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Kappa Delta Phi and Football at Bridgewater State Normal School

Michael J. Hughes

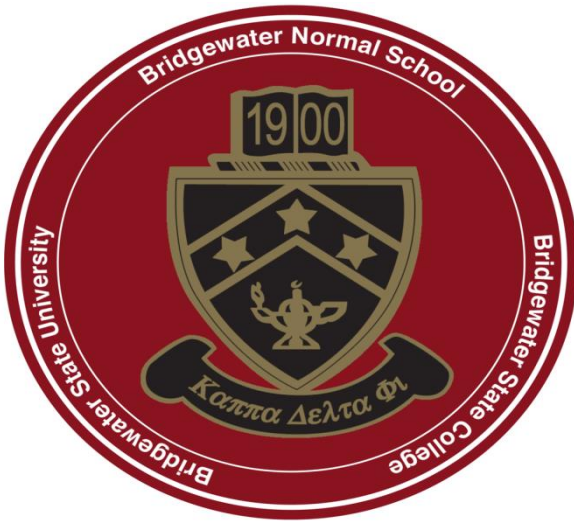
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KAPPA DELTA PHI and FOOTBALL



at

BRIDGEWATER STATE NORMAL SCHOOL

by

Michael J. Hughes

Class of 1965

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KAPPA DELTA PHI AND FOOTBALL

AT

BRIDGEWATER NORMAL SCHOOL

by

Michael J. Hughes

Section 1: The Early Days

Fraternities at U.S. Colleges and Universities

According to Wikipedia, “Fraternities and sororities, or Greek letter organizations, are social organizations at colleges and universities”. Generally, membership in such organizations is obtained as an undergraduate student but continues after becoming a graduate and remains for life.

The article continues, “Traditionally fraternities share five common elements: 1. Secrecy, 2. Single-sex membership, 3. Selection of new members on the basis of a two-part vetting and probationary process known as rushing and pledging, 4. Ownership and occupancy of a residential property where undergraduate members live and, 5. A set of complex identification symbols that may include Greek letters, armorial achievements, ciphers, badges, grips, hand signs, passwords, flowers and colors”.

“Fraternities and sororities engage in philanthropic activities, host parties, provide finishing training for new members such as instruction on etiquette, dress and manners and create networking opportunities for their newly graduated members”.

Kappa Delta Phi, and most modern fraternities, still embrace some of these five common elements. An unwritten part of element number 3’s pledging component was traditionally some variety of “hazing”. This aspect of fraternity life led to abuses that in some cases caused injury and even death to pledges. The result has been that colleges and universities in the U.S. have cracked down on this practice and have “outlawed” it. Some fraternities have been abolished because of their continued “hazing”. Most institutions now require existing

fraternities to carry insurance policies for protection against lawsuits derived from “outlawed” pledging activities.

The majority of modern fraternities no longer engage in hazing but now stress scholarship, socialization, philanthropy and public service for undergraduate members and networking for their graduates. These types of activities are expected of members of Kappa Delta Phi.

The first fraternity in North America which incorporated most of the elements just discussed was Phi Theta Kappa, founded at the College of William and Mary in 1775.

Kappa’s Founding at Bridgewater, 1900

Kappa Delta Phi was the first fraternity founded at the Normal School at Bridgewater or Bridgewater Normal, in 1900. This early organization did not contain all the traditional elements of a college fraternity at that time but acquired most of them except for a “frat house” as time went by. Kappa may have been the first of its kind, that being an “education fraternity” with the mission of bringing together young men destined to become teachers.

In 1900 women students outnumbered their male classmates by 3 to 1. Students lived on campus in a couple of dormitories with some men living in Normal Hall, in private homes in the town of Bridgewater and commuting to the school each day from surrounding towns and cities. At the turn of the century students could enroll in five different courses of study offered by Bridgewater Normal. First was a basic 2-year course of study including English. Second was a 4-year program which incorporated the curriculum of the 2-year course of study plus advanced English and classical studies. The third was a 3-year course of study which included the 2-year curriculum and electives from advanced studies. There was also a course of study for kindergarten teacher preparation and finally, a special course of study designed for college and normal school graduates and teachers with 5 years of practical experience. A required 4-year undergraduate degree was not part of teacher preparation as yet in Massachusetts. The Massachusetts Board of Education finally got around to making that a requirement at the state’s normal schools leading to a Bachelor of Science degree in Education in 1923.

These students needed something more than the limited number of sports and clubs the school sponsored so a fraternity like Kappa Delta Phi was a welcome addition to the social life of Bridgewater in 1900.

Fourteen young men became the founding fathers of Kappa at Bridgewater but Nahum Leonard is usually referred to as the “father”, or the “honorable big brother” of the fraternity. Of

interest is the fact that out of those fourteen “Founding Fathers”, eight were from either Bridgewater or surrounding towns, with one from Boston, one from Clinton, Mass., one from Marblehead, one from Worcester, one from Ellsworth, Maine and one from Berwick, Nova Scotia. (SEE PHOTO NEXT PAGE 1905 Normal Yearbook)

As far as football is concerned there has always been a connection between Kappa, Alpha Chapter, and that sport. The connection, however, like the fraternity itself didn’t materialize until 1900. Football you see preceded Kappa at the Normal School by about 30 years.

Early Days of College Football in the U.S.

What was football like at Bridgewater Normal in the 19th and early 20th centuries?

The sport at Bridgewater mirrored what was going on in colleges and universities nationally. A brief review of that would be appropriate at this point.

American football traces its roots to British rugby and association football, what we call soccer. Our football became different when rules were introduced by Walter Camp of Yale University in 1880. Camp, who is considered the father of American football, proposed rules that included a line of scrimmage, downs and yardage, and legalized blocking. Prior to these changes college football was considered by many to be disorganized mayhem.

The first generally recognized collegiate game was played almost 20 years before Camp’s rules were used by most schools. The game was played by Rutgers and Princeton Universities (Princeton at the time was known as The College of New Jersey). The ball was round and players could not carry or throw it. Only kicking the ball was allowed and it had to be propelled into the opposing team’s goal in order to score a point. The first team to score 6 goals won the match or game. This was difficult because each of these teams had 25 players on the field. Rutgers defeated Princeton by a score of 6 to 4.

By 1870 those two schools were joined by Columbia, Yale and Stevens Institute of Technology (N.J.)

In 1897, at a meeting in Springfield, Mass., representatives from Harvard, Yale and Columbia standardized a new code of rules making the touchdown (borrowed from rugby) the main method of scoring rather than kicking ball into the opponent’s goal.

Bridgewater started playing the game before these rule changes were adopted and before Camp’s rules were accepted. Football was played at Bridgewater Normal as early as 1849



Kappa Delta Phi.

Alpha Chapter.

Organized, April, 1900.

Honorary Members.

Arthur Clarke Boyden, A. M., Principal; Albert Gardner Boyden, A. M.,* Principal Emeritus; Franz Heinrich Kirmayer, Ph. D.; William Dunham Jackson; Charles Peter Sinnott, B. S.; Frank Ellis Gurney.*

Graduate Members.

Winfield S. Rich, '79; Frank P. Speare, '85; M. E. Fitzgerald, '87; A. B. Palmer, '88; J. Carroll, '90; J. F. McGrath, '92; G. A. Keith, '93; A. P. Keith, '94; C. V. Nickerson, '95; F. W. Seabury, '96; A. R. Winter,* '97; A. E. Churbuck, '98; P. V. Donovan, '99; H. E. Gardner, '99;

1900. H. A. Filton; A. K. Gould; W. R. Kramer; A. K. Lowe, L. E. Maglathlan.

1901. C. Benson, F. L. Curran, J. A. Cushman, Chas. Early, H. Gammons, H. Gammons, E. L. Sinnott,* M. A. Smith.

1902. J. H. Armstrong, S. W. Cushing, L. D. Cook, G. F. Hopkins, H. A. Howes, W. G. Howes, N. Leonard, R. A. Powers, C. P. Savary, W. E. Smith, W. F. C. Edwards.*

1903. M. D. Carroll, A. M. Eldridge, J. W. Northcott, R. E. Pellissier, W. G. Vinal, H. F. Wilson.

1904. J. F. Gould, J. H. Graham, A. B. Handy, A. W. Hapgood, J. M. McDonnell, C. F. Miller, C. W. Walter.

1905. C. F. Aherne, H. H. Benedict, A. T. French, E. T. N. Sadler.

1906. M. A. Hooley, J. E. Keefe, Jr., F. J. O'Brien, F. J. O'Donnell.

1907. E. A. Boyden, G. W. Flanders, F. A. Guindon, L. A. McDonald, L. W. Newell, J. I. Palmer, C. W. Waldron.

according to the school's Principal, Albert G. Boyden. He wrote an article in the *1909 Normal Offering* yearbook, entitled "Life at Bridgewater Sixty Years Ago." In it he wrote that, "Round baseball was a regular game in the spring and genuine football without toggery or rooting was a vigorous fall game in which the ball was kicked 'sky-high'." It just may be that Boyden was describing football at the school being played according to pre-Camp rules without uniforms or fans (rooters) and where kicking was the only way to advance the ball towards a goal. It also seems like the sport was being played on a pick-up basis by the few male students enrolled.

Football at Bridgewater Prior to Kappa

With so few men at the school, and given the fact that they were probably in different courses of study, and residents off campus as well, it's somewhat amazing that sports teams and specifically football even existed at Bridgewater. Surely practice and game schedules, so readily accepted today, were not part of the sports regimen in the late 1800s and early 1900s, at least not on a regular or mandatory basis. The Normal School did field baseball, basketball, tennis teams and held an annual field day featuring running and field events some of which are no longer held like standing long and high jumping. Female students had tennis and basketball neither of which were played against other schools.

The earliest documentation mentioning football being played under Camp's rules at Bridgewater appeared in 1888-1889. Frank Speare, Class of '88 wrote in 1889, that at Bridgewater Normal, "There was no prescribed physical program, and the only forms of exercise were walking and tennis. There was a football team which assembled and played occasional games with other schools, but no one took it seriously." For some reason Speare neglected to mention baseball.

The school's newspaper, *The Normal Offering*, in its Sept. 1889 issue, mentions under a column entitled 'Athletics', "The N.A.A. (Normal Athletic Association) had its first meeting Sept. 9 at which much interest in the affairs of the association was shown. J. E. McGrath and H.C. Leonard were elected Vice-Presidents, the former to act as manager of the baseball team, the later as captain of the football eleven." The N.A.A. was taking football seriously enough to name a team captain.

A column under the heading 'FOOTBALL' appeared for the first time in the December, 1891 *Normal Offering*. It states that Bridgewater football was playing against local high schools like Brockton and local town teams like the Taunton Football Club. The article reported that the game against the Taunton Club, which was played on the latter's gridiron on Nov. 31st, was

close with the reporter blaming a “homer” referee for Taunton’s 6 to 5 win. The Normals scored first with a safety which resulted from pushing a Taunton punt receiver back over his goal line. The Bridgewater boys scored again by kicking a field goal giving them a 5 to 0 lead. After Taunton scored on a touchdown they missed an extra point but now led the Normals 6 to 5. In the next series Bridgewater failed to score again and had to punt to Taunton. The Taunton punt returner failed to make a fair catch and a Normal player downed the ball. At this point the referee, who was from Taunton, refused to turn the ball over to the Normals. The article goes on to state that the Bridgewater boys, “rather than submit to such an outrageous decision that took away our last chance of scoring, left the field.” On Dec. 5 the Normals defeated Brockton High School 12 to 0.

Baseball was the recognized team sport at Bridgewater in 1890s and early 1900s. This team received consistent coverage in the *Offering* while football did not. In 1892 the baseball Normals played Boston College as well as local high schools and town teams. They defeated the Eagles that year but no score was reported.

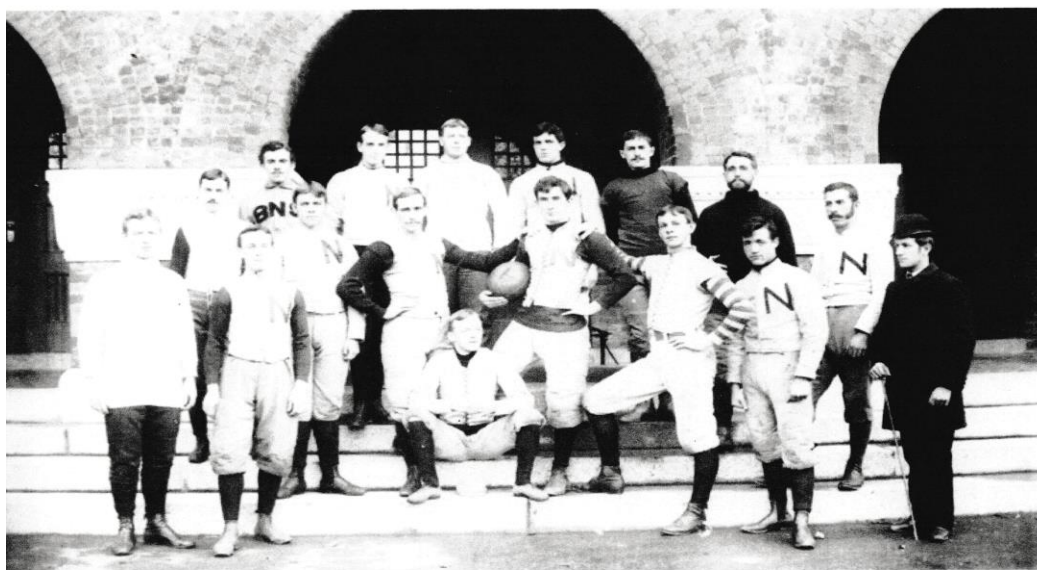
As previously stated, reporting on the school’s football teams was inconsistent. One of the reasons may have been the fact that from year to year in these early days of the sport at the school a team may have not even been fielded. The lack of available men to field a team and the lack of available coaching seemed to be the two main deterrents to fielding a gridiron eleven. Finances or lack thereof, may have also been a problem. It’s a good bet that each player had to supply his own uniform. Examining the variation of attire worn in very early football team photos reflect this possibility.

The November, 1892, *Normal Offering* had the largest number of references to football at the school that had appeared up to that date. The first was a “Plea for Football.” What this article discussed shows a growing interest in the sport in certain student circles and certainly in the writer’s. The article begins, “The success of the Normal Football Team has aroused in the school a decided interest in the game and the writer welcomes that feeling as tending in the right direction.” The article, which is worthy of reading, was written by Clarence, D. Hart, ’93, and contains positive and thoughtful reasons for promoting a team at Bridgewater as well as defending why the game should not be considered brutal if played by intelligent gentleman, which Hart claims a number of this year’s opponents consider members of this undefeated Normal team to be. The team color of maroon was alluded to in the article. The last sentence in the article summarizes it, “All things considered, the writer firmly believes that football tends to increase the future usefulness of any player.”

As an aside, this writer who is quite familiar with the trials and tribulations of the beginnings of the modern day football program at Bridgewater State University in the 60s, can’t help drawing parallels with the growing pains of football in the late 19th and early 20th centuries at

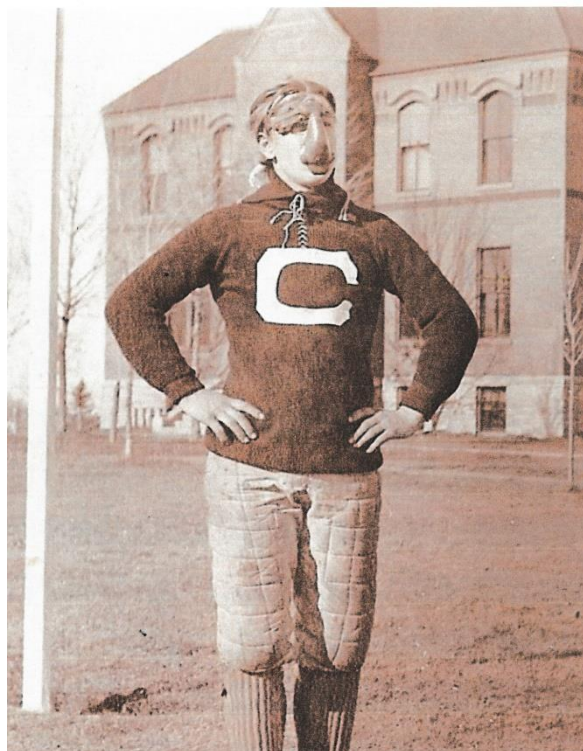
Bridgewater. A parallel can be clearly arrived at between Hart's account of, "The accidents sustained by an acquaintance engaged in the sport, or the newspaper item telling that a football player, was removed from the field and this writer's experience of watching teammate Marty Rizzo being carried off the field in an ambulance. His story is told in The Swenson Era, <https://vc.bridgew.edu/selections/7/> The next page of the same *Normal Offering* issue featured a poem cleverly written about the 1892 team's undefeated season as well as a short account of the team's victories over, Fall River High School (10-0), Taber Academy (14- 0), and Brockton High School, in a blinding snow-storm (28-0). No information is provided about their first victory of the season but this Normal team was not-scored upon in the three games discussed.

If we look clearly at this photo from the University's Archives we see the players attired in dark, possibly maroon, long sleeve sweaters or what may be the precursor to sweatshirts with light colored slightly padded vests over them laced down the middle. Most of the players wearing the vest have a large "N" for Normal sewn on the front left side. The rest of the uniform consisted of more heavily padded knee length pants resembling knickers which were quite bulky at the thigh and knee due to heavy padding and dark full length stockings, again, possibly maroon. The players' shoes were noticeable as being mostly high top street shoes not cleats of any sort. One player in the photo actually looked like he had an early pair of low cut rubber soled shoes on. One vested player had a sweater with horizontal stripes and at least five players were dressed differently mostly with turtle necks, etc. One young man had a collared shirt with the letters "BNS" across his chest. What is noticeably missing besides cleats are helmets and shoulder pads. These guys played without them. (See Photo Below)



Bridgewater Normal School Football Team 1892

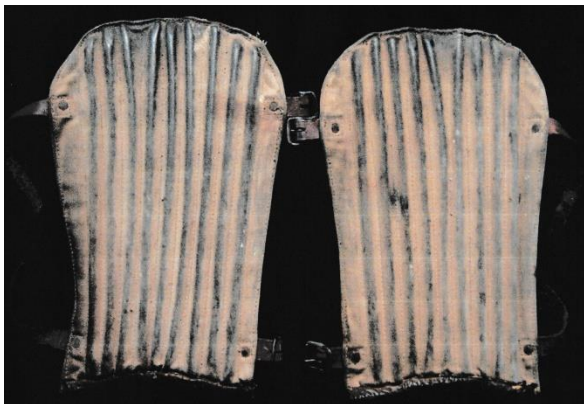
In the 1894 photo the team was outfitted similarly with a few heavy collared sweaters also being worn. In this photo a new piece of equipment reveals itself. The player holding the ball, which resembles a rugby ball, has a nose guard hanging around his neck. These were made of rubber with breathing holes and were held in place with elastic bands around the back of the head. The earliest ones just protected the player's nose but it wasn't long before advances were made in its design which allowed the mouth to also be protected. Also in the photo one of the heavy sweater wearing players has a large "3" on the front and a miniature cat-like figure rests on his lap. This figure also appears more clearly in the 1896 team photo below on the floor in right front. It seems likely that this "cat" was the team mascot of sorts.



Bridgewater Normal School Football Team 1894

The Normals played three games in 1895, winning the first of them (no details), and losing their next two contests against Andover (Phillips) Academy and Boston English High School. The team played so poorly against English the October, 1895 *Offering*, referred to the game as “a farce on our side.” “With the exception of two or three cases the playing of our men lacked utterly any spirit and dash.” As a result the N.A.A. met on October 16th, four days after the English game was played, and voted to discontinue support of the team for the rest of the season thereby disbanding the team for the rest of 1895.

Bridgewater Normal did field a football team in the 1896 season and played three games. The Normals lost to Cambridge Manual Trade School and Worcester Academy but won its game against the Normal Alumni 21 to 0. In the 1896 photo nose guards are obviously displayed suspended from players’ necks. The uniform consisted of dark (maroon?) heavy collared sweaters or they may have been an early form of warm-up attire. Most evident are shin guards worn by most of the players whereas only one player in an earlier photo was wearing them. These vertically corrugated contraptions were made of chamois leather with cane reed inserts. They were attached to the lower leg with top and bottom buckled straps of leather or elastic. Also in this photo, genuine football cleats appear for the first time worn by the team captain holding the football. From what has been revealed in other archival photos these cleats were an exception to general football attire at the Normal School in those days.



Bridgewater Normal School Football Team 1896

The team which played in 1897 went through its entire season without a win. They lost to Thayer Academy, 16 to 10, Somerville High, 24 to 0, and Mangus A.A., 16 to 0. The only bright spot in their season, if you want to call it such, was a 6 – 6 tie with archrival Brockton High.

From 1899 on the *Normal Offering* was published in yearbook format. In that year under the heading 'Athletic Association', a troubling introductory paragraph was included. It stated, "The Athletic Association (N.A.A. or A.A.) has charge of all athletic matters pertaining to the school. All teams, football, baseball and track which represent the school are controlled by the Association. No football team was supported last season (1898) as the candidates were few and the interest slight. It is doubtful if the game will ever be revived in the school."

This prediction was wrong because even though football was not back in 1899 it was reinstated in 1900.

Section 2: After Kappa

Bridgewater Football and the Kappa Connection

The odds against reinstating football at Bridgewater Normal in 1900 were numerous. "Conditions and prospects were not over encouraging. Interest was seemingly half- hearted, material (males) from which to form a team was meagre and the prospects of sufficient financial support, at least, uncertain." Evidently throughout most of these early years funds to support a school sport at B.N.S. came from student subscriptions. And it seemed that these subscriptions were voluntary. It was likely that no student activity fees were mandated by the school.

With all these negatives in place the fact that the N.A.A. decided to field a team in 1900 showed a bold attitude. Much of this boldness could be due to the involvement of members of the newly formed Kappa Delta Phi fraternity. The top three positions of the Athletic Association were held by Kappa members who were founders of the fraternity at the school. Nahum Leonard, '02, was the Association's President, William R. Kramer, '00, was the 1st Vice-President, and William S. Smith, '02, the 2nd Vice-President.

Out of the 14 young men who founded the fraternity six were football players and one was the manager of the team. The players were, Cyrus M. Benson, running back and captain, Louis D. Cook, substitute, Edward L. Curran, left tackle, Sumner W. Cushing, manager, Joseph A.

Cushman, fullback and manager, Arthur L. Gould, quarterback and left end, and Leon E. Maglathlin, quarterback (4 years). All of these are included in the 1900 team photograph which actually appeared in the *1901 Normal Offering* except for Cushing and Maglathlin.



1900

CARROLL, rt WILSON, sub VINAL, lt CUSHMAN, fb (Mgr) HEALD (Coach) SAVARY, lt CURRAN, sub COOK, sub
 WALTER, lg HAPGOOD, le BENSON, rfb (Capt) MILLER, re NICKERSON, fb
 PITTS, lhb HANDY, le EDWARDS, c GOULD, qb ROSCOE, rg

Photo by King.

This team ended up winning two games, those being identical 5 to 0 victories over Bridgewater High School on Sept. 30th and Nov. 4th respectively. This season ended with a record of two wins, 1 tie (Taunton High, 5 – 5), and three losses according to the *Offering* of that year. It wasn't easy because, "at no time was the captain able to muster 11 men for the purpose of practice." For some scheduled games the Normals couldn't even field eleven players and had to "obtain outside assistance." "The fact that we had not a pure school team was freely acknowledged by the management." Edward L. Curran, a Kappa brother and tackle on the football team offered an explanation of the two previous sentences with a quote he made about the 1901 team.

"As I look now over the thousand dollar football equipment of a N.Y.C. institution playing to a capacity crowd of 50,000 my mind reverts to Normal School days when the team had one nose mask (guard) and we were obliged to nail temporary cleats to the shoes we possessed. Substitutes in street clothes were selected from among a maximum number of twenty sideline

spectators.” This quote appeared next to a photo of Tom Salvo and Peter Flynn, co-captains of the re-born 1960 team in the book entitled, *Bridgewater State College: As we were...as we are, 1840 -1976*, published in 1976. https://vc.bridgew.edu/bsu_histories/1/

One can only imagine now what it was like in those early days. On at least one occasion an opponent was asked to lend the Normals one of their substitute players so they could field eleven to play the game. The opponent agreed.

Brother Edward Curran, who was born in East Bridgewater on February 14, 1879, was a member of the Class of 1901. He went on to earn a PHD and at one time taught at the School of Sciences, Fordham University in New York City. He may have been referring to the Fordham football team in his quote alluded to previously. They were a powerhouse in the early 20th Century.

In 1901 the Kappa fraternity badge was adopted. The diamond shaped black onyx and gold pin appeared for the first time in 1902. Nahum Leonard was also named ‘Father of the Fraternity’ in 1901.

In the first decade of the twentieth century some interesting changes were taking place in college football nationally and at Bridgewater Normal School. As a response to critics of college football’s dangerous turn in 1905 (18 deaths and 159 serious injuries) the newly established Intercollegiate Athletic Association of the United States (IAAUS) , which was to become the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) in 1911, outlawed the “flying wedge” offensive blocking formation and legalized the forward pass.

The first successful forward pass was made by Bradbury Robinson of St. Louis University in a game against Carroll College of Waukesha, Wisconsin. It was Robinson’s second pass attempt in that game. In spite of it being legalized, the forward pass was used very little in those early years most likely because of the “rugby” shape of the ball. At Bridgewater Normal Kappa brothers continued to make up a majority of the players on the school’s football team as well as the baseball team. This continued through the first two and a half decades of the 20th century and ended when football was dropped as a varsity sport in 1925.

One distinguished Kappa brother, Robert E. Pellissier, Class of 1903, was listed as a manager of the 1902 football team. Born in France, Robert entered Bridgewater in 1899 and graduated after four years of study in 1903. He went on to earn a Master’s Degree and a PHD at Harvard in Romance Languages. In 1914 he went back to France to enlist in the French Army following the outbreak of the Great War. He



ROBERT PELLISSIER.
(Courtesy of Williston Bellotti)

N.O. 1917

prepared himself physically for the army by putting himself through a tough program of exercises. He was wounded near Steinbach in 1915 and spent four months in hospital recuperating. Even though healed his shoulder would not allow him to carry a knapsack so he enrolled in officer's school. After graduating he was sent to the front as a sergeant and was killed at the Somme on August 29, 1916.

It is recorded in the 1903 Normal Offering Yearbook that a mild form of hazing was introduced by Kappa which included making pledges dress in ridiculous female get ups and forcing them to sing in public.

In 1904 student interest in football was very high with over 100 female students regularly attending home games. That year a reporter for the Normal Offering stated that the team was, "the most brilliant of any in Normal's career on the gridiron." As a side, the list of players on that team showed a preponderance of Irish names. Most of them already were or were to become Kappa brothers. This was also the year when the Kappa hand grip was adopted and the brothers began going to an annual up-scale banquet in Boston at the American House. Nearly 40 out of a total of 46 active members attended the first one on May 12, 1904. Nineteen attendees of that total of 40 were undergraduates.

Lack of funds continued to plague the maintenance of a football team in the early days. It seems that students were asked to agree to a subscription of a certain amount of money to finance football and baseball. Getting the subscribers to pay up was not always successful. With that as a factor it's quite interesting that in 1905 the Normal's began playing colleges. It may be useful to remember that normal schools at this time were not considered to be colleges or at least not on a par with four year schools of higher education. That year Technology (MIT) appeared as an opponent of Bridgewater Normal's football team. By 1906 and 1907 team photos showed the majority of players wearing standard football cleats. 1906 was also a momentous year because a New Gymnasium was dedicated on campus (presently the Art Building). This prompted an increased interest in basketball for men and women. Men's basketball eventually became a varsity sport and women played on in-house teams.

1906 was also the year that Kappa held its First Convention at Young's Hotel in Boston.

In the Normal Offering of 1909, Brother Lester Lane, Class of 1911, was listed for the first time as lettering in baseball as an infielder. Lane went on to captain the team in 1910. He is also listed on the basketball team of 1911 and was President of that class. In 1911 Lester played football and was listed as an end. In the last game of the 1911 season against Salem Normal, Lane scored the only touchdown which gave Bridgewater a 6-0 victory. Later in life Lester Lane became a sports reporter for the Brockton Enterprise and was seen often at games and the post-season football team banquets of the early 1960s where he would offer remarks when

asked to. He is remembered by many of us as a friendly booster of Coach Swenson's efforts to re-establish football at the college during those years. Lester is seen in the team photo sitting first in the second row from the left. (See below)

NORMAL OFFERING



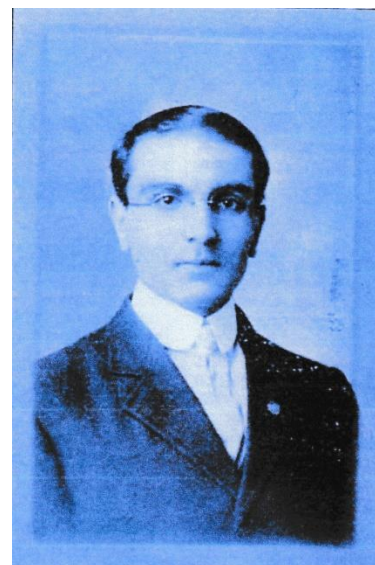
In 1907 Kappa Brother and quarterback Arthur Wheeler, '09, made a name for himself locally by consistently kicking field goals and throwing forward passes.

There was one player in the 1908 team photo wearing shoulder pads. In 1908, by the way, Normal beat Boston College 12-0 but lost to MIT 23-6.

In the team photo of 1909 we see a slimmer football in the hands of Kappa Brother Charles Fox who is wearing a varsity sweater. Also in this photo a couple of players are wearing shoulder pads. That year the Normals lost a contest to Storrs Agricultural School (UConn) by a score of 21-6.

In the 1909 Normal Offering the name Armenag Chamichian appeared as a Kappa undergraduate for the first time. He was born in Armenia in 1880 and went to high school there. He continued his studies at Central Turkey College then matriculated to Bridgewater in 1907. After receiving his diploma in 1909 he entered Harvard where he earned a Bachelor's

Degree in 1911 and a Master's in 1912. Armenia then offered him the principalship of the newly established Cicilian Normal School. He accepted the offer, married an Armenian girl and went back to his home country where he successfully organized the new school through, "sacrifice, hard labor and noble service." Armenag stayed at his post at the normal school during the Armenia Genocide of 1915. He somehow survived the Turk's efforts to rid the Armenia community of its intellectual professionals but couldn't survive the typhus epidemic which followed on the heels of the mass murder. Chamichian passed away on January, 19, 1916. His name was added to Bridgewater's Roll of Honor along with the three other alums who died during World War I. (Photo right 1916)



1909 also saw the brotherhood adopting the official colors of black and gold.

No football team was fielded in 1910 due to a very small enrollment of men and the other old nemesis, lack of funds.

In 1913 the Kappa brotherhood, which from 1900 to 1914 was listed under the heading 'Secret Societies' by the editors of the Normal Offering, began a short lived cultural tradition of putting on plays for the school. On November 14, 1913 the play they put on was entitled, "The Teaser". All of the roles were played by brothers including female parts. According to a Normal Offering report a couple of brothers playing female roles performed them very realistically. Many of the performances were by brothers who were also football players with Cornelius Dunn being singled out with very good reviews for his female role performance in 1913 and again in the frat's 1914 offering of the comedy "Our Boys." The next two plays were the 1917 production of "The Colonel's Maid" and the 1918 performance of "A Regiment of Two." Again, all the roles in these plays were filled by brothers.

The year 1914 saw no football team fielded but Kappa became a general fraternity with 36 active members that year. Teams were fielded in 1915, 1916, 1917 and 1918.

The 1916 team photo shows one of the team members holding a folded soft leather



K. A. Psi Fraternity Play.
"The Teaser" - Nov. 14, 1913 *N.D. 1914*

helmet. This is the first photo in which one of these appears. It is possible that a few helmets were actually worn earlier than 1916 but they didn't appear in team photos. A very blurry photo of an actual game or scrimmage in 1918 shows quite a few offensive players especially the backs wearing leather head gear and shoulder pads.

An Honor Roll listing Bridgewater men who served in the armed forces during The Great War appeared in the Normal Offering of 1918. Two of the names had asterisks before them. These signified, "Died in Service". The two were Pellissier (sic.) and Chamichian, again both Kappa brothers. Out of a total of 34 other names listed 27 were members of Kappa Delta Phi. In the 1919 Normal Offering a more extensive Roll of Honor was printed. This Roll began with four names of individuals who "Died in Service." They included Harold R. Blake, '13, Armenag Chamichian, '09, Jesse S. Matossian, '03 and Robert E. Pellissier, '03. All were members of Kappa except for Matossian. To this point no Normal Offering had explained the deaths of Blake or Matossian. Of a total of 56 names on this Roll of Honor, 42 were Kappa brothers. The following page (7) reads, (K indicates Kappa)

*"To the men who so willingly put aside their profession
and laid down their lives to serve their country
at war, this twenty-first volume of the
Normal Offering is Gratefully Dedicated."*

Roll of Honor.

*HAROLD R. BLAKE, '13
*ARMENAG CHAMICHIAN, '09
*JESSE S. MATOSSIAN, '03
*ROBERT E. PELLISSIER, '03

MANOOG D. ALEXANIAN, '16	K- EDWARD A. LINCOLN, '11
K- EDWARD W. AMES, '09	THOMAS A. LYONS, '17
K- WALTER H. ANDREWS, '16	K- A. RUSSELL MACK, '17
K- RICHMOND S. BARTON, '18	GLEN W. MacLEOD, '19
ERNEST W. BENTLEY, '99	K- WILLIAM F. MAHONEY, '17
K- EDWARD BERMAN, '17	FRANCIS J. McCANN, '16
K- WALTER M. BURKE, '17	K- WILLIAM J. McCARTHY, '14
K- W. KENNETH BURKE, '20	EDWIN R. McCORMICK
K- BARTHOLOMEW F. CASEY, '16	K- WALTER J. McCREERY, '14
CLINTON E. CARPENTER, '15	K- THOMAS J. McDONOUGH, '18
K- WILLIAM H. CHAPMAN, '10	K- JOHN N. McILWRAITH, '18
K- EVERETT A. CHURCHILL, '14	K- GEORGE L. McKINNON, '12
K- JOSEPH A. CONLON, '13	K- JAMES A. MURPHY, '13
JOSEPH W. CORLEY, '	K- ORTON C. NEWHALL, '13
K- LOUIS W. CROCKER, '17	K- JOHN J. O'BRIEN, '13
K- C. ALFRED DuBOIS, '18	K- DANIEL V. O'FLAHERTY, '08
K- CORNELIUS F. DUNN, '15	K- THOMAS A. PICKETT, '09
K- VALENTINE F. DUNN, '12	K- CARLON W. RAY, '18
K- CHARLES J. FOX, '10	K- W. RUSSELL SARGENT, '17
K- JOHN H. GRAHAM, '04	FREDERIC L. SHEA, '16
JOHN H. HARPER	PAUL S. SHEEHAN
RALPH C. HOLLIS, '19	K- WILLIAM G. SUTHERLAND, '17
K- HAROLD D. HUNT, '14	K- CHARLES W. WALTER, '04
K- HAROLD L. KENDALL, '15	K- DANIEL G. WHEELER, '15
K- LESTER M. LANE, '12	K- HOWARD WILBUR, '12
EMBERT A. Le LACHEUR, '15	MARCEL H. VIGNERON, 11

*Died in service.

In 1919 Brother Edward A. Lincoln, '11, submitted a poem to the editors of the Normal Offering dedicated to two of his best friends who died during the Great War and also to others from Bridgewater who served during that horrendous conflict. Lincoln who played football on the 1907 and 1908 teams (he was the only freshman to play on the 1907 team) must have been referring to Harold R. Blake, '13, who played on the 1912 and 1913 teams and Armenag Chamichian, '09. He would not have been "best friends" with Pellissier or Matossian, both Class of 1903.

It is interesting that Lt. Lincoln was still in the army in 1919, stationed in Washington, D.C. at the Psychology Section of the Surgeon General's Office when he wrote, "Comfort" and sent it off to Bridgewater asking to have it published in the Normal Offering. (page 12 below)

12

NORMAL OFFERING

Surgeon General's Office,
Section of Psychology,
Washington, D. C.

April 15, 1919.

Dear Editor:

Perhaps in some little corner which you have been trying to fill up you can find room for the enclosed poem, which was written in memory of the Normal men who gave their lives in the great war. At least two of these men I numbered among my best friends, and the poem was written especially for them, but it is applicable to all.

(Lieut.) EDWARD A. LINCOLN,
B. N. S., 1911.

COMFORT

Around the Bend and over the Hill
Is the friend who started ahead of me.
He goes before along the way
Where Time runs into Eternity.
For Death came riding by at night
And called in his voice so stern and chill,
"Friend of thy friend, come ride with me
Around the Bend, and over the Hill.

My friend, he laughed and sprang behind
With never a parting tear or sigh,
And swifter than the roaring wind
They vanished into the empty sky.
And some were bent and torn with grief;
I held my peace and trusted still.
I know he only went before
Around the Bend, and over the Hill.

For the heart may hear what the ear may not,
And see what the eye may never see.
So through Death's silence I hear the voice
Of my friend come calling back to me.
Singing the love he used to tell
Sweeter than any songbird's trill
Waiting and singing I see him there,
Around the Bend, and over the Hill.

I know not whither the road may lead,
I care not what the end may be
For over the Hill and around the Bend
Is the friend who started ahead of me.
And when I hear him calling back
Death has no power to work me ill.
I know that I shall find him there,
Around the Bend, and over the Hill.

EDWARD A. LINCOLN, B. N. S., 1911.

N.D. 1919

Kappa Delta Phi and the sororities at Normal no longer appeared in Normal Offering Yearbooks between 1920 and 1955. Football was absent from the school between 1920 and 1923 with no athletics at all covered in the 1920 issue. Only basketball made it into those 1921 and 1922 annuals.

In 1921 the State of Massachusetts allowed the school to grant a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education to those students who successfully completed a four year course of study.

Football was back as a varsity sport in 1922 as was basketball, baseball and women's field hockey. The football team was back playing local high schools with the exception of a game against New Bedford Textile School. Of the 15 men listed as team members all but two were Kappa brothers. The reports on the games were much more detailed than in previous years with the team being labeled "crimson" at least once. Forward passing had become common in the Normal's offensive arsenal by this time. A peek at the team photo of 1923 reveals the players in cleats and full pads from shoulders down to knees and the presence of leather head gear in one of player's hands. This photo also included a coach. One mistake in management of this team did occur according to a student reporter. After a grueling but well played loss to a bigger (by weights and numbers) Brockton High Team by the score of 6-0, which resulted in some injuries to key players on the team they had to play New Bedford Textile the next day at their South Field venue. The Normals, who were projected to have a better team than Textile got punished 14-0. (See below)



1922

N.O. 1923

While the 1923 team seemed to have good prospects for the season because of a large number of returning veterans problems began at the outset. Because of a shortage of funds the team lacked needed equipment and was unable to hire a coach. Then of all things, an epidemic of boils, yes boils, spread through the team forcing many of the stars to “warm the bench.” Captain Healy, who was a member of Kappa, was also hospitalized at the beginning of the season. One bit of good luck did occur when an alumni brother, Maurice Murphy, '16, from Abington, volunteered to coach the men. According to a N.O. reporter he created a change in the team's performance. Still the only win for the team that year was over Rhode Island U., Frosh. 6-0. The Little Rhodney freshmen had been undefeated for the previous three years. Out of 20 names on Normal's roster only two were not Kappa brothers.

In 1924, the year of the Great Fire at the school on December 10th, the Normal Athletic Association was divided into male and female branches and the male branch was now called the Men's Athletic Assoc. The explanation for the change included in a report in the 1924-1925 N.O. was, “to strive to place our athletics as nearly on a plane corresponding to college requirements as possible.”

During the summary of that football season the team colors of red and white were mentioned but a perusal of the black and white team photo suggests that the solid jerseys with striped arms must have been of a dark shade of red.

Maurice Murphy was again the coach but despite all of his efforts the report on the team stated that the season was not a success due to the players themselves. “All year there was conspicuous indolence, inexcusable absence from practice, disobedience to the coach's request for training.” The players complained of a poor schedule which offered few games of any meaning. The first contest featured a thumping of the boys by the Fitchburg Normals by a score of 21-7. It's possible that Fitchburg had more men to draw from to field a team because their curriculum centered on training manual arts teachers who most people called shop teachers.

The last sentence of the 1924-1925 report was prophetic. “There is a strong nucleus for next year's team, but unless the N.A.A. (?) develops into a self-supporting organization, the boys wearing red and white will not cavort upon the grid-iron.” 1924 was the last year Bridgewater Normal School fielded a football team. Whether the main reason was financial failure seems doubtful because the M.A.A. successfully substituted soccer for football. (See Photo next page. Notice all the helmets on the ground

As previously written any mention of Kappa or sororities was eliminated from yearbooks starting with the 1920 issue of the Normal Offering. Two memorials appeared in the 1926 Normal Offering. One was full page including a photograph of a female student and the other



1924

N.O. 1924-1925

for a popular Kappa brother named William E Cullinan, '26. In the 1925 Normal Offering, under the page heading, 'B3 Returning for a Fourth Year', he was listed as "Cullinan, William, ("Wild William", "Bill") 62 Summit St., Rockland. N.A.A.; Dramatic Club; Glee Club; Football ; Baseball. Bill never failed in being at Normal. Rain or shine, he was always present at classes, especially Biology. His journey from Rockland to Bridgewater in his high-powered touring car had never a "Miss" (?). Editor was Bill of the B3 "Daily Howl." "Cum laude" was Bill a student athlete, or poet. "Cullinan played on the 1922 and 1923 football teams and by accounts was a very good defensive lineman. He also played basketball and soccer. The paragraph above listing him as playing baseball may have been in error. He died on February 17, 1926 but details of his demise were not included in the memorium page. As an added tribute a small oval shaped portrait of Bill was inserted into the basketball and soccer team photos in the Normal Offering of 1926. His memorium also lauded him as an "exquisite" poet. In addition Cullinan was very active in the Men's Dramatic Club, which was most likely an outgrowth of earlier Kappa dramatic

productions. He was described as a hit in the play, "The Time of His Life", the title of which became ironic because about two weeks after his performance, "Bill was called to his Eternal Reward." This writer can't help seeing somewhat of a parallel between Cullinan's death and the death in 1964 of football teammate and Kappa brother Martin. T. "Marty" Rizzo who unlike Cullinan died as a result of injuries sustained on the grid-iron.

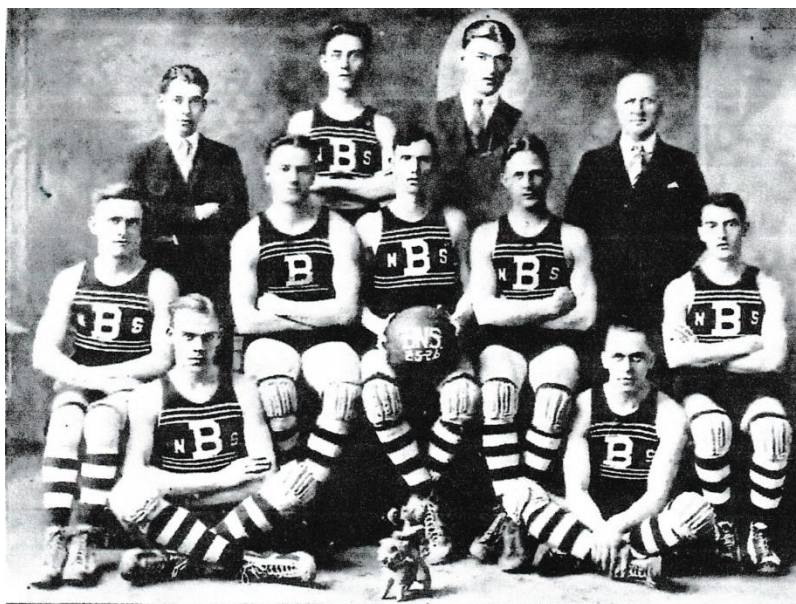


WILLIAM E. CULLINAN

In Memoriam

"Friends, though absent, are present;
Though dead, they are alive."

—Cicero

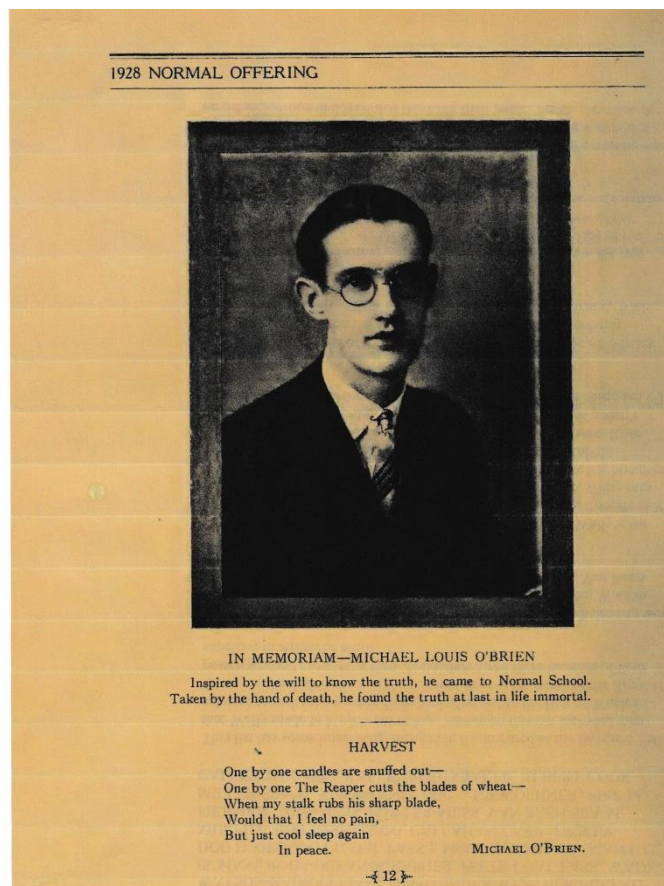


BASKETBALL TEAM

The year 1928 saw the appearance of a new school newspaper at the Normal School, called the "Campus Comment."

The NORMAL Offering of 1928 included a memorial page to a dark haired, bespectacled young man named Michael Louis O'Brien, also a Kappa man. Below his photo was a short poem entitled "Harvest" with his name under it. After one reads this poem one could surmise that he was prophesizing his death.

Was this young man ill when he wrote the poem? In the 1927 Normal Offering? O'Brien was listed as being from Fall River and was returning for his fourth year of study at Normal.



The year 1929 was a momentous one for Kappa Delta Phi because what started as a secret society at Bridgewater became a National Fraternity that year with new chapters at Salem Normal, Keene State, N.H., Boston University and Rhode Island College.

In 1933 Bridgewater Normal School became State Teachers College as Bridgewater, commonly referred to as Bridgewater State Teachers College. The school's athletic teams began wearing BTC on their jerseys, sweaters, shirts and warm ups. According to the January Campus Comment of that year President Arthur C. Boyden stated that all students would be admitted to a four teacher preparation program leading to a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education. Those students in the three year course of study would be allowed to graduate from that program.

From this point on the yearbook would be known as the Alpha.

The Class of 1935 at Bridgewater included Kappa brother Owen Kiernan who was to become Commissioner of Education for Massachusetts and Ellen M. Shea who became the Dean of

Women and "the power behind the throne" at the college for many years to come. Kappa still wasn't mentioned in Alpha or Campus Comment until the mid-1950s. It seems that the fraternity continued as a so called off-campus organization and continued to expand nationally. Kappa brothers continued to participate in all sports at BTC until the outbreak of World War II. Brother V. James Di Nardo, who was to become a longtime administrator at the college, was a member of the Class of 1939.



OWEN BURNS KIERNAN

34 Short Street, Randolph. N. A. A. 1, 2, 3, 4; President 4; Vice-president 3. Basketball 1, 2, 3, 4; Captain-coach 4. Student Director of Athletics 4. Glee Club 1, 2. Men's Club 1, 2, 3, 4.

Known and liked by all, versatile in athletics, dynamic as a coach, Vincent Lopez' rival at the ivory keys, usually seen with a contagious grin, social-minded and Winthrop-minded—a unique personality, the kind that stamps itself vividly upon our minds.



ELLEN MARIE SHEA

60 Pearl Street, East Bridgewater. Science Club 2, 3, 4, President 4. Campus Comment 1, 2, 3, 4. W. A. A. 2, 3, 4. Treasurer of Day Student Council 4.

"Illusions and wisdom, combined, are the charm of life and art."

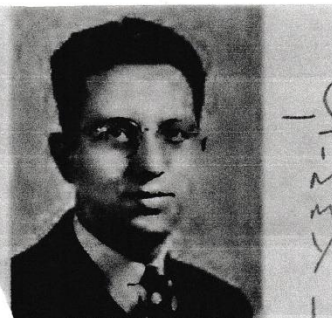
Ellen is a young lady who can conduct a Science Club, or a history class, not only successfully, but graciously as well.

ALPHA
1935

V. JAMES DINARDO

President of Men's Glee Club, Captain of Soccer Team, Vice-President of Newman Club

A deep resonant voice from the music room, a captain spreading his opposition in the soccer field and a man of ideas on every subject. He has ideas on everything from history, through calculus, to food. Jimmie is as indispensable in the social affairs of the college as he is in classroom discussions. Although V. J. hates the movies and loves to dance, he refused to join a certain cooperative. He never really bets—to him it's a sure thing and he always collects. To his college work Jimmie has brought real ambition and aggressiveness.



ALPHA
1939

Between 1943 and 1945 fifty young men who were attending Bridgewater entered the armed forces of the United States. The Alphas of those years listed them by name. Out of that number twenty-six were Kappa brothers. One young man, P.F.C, Raymond J. Boudreau lost his life on May 12, 1943. He had been in the Amphibian Engineers, Co. B, 594, B & S. Regiment. The B & S stood for Boat and Shore. Boudreau was not a Kappa brother.

**"TO THE MEMBERS OF OUR CLASS
WHO HAVE LEFT FOR THE ARMED
FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES,
WE DEDICATE THIS BOOK."**

— IN THE SERVICE OF

K - ROBERT BERGERON	K - JOSEPH HORSLEY
ROLAND BROOKS	K - THOMAS HURLEY
K - WILLIAM CAMPBELL	K - JOSEPH KILLORY
K - EDWARD CHEROMCHA	VICTOR LEWIS
K - JOSEPH COMERTORD	K - JAMES LYNCH
K - ROBERT DEKNES	JOHN MACNEELAND
QUENTIN DUNN	JEROME NATHANSON
RICHARD DURNIN	JAMES NOLAN
K - JOHN H. FITZGERALD	K - JOSEPH O'DONNELL
K - ROBERT FOX	RANDALL POWERS
K - JAMES GARVEY	K - MARIO REGINI
JOSEPH GRICIUS	JOSEPH ROSE

RALPH SHAPIRO
FRANK STEEVES
ALGIRDAS YURKSTAS

THE UNITED STATES.

The 1945 issue of Alpha, under 'History of the Class', mentioned two popular class leaders who were basketball players and Kappa brothers. Dick Dorey, '45, was singled out as having entered the military. It was also stated that because of the War, "By June we had almost ceased to be a co-ed college in anything but name." No athletics were covered in Alphas from 1944 to 1947.

Once the War ended, especially in the years 1946 and 1947, Bridgewater saw a number of male students returning to finish their degrees. In addition to the clubs, student organizations and sports they had been involved in the editors of the yearbooks usually included "ex-serviceman" under the senior portrait. Five of these were Kappa brothers.

The Class History of the 1947 Alpha, was written by Olivio Lopes , a Kappa man who had returned from service in the War. He included a paragraph about five popular Kappa brothers. It read, "Dick Dorey, now a lieutenant stationed at Mabry, Fla.; Leo Beaumont was finding civilian life "too boring" according to an interview in the Campus Comment, having just been discharged from the service; Bernard LaCouture was at Ft. Meyers, Fla. and Varma Sundelin was shipping overseas to Britain." At least four other Kappa brothers finally graduated in the Class of 1947.

1947 also saw the return of male sports teams to the BTC campus. All sports were under the direction of A.D Fred Meier a physical education teacher who would later in his career become President of Salem State Teachers College. Out of eight men in the M.A.A. photo in 1947, not including Meier, five were Kappa brothers.

In the, "Class history of 1948" was written, "The most impressive sight on campus that September was the increased enrollment of male students. We had been primarily a women's college for so long! The waiting lists were crowded with the names of hopeful; ex G.I.'s (the G.I. Bill paid). That year Kappa brothers were represented on all sports teams.

In 1949, intramural football was very popular. Thirty-eight men participated on three teams, each led by a captain. One team, which won the "imaginary crown" that year, was the "Bears". The success of intramural football led to a more organized program of intramurals for men.

A year later, Edward Swenson was hired as a faculty member in the Physical Education Dept. Coach Swenson was the only male member of that department until Harry Lehman was appointed as an assistant professor in 1958. Swenson went on to coach soccer, basketball, track and baseball until 1958 when Lehman became the baseball coach. In the Alpha of 1955 one of the photos in a collage of mostly candid shots featured two young men holding a Kappa Delta Phi banner. There was also a photo of a group of Kappa brothers around a table in the lower right hand corner of the same collage.

In 1957 the college dedicated a new gymnasium later to be named the Kelley Gymnasium. This building was also to be the headquarters of the Physical Education Dept. This year also saw the elevation of Coach Swenson to the post of Director of Athletics for the college.

The 1957 Alpha also contained three photos of Kappa brothers with a frat banner on a collage page entitled, 'Here--Our Unpredictable Underclassmen.' Whether the banner holding was part of pledge initiation is not known.

The year 1959 saw the first "official" photo of Kappa in the Alpha. The brothers were posed in a group on the front stairs of Boyden Hall. The names of the frat's officers accompanied the photo. The officers of the new Alpha Upsilon fraternity appeared for the first time on the same stairs in this yearbook. Both were under the heading, "Fraternal Societies"." The including of fraternity photos continued in most yearbooks after this year.



There was quite an amount of competition and rivalry between Kappa and Alpha from 1952-1968. Then in March '68, Alpha bought a house at 25 Park Terrace originally built in 1910 by an honorary Kappa brother Charles Sinnott, a professor at Normal(see page5). At first, Kappa brothers were not allowed to attend parties at the Alpha House but after the football players from Alpha convinced the powers in Alpha this policy was wrong. They changed and Kappa brothers were allowed to the house by invitation, parties included. BSU today is known for its inclusionary policies.

In 1964, the college adopted the Bear as its mascot. The College held a contest to name the bear. An Alpha Upsilon brother Bob Calzini '64 won the cash prize award naming the mascot "Bristaco" using Bri for Bridgewater, sta for State and co for College. When pledging began the next year it became popular in both fraternities to draw the logo on the paddles of football players. One particular student Jim "Ark" Accomando was very adept at drawing "The Bristaco Bear. On the right is one of his works.



The following paragraph appeared in the "Athletics" section of the 1960 Alpha. "This year the students of Bridgewater through their Student Council have enlarged the athletic program by adopting football as a varsity sport. It is hoped that the move will add widely to the prestige of the college and to the spirit of both undergraduates and alumni."

On page 130 of the same issue of Alpha, in the center of a drawing of a large football in the center of the last page of the section on male sports, appeared the following, ***"This has been a significant year in the athletic program at Bridgewater. Football will soon be a varsity sport. This undertaking has required foresight, courage, and optimism. We who are close to Bridgewater are confident that her spirit will prevail and that varsity football will be a success, rivaling all other Bridgewater successes."***



Rebooting Bridgewater Football 1960

Coach Swenson began his Football Program in 1960 as scheduled. Bridgewater would be the only State College to offer Varsity Football. Kappa brothers continued to have good numbers on the team along with Alpha. It was difficult however to fill a schedule of games in the upstart. In the early days of Normal Football a schedule could be filled in with good high school teams but not under NCAA rules in the 60's. The only benefit NCAA rule allowed at our level is that freshman were allowed to play. As Coach Swenson's program developed he had to schedule games with teams in a higher division. By the sixth season, Coach had only won seven games in six seasons and had lost 15 games in a row, since the Brockport game November '63, when Marty Rizzo went down.

The future of football looked dim. The College was trying to change to a more Liberal Arts school and the football program was detracting these efforts. However, several older returning players convinced the administration to bring in help for Coach Swenson to revamp the program. They did so by hiring Peter Mazzaferro. He and Coach Swenson recruited players from Boston area Class A high schools. In 1966, "The Lucky Seven" season, with an improved offense, defense, and recruited players defeated Springfield in their first game breaking the losing streak. They would go on to win three games, lose four with two losses by a single point. The next year in 1967 the Bears would record four wins and three losses avenging their two one point losses. This secured the future for football. Coach Swenson would retire with a winning season handing the team over to Coach Peter Mazzaferro. The full history of Coach Swenson's eight seasons can be found in *The Swenson Era* <https://vc.bridgew.edu/selections/7/>.

Michael J. Hughes, Class of 1965

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