SEVEN TO RECEIVE HONORARY DEGREES

Thomas M. Chappell, president and co-founder of Tom's of Maine, and Lawrence K. Fish, president and CEO of Citizens Financial Group, Providence, RI, will be the featured speakers at the Graduate School Commencement exercises on Friday, May 19, at 4 p.m. and the 132nd Undergraduate Commencement exercises on Saturday, May 20, at 10 a.m., respectively. In keeping with this year’s theme of community and public service, Chappell, Fish, and five other recipients will receive honorary degrees from Bryant College for their dedicated and long-standing work with various organizations throughout the United States. From producing natural products to volunteering with scouts and hospitals, these men and women offer their time, spirit, and expertise. They are caregivers, deserving of our praise, support, and recognition. Please join the graduates, their families, and friends in applauding these honorary degree recipients.

Thomas M. Chappell

President and co-founder of Tom’s of Maine, Tom Chappell is a leader in promoting ethical business standards throughout the world business community. Founded in 1970, Tom’s of Maine produces and markets a growing line of all-natural personal-care products. It has been named among the top companies in the US by Working Mothers Magazine. Chappell is author of The Soul of a Business: Managing for Profit and the Common Good, a book about ethical and profitable business leadership in the 1990s. He is a strong advocate of personal and professional volunteerism. Chappell will give the Graduate School Commencement address on Friday, May 19, and will receive a Doctor of Business Administration.

Lawrence K. Fish

President and CEO of Citizens Financial Group, Lawrence K. Fish has built an impressive career in the banking industry. He has coupled it with a commitment to serve community-based organizations such as the Rhode Island Commission for National and Community Service, the Boston Children’s Museum, and the National Conference of Christians and Jews. He chairs the Governor’s International Trade Advisory Board of Massachusetts and is co-chairman, along with Rhode Island Governor Lincoln Almond, of the State Economic Development Council. Fish will speak at the Undergraduate Commencement on Saturday, May 20, and will receive a Doctor of Business Administration.

Gerald J. Berard ’80

America’s favorite pastime — baseball — has become the volunteering channel for Gerald Berard ’80, a product supply analyst for Coastal Supply Corporation in Houston, Texas. A Little League coach for many years, he encourages his young athletes to become well-rounded people by studying hard, volunteering in the community, and taking part in sports activities. Active in working with the Children’s Christmas Card Program at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, and the Houston Food Bank, Berard received the President’s Volunteer Action Award from President Clinton in 1994. He will receive a Doctor of Business Administration.
Katherine Cheney Chappell

Co-founder and first vice president of Tom’s of Maine, Chappell is involved in all aspects of the business with an emphasis on research and creation of new products, consumer relations, and long-range strategic planning. She is a professional artist and has studied at several art schools. She has had solo shows at the Harvard Divinity School and has participated in group shows at several locations in the Boston area. She is an enthusiastic supporter of community health organizations and serves on committees for the Episcopal Diocese of Maine and on the Advisory Council of the University of Southern Maine Alumni Association. She will receive a Doctor of Business Administration.

Michael Chu

Michael Chu was born in China and grew up in Montevideo, Uruguay. He is president and CEO of ACCION International, a Massachusetts-based nonprofit organization dedicated to reducing unemployment and poverty throughout North and South America. His group provides small loans and business training to the self-employed poor in 15 countries. In 1994, more than $288 million in loans averaging $580 was lent to entrepreneurs and an overall payback rate of 98 percent was achieved. Prior to joining ACCION, Chu was an executive and limited partner with Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co., an investment firm specializing in leveraged buyouts. Chu will receive a Doctor of Business Administration.

Rosa Louise Parks

Rosa Louise Parks is widely recognized for her activist role in the civil rights movement. Long after her landmark act in December 1955, when she refused to give up her seat to a white passenger, Mrs. Parks is still inspiring the masses. Her action precipitated the Supreme Court’s decision to declare segregated seating on buses unconstitutional. In 1987, Mrs. Parks established the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development, a nonprofit organization designed to help youths between the ages of 11 and 15 to reach their potential. She will receive a Doctor of Humane Letters.

John Hazen White Sr.

At the age of 28, John Hazen White Sr. became president and treasurer of Taco, Inc. in Cranston, Rhode Island. A hard-goods manufacturer of pumps, valves, and tanks, the company is committed to staying on the cutting edge of manufacturing technology and this year expects record-breaking sales. White has built his company using enlightened employment and human relations practices that encourage the development of higher skills and employee participation. Active in the Rhode Island business community, he spearheaded the creation of the RED ALERT organization in 1991, which continues to raise public interest on key community issues in and around the state. White has made many contributions to Rhode Island’s colleges, universities, and non-profit organizations. He will receive a Doctor of Business Administration.

Civil Rights Leader Rosa Parks

Rev. Virgil Wood
Pastor, Pond Street Baptist Church

Dr. William E. Trueheart
President, Bryant College

Come join us for a community rally to salute Mrs. Parks with the choirs from The Pond Street Baptist Church and The Barrington United Methodist Church

St. Michael’s Church
230 Oxford Street, Providence, Rhode Island

Saturday, May 20, at 3:00 p.m.

Rosa Parks’ courageous act made the world a better place. Her second book, Quiet Strength, eloquently motivates us to continue the movement.

Quiet Strength is available for purchase both prior to and at the rally.

For purchase information or to reserve a signed copy (limited quantities available), call 401-232-6120.

Sponsored by Bryant College

There will be an abbreviated issue of Bryant’s Business in June. The newsletter will resume normal publication in September.