Alumni Profile:

Michael W. Morrissey ’72 (political science)

Age: 66
Occupation: President of Morrissey Insurance and owner of four Irish bars in Las Vegas: Sean Patrick’s, Molly Malone’s, Kavanaugh’s and Morrissey’s

What has your life been like since graduation?

My life since graduation has been exciting and at times surprising and extremely fulfilling. I married a Nevada graduate, Patricia Trent Morrissey ’74 (criminal justice), who is a practicing attorney and the mother of our three children. Both daughters are graduates of Loyola Marymount University and one is an attorney in Chicago. Our son, Sean Patrick, was one of our surprises, as he was born with Down syndrome. He is now 28 and a very accomplished artist at Opportunity Village, a vocational training center for people with intellectual disabilities and considered by many as the finest such center in America.

In addition to being president of Morrissey Insurance, I am the owner of four Irish bars in Las Vegas: Sean Patrick’s, Molly Malone’s, Kavanaugh’s and Morrissey’s. I was also one of the founders of the Bank of Nevada. My office building is truly a Wolf Pack den. The office of Nevada grad Sig Rogich ’67 (journalism) is located above me. My partner in the building was the late Madison Graves ’72 (prelegal). My wife Patty and her law partner, Elyse (Kandel) Tyrell ’91 (political science), are graduates as well. The vice-president of Morrissey Insurance, Jeff Burford ’01 (management) is an ATO and married to Molly (Moore) Burford ’03 (elementary education). We also fly Wolf Pack flags at all of our bars—not the smartest thing to do, but it is fun.

All of the names I’ve mentioned are not only success stories on their own, but great examples of graduates who have given back to the community in many ways. Las Vegas has been good to all of us, and I think the University trained us well.

What are your fondest memories of Nevada?

My fondest memories of Nevada are of the friendships that have continued over the years. I was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, as was my brother, Patrick Morrissey ’77 (managerial sciences), who married Joyce (Bearor) Morrissey ’88 (accounting). My sister, Kelly (Morrissey) Creighton ’77 (elementary education), is also an alumnus, as is her husband, John ’75 (political science). Pat and Kelly have remained in Reno and have raised families and supported the Wolf Pack religiously.

I truly enjoy watching the University grow and yet continue to be what I remember as a student.

What have you done that you are most proud of?

I am very proud that I have played a role in developing Opportunity Village. Like the University, it has grown in leaps and bounds and has continued to be a leader in its field. Patty has been the president of Catholic Charities of Las Vegas and has taken the organization through difficult growing pains to become one of the largest nonprofits in the state.

What advice would you give someone just starting out after college?

Students who are just graduating college today have great opportunities ahead, but I still believe it will take hard work to capitalize. Do not expect that anything will be given to you and do not get impatient. You need to prove yourself. I would suggest that you should always have long-term goals. One of them should be to place yourself in a position to make your own decisions, preferably as your own boss. It’s also preferable to be in a position where your hard work and talent are recognized. But truly, my journey has been a great one because of whom I have had beside me.

Michael W. Morrissey ’72 (political science) with his wife, Patricia Trent Morrissey ’74.

[Image of Michael W. Morrissey and Patricia Trent Morrissey]