

Alums elect Bryan 2004 Kidder winner

dents along for the ride. He guesses that roughly 4,000 of his students have spent a first Tuesday in March observing and reporting on the proceedings in a Vermont town hall. In an interview in the Fall 2003 issue of *Vermont Quarterly*, Bryan said: “Whenever I meet a student I haven’t seen in 20 years, I’ll ask them where they went to town meeting, and they’ll always remember, and then they’ll tell me a story about it. I’m proud as hell of that fact. So, they really learned something about democracy and the academic world both. There’s nothing like putting a kid right in the middle of it.”

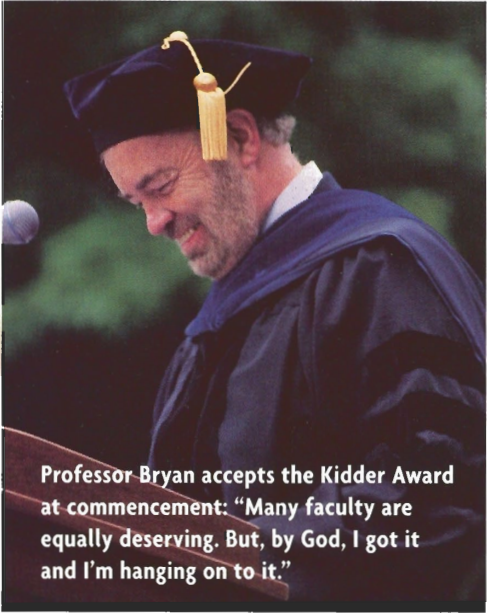
Thanks to Bryan’s influence, many of those students found their way to a political science major, a master’s degree in public administration, or a career in politics or government.

Ann Hallowell ’85 G’89 was a self-described “middle-aged, nontraditional freshman” when she took Bryan’s American Government 101 class. “It was to be an experience that changed the direction of my life to this day,” Hallowell says. “I went from someone just ‘taking classes’ to a seri-

ous student, focused, challenged, and enriched by what I was learning from a remarkable teacher.” Hallowell’s subsequent political career included serving as a city councilor in Burlington and in the Vermont Senate. “Throughout all these years, the professor and I debated the issues and even when we didn’t agree, he always encouraged me,” she says.

Nick Warner ’83 G’93, who works in the City of Burlington’s Community and Economic Development Office, cites the lasting impact of Bryan’s “Mom” lecture, in which the professor peels back all the layers of government he navigated to provide services for his elderly mother. Warner says the talk should be required for all public employees. “Professor Bryan doesn’t let us forget that ‘all politics are local,’ and that the value of working with our hands, minds, and souls should not be lost in the confusing systems we live in.”

See *Vermont Quarterly* online, www.uvm.edu/vtquarterly, for an interview with Professor Bryan (Fall 2003 issue) and a reprint of a past profile posted with the current issue.



Professor Bryan accepts the Kidder Award at commencement: “Many faculty are equally deserving. But, by God, I got it and I’m hanging on to it.”

Frank Bryan estimates there are some 40 to 50 footnotes citing the contributions of students in his recent book, *Real Democracy: The New England Town Meeting and How it Works*. Passing out credit where it is due is a natural part of the Bryan ethos, and his former students returned the favor when they selected him for the Alumni Association’s 2004 George V. Kidder Outstanding Faculty Award for excellence in teaching.

Over nearly three decades, Bryan has examined the democratic tradition of town meeting and has taken stu-