and increasing importance of information system stability and solutions for business.” With a Communication minor to complement his computer skills, Bourgeois finds that his ability to easily express himself distinguishes him from many of his peers.

Currently an IT Business Analyst for Merck Millipore, an international filtration and pharmaceutical equipment corporation with revenues close to $1 billion annually, Bourgeois travels to Europe and Asia and is liaison between business and informational technology to leverage capabilities and grow the business.

“Working with global teams and building relationships with people from different backgrounds and cultures is the most satisfying part of my job,” he says. “I enjoy the exposure to different technologies and markets, especially emerging markets such as China, India, and Brazil. It’s rewarding to work for a life science/pharmaceutical company, as our goals revolve around disease prevention and improving the quality of life.”

Bourgeois enjoys seeing the world in his personal time as well. “In the past year, I’ve visited 15 different countries, and I’m always open to a new adventure.”

But when he’s back in Boston, he’s “fortunate enough to have a group of long-time friends and family who remind me there’s ‘no place like home’.”

Bourgeois participates in Bryant events, including alumni career panels, Reunion @ Homecoming, film festivals, and Regional Alumni Networking events in Boston. “Bryant has a powerful network,” he says. “Staying connected can create a lot of opportunities, and I’m happy to be able to give back by providing guidance for students, which I appreciated as an undergrad.”

Priscilla Lutz ’71
Founder, New England Cheerleaders Association

For Priscilla Lutz ’71, the sidelines are the spotlight. Energetic and animated, Lutz takes great pride in her connection to Bryant. Her education, she says, was “brilliant and absolutely the foundation for my successes.” Lutz’s co-curricular activities as a cheerleader for Bryant’s men’s basketball team was also a source of pride to her and the skill set upon which she based her company.

“They were the most amazing team,” she says of the 1976 team that heralded the official voting in of Bryant to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). “They were unified – on and off the court. They never tried to compete with one another. I was so honored and blessed to say I cheered for that Bryant team.”

Securing a spot on the varsity cheerleading team as a freshman was quite unusual, in fact. Lutz, however, was a petite powerhouse who packed a punch with her own athletic prowess.

After receiving her Bachelor’s degree in Teacher Education, Lutz returned to her home state of Connecticut, received a Master’s in Business Education from Central Connecticut State University, and began teaching at Ledyard High School. “Teaching was phenomenal,” she says. “I loved connecting with students and helping them reach their learning goals.”

Of course, she coached the Ledyard High cheerleading team, and, in 1979, founded the New England Cheerleaders Association (NECA), to appease her entrepreneurial spirit and share her knowledge with a larger population of cheerleaders. NECA teaches cheerleaders of all ages how to lead a crowd effectively and safely as well as the value of teamwork.

When her family needed her, she left her teaching career to help out with her father’s business, Claudio’s Men’s Formal Wear. Lutz didn’t stay away from cheerleading, however, and continued the NECA organization. It was her way of giving back to the sport that gave her so much. She also went back to teaching – part time – because she missed helping students learn.

Lutz was among the last graduates from Bryant’s East Side campus, yet she feels right at home in Smithfield. In fact, she’s begun hosting a summer cheerleading camp at Bryant. And, in case you wondered, the famed Spirit Stick is real.

View more pictures at www.bryant.edu/alumniphotos
Reunion recap 2014

Reunion @ Homecoming 2014, held September 12–13, featured special areas for milestone class year reunions to gather, alumni vs. student athletic events, tailgating festivities, and the Bulldog Fun Zone with plenty of food and activities for all ages. More than 4,000 students, faculty, staff, and alumni converged on Bryant’s campus and celebrated the Bulldogs’ 13-10 victory over the nationally ranked University of Maine Black Bears.

Bryant’s Loyal Guard – those graduating 50 years (or more) ago – welcomed the Class of 1964 as new members, while the milestone class year with the most members in attendance was the Class of 1989, with more than 100 attending their 25th Reunion.

We are already planning next year’s festivities, so mark your 2015 calendars. Loyal Guard Induction/Reunion will be held June 12-13, 2015, and Bryant’s 2015 Reunion @ Homecoming will be celebrated October 16-17, 2015.

Regional Alumni Network (RAN) and other alumni events

June 5 | Manchester, NH
Matthew ’06 and Alison (Dailey) ’08 Caras (above) enjoying a sunny evening at Manchester Country Club at an alumni reception hosted by Bryant Trustee and alumnus, Robert Brown ’86 (right).

June 10 | Chicago, IL
Chicago alumni got together for a fun evening at Café Barico for tapas. Pictured are Lauren Rubenoff ’07 and Alex Chaparro ’06.
The 2009 Bulldogs make it official

The Class of 2009 dedicated two Bulldog statues that adorn the entrance to Bulldog Stadium at their 5th reunion this September. This class gift was especially notable because it was the first class to exceed 50% participation – sending President Machtley diving into the pond on a dare. Shown in photo at right are (L-R) Bill Conaty ’67, Adam McGarry ’15, Yelena Polishchuk ’09, Kati Machtley, Jessica Casey ’09, President Ronald K. Machtley, Norm Duquette ’09, Kaelan Lippman ’09, and Matt Moore ’09.

WINE TASTING

CLASS DEDICATION GIFT 2009

30TH REUNION – CLASS OF 1984

Our cameras caught up with members of the Class of 1984 – also in large attendance numbers – in the tailgate section prior to the football game.

A record-breaking attendance by the 25th Reunion class of 1989, pictured here (above right) in their too-small tent. Thanks for coming back to campus!
Historic $75 million campaign will define Bryant's future
continued from page 1
college search. Of Bryant’s incoming first-year class this September, 49 percent applied early decision or early action. College Factual ranks the University’s business program among the top 10 in the country, and U.S. News & World Report ranks Bryant No. 11 in its category, Regional Universities North, and among a select group of “up-and-coming” schools. In recent years Bryant has established itself as a leader in international education. Bloomberg Businessweek ranks Bryant’s International Business program as the 11th in its category, U.S. News & World Report ranks Bryant No. 10 in business program among the top 100.

During the last decade Bryant has continued to transition from college to university in 2004, completed full transition to NCAA Division I athletics in 2015, and established a School of Health Sciences and its first clinical Physician Assistant Studies degrees in January. The University has added 267,000 square feet in facilities and invested more than $244 million in new facilities and renovations during the tenure of President Machtley. Bryant’s bold future

“The University has added 267,000 square feet in facilities and invested more than $244 million in new facilities and renovations during the tenure of President Machtley.}

We have an exceptional administration and remarkable faculty. Together they create a foundation of excellence for cultivating and teaching our students.”

Robert P. Brown ’66, President, Global Bond Division, Fidelity Investments

“We’re asking our alumni to join us in investing in Bryant’s bold future,” says Machtley. “This Campaign is an opportunity for all of us to be involved in bringing Bryant to even greater prominence in higher education.”

Now boarding – Collette and Bryant
continued from page 1

perfectly. Bryant alumni all seem to be committed to lifelong learning, which is important in this changing environment.” A regular recipient of one of the “Best Places to Work in Rhode Island” in the 50-499 employee category by Providence Business News in conjunction with Best Companies Group, Collette strives to maintain a culture of caring for others. With close to 20 Bryant alumni employees, Bryant and Collette work well together.

Regional Alumni Network (RAN) and other alumni events
continued from page 1

thanks to Frank Schroll ’81, P’14 for great hospitality at his home in San Diego, CA, and his wife, Swati Bhaya, their daughter, Vidhi, and their son, Vidhan.

Madeline Pérez ’94 from San Antonio, TX visited the Bryant campus with her family for the first time since graduation. In photo (L-R) are her sister, Jessica Pérez, from Boston, MA; her mother, Jacqueline Roselló, from Puerto Rico and San Antonio, TX; Madeline; her niece, Jacqueline Hayre-Pérez, from Boston, MA; and her son, Andrew José (AJ) Liang.

Alumni Engagement welcomes two new staff members Tim Dumont and Tyler Brum ’13. Dumont is manager of online alumni engagement, and Brum is assistant director, alumni engagement. Both will be working to connect with alumni through the web and social media.

Manoj Bhaya ’94 MBA from India visited the Bryant campus for the first time in 20 years. Accompanying him are his wife, Swati Bhaya, their daughter, Vidhi, and their son, Vidhan.

At their home in San Diego, CA; and her son, Andrew José (AJ) Liang.

Thanks to Frank Schroll ’81, P’14 for great hospitality at his home in San Diego, CA, and his wife, Swati Bhaya, their daughter, Vidhi, and their son, Vidhan.

At their home in San Diego, MA; and her son, Andrew José (AJ) Liang.

June 26 | Glastonbury, CT
Connecticut alumni filled the room to capacity to learn about wines from alumni experts Dieter Kamm ’86 and Ed Petersman ’87. Thanks to Frank Schroll ’81, P’14 for great hospitality at his family-owned Glastonbury Country Club. Pictured are (L-R) Frank Schroll ’81, P’14, Ed Petersman ’87, Carole LaRochelle ’89, Matthew Moore ’99, Paul Alderucci ’89, Dawn Pello ’99, and Dieter Kamm ’86.

July 19 | Portsmouth, RI
Stephanie Doughty ’11, Cristian Balestreri ’11, ‘12 MPPC, Kaighn Polinno, Stacey Kallius ’13, and Nicholas Persuna ’13 were among the crowd of Bryant alumni and friends picknicking in style at Newport Polo this summer.

June 25 | San Diego
At their home in San Diego, Steven ’69 and Lily Cowen celebrated the sensational Bryant men’s lacrosse season with players Chas South ’17, Brett Baker ’17, Steve and Lily, Tucker James ’15, Mary Mummau ’17, Kyle Mummau ’17, Leslie Sharpe P’17, and Ryan Sharpe ’12.
I challenge you to do one new thing for Bryant this year.

Like many graduates, I didn’t think much about my role and influence as a Bryant alumnus the first few years after leaving. “What’s in it for me?” was on my mind. So, while attending alumni gatherings back then, my focus was on building professional networks that could help me. However, there is a moment that happens for us alumni when the focus shifts from “What’s in it for me?” to “What can I do to help Bryant?” It is when you realize that you and Bryant will always be connected. A more engaged Bryant alumni network can help increase recognition for the University.

As I attended more events, I began to meet a broad range of really interesting alumni – many of whom were much more connected to Bryant than I was. As we talked and explored opportunities to get more involved with Bryant today, I was hooked.

This year, I took my engagement one step further by inviting a couple of good friends who are alumni to the Homecoming football game. We all had a great time, and those alumni found new opportunities to engage with Bryant as well.

As successful graduates, our support and guidance helps today’s students prepare for and succeed in a highly competitive workforce. Bryant’s alumni network is also a worldwide resource for students and for alumni. In this interconnected world, alumni from all decades – in all 50 states and numerous foreign countries – extend Bryant’s reach and reputation.

As a fellow alumnus, I challenge you to do one new thing for Bryant this year:

• Follow Bryant’s Alumni Association on social media – facebook.com/bryantalumni; twitter.com/bryantalumni; Instagram.com/bryant_alumni – and interact with us.
• Tag yourself and your friends in Facebook photos.
• Join the Bryant University Alumni Association LinkedIn group
• Attend a Regional Alumni Network or athletic event near you
• Attend Reunion and bring a college friend
• Attend a college fair for Admission
• Hire a Bryant graduate
• Attend a college fair for Admission
• Make your Bryant Fund gift – every gift counts, especially in the middle of a capital campaign
• And the list goes on. If you are already involved, look for something new you can do this year. If you haven’t left the starting gate, then join us by connecting with Bryant today. #BryantAlumni #BeBryantBold

PLAN AHEAD | Cuba | April 17-25, 2016

Our early 2014 humanitarian trip to Cuba was so popular that we’re returning in April 2016! First night is in Miami, the 23rd and 24th in Havana, the 25th and 26th in Trinidad de Cuba. To learn more or sign up, contact Robin Warde at (401) 232-6253 or rwarde@bryant.edu.

Visit www.bryant.edu/alumnitravel or contact Kathleen Brown at (401) 232-6041 or kbrown@bryant.edu for more information or to register.

Sicily I March 7-14, and 14-17, 2015

Sparkling seas, majestic mountains, historic ruins, and amazing architecture are just a few sights to behold at Sicily. Visit ancient temples. Climb the winding roads to Mount Etna, search for smoking craters, and enjoy the wide variety of Mediterranean cuisine, including a wine and olive oil tasting at a local cantina on the slopes.

Of course, there is also leisure time for independent sightseeing excursions, shopping, or relaxing. Take the optional four-day Sorrento extension and visit the gems of southern Italy – Sorrento, Positano, and Ravello are on the extension itinerary.

London and Norwegian Fjords cruise I

August 20-30, 2015

On this Norwegian cruise, you will see some of the world’s most awe-inspiring natural wonders, coupled with captivating Nordic culture. Make your own arrangements to arrive in London by Thursday, August 20, 2015, and meet up with us at the four-star Cavendish London in the heart of Mayfair. After a two-night stay, the group will be transported to Southampton on Saturday, August 22, to balcony staterooms aboard the Celebrity Eclipse. During the course of your Norwegian Fjord cruise, you will stop at ports throughout the region.

Visit www.bryant.edu/alumnitravel or contact Kathleen Brown at (401) 232-6041 or kbrown@bryant.edu for more information or to register.
Alumni Milestones    | 100th Birthday

George Shenkman ’38 celebrated his 100th birthday recently. He entered the new “Bryant College of Business Administration” when the school was located on the East Side of Providence. After leaving Bryant, Shenkman served in World War II as a member of the Fifth Armored Division, which was involved in five European campaigns. A letter that he wrote to the Bryant Service Club in 1942 was discovered more than 60 years later among other World War II letters that are part of the Bryant’s “War” book written by Bryant history professor, Judy Barrett Litoff, Ph.D.

In 2004, Shenkman’s son Mark made a generous gift to the Campaign for Bryant.

It’s About Changing Lives on the occasion of his father’s 90th birthday, and a class gift in Bryant’s Unistructure is named in the elder Shenkman’s honor.

One of Shenkman’s special 100th birthday gifts was a brand-new diploma from Bryant University, which he proudly shows here.

Calendar

November

Smithfield, RI December 18 Festival of Lights
Denver, CO December 21, Pregame 1 PM (MST), Game 3 PM, Men’s Basketball vs. U of Denver

Boston, MA January 15, 5:30-6:45 PM Student/Alumni Career Night Liberty Mutual

February

Pittsburgh, PA February 2, Pregame 5:30 PM, Game 7 PM

Alumni Events

New alumni events are added weekly. Check alumniconnect.bryant.edu/events for the updated calendar and to register. Check www.bryantbulldogs.com for athletic contexts in your area.

Additions

2004

April 30

Bethany Piascik ’09, Kyle Piascik ’11

2005

April 16

Kathleen Siff 

2006

April 22

Stephanie Bennett, Kate Zuculine, Sarah Bailey, and Gino Rinaldo

2007

May 11

Anthony Deeds

2008

April 17

Robin Torbron Warde P ’17

June 21, 2014 | Kingston, MA | Anthony E. Caliri, Jr. ’09 and Erica Jaspon

Front row (L-R) Ryan Callahan ’09, Angelo Caliri ’09, ’11 MBA, and Anthony E. Caliri, Jr. ’09 (groom); middle row (L-R) Erica Smith ’02, Stephanie Montagano ’09, Manuel Rodriguez ’09, Erselid Myrtaj ’09, Jackson Day ’09, Sara Pilelski ’08, Jordan Levesque ’09, ’11 MPAC, Janine Enos ’08, Jessica (Valentini) Richard ’08, Matthew Richard ’08, and Ashley Bingham ’09; back row (L-R) Anthony Garofalo ’09, Chris Walker ’08, Mike Moniz ’09, AJ St. Lawrence ’09, Cara Johnson ’09, Jerell Smith ’10, Dan Grosserode ’11, and Tyler Hornyk ’09.

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Mike Brown ’13
Donna Harris P ’03
Karen Maguire P ’18
Jayne Poulis P ’15
Robin Tenbrock Ward P ’17

Calendar and Raw Listings
Kathleen Brown
Donna Harris P ’03
Alumni Webmaster
Eileen Deary ’79/Tim Dumont
Partnerships/ Additions
Viki Paquin P ’05

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