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Bridgewater State University

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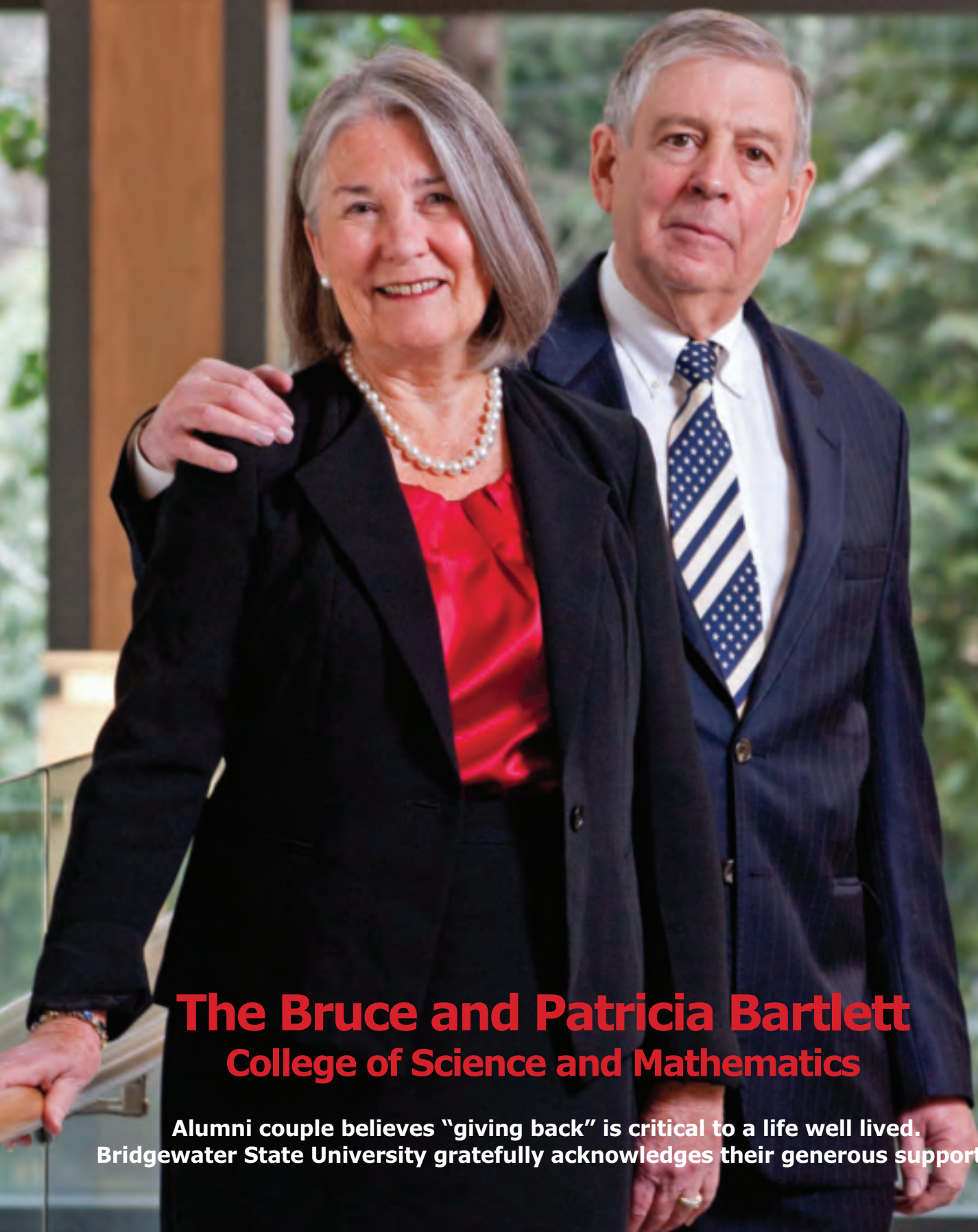
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# Bridgewater

SPRING 2012  
VOLUME 22 • NUMBER 1



## **The Bruce and Patricia Bartlett College of Science and Mathematics**

**Alumni couple believes "giving back" is critical to a life well lived.  
Bridgewater State University gratefully acknowledges their generous support.**

# StudentSpotlight

**WHEN CAPE VERDE NATIVE PAULO BORGES** was at Bridgewater State as a transfer student in fall 2008, he spent a great deal of time at the Academic Achievement Center. Housed in Maxwell Library and offering the largest assortment of student academic services on campus, the center made a sizable impression on the eager undergraduate.

So much so, that when Mr. Borges returned to his home island of Santiago, he founded his own version of the Academic Achievement Center. Located in Amilcar Cabral High School in Assomada, where the 32-year-old taught English as a second language, the center quickly became a hit, offering a variety of student assistance services. According to Mr. Borges, to date, more than 1,500 of the school's students have taken advantage of the center.

This success instilled in Mr. Borges a desire to return to BSU for a master's degree in English. He plans to graduate in May 2013.

## **Describe your experiences with Bridgewater State University's Academic Achievement Center.**

I went to the center and spent time reviewing my papers. It was great. I could learn how to help people and be humble enough to receive help in return.

## **What was it that impressed you about the center?**

At first, I thought people would write my papers for me. When I got there I learned otherwise. They guide you, they help you to think, but they don't do it for you. They help you explore your own skills.

## **What made you want to start a similar center in Cape Verde?**

With most students in our high school, the teachers were not able to assist them. Since I learned about the Academic Achievement Center in America and experienced its effects, I wanted to start one there and have our students experience the same thing.

## **What has been the feedback?**

It's helped a lot of students. Today, many of them are still sending me text messages like, "Hey Paulo, we need your help..." At my high school it was a first. This idea was spread among teachers from different subjects, and they all had a great desire to use the center. The teachers, students and even the parents said it was great.

## **How did it feel to help others?**

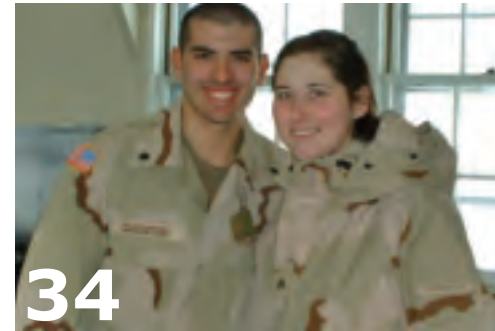
It made me feel great. It's giving back what you receive. That's the feeling I had. And I felt it was my obligation to do that because someone did it for me.

## **What are your plans after graduation?**

I still have plans to help those students who have difficulties, but I will also be teaching at the University of Cape Verde. My main plan is to continue to help young people.

(Interview by John Winters, G'11)





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**Bridgewater** keeps alumni, faculty, students and their families, staff and friends of Bridgewater State University informed about the university community and its impact on the region.

This university magazine is written, designed and edited by the Publications Office with the needs of its varied audiences at heart and in mind.

For up-to-date information on university news, activities and events, and to view past issues of *Bridgewater*, visit [www.bridgew.edu](http://www.bridgew.edu).

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Cover photo by Kindra Clineff

# A message from the president

Dear friends,

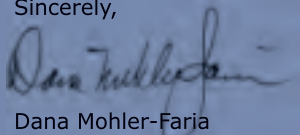
Each spring, the conclusion of the academic year and commencement celebrations brings with it a wonderful reminder of the enduring, transformative power of our institution. For each of the more than 2,200 students who graduated and proudly joined our alumni ranks, it is our hope that your time at Bridgewater had a profoundly positive impact on the trajectory of your life. We also endeavor to ensure that a Bridgewater degree is much more than simply an academic credential or an admission ticket to employment or advanced study. It should symbolize a deep appreciation for the virtues of living selflessly and a commitment to improving the human condition.

Contained within the pages of this issue of *Bridgewater* are countless deeply inspiring role models who embody this esprit de corps. Bruce and Patricia Bartlett, both alumni who met at Bridgewater more than 40 years ago and now grace the magazine's cover, are shining examples. From the humblest of beginnings, the husband and wife team built numerous hugely successful businesses, raised a family, employed thousands and devoted themselves to the cause of philanthropy. Their recent \$2 million gift to the university follows a lifetime of generosity to their alma mater and is one of the largest gifts ever for a public institution in Massachusetts.

No less impressive is the nearly eight-decade-long affiliation between the late Dr. V. James DiNardo – affectionately called “Mr. Bridgewater” and the university. A veteran, alumnus of Bridgewater State Teachers College, public school teacher, college professor and former executive vice president of his alma mater, Dr. DiNardo represented the quintessential public servant and will forever be remembered as one of the true giants of this institution. His lifelong friend and another of Bridgewater's greats, Dr. George Weygand, was recently honored as the namesake for the university's newest residence hall. This spectacular new facility, which will benefit students for generations to come, will forever serve as a reminder of Dr. Weygand's exceptional character and legendary commitment to Bridgewater.

I hope you enjoy these and all of the incredible stories contained with this issue. All of us who now call Bridgewater home are standing on the shoulders of giants, and these are just a few of the many who inspire us with each day that passes.

Sincerely,



Dana Mohler-Faria  
President



# 'The heart and soul of this institution'

## Dr. V. James DiNardo remembered for his 76-year association with Bridgewater State University

BY DAVID K. WILSON, '71

When V. James DiNardo first arrived on the campus of what was then Bridgewater State Teachers College in fall 1935, he knew instantly he would have a special bond with the school, although just how special – or how lasting – it's unlikely he ever imagined.

"We were such a small college in comparison to today," he said in an interview several years ago, "Counting everyone – students, faculty and staff – we were not much more than 500 people, and there were only seven buildings gathered close together around the quadrangle. But we were a community, in the best sense of the word. And besides our gratitude that we could be here at all, most of us had something else in common: We were poor, many of us miserably poor, because this was the very depth of the Great Depression. Bridgewater gave us a sense of hope and purpose, and I loved the school from the moment I arrived here."

Between 1935 and his passing in November 2011 (a span of 76 years), Dr. V. James DiNardo remained what President Dana Mohler-Faria said in a eulogy was "the heart and soul of this institution," a man who will "forever be remembered for his immense loyalty to Bridgewater and all that he did over so many years to profoundly influence its growth and development."

Born August 26, 1917, to Lawrence and Concetta DiNardo, he attended public schools in Quincy and majored in education at Bridgewater State. After graduating in 1939, he started teaching in a one-room schoolhouse in Bethel, VT, but when America entered World War II, he enlisted in the Army.

Just prior to leaving for duty in the Aleutian Islands, he met Norene Blecha at the USO in Fort Lewis, WA. Norene, who is originally from Green Bay, WI, was the director of the USO there.

They married a week before his unit shipped overseas and would remain devoted to each other for 66 years, raising two children who eventually provided them with five grandchildren.

Dr. DiNardo's brother Alfred also enlisted in the armed forces and died fighting for his country during the war.

At war's end, Dr. DiNardo returned home to Norene and resumed his career in education, going on to earn master's and doctoral degrees at Boston University, where he would be honored with the "Alumnus of the Year" award from the school of education. He also spent a year as a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard University.

Dr. DiNardo enjoyed a career in education that spanned more than six decades, from that one-room Vermont schoolhouse and continuing through the years as a teacher and administrator in the public schools of his hometown of Quincy, where he was, in turn, principal of three schools.

He returned to his alma mater in 1957 as principal of the teacher-training elementary school. He was soon promoted to dean of undergraduate studies, and retired in 1983 as professor of education and executive vice president of the institution. He also served for many years as the treasurer of the alumni association, and in recognition of his work and dedication, he was presented with that organization's first Lifetime Membership.

In gratitude for his illustrious service, Bridgewater State in 1984 named its highest award for faculty achievement and mastery of subject, "The Dr. V. James DiNardo Award for Excellence in Teaching," which is presented annually to that person deemed most worthy by nomination of the full-time faculty of the institution. A further honor came his way in 1989 when a new residence hall was named for him.



Following his retirement from Bridgewater State, Dr. DiNardo worked for the U.S. Department of State conducting teacher training for the American schools in Rome; Brasilia, Brazil; and San Jose, Costa Rica.

He had an even longer association with the YMCA, joining that organization in Quincy at the age of 10, when a kindly executive director of the "Y" offered him and several friends the opportunity to work for the organization in exchange for their membership. That act began what developed into a lifetime of "repayment" to the Y where he served as a summer camp counselor at Camp Burgess on Cape Cod. He later served as camp director, a member of the board of directors for more than 30 years, and then president of the Quincy – now the South Shore – YMCA.

"His third great civic love was the Rotary Club," said his wife. He was one of the charter members of the Rotary Club of the Bridgewater when it was founded in 1970, and he went on to serve as club president and, eventually, district governor for Southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island. "Of all his work and dedication to Rotary, and its motto of 'Service Above Self,' he was probably most remembered for his rousing weekly renditions of 'God Bless America,' which is sung at each week's gathering," his wife stated.

Dr. DiNardo was also active in St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Bridgewater, where he taught religious education classes and served as president of the parish council. ■



BSU President Dana Mohler-Faria and Dr. Elizabeth Warren (left) listen as former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright speaks.

## Campaign stop

BY JOHN WINTERS, G'11

Nearly 400 members of the BSU community filled the Rondileau Campus Center ballroom to hear Elizabeth Warren, the Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate, and former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright discuss their views on a wide range of topics. The program began with President Dana Mohler-Faria posing questions to the two guests, after which a half dozen BSU students got a chance to ask their own questions.

Dr. Warren is a professor at Harvard Law School and would have been happy to continue a life of teaching and research, she said. However, with the economic crisis of 2008, she found herself thrust into the center of the storm. Concerned that the regulatory atmosphere would remain unchanged in the wake of the crisis, she decided that change was needed. "The question is, 'What are the rules going to look like coming out the other side?'" she said. "No one was talking about what was going on at the family level." This led Dr. Warren to establish the United States Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Last September she launched her challenge against Republican Scott Brown for the U.S. Senate.

Dr. Warren addressed the main tenets of her platform and summed up her position with the question: "Are we going to be the kind of county that makes the investment in those who have already made it, or are we going to invest in those who are coming up?" She said, "That's the way I see it."

Secretary Albright shared a bit of her life story, including her time as a student at Wellesley College. "I love Massachusetts," she said. Famous for her brooches, the secretary boasted that in honor of coming to BSU, she was wearing one adorned with a bear.

Students seemed impressed by what they heard. "I agree with a lot of what Elizabeth Warren said," said Kelsey Bryant of Marshfield, a communication studies major. "I thought she was amazing."

The event was held as part of BSU's Center for Legislative Studies Distinguished Speaker Series. The center has also invited the other candidates for senate, Marisa DeFranco and incumbent Scott Brown. ■

President Dana Mohler-Faria has been honored with a Champions of Freedom Award. The awards are given annually to outstanding individuals and nonprofit corporations in recognition of their commitments to diversity, educational achievement, community development and philanthropy that touch the lives of area residents.

The president was one of nine recipients of the Ellen S. Jackson Award for Excellence in Education.

"Dr. Mohler-Faria was chosen in honor of his leadership in ensuring that young people have an outstanding college education, are ready to graduate and have the ability to thrive in today's economy," said Marie Hovis of Freedom House.

The ceremony was held in Boston at the Omni Parker House and presided over by honorary chair Governor Deval Patrick.

**BSU's Middle East Educational Weeks** included a visit by Shai Bazak, consul general of Israel to New England, who discussed the ongoing conflict between Israelis and Palestinians.

The third annual Middle East Educational Weeks, sponsored by the Center for Middle East Studies, featured a comprehensive program of lectures and events investigating a variety of topics making news in the region. It concluded April 12 with a Passover celebration.

Mr. Bazak's talk, "Palestinian-Israeli Peace Negotiations: The Current Situation on the Ground and the Future," focused on the roots of the decades-long conflict, possible peaceful resolutions and the state of unrest throughout the Middle East.

**Bridgewater State University** was presented a \$12,500 gift by Bristol County Savings Bank to be put toward the Adrian Tinsley Program for Undergraduate Research. The donation was in honor of BSU's President Emeritus Adrian Tinsley, for whom the program is named, and who served for many years on the bank's board of trustees. President Dana Mohler-Faria accepted the donation at a campus reception attended by Dr. Tinsley and a number of the bank's board members.

President Mohler-Faria said he was "personally thrilled" to receive the gift in Dr. Tinsley's honor. "A person's legacy is not created by what we want, but by what we do," he said. "If we do well, our legacy lives on. Dr. Tinsley's legacy will live on and on." ■

# Well played

## Athletics Director John Harper to retire

BY MICHAEL HOLBROOK



John Harper, director of athletics and recreation since 1991, and the man who has overseen unprecedented growth of Bridgewater State University's athletics facilities and all facets of its 21 men's and women's varsity programs, intramurals, club sports and general campus recreation, has announced his retirement effective July 31.

"John Harper is one of the finest people with whom I have worked," said Dr. David Ostroth, vice president for student affairs. "He's a man of deep integrity and outstanding judgment – a fine professional with the experience to make him a true expert in his field."

Since Mr. Harper's arrival at BSU, Bears varsity athletic programs have made 76 team and individual NCAA Division III championship appearances. Among the many team highlights at the national level are the runner-up finish by the softball team in 1994, the baseball team's third-place showing in 1996 and the Sweet Sixteen run by the men's basketball team in 2009.

"It has been a distinct honor and privilege to serve the Bridgewater State University community for the past 20-plus years," Mr. Harper said. "I have been very fortunate to work with and for some very special people during my tenure, and I think the

student-athletes of BSU have been the beneficiaries of that collaboration."

The Bears have captured the prestigious Howard C. Smith Cup 10 times during Mr. Harper's tenure. The cup is awarded to the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC) institution that compiles the most points based on the placement of each of its programs competing in the 13 league championships.

During his time at BSU, Mr. Harper has been instrumental in advocating for numerous programming, staffing and facilities improvements to benefit the campus. Among these projects was the construction of Alumni Park, a baseball/softball complex that has hosted numerous NCAA regional softball tournaments. Another major project under his purview, and one of the single largest facility improvements on campus over the past decade, was construction of the 80,000-square-foot Adrian Tinsley Center. The most recent facility construction project was the \$4.7 million renovation of Swenson Field, which was dedicated during Homecoming weekend in 2010.

In recognition of his numerous administrative successes, he was named the 2002-2003 NCAA Division III Athletic Director of the Year in the Northeast

Region by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics. Meanwhile, his longtime involvement with Special Olympics in Massachusetts earned him the Massachusetts Outstanding Co-Games Director of the Year Award in 1999, the Hanlon Award for Volunteerism in 2003 and, along with the rest of the BSU Management Team, induction into the Massachusetts Special Olympics Hall of Fame in 2004. He received the Commonwealth Citation for Outstanding Performance in 1999.

"Above all, he loves student-athletes and has made a real, positive difference in the lives of countless young men and women," Dr. Ostroth said. "He will be sorely missed, but the successful organization he has built is positioned to go on, to grow, and to continue to matter very much to the university and its students."

This past year, Mr. Harper was selected as the ECAC Male Administrator of the Year and was recognized by the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame for his dedication and leadership, as well as his perseverance in promoting wrestling in Massachusetts and New England.

Mr. Harper lives in Bridgewater with his wife, Ann. They have two sons and twin grandchildren. ■



# The turn-around

## FAM for Change students earn full scholarship, enter next phase of life

BY ROBERT W. MATHESON JR., '07, G'12

The inaugural cohort of Bridgewater State University's FAM for Change mentoring program has graduated from Brockton High School and been accepted to colleges and universities across the commonwealth. In the fall, three of these former mentees will return to BSU, this time as freshmen on full scholarships.

Developed by President Dana Mohler-Faria, FAM for Change pairs BSU mentors with Brockton High freshmen deemed to be at high risk of dropping out. The goal is to help the latter stay in school and excel in their studies. The mentees who successfully complete the program, graduate high school and meet the requirements for entrance into BSU will get to attend the university free of charge.

Georgianna Bullock, Marco Cobar and Marie Doyon are the first to earn that honor. The trio was excited and relieved that the scholarship lessened the financial burden associated with higher education. "I don't have to worry about that now," said Marie. "That stress is gone."

The students accepted their scholarships at the annual FAM for Change Meet and Greet Dinner, which invites campus community members, and friends and family to welcome to the program new mentors and mentees.

The mentoring program offers more than just free tuition. It helps students grow academically and personally.

"My mentors made me want to do better," said Marie, who plans to double major in music and sociology. She is already helping young flutists in the BHS band.

The former mentees said they would enjoy becoming FAM for Change mentors. For Georgianna, mentoring would be "paying it forward." Her BSU mentors introduced her to the



At the FAM for Change Meet and Greet Dinner are (from left) Kenny Monteiro, FAM for Change program director; FAM for Change mentees Marie Doyon, Marco Cobar and Georgianna Bullock; Susan McCombe, director of University and Community Partnerships; and Diane Bell, director of BSU's Community Service Center.

university experience, and helped her get accepted to BSU and learn about pursuing her passion for teaching.

Early on, one mentor helped her break out of her shell. "I've always been shy," Georgianna said. "She made me realize it's good to express myself. It was an eye-opening experience."

Kenny Monteiro, FAM for Change's program director, has watched these mentees grow over their four years in the program. All the students in FAM for Change's first class, he said, have learned to take on leadership roles, helping facilitate programming and plan community events, and become mentors themselves. "They've all become leaders in their own ways," he said.

Marco has indeed become a strong leader, thanks to his combined experiences with FAM for Change and the junior ROTC program at BHS, where he is second lieutenant regularly in charge of 30-40 students. Through his experiences, Marco also developed an appetite for community service. Citing his volunteer work for BSU's annual Halloween for Hunger and Hunger Walk food drives, he said, "I realized there are families that need our

help. There are a lot of problems in this world. It really needs leaders."

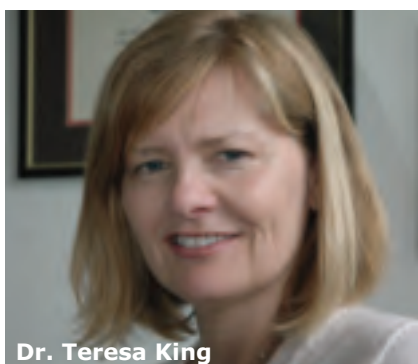
Marco will take part in the U.S. Army boot camp for six months before starting his studies at BSU in spring 2013 as a business major.

Hearing that the BHS students were accepted to colleges and universities was a remarkable moment for Susan McCombe, director of University and Community Partnerships, who works with the FAM for Change program. "This is the day we have been waiting for," she said. "I am so proud of these students and our mentors and all they have accomplished."

The other FAM for Change graduates and the institutions to which they were accepted are: Chastity Gonsalves; Marilyn Jean, UMass Dartmouth, UMass Boston, Massasoit Community College; Youssra Abdelmonem, Fisher College, Massasoit; Manuel Pires, Curry College, Becker College; Kristanna Williams, Fisher College, Massasoit; and Justice Steele, Quincy College, Massasoit, Bristol Community College. Rosey Pauyo, Angel Gonzalez, Jasmin Leite, Amanda Gabourel, William Quiles, Cyril Neal, Theophile Victoria and Maceo Campbell will be attending Massasoit. ■



Dr. Michelle Cox



Dr. Teresa King

## Faculty honored

BY ROBERT W. MATHESON JR., '07, G'12

Dr. Michelle Cox, assistant professor of English, and Dr. Teresa King, associate professor of psychology, each earned a Presidential Award for Distinguished Teaching. The annual award recognizes two full-time faculty members who have displayed outstanding performance and innovation in teaching at the graduate or undergraduate level.

Other awards given at the Awards for Academic Excellence ceremony were the Lifetime Faculty Research Award to Dr. Gregory Chaplin, English; Class of 1950 Distinguished Faculty Research Award to Dr. Erin O'Connor, history; Dr. V. James DiNardo Award for Excellence in Teaching to Dr. Melissa Niccole Freeburg, counselor education; Jordan D. Fiore Award for Social Justice to Dr. Elizabeth Spievak, psychology; Presidential Award for Diversity and Inclusion to Dr. Sandra Faiman-Silva, anthropology; Presidential Awards for Distinguished Adjunct Teaching to Professor Jennifer Mogg, philosophy, and Professor Katy Whittingham, English; Presidential Awards for Excellence in Collaboration to Improve Teaching to Dr. Matthew Salomone, mathematics and computer science, and Dr. Stacey Sheriff, English; and Presidential Fellowship to Professor Donald Tarallo, art. ■



Taking part in the groundbreaking ceremony for Weygand Hall are (from left) President Dana Mohler-Faria; Dr. George Weygand, '53, G'56; Louis M. Ricciardi, '81, chairman of the BSU Board of Trustees and vice chairman of the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education; James Morris, chairman of the Massachusetts State College Building Authority; and BSU student Alex Khoury, president of the Residence Hall Association.

## Breaking ground for a new residence hall

BY ROBERT W. MATHESON JR., '07, G'12

Friends, family and former colleagues of Professor Emeritus George Weygand, '53, G'56, one of Bridgewater State University's major supporters, joined campus community members in celebrating the official groundbreaking of the university's new residence hall, named for Dr. Weygand.

Dr. Weygand served as professor and chairperson of the Department of Physics. During his tenure, he served as the institution's marshal, participated on numerous committees and task forces, and fulfilled roles in the university's governance, among other positions. Today, Dr. Weygand still offers his services to BSU in many ways, financially and otherwise.

Construction on the five-story, 500-bed Weygand Hall, which began in February, is scheduled for completion in late summer 2013. The residence hall will be located on the east campus between Crimson Hall and the new parking garage, behind East Hall. The building's unique layout includes suite-style living and learning units located throughout. The first-floor west wing will house the new Health and Counseling Center. ■

See related story on page 24.

# Bruce, '68, and Patricia, '67, Bartlett

BY KAREN A. BOOTH

**Courage, hard work,  
heart and the desire  
to make a difference**



Life is all about the journey – the twists and turns, the ups and downs. It’s about the defining moments that shape a life, the chance encounters that influence each person. It’s about love and courage, hard work and risk taking. But, in the final analysis, life is about making a difference.

Bruce, '68, and Patricia (Quinn), '67, Bartlett understand the journey only too well. They have the courage; they took the risks. Their 45-year marriage blossomed from a chance encounter while undergraduates at then Bridgewater State College. Their philanthropic spirits simmered gently over the years, shaped, in part, by defining moments in their lives. For Bruce, it was a Thanksgiving turkey and all the fixings. For Pat, it was a pay-it-forward philosophy rooted in her own experience as a recipient of much-appreciated support for one of her children in need of additional tutoring.

As a child, Bruce remembers the time when his father was between jobs, and life was tough. He remembers 22-year-old Buddy Finn who ran the soda fountain at the local drugstore in Wakefield, where he grew up. It was Buddy who dropped off the turkey to the struggling family and, unknowingly, became that defining moment in young Bruce’s life. The epilogue: Ten years ago, Bruce tracked down Buddy and thanked him, sending him a pay-it-forward gift, which Buddy, in turn, donated to Catholic Charities.

Fast forward a few decades. Today, Bridgewater State University is the grateful beneficiary of the Bartlett’s lifelong philanthropic spirit, having received a \$2 million donation, one of the largest private gifts ever for a state university in Massachusetts. The transformative power of this gift knows no bounds and will impact students for generations to come.

Pat answered the question “Why Bridgewater?” without hesitation: “We *are* Bridgewater. Bruce and I met here. It’s where our value system comes from. Some of our closest friends today are couples we met at Bridgewater.

“The bottom line is simple. Public education *needs* private philanthropy, and this is a most important time for people to help in any way they can. Public education is what made the United States great. Higher education opens doors for people, provides opportunities, and Bruce and I want those doors open at all times.”

Almost in unison, the Bartletts cite their Bridgewater State experience as the beginning of the twists and turns of their journey.



**Around two years ago, Excel Scaffold, (top photo) a company owned by the Bartletts, began supplying scaffolding and labor directly to the oil industry. To date, Excel supplies more than 1,000 personnel to eight refineries with the goal of growing the company 25 to 50 percent over the next several years.**

**In addition to designing office buildings for Bartlett Nuclear, Pat designed the family homes, including the one above in South Duxbury.**

Pat earned her bachelor’s degree in health and physical education in 1967 and went on to teach and become certified in elementary education. Bruce graduated with a bachelor’s degree in mathematics in 1968, a year of stark contrasts in America. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert Kennedy were assassinated; Richard Nixon was elected president; NASA’s Apollo program debuted; and the nuclear energy industry was in its infancy. Indeed, in the field of alternative energy, the time was ripe for an intelligent, entrepreneurial individual who knew how to get things done.

Enter Bruce Bartlett. How this erstwhile math teacher turned CPA went on to start nine companies in the utilities, government, construction and steel manufacturing sectors with more than 6,000 employees is the story of an American life. Not only does Bruce credit his Bridgewater State education as contributory, he cites as key his genuine interest in making a meaningful contribution, a healthy curiosity, talented and capable employees, and the support of his wife, Pat, who, in his words, “has always inspired my best efforts.” Furthermore, he said, “Teaching really helped me to develop the communication and mentoring skills that are so vital to any organization, including business.”



## Bruce and Patricia Bartlett College of Science and Mathematics

In February, the Bridgewater State University Board of Trustees voted unanimously to rename the college of science and mathematics for Bruce, '68, and Pat, '67, Bartlett (pictured, left, in their BSC yearbook photos). This past December, Bruce and Pat made a \$2 million donation to BSU. This extraordinary act of generosity is among the largest gifts ever received by a state university in Massachusetts and was preceded by many years of sustained philanthropy from the Bartlett family. Countless members of our university community have and will continue to benefit from their philanthropy.

Bruce began life-after-graduation first as a math teacher, then as a CPA with Touche Ross, now Deloitte & Touche. There, a partner, Peter Cruise, took him under his wing. Somewhere along the line, Bruce met several individuals involved in the nuclear power industry. He was impressed, energized and determined to start his own business. At this point, Pat was teaching and opted to continue to do so as the family's financial back-up plan – in her words, “a kind of insurance policy” – while Bruce launched Bartlett Nuclear.

The rest, as they say, is history. “Early on,” said Bruce, “I was blessed with being able to attract some of the most extraordinarily talented and capable people, not only from our finest colleges but also submariners in the United States Navy, as well as other military sources.”

Over the years, Bartlett Nuclear grew to become a major player in the industry, the only company to be the prime radiological contractor for all 104 operating reactors in the nation – meaning that since 1983, the company has supplied the industry with the largest number of decontamination personnel, health physics technicians and, now, also engineers. From the earliest days, the safety of personnel working in the power plants has been paramount.

A partial list of accomplishments includes Bartlett Nuclear as the prime radiological contractor for all the major decommissioning of commercial reactors, among them Connecticut Yankee, Maine Yankee, Shoreham, Yankee Rowe, as well

as the decommissioning of Fernald and Rocky Flats nuclear weapons facilities. The company also supplied at times more than 200 personnel over a five-year period to decommission some of the remaining secret buildings dedicated to the Manhattan Project. Bartlett Nuclear supplied on-site consulting for the decommissioning of a reactor in North Korea under the auspices of the State Department, a stressful mission given the fact that the machine gun-toting North Koreans did not exactly welcome the Americans.

In 1989, Bridgewater State College awarded the Dr. Adrian Rondileau Award for Professional Achievement to Bruce and Pat.

When 9/11 happened, Bruce directed his staff to work on a system to detect dirty bombs entering our seaports. The company received a patent for its method, and the United States' largest defense contractor purchased the rights to that patent.

Bartlett Nuclear – now known as BHI Energy since the Bartletts sold a majority of stock in 2004 – supplies mechanics for some of the United States' largest windmill projects. Bruce and Pat kept for their children the remaining companies that vary from manufacturing fire engine cabs to sleeping quarters for the Navy seals in nuclear submarines, and cleaning up oil wells in Mexico. These companies hold 15 active patents with seven more pending in the scaffold and platform industries.

Bruce “retired” in 2004 and, since then, has launched three more companies. Pat, who retired from teaching when it was clear the risk-taking successfully “took,” worked side-by-side with Bruce, doing all the back-office support that keeps an enterprise – or, in this case, enterprises – operating smoothly. Through it all, the couple raised their three children, Ned, Brooke and Ben.

Back-office support, however, soon came front and center. Always interested in architecture and drawing, Pat began designing office buildings as the businesses expanded – the exterior styling, the interior floor plans, the ergonomics, the ambiance, workers’ comfort – Pat left nothing to chance. She designed the family homes – a beautiful New England-style colonial in Duxbury; an elegant French country house in Rancho Santa Fe, CA; and Williamsburg-style office buildings in Plymouth.

Bruce’s 2004 “retirement” saw the launch of the Bartlett Foundation in order to continue building on a lifetime of giving back. In addition to their gift to Bridgewater State

University, the Bartletts have supported groundbreaking research by Dr. C. Stephen Foster at the Massachusetts Eye Research and Surgery Institute; Dr. Michael Jaklitsch in lung transplants at Brigham and Women’s Hospital; and Dr. William Bugbee’s research at Scripps Memorial Hospital in La Jolla, CA. They set up a scholarship in Pat’s name for students with learning disabilities at the University of Arizona.

Pat references the three things she believes are critical to a life: health, time and money. “In youth,” she said, “we have the health and the time, but no money. In middle age, we have the health and the money, but no time. In retirement, if we’re lucky, we have health, time and money. But there’s a fourth dimension to a life well lived – and that is giving back.”

And so, the Bartletts continue their journey. Their narrative urges us to pay attention, work hard, believe and be all we can be. One Thanksgiving Day turkey reminds us that giving back is as easy as a thoughtful gesture, and that we might never know how a simple kindness impacts a life. The Bridgewater State University community is proud and humbled to call Bruce and Pat Bartlett “family.” ■

## In their “spare” time ...

All work and no play – we’ve all heard the cliché. Bruce and Pat Bartlett have taken its meaning to heart. Each pursues individual interests with passion.

For Pat, it’s Scottish Terriers. Not just any Scottish Terriers. Pat’s terriers are champion show dogs – time and time again – nationally and locally. She is involved, at any given time, in their handling, grooming and training. Today, Reagan, Nancy, Lauren, Thelma and Louise are like members of the family. Pat co-owns current champion Lauren with Sueannette Maniscalco. She also sponsors the Robbin Star trophy, presented to a breeder who is not a professional handler. This award rewards and encourages others to participate in friendly competition.

Pat’s terriers have won many trophies over the years. But, it’s not all about the awards. It’s about her love affair with the breed, especially her own pet family. It’s also about the hunt. She and Bruce – whose passion is collecting original, old documents – often visit rare book auctions and fairs, where Pat scours the goods for children’s books and etchings featuring Scottish Terriers while Bruce searches for old documents.

This brings us to Bruce’s “hobby,” although that might be something of an understatement. It all started when, while visiting a bookstore opposite the Statehouse in Boston, Bruce discovered a document signed by Paul Revere. He bought it, and in a serendipitous moment, found among the stacks a rare book on Paul Revere that, like many others, references the very same document he had just purchased.

One thing led to another. Today, Bruce’s collection numbers more than 1,500 documents, including several by signers of the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution. He owns an important document – signed by Governor Josiah Winslow and Peregrine White – bringing resolution to King Philip’s war. Among other treasures are George Washington letters, John Adams law cases, and some old letters written and signed by Ralph Waldo Emerson, as well as one signed by Sam Adams.

Come to think of it, Bruce is probably one of very few people who could offer his guests a Sam Adams – and a sneak peek at an original document signed by the very same man. ■





# BAA goes international

BY KAREN A. BOOTH

A Bridgewater alumni association chapter serves as a social outlet, not only for graduates but also for students who have studied at BSU for a semester or two as part of a student exchange program.

It's also a way in which students can keep in touch with the university; it provides networking and professional development opportunities for alumni, and can be a way to raise funds for scholarships to support other students in need of financial assistance.

## Japan Alumni Association

In fall 2011, the Bridgewater Alumni Association formed its first international alumni chapter – in Japan. Frederick Clark Jr., '83, executive vice president and vice president of external affairs; Bryan Baldwin, vice president of university advancement; Dr. Wing-kai To, professor and coordinator of Asian studies; and Dr. Michael Kryzanek, director of global studies and executive director of international engagement, returned from a 10-day visit extolling the accomplishments of our Japanese alumni and the graciousness of officials throughout their visit to the land of the rising sun.

The university's relationship with Japan dates back to 1875 when Shuji Isawa came to Bridgewater State, graduated and returned to Japan, where he became known as "The Father of Education." Over the years, the university has hosted dozens of Japanese students who return to their home country, but with a soft spot for BSU in their hearts.

## Cape Verde Alumni Association

The Cape Verde Alumni Association is BSU's newest chapter. The university's relationship with this small island nation is more recent, but no less meaningful. The signing of the exchange agreement between Bridgewater State University and the University of Cape Verde in January 2008 marked a historic moment for both institutions.

The genesis of the agreement dates to 2006 when the Cape Verdean Minister of Education visited BSU and expressed a desire for the two institutions to work together toward the formation of a national university system in Cape Verde. In late 2007, President Dana Mohler-Faria served as keynote speaker at the opening of the University of Cape Verde and formalized the protocol. In September 2008, BSU welcomed five Cape Verdean undergraduate students to campus, the first to participate in the historic exchange.

Since then, many more Cape Verdeans have experienced Bridgewater State University, and it is these students – graduates and exchange students – who gathered together to form the Cape Verde chapter, the goal of which is, among other things, to promote an exchange between the two institutions. ■



A delegation from Bridgewater State University traveled to Japan in the fall during which time they launched the Bridgewater Alumni Association Japan chapter.



From left are Bruno Azevedo, G'10, public relations at U.S. Embassy; Harold Tavares, G'07; Ofelia Monteiro, exchange student fall 2011, current student at UNICV; Elisangela Tavares, exchange student fall 2011, current student at UNICV; Elisangela Silva, exchange student fall 2011, current student at UNICV; Mayra Silva, G'10, marketing director at Compta (IT Company); Jair Martins, G'11, faculty member at UNICV.



# CREATING

Art professors bring to bear  
a world of experience

# Connections

BY JOHN WINTERS, G'11

It's a truism that faculty members bring into the classroom a wealth of valuable experiences, research and interests. This is especially true for two Bridgewater State University art professors.

DONALD TARALLO traveled to Italy to study Roman letterforms, creating his own art by photographing these beautiful and historic marks. His students not only gained insights into these letterforms – key elements in the evolution of our alphabet – but also sharpened their artistic skills in studying and recreating them.

For JOHN HOOKER, the focus is on imagining, designing and building artwork that can be used by others to educate and engage. His students have created an array of innovative toys and sculptures that have passed on the skills and joy of creating handmade objects, while providing enjoyment to children around the block and around the world. ■



## More than child's play

**BSU art professor and his students  
create work youngsters can enjoy**

Art has a lot of purposes. Aesthetic, expressive, even therapeutic. For Professor John Hooker of the Department of Art and his students, it is also an important teaching tool. In his classroom, students learn not only how to create works of art but also to be mindful of others while doing so. The results are creations that manage to simultaneously teach and give joy to youngsters around the world.

"I think students here are motivated from wanting to improve themselves and their knowledge about art," he said. "Then we start talking about the social aspects of art and how it creates relationships between people. Then they begin to ask, 'How can we be thinking of other people as we're making things?' Or, 'How might children use these?'"

These questions have manifested themselves in three recent projects, each designed to allow Professor Hooker's students the opportunity to use their talents and imaginations for the good of others.

The projects fit well with his areas of interest. Much of his work at BSU involves educating future art teachers. Meanwhile, as an artist, he's multifaceted. A sculptor, for sure, but also a creator of built objects – compelling works using plastic models, photography, toys, and even fields, concrete and water. Since 1998 he's been featured in dozens of solo and group exhibitions across the country. The class projects combined several of these interests, with a concentration on the principles of educational design.

The first called for two sections of his Three-Dimensional Design class, 32 students in all, to create something for a group of Tanzanian children.

**PHOTOS: Professor John Hooker (left) and his students (from left) Eddie Barrie, Tyler Sloan and Kelli Anderson work on a sculpture of a dinosaur, which was installed in April outside the Children’s Museum in Easton. Right (from top): Molds for the Children’s Museum installation are ready for casting; Larry Colaluca, D.J. Nelson and Dan Iannitelli cast the molds with concrete and spread it smooth; Courtney E. Parece designs forms for Oddie Bodie toys; finished Oddie Bodies ready for distribution.**

The students brainstormed to come up with just the right interactive toy and, ultimately, devised a series of doll figures made up of interchangeable parts. Each student designed a body part of a person, animal or creature of some sort and created rubber molds. The parts had to be designed so as to be interchangeable, for considerations both fun and educational. Soon 450 separate pieces, each aglow in fluorescent plastic, were completed. These Oddie Bodies, as they were dubbed, were then tested and assembled in various configurations by small, eager hands.

“Again, the motivation was, ‘I’m making this for someone, so I need to make it well,’” Professor Hooker said. “It’s all part of our philosophy of educational design: Who is the user? Who do we ultimately create for? And how might this encourage educational play?”

The toys were given a trial run by area children at the Boston Children’s Art Center in what amounted to a pint-sized focus group. After passing muster there, the Oddie Bodies were ready for their final destination – The United African Alliance Community Center in Tanzania, where Professor Hooker has led study tours over the years.

His students responded both to the hands-on creative process, as well as to the end result of the project. “Professor Hooker wanted the class to develop an understanding of the unique conflicting emotions that come with creating a product and sending it out into the world in which you may never ever see it again,” said Christine Dias, ’13, an art education/early childhood education major from Taunton. “But the idea that underprivileged children would get joy out of something I helped create was a great feeling.”

Closer to home, last year the Easton Children’s Museum was looking for a centerpiece for its playground. Professor Hooker and the students from his 3-D class once again went to the drawing board, and this time came up with a large dinosaur. This large-scale, skeletal creation was going to be no ordinary art project, he knew. “Designing something like this and doing the welding are not usual for these beginning students,” he said. The young student-artisans had to do more than build; they had to consider safety concerns, as well as federal regulations regarding playground equipment.

“T-Rex” was installed at the museum in April, featuring a head and tail manufactured by Professor Hooker and his students, with fossil footsteps and climbing equipment connecting the two ends.

The 3-D classes have also created foam balls featuring imagery from different cultures, and architectural blocks that teach BSU students architectural concepts and woodworking skills, while at the same time providing some lucky children with a toy that will engage their minds and hands.

The projects each have another theme that connects them: the aesthetic of the handmade object. That’s something society is leaving behind in this digital age, Professor Hooker said. “There’s a move away from making things because of the push toward technology, and we’re losing something in our culture by not making things,” he said. “Art and design students need to be trained how to make items by hand – in this way they can more thoughtfully approach when and which technology is appropriate for production. In making items by hand, students become more aware of the materials and processes involved in creation, and, therefore, they make better design decisions. You can’t get that tactile information from a touch screen.”

With his work, Professor Hooker is fighting against technology’s rising tide, all the while preparing tomorrow’s teachers to be hands-on artists and creating toys and games for young people to enjoy from Boston to Africa. ■





# Letter perfect

Art professor brings into the classroom his work with Italian inscriptions

BY JOHN WINTERS, G'11



It was critique day in Donald Tarallo's typography class, and his students were gathered around him in a circle. In his quiet way, with the occasional humorous aside, the assistant professor of art examined their work with surgical precision. "Pay attention to the spaces in between as much as the lines," he said about one piece. Reviewing another, he explained how to find the "optical center" of a work to ensure the figure had an innate sense of balance.

The students' work was not the typical fare one expects art students to create these days. It was anything but contemporary. In fact, the models for this assignment dated back some 2,000 years. What the young artists had been asked to create was their own versions of letterforms from long ago in Rome and Pompeii. "I've always taught the history of graphic design, but I've never done anything with Italian typography," Professor Tarallo said.

He spent May 2011 in the two Italian cities researching uppercase, or majuscule, letterforms. The inscriptions he went in search of revealed the history of the Latin alphabet that had been memorialized by artisans dating back to about 79 A.D. – around the time the Colosseum was built. These letterforms evolved from Phoenician, then through Greek to Latin, and helped build and spread an empire. Yet, despite this long history, Professor Tarallo sees the study of centuries-old typography to be as relevant as ever. Whether it's in the study of the tools and materials used to create the forms, or their evolution, there remains a permanent connection between the medium and the aesthetics of letterforms. "It's fascinating because it's constantly evolving, and it's the most used alphabet in the world," he said.

In copying the forms and creating new ones, the students were learning not only about ancient letterforms but also how to break things down to the level of individual strokes and serifs, and to think hard about the architecture of these inscriptions. In short, the idea is that by looking back, they will become better artists and designers in the future.

The road to Professor Tarallo's latest passion ran through China, of all places. That's where he lived for several years and where he first became interested in letterforms. The experience taught him to view design and language in a new way. "My students there taught me about how Chinese characters developed over time, and that got me to thinking about the Latin alphabet we use and its history and evolution," he said.

For him, Italy was a logical place to start. Early Roman architecture contains a variety of inscriptions, each with something to teach us. In Pompeii, the goal was to find hand-painted type that had been preserved for centuries by the covering ashes of Mount Vesuvius. His travels also led him to discover inscriptions in mosaic, providing for him a strong link between the past and present. "I like to draw the parallel that these are like early forms of today's pixels," he said. "So I connected old techniques with new ones."

The pièce de résistance of the trip for Professor Tarallo was a church narthex (sort of an antechamber) in Rome that he stumbled into by accident. The room was filled with letterforms from various time periods. At that moment, more than ever, it became clear to him that the Latin alphabet exists on a continuum as a living and changing thing. "It was amazing to see in one room so many diverse approaches to these uppercase letters and to see the evolution," he said. "These days we're almost moving toward a language of pictures with the Internet, and there's the constant flow of new font designs. I wanted to give my students a perspective on it."

To capture the letterforms, Professor Tarallo photographed them. The images stand on their own as works of art, and, indeed, several were exhibited at the Italian Consulate in Boston. These were the same images used by his typography students to study and create their own versions in class. Their work was shown in BSU's Maxwell Library in March.

Bringing his findings into the classroom is an important part of this project, Professor Tarallo said. In fact, the funding for his Italian research, The Marion and Jasper Whiting Foundation Fellowship, mandated the work be shared with students. His research in this area continues, as he plans to mount exhibits of his photographs and hopes to publish articles and, maybe, a book about his work.

It's clear that these millennia-old forms have had an impact on him that goes beyond erudition. "I'm constantly discovering the beauty of this craft and the importance of language and its visualization in the development of society," he said. "Without this we don't evolve." ■

◀ **Professor Donald Tarallo (left) in Italy, and three of his photographs of ancient Italian letterforms**

Professor's Southwestern fiction earns fans from here to France, and beyond

# Plain songs

BY JOHN WINTERS, G'11



The fiction of Bruce Machart lives on the wide open plains of Texas, and in the mills, farms, barrooms and bedrooms of its environs. It is peopled with characters seeking meaning in between the downing of Lone Stars or in the finish of a horse race.

The Houston native has mined this territory to good effect, producing a debut novel, *The Wake of Forgiveness*, which was a finalist for the PEN/USA Literary Prize, and a collection of short stories released in October that made *Esquire* magazine's list of recommended books for fall 2011.

He brings an impressive pedigree to Bridgewater State University, where he joined the faculty as assistant professor of English at the start of the 2011-2012 academic year. In the classroom, Professor Machart lays down his golden rule of dramatic fiction: "I try to teach the students that stories are about characters, about human beings," he said.

Indeed, his story collection, *Men in the Making*, is full of characters – many of them all too human – the kind of workaday types he knew before turning his life over to writing and teaching. "These characters are learning what it means to be a man, or finding out that what they think that was isn't quite it," he said.

Professor Machart, 41, came of age in a family of Czechoslovakian immigrants, including a father and grandfather who grew up on a farm. That connection to the land became a mainstay of his writing, even though he grew up in the city. "I guess if I couldn't be there I would inhabit it imaginatively," he said.

Professor Machart attended college, and it was there he heard a Eudora Welty story that changed his life and set him on his path. Still, after graduation he spent a few years doing different types of work. Little did he know, he was gathering the material for his fiction. Eventually, he found his way into the MFA program at Ohio State University.

He had a few published short stories to his credit and was teaching five classes at Lone Star College when *The Wake of Forgiveness* was published. Overnight, the rave reviews began pouring in from *The New York Times* and elsewhere, followed by a book tour and interviews on National Public Radio. "It was surprising for a first-time literary novel to do so well," he said. "I couldn't believe it. It seemed like good news kept coming every day."

The novel is set in Lavaca County, the pastoral home of his extended family, and tells the story of four brothers growing up at the turn of the last century. There is violence, romance and horses. Things that, along with the "sumptuous prose," as one critic hailed it, earned Professor Machart comparisons to William Faulkner and Cormac McCarthy.



The novel sold well, garnered great reviews, and earned a spot on many critics' best-of-2010 lists. At the end of January 2011, his French publisher, Gallmeister Editions, brought him to Paris. The book quickly went to a second printing there and spent more than five weeks on the best sellers list. *Men in the Making* will be released in France next year, and his U.S. publisher has signed on for the next novel, tentatively titled *Until Daylight Delivers Me*.

Now that Professor Machart, acclaimed writer of the great Southwest, is a transplanted Northerner, it begs the question: What will become of his fiction? "I think it will take me a while to start writing New England stories," he said. "Though I've always enjoyed this part of the country and, in fact, feel more comfortable here than in Texas."

The author is no stranger to these parts. As an itinerant professor, he taught in Massachusetts for several years – at the Berklee College of Music and Boston University, among other places – and after moving back to Texas in 2003 spent the intervening years flying to Boston once a month to visit his fiancée, Marya. These days, the couple lives north of Boston, and Professor Machart spends his time partaking of the region's cultural and scenic offerings, reading, teaching, promoting his first two books and raking leaves from a giant oak tree in his backyard (48 bagfuls last fall!). "I like it here, it's more provincial, yet still cosmopolitan," he said.

BSU students are among those glad that he relocated. "Professor Machart has really pushed me to take a closer look at not only my writing but also the world around me," said student Kurt Collins. "While taking his fiction writing workshop I thought to myself, 'This is the class I came to college to take.'"

With appreciative students, a new home and a debut novel that's beginning to make waves internationally, Professor Machart seems poised for another leap forward. "After a while, the excitement of having that new book out dissipates," he said. "And then it's, 'OK, now let's write the next one.'"

The best news of all is there are waiting readers from Houston to Paris and places in between. ■



# Carrying the load

**BSU professor battles cancer, but continues competing in – and winning – weightlifting championships.**

BY JOHN WINTERS, G'11



After undergoing eight surgeries following a diagnosis of breast cancer on her right side, as well as melanoma, Ellyn Robinson, 47, professor of exercise physiology, was told by doctors she wasn't to lift anything heavier than a bag of groceries for the rest of her life. That was two years ago. Since then, she's been diagnosed with breast cancer on her other side, again endured treatment after treatment, and received the same warnings against heavy lifting.

Oh, and during that time, she also won a gold medal at the National Masters Weightlifting Championships, traveled to Cyprus where she won the silver medal for Team USA at the World Masters Weightlifting Championships, and visited London where she was chosen out of all the coaches in the nation to represent the United States at the London Olympics test event.

So she's not a great patient, one could argue. But there's no debating that Dr. Robinson is one heck of a weightlifter and a true warrior. "Things like cancer happen in life," she said. "This isn't the end of the world. It's your choice. I could sit in the corner and become a fat, old couch potato, or I could continue to simply be me."

Being Dr. Ellyn Robinson has meant serving as a role model and coach to hundreds of athletes at BSU, where she earned her master's degree in 1992. It's meant being a caring professor at her alma mater since 1999. It's meant completing 11 marathons and earning nearly 20 gold medals in national and international Olympic weightlifting competitions since re-entering the masters level of the sport in 2006.

However, in summer 2009, this 5-foot-8-inch, 138-pound athlete was handed her toughest challenge: Following a bout with melanoma, a follow-up mammogram showed something askew. More tests confirmed it was cancer, and in March 2010, Dr. Robinson underwent a radical mastectomy on her right side, which meant also having her lymph nodes removed. Eight surgeries were done over the course of 10 months, and when they were completed, she couldn't even straighten her arm. That's when the doctors forbade her lifting anything heavier than five pounds. "I still worked through the whole thing," Dr. Robinson said, "Coaching, too." After going under the knife all those times, she laughed and said, "I was getting good at it."

Dr. Robinson continued training, sometimes with stitches still in. In time, she got back to her regular routine. Thirteen months after the mastectomy, she competed in a national weightlifting competition in Georgia and took another gold medal, along the way breaking multiple records for New England-based athletes. In fact, each time Dr. Robinson has competed since her mastectomy she has continued to break records. "In some ways I felt stronger than before," she said. "My friends told me they'd never seen me have so much fun lifting."

This qualified her for the international meet in Cyprus last November, where she earned the silver medal. She also took the gold medal the prior month at a competition in New Jersey. Incredible achievements for anyone, never mind someone battling cancer on multiple fronts. However, it hasn't been all medals and accolades. Dr. Robinson lost her mother to cancer just months after her own diagnosis. Meanwhile, during summer 2011, breast cancer was diagnosed on her left side. She decided to continue training, tackle Cyprus, and then address the new developments.

Dr. Robinson is all about pressing on. She believes getting up and about is the best treatment for her. "I want to feel like an athlete, not like a cancer patient," she said. "It was very emotional getting back out there. But it made me feel emotionally strong, as well as physically strong."

All this sets a great example for the students and the athletes she coaches. "She's a constant reminder to stay positive," said Kat O'Neill, a graduate student in the strength and conditioning program. "After what she's been through, she's totally inspiring. It's an example of real strength."

While nobody knows what the future holds, Dr. Robinson is busy planning. She hopes to have five athletes she's trained compete in the 2012 Olympic trials. She, of course, will be there to coach. "I have cancer, cancer doesn't have me," she said. "I've tried hard to take the life lessons from this disease and not let it change me." ■





# The great way

Professor spent a semester living and learning in Hong Kong.

BY DAVID K. WILSON, '71

Since 1988, Dr. Mark Brenner, associate professor of social work and coordinator of the Master of Social Work program, has been an ardent student of Zen. However, it took nearly two decades before he had his first chance to visit Asia, where Zen has flourished for centuries.

Dr. Brenner spent the fall 2010 and spring 2011 semesters in Hong Kong, working on various projects and feeding his passions, both personal and professional.

He has always been interested in Asian philosophy. He wrote his PhD dissertation on Zen while at Simmons College, and began practicing meditation in the mid 1970s. In the '80s, he was studying and practicing post-modern psychotherapy and found commonality in the philosophical underpinnings between that and Zen. After an introduction to Zen at a workshop in 1988 at the Providence Zen Center, he became a true devotee.

Zen is a form of Buddhism that emphasizes wisdom based on experience – rather than theory – in the attainment of enlightenment. It is something that touches both Dr. Brenner's life and work. "Zen provides a very practical and time-tested method for being fully aware of the moment-to-moment unfolding of experience," he said. "There is a saying in Zen, 'The Great Way is not difficult for those who have no preferences.' And therein lies the rub."

Dr. Brenner's time in Hong Kong came by a slightly circuitous route. During his first visit East in 2006 to deliver an academic paper at a social work conference in Hong Kong, he met Dr. Carolyn Jacobs, dean of Smith College's School of Social Work. They stayed in touch, and a couple years later, she invited Dr. Brenner to a lecture at Smith given by Dr. Cecilia Chan, director of the Centre for Behavioral Health at the University of Hong Kong. He jumped at the chance to attend.

Part of Dr. Brenner's enthusiasm stemmed from his long-time interest in meditation; Dr. Chan leads a program at her university that integrates traditional Chinese philosophies – such as Daoism, Buddhism and traditional Chinese medicine – into social work practice. Their model is called Integrative Body-Mind-Spirit social work (I-BMS). "My 2006 presentation had in fact been on Zen and social work practice, so when I met Dr. Chan again at Smith in 2008, I inquired about doing a sabbatical at the University of Hong Kong," he said.

Two years later, Dr. Brenner and his wife, Karen, packed their bags and headed east for nine months. "Even though I wasn't unfamiliar with Hong Kong, I soon learned that living there is much different from living here," he said. "For one thing, when winter comes, the temperature can dip down to 40 degrees, not terrible for a native New Englander, but very few apartments in the city have heat. We soon gave up toughing it out, and we borrowed a space heater."

From September to April, Dr. Brenner collaborated with staff at the Centre on Behavioral Health, working on two projects. The first was working with members of the staff to further develop their fidelity checklist for training in the I-BMS model. A second project involved developing the "Integrative Well-being Scale," which measures physical, psychological and spiritual well-being. Dr. Brenner's contribution involved translating the concepts of the I-BMS model into everyday English.

He spent January to May at the Hong Kong Institute of Education, which specializes in teacher education and has a growing faculty of social science. "The institute is located in a suburb of Hong Kong, much like Bridgewater is located in a suburb of Boston, and it's very beautiful and very quiet, a big change from being on Hong Kong Island," he said.

Dr. Brenner was the first person from BSU to participate in a faculty exchange program with the institute. A second BSU professor, Dr. Jodi Cohen of the Department of Sociology, spent her fall 2011 sabbatical there. Meanwhile, five students from the institute studied at BSU this year.



**Dr. Mark Brenner and his wife, Karen, in Hong Kong**

While in Hong Kong, Dr. Brenner traveled to Japan to attend an international conference on family therapy where he presented a paper he developed with Dr. Sabrina Gentlewarrior, director of institutional diversity, about a course at BSU that trains MSW students in family therapy. As time and circumstances permitted, he and his wife traveled throughout Asia. "Hong Kong is so centrally located that we were able to easily visit Japan, Cambodia, Thailand, Taiwan and Bhutan," he explained.

Language was only a problem when dealing with Cantonese-speaking clients. "Social work professionals in Hong Kong write their case reports in English, so there's a strong familiarity with our language," he said. "But when I observed clinical sessions in Hong Kong, communicating was a challenge. It was essential to have a translator available."

Dr. Brenner returned to Hong Kong in January. Next January, he will travel to Thailand with history Professor Wing-kai To to lead a study tour focusing on Buddhism in Asia.

Among the benefits of spending time in Hong Kong was the opportunity for Dr. Brenner to reconnect with part of his professional past. In 2003, when the master's degree program in social work was first offered at BSU, Dr. Brenner left the clinical world to enter the classroom. "It's really a whole different experience, and to be honest, I missed the clinical part of my work," he said. "That's part of what appealed to me about spending a year in Hong Kong. I knew I'd have the chance to do this type of work again." ■

# Weygand Hall

Bridgewater State University honors Professor Emeritus Dr. George Weygand, '53, G'56

BY KAREN A. BOOTH



Fireside lounge



Living/learning pod





In one way or another, George Weygand, '53, G'56, has devoted most of his life to his alma mater, and Bridgewater State University is proud to acknowledge his tremendous contributions to the institution over more than half a century and counting.



Beyond his accomplishments as an educator and public servant, it is Dr. Weygand's character, enthusiasm and dedication that place him in the pantheon of BSU legends. For these reasons, the university's Board of Trustees recently voted unanimously to name the new residence hall on East Campus, opening in fall 2013, Weygand Hall.

"I couldn't be happier," said Dr. Weygand (above, left, with his wife, Bea) when he learned of the naming of the new residence hall. "I really have devoted most of my life to Bridgewater, and Bridgewater has been kind enough to return the favor. I'm also delighted that the residence hall will be situated near DiNardo Hall. Jim was a good friend of mine, and it's delightful that we will have some kind of permanent record of our years of commitment to Bridgewater ... It's the culmination of so many things that have happened to me at the university."

President Dana Mohler-Faria is generous in his praise of Dr. Weygand. "George is Bridgewater," he said. "His commitment to his students over the years, his steadfast volunteerism, his keen intellect, humor and engagement with all aspects of Bridgewater is legendary. George is one of those rare individuals whose name prompts only positive responses."

Weygand Hall, a 500-bed facility, will be constructed with a designated wing for learning communities, a first from the standpoint of designing a space for the communities from the very start, rather than retrofitting existing residence halls to accommodate learning cohorts. From an energy standpoint, it's state of the art.

Miguel Gomes, vice president of administration and finance, explained. "We're going to be using the geothermal method, which means actually using groundwater to heat and cool the building." Like all residence halls, he said, Weygand Hall will have all the usual common spaces, game rooms, study lounges and laundry. "An interesting component, however, is that the residence hall will house the counseling and health services offices on the first floor."

Dr. Weygand received both his bachelor's and master's degrees from Bridgewater State Teachers College and earned a doctorate at Harvard University. He taught physics at Bridgewater State for more than 40 years, from 1958 to 1999, and served as university marshal for 39 years. He is the recipient of numerous major awards, including the Dr. V. James DiNardo Award for Excellence in Teaching, two Distinguished Service Awards and the Nicholas Tillinghast Award for Outstanding Contributions to Public Service, and he received a total of 15 grants. In 1992, Dr. Weygand was inducted into the Massachusetts Hall of Fame for Science Educators. ■



Elevator lobby



Game lounge



Wellness center

Faculty members help students learn outside the traditional classroom

BY JOHN WINTERS, G'11

# The great beyond

Research is one of the cornerstones of a Bridgewater State University education. It's easy to see why. All the old maxims about it are true: Research allows students to learn by doing, it provides opportunities for them to investigate at a deeper level a topic within their chosen field of study, and it promotes intensive student-faculty engagement.

In recent years, BSU has seen an increase in the number of students participating in research. Funding from the institution's Adrian Tinsley Program for Undergraduate Research and greater faculty involvement have significantly increased the ability of students to pursue nearly any area of inquiry.

Some faculty members develop their own research programs. They gather interested students and serve as mentors for projects that extend classroom learning. In this issue we look at three such programs: Dr. Ellen Ingmanson's advanced anthropology group; psychology's Dr. Elizabeth Spievak and the students of the Attention and Decision-Making Lab; and Dr. Tong-Ching "Tom" Wu of movement arts, health promotion and leisure studies, who is working with graduate student Cara Postlmayr on a pitching study that just may change the game of softball in America.

Each represents students and faculty members going above and beyond, and putting class work to use in real-world situations, as well as paving a way to the graduate program or career of their students' choice.

As for the young researchers' thoughts on all this? Read on. ■



## Batter up

### Pitching study seeks to reduce injuries in women's softball

The pitch count has been a prominent part of Major League Baseball since the 1980s. The goal is simple enough: to prevent overuse injuries in those million-dollar arms.

Women's softball – even when it was an Olympic sport – does not employ a pitch count. This makes little sense to anyone who's seen up close the speed and power of a college-aged pitcher.

"I think it's a problem because a lot of issues are the result of overuse," said graduate student Cara Postlmayr. "Every day they're doing the windmill pitch motion and the shoulders are the least stable joints in the body."

Cara, an athletic training major, decided to do something about this. Her study, "The Softball Pitch: Necessity of a Pitch Count," looks at the effects of windmill pitching on fatigued athletes.

Along with her mentor, Dr. Tong-Ching "Tom" Wu, assistant professor in the Department of Movement Arts, Health Promotion and Leisure Studies, Cara designed a research project and this fall began a biomechanics data collection using five BSU varsity softball pitchers.

Dr. Wu leads a sports biomechanics research team at BSU that consists of three undergraduate and four graduate students. The team focuses on three areas of research in sports: athletic performance, injury mechanism encompassing prevention and treatment, and footwear and equipment testing.



**Cara Postlmayer and Dr. Wu set up a camera to videotape pitching motions.**



He previously has done studies for Nike and the Canadian Olympic team.

For the pitch count study, the subjects were outfitted with reflective markers on their shoulders, elbows, wrists, hips, knees, ankles and small toes, and videotaped as they each threw 70 pitches at a given speed. A camera snapped away at 120 frames per second.

Using the resulting images, Dr. Wu and Cara looked for changes in the joint angles during the pitching motion of the subjects. "Their motion changes when they're trying to overcompensate for fatigue," Cara said. The idea is that these changes leave the athletes more vulnerable to joint injury. A pitch count, she and Dr. Wu suggest, could help prevent these problems.

Dr. Wu said they hope the study will be the first volley in a move to implement softball pitch counts. "This could lead to other studies and help change the game," he said.

One of the subjects, pitcher Courtney Gregoire, '13, was glad to help with the study. "I think this could be helpful to both coaches and pitchers," she said.

The study will form the basis of two academic papers that will be submitted to this year's American Society of Biomechanics conference, which will be held in Florida in August. ■



**Cara equips one of BSU's softball pitchers with reflective markers for the videotape study.**



**Cara measures a pitcher's throwing speed as Brianna Strecker, '15, serves as catcher.**

Faculty members help students learn  
outside the traditional classroom

# The great beyond



## Decisions, Decisions.

Psychology lab looks at the  
choices people make, and why.

There's a nondescript room on the third floor of Hart Hall where it's not unusual to find psychology students gathered round the long table deep into the night crunching numbers and discussing findings over a shared pizza. Often the hour gets so late the young people worry about getting locked inside the building, especially on weekends.

Why the late hours? Deadlines? Sometimes. However, it's mostly because the students of the Attention and Decision-Making Lab can't get enough of the research they're doing. "It just kind of sucks you in," said Meghan Sullivan, who has been participating for more than a year.

Typically, 8-10 students are in the lab each semester, and once in, they tend to stick with it, some participating for years. Their mentor, and the faculty member who started the lab, is Dr. Elizabeth Spievak, associate professor of psychology. "I always encourage students to go the research route," she said. "There's a dedication to process here, and these students learn that and respect it."

The lab lets students become immersed in their topics, Meghan said. "Working in the lab, you're constantly thinking about your topic, and you become more invested in it," she said. "You become motivated to do research because you enjoy it."

The lab began, humbly enough, as a cart with a computer plopped on top that Dr. Spievak would push from classroom to classroom. As the popularity of doing research grew among psychology majors, the need arose for more space. Several faculty members gave up their offices, which were modified to allow the students the space they need to do their work. It's still a tight fit, but these eager researchers don't let cramped quarters slow them down. "This is like a team, we're here to back each other up," said student Brianne Molloy, noting the important part collaboration plays among the researchers.

Participants get one class credit for participating in the lab. They meet together once a week for two hours, but outside that, they're on their own. "They drive this, not me," said Dr. Spievak. "For many of them, it's life altering."

In addition to the lab, Dr. Spievak formalized a process by which a pool of research subjects is readily available for psychological study. Once this was established, it

Working in BSU's Attention and Decision-Making Lab are (standing, from left) Meghan Durgin, Casey Mullen and Dr. Elizabeth Spievak.

Seated (clockwise, from front left) are Brianne Molloy, John Downs, Lukas Klapatch, Tom Brinton, Katherine Saucier, Meghan Sullivan and Ramah Laurent.

cleared the way for a growing number of students to affiliate themselves with the Attention and Decision-Making Lab, and for other faculty members to start their own programs of research with students.

Last fall, students participating in the lab were, in addition to Meghan and Brianne: John Downs, Ramah Laurent, Meghan Durgin, Casey Mullen, Lukas Klapatch, Kat Saucier and Tom Brinton.

Their projects included a wide array of topics, among them a study of juror behavior, border bias, the making of medical decisions, stereotypes about the overweight and humor as it pertains to political bias. Much of the research turns on mindset theory, which examines how people approach goal attainment. "We're interested in what people pay attention to when they're making decisions and whether they can take in all the information they need at once," Dr. Spievak said. "Obviously, this has real-world applications."

She presents the opportunity to perform research to all her classes, promising them great rewards, but lots of work, too. "I didn't know what I was getting into," admitted Lukas. "It's a lot more time than you spend in class."

Indeed, the lab isn't for everyone. However, for those that stay, the rewards are rich: conference appearances, a strong mentor relationship, a great entry on their academic resume.

But even without these, one gets the sense that some of the students would participate in the lab all the same. Each expressed the joys that come with hard work and the payoff it brings. "Whenever you find something meaningful in your research, you jump up and down," Kat said. Or, as Meghan put it, "It's addictive." ■



Forensic anthropology students undertake scholarly CSI work

# Boning up

If it looks like a set of a *CSI* television show, there's a reason. The forensic anthropology lab is a room full of skulls, bones, full-size skeletons and actual remains, as well as a group of eager students trying to deduce the clues hidden within.

It's a fact-finding mission of a special kind. The young scholars take measurements, make observations and search through boxes of tiny bones trying to answer important questions. It's that rare type of academic research that deals in actual life and death – with a strong focus on the latter. "This may lead to a career where I can help people understand what happened," said Michael Nelson of Halifax, a student who took part in the lab during the fall semester.

The work comprises the basis for the students' undergraduate research projects. But it's much more than that, said Dr. Ellen Ingmanson, associate professor of anthropology, founder of the research group and mentor to the students. "They get hands-on skills and get to apply their basic osteological (bone-identifying) knowledge," she said.

The students in the advanced forensic anthropology group for fall 2011 were Michael, Caitlin Fitzgerald of Marshfield, Jessica Chmielorz of Fall River and Krystal Vezina of Lowell – all anthropology majors and members of the Class of 2012. Some will return for the next semester and beyond, and new students will join, Dr. Ingmanson said.

She began the lab several years ago to allow students looking for that something extra a chance to stretch their wings by doing forensic research that goes beyond the standard curriculum. The number of students interested in participating is on the rise for several reasons, not the least of which is the chance to garner the necessary field work for graduate school. But the other reason has to do with popular culture, as much as academics.

"I'm one of those geeks who fell in love with it from the television show *Bones*," Jessica said. "I took the class and fell in love with it even more. I love the idea of someday really working with the bones and being able to give closure to families."

Indeed, the appearance of the *CSI* series of shows and others, like *Bones*, have turned on a new generation of young people to this type of science. "It's been popular on TV and in books since I arrived, and all the forensics in the media has certainly been a draw," Dr. Ingmanson said.

Whatever gets students in the door, the work at hand hooks them. "Here they find their passion," Dr. Ingmanson said.

**Dr. Ellen Ingmanson (left) discusses a specimen with Jessica Chmielorz and Michael Nelson.**

**Caitlin Fitzgerald (below) takes the measurements of a skull.**

The projects run the gamut from using skull measurements to determine gender, to analyzing skeletal remains to determine the cause of death in a small bird or animal, to identifying archeological remains to determine if they're human and, if they're Native American in origin, return them to the correct tribe. "You feel like you're giving back to the tribe, to make sure their culture and beliefs are respected and that they have a say in the treatment of their ancestral remains," Krystal said.

Just like forensic scientists in the real world, these students collaborate with external institutions, including Harvard's Peabody Museum of Archaeology

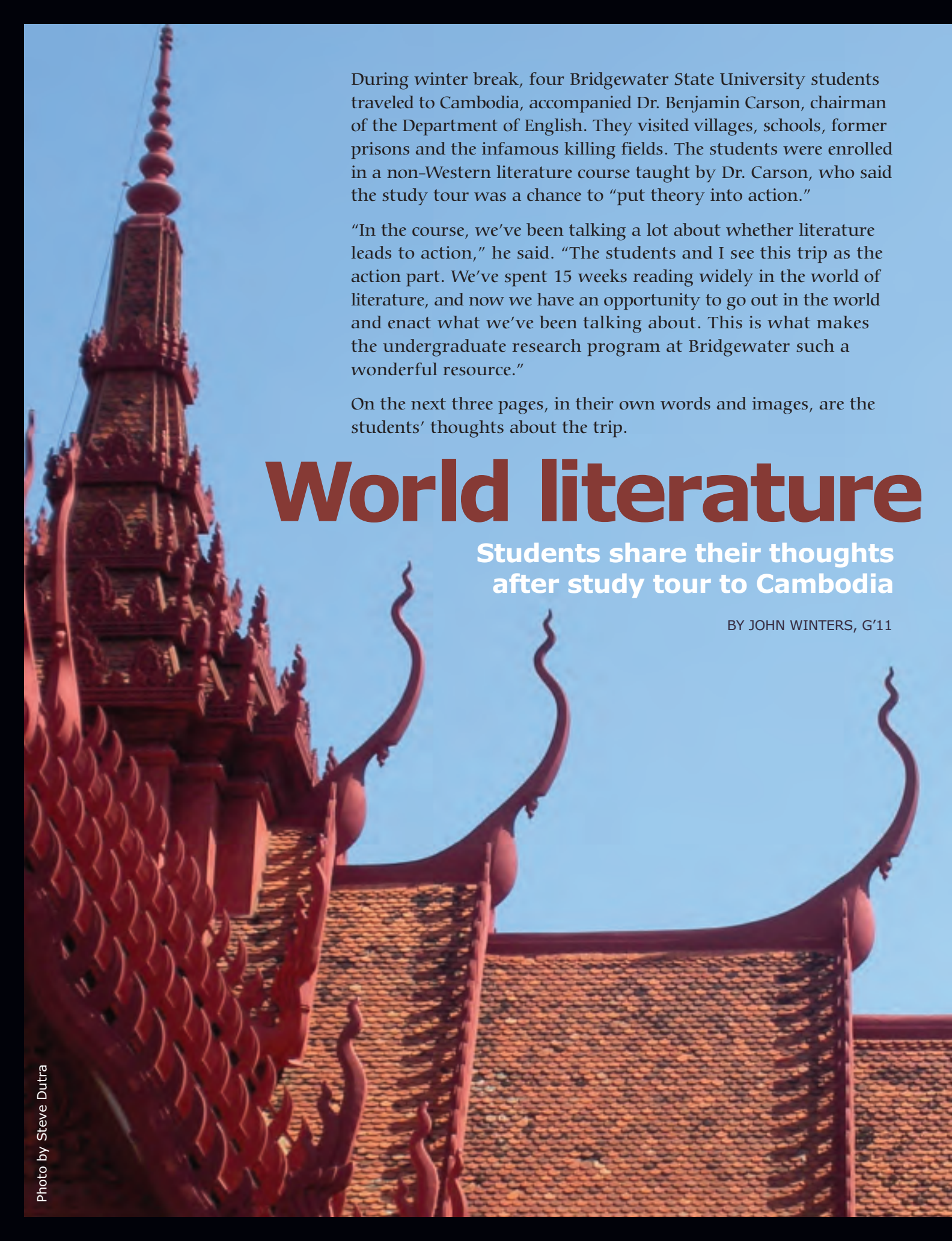


and Ethnology, and the Robbins Museum in Middleboro.

Along with classroom work, the lab sets up students for their dream jobs. "I like the idea of being able to identify remains some day and help families understand what happened and give them some closure," Caitlin said.

When the research results in an answer, or that much-sought-after "eureka" moment, the students enjoy a visceral reward. "It's very exciting," Jessica said. "You get a thrill, a real rush." Michael puts it a bit differently: "It's so awesome. We have a total nerdy breakdown." ■





During winter break, four Bridgewater State University students traveled to Cambodia, accompanied Dr. Benjamin Carson, chairman of the Department of English. They visited villages, schools, former prisons and the infamous killing fields. The students were enrolled in a non-Western literature course taught by Dr. Carson, who said the study tour was a chance to “put theory into action.”

“In the course, we’ve been talking a lot about whether literature leads to action,” he said. “The students and I see this trip as the action part. We’ve spent 15 weeks reading widely in the world of literature, and now we have an opportunity to go out in the world and enact what we’ve been talking about. This is what makes the undergraduate research program at Bridgewater such a wonderful resource.”

On the next three pages, in their own words and images, are the students’ thoughts about the trip.

# World literature

Students share their thoughts  
after study tour to Cambodia

BY JOHN WINTERS, G’11

**At the ancient temple complex Angkor Wat are (clockwise, from left) Moire O'Mullane, Chris Espinoza, Rachael Ackley, Dr. Benjamin Carson and Steve Dutra.**

**Rachael Ackley, '13, Southborough**

My experience in Cambodia was truly life changing. The culture we were able to experience and the places that we were able to see had an impact on me in ways I cannot explain. I have been able to reflect on my trip for more than two months now, and still I am able to find new aspects of the experience that move me.

My interactions with the children of Cambodia have taught me many precious lessons about appreciation, dedication and perseverance. Being able to spend time in the Lakeside School was an amazing experience, and I truly enjoyed teaching the students; but more importantly, I am grateful for the lessons the children were able to teach me. I have learned to never overlook the small things in life that have the ability to make me smile, and also to recognize how lucky I am to live comfortably in a nurturing and caring environment. The openness and friendly personalities of the Khmer people were inspiring, and every day I attempt to express the kindness I was shown by the locals in the streets of Phnom Penh. I am so grateful that I was given the opportunity to take part in such an amazing trip and know that I will utilize the trip's lessons for the rest of my life.

**Steve Dutra, '12, Taunton**

I went to Cambodia with few expectations, other than surprise. My knowledge was limited mostly to the Hollywood film, *The Killing Fields*, and a Dead Kennedy's song, "Holiday in Cambodia." The name Pol Pot certainly held a resonance of evil but, sadly enough, to me, he was really just another sociopathic dictator.

When I won the Undergraduate Research Abroad grant, allowing me to travel there, my research proposal was titled, "Theravada Buddhism and the Healing of Cambodia." It seemed like a bold title and something that could be worked on like any other research topic.

Practicing compassion as a means to relieve the inherent suffering of all sentient beings is a large part of the Buddha's teachings, and with the millennial influence of Buddhism in Cambodia and its status as the national religion, one might think that political leaders there would encourage practices of social justice and the righting of past wrongs. However, after arriving in Phnom Penh, I realized that the idea of "healing" is not so cut and dry. Recovery and transformation of the suffering and pain set in motion during the Pol Pot years, during which a quarter of the population was murdered by an ethnic Khmer government, is difficult to imagine. Add to this three decades of stasis under the rule of a government that refuses to provide support for public health and education, and persecutes purveyors of social reform.

The practices of Buddhism are important in that they provide an immediate basis of hope for the people of Cambodia. When thinking back on the people I met, the stories they shared, the generosity of their hearts, and their hunger for knowledge and growth, I see a country where, with the right guidance, the people are certainly capable of moving forward into a better future. If empathy is to be defined as "helping another with their needs in mind," empathic assistance from all sources is what the people of Cambodia need.



**Chris Espinoza, '12, San Diego**

Describing all that this trip taught me is unrealistic; I could talk for days. However, when I do, I tell everyone something different. With each person I share a small glimpse into a world I cannot hope to do justice with a few words. I tell them of school children taken off the streets who huddle in a small unsupplied room and desperately hope to learn, and laugh and smile as they do. I tell them of the teacher who dares me to make a difference every day, with her warm and caring smiles. I tell them of the children who are not taken off the streets, who beg, sell and barter. I tell them of those whose bodies are sold against their will. I tell them of the glorious ruins at Angkor Wat, broken and battered like the people who now look to rebuild a land still licking its wounds from the horrors of the Khmer Rouge. I tell them of the mountain of skulls that stare at you, daring you to forget what has happened here. I tell them of the endless kindness and warmth of the people. What I don't tell them is the tears I shed when I left that school and those kids, not knowing what their futures hold. What I don't usually say is the sense of frustration I have looking around me now. What I don't say is that I see Cambodia, with all its imperfections and all its perfections, every time I close my eyes. What I don't say is that in the end, I envy them.

**Moire O'Mullane, '12, Haverhill**

I could write for a year and still feel I am forgetting some important aspect of Cambodia. Words do not do justice. Saying that it was interesting is the understatement of a lifetime. But, saying that it was amazing is also inaccurate. The truth is that Cambodia is a very complex and confusing country. The country has scars I cannot begin to process. It is a place that is elusive: In my mind, Cambodia defies categorization.

Although I have done a fair bit of traveling, Cambodia proved to be completely new territory for me. The ways in which we spent our days were remarkable. We visited the ancient Angkor Wat, the Khmer Rouge secret prison and the killing fields. We complemented these things by eating street food with locals in the cool cover of the night, when the city truly lived and breathed. I sat alone. I drank pot after pot of tea and reveled in my surroundings.

What I found in Cambodia was something I had never found anywhere else. I found a country ravaged by war. I found growth and beauty. I found streets that were bustling and loud and alive a block from where people were interrogated and mass murdered a mere 30 years ago. I found rice. I found recovery and resilience. I found corruption countered by truth. I found children. I found bare feet. I found hundreds of untold stories. And I found hundreds of smiles. ■



Slum in Beoung Kak neighborhood of Phnom Penh  
(Rachael Ackerly)



Lakeside School in Beoung Kak  
(Rachael Ackerly)



Lakeside School  
in Beoung Kak  
(Rachael Ackerly)



Royal Palace  
in Phnom Penh  
(Moire O'Mullane)



Angkor Wat in Siem Reap  
(Steve Dutra)



Street children  
in Beoung Kak  
(Rachael Ackerly)



Prison cell at Tuol Sleng, Pol Pot's secret prison  
(Chris Espinoza)



Skulls of Khmer Rouge murder victims  
at Choeng Ek, "the killing fields"  
(Chris Espinoza)



Prison cell at Tuol Sleng  
(Moire O'Mullane)



Lakeside School in Beoung Kak  
(Moire O'Mullane)



Angkor Wat in Siem Reap  
(Steve Dutra)



Cambodian countryside  
(Moire O'Mullane)



One of many cats that call the Royal Palace home  
(Chris Espinoza)

Last fall as the world marked the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the September 11 attacks, many Americans returned their thoughts to that fateful day. Befitting such an event, there were public memorials, remembrances public and private, as well as discussion about the events themselves and the decade of fallout.

Most people can recall exactly where they were and what they were doing that morning. Heather (Lee) Ciaramitaro was in Scott Hall watching the attacks unfold on television. In addition to the fear and horror she shared with her fellow Americans, she had another feeling – that her life was about to change.

Indeed, she and her then-boyfriend, Frank Ciaramitaro, also a BSU student, were Army reservists. They knew the events of that day meant they would be called to active duty. “We were told to pack our bags, and then we were off,” she said.

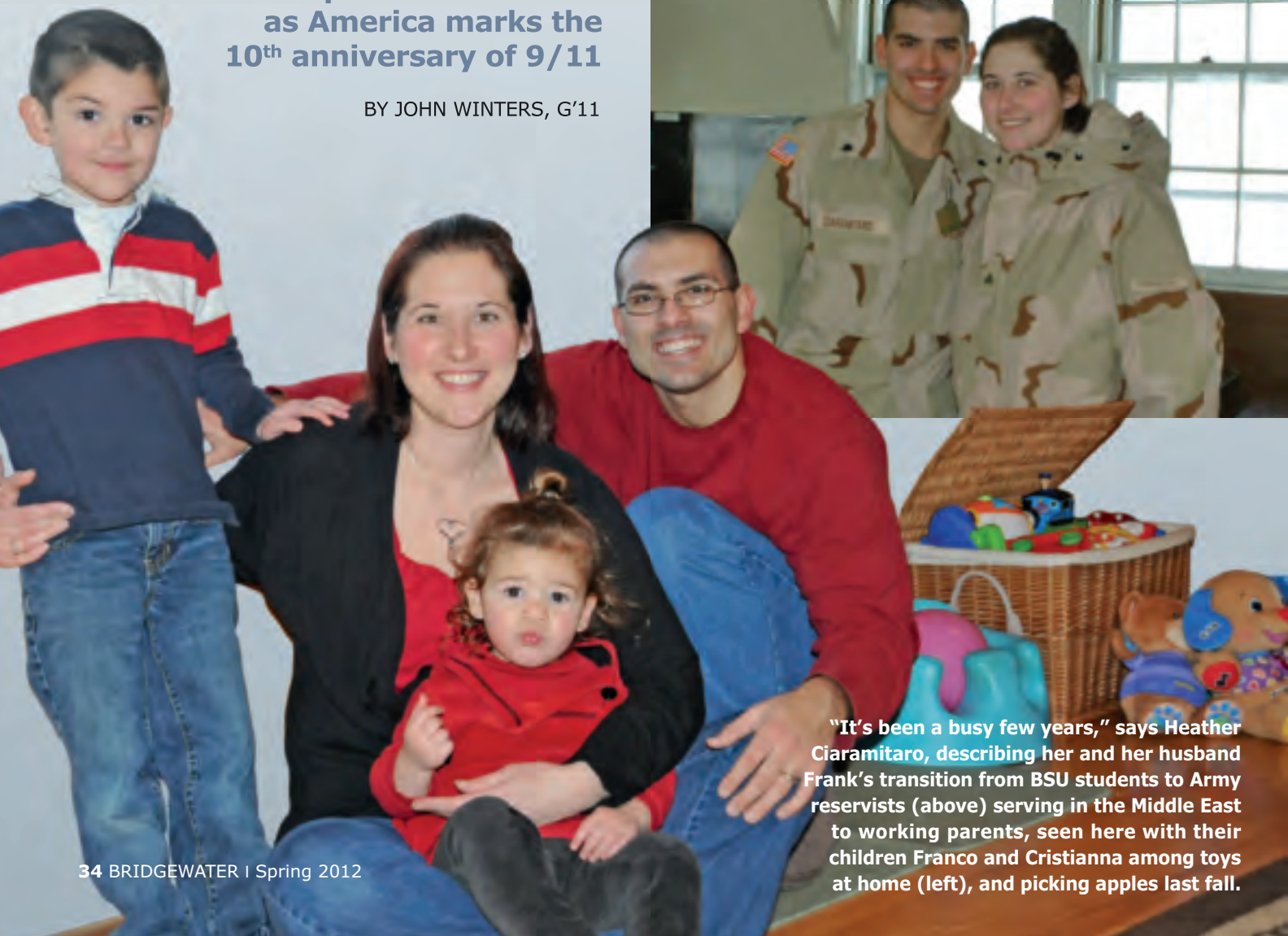
The couple gave up a portion of their lives serving as drilling reservists for nearly two years, readying for deployment. While waiting for their orders, they returned to class.

The couple met in the reserves. Ms. Ciaramitaro, who grew up in Scituate, joined at 17. In her training unit was a man named Francesco, who hailed from Gloucester. After high school, when she decided to come to BSU to major in psychology and management, he followed, majoring in biology.

# Moved to serve

Alumni couple recalls service as America marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11

BY JOHN WINTERS, G'11



“It’s been a busy few years,” says Heather Ciaramitaro, describing her and her husband Frank’s transition from BSU students to Army reservists (above) serving in the Middle East to working parents, seen here with their children Franco and Cristianna among toys at home (left), and picking apples last fall.

It was a Sunday during winter break in 2003 when they got the call to report to Fort Drum in New York and prepare to head to the Middle East. They were to leave in four days. However, there was a little business to take care of before they shipped out: a wedding.

"I said to Frank, 'What day are we getting married?'" Ms. Ciaramitaro recalled. The answer turned out to be that Tuesday night in Scituate.

Two days after taking their vows, they left for Kuwait. Eventually, Mr. Ciaramitaro was sent on to Iraq. She counseled soldiers as a mental health professional; he was a cook. After a brief visit home, Ms. Ciaramitaro returned to Iraq in fall 2005, working for a year with a combat stress unit.

Much has happened in the intervening years, including a new president, a rising tide of political movements and near collapse of the world economy. Amidst it all, the war in Iraq was declared officially over. The Ciaramitaros have moved on, too. They have a house in Bridgewater and two children, Franco, 4, and Cristianna, 2. They finished their degrees: she in 2004, he the following year. She went on to earn a nursing degree; he works for a pharmaceutical company.

"It's been a busy few years," she said.



The couple represents two people, among millions, whose lives were shaped and changed by the events of Sept. 11, 2001. Having their college years interrupted by war and time spent on faraway battlefields has forced them to earn their stripes. Add to this the fact that in 2008 Mr. Ciaramitaro was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, and the couple can say it's had its share of life's little hiccups.

There's a bright side to this.

"Now obstacles don't faze us," Ms. Ciaramitaro said. "Anything that presents itself is much easier to deal with. Everything is put in perspective."

At Homecoming last fall, the Ciaramitaro family came to campus for the parade. The term "homecoming" was apt, she said. "It was nice to be spending time back on campus. It brought everything full circle." ■



## At the ready

BY ROBERT W. MATHESON JR., '07, G'12

Brigadier General Arthur Jewett last October began his new role on campus as veteran affairs and military service officer, helping returning soldiers begin their lives anew as civilians, which can be challenging.

"It's a culture shock – they come back from an army base, and suddenly they're here," said Dr. Jewett, speaking of the more than 300 soldiers and veterans enrolled at the university. "My goal is to help the soldiers transition as soon as possible and be self-sufficient."

Dr. Jewett serves as liaison between the university and the soldiers, helping the soldiers understand financial aid benefits and career and course options, among other complicated issues. In turn, he helps administrators decipher military jargon and better interpret academic credits soldiers earn while serving.

The soldiers range in age from early 20s to mid 40s. Some have families to look after. Some have full-time jobs to work around. And some need counseling. While Dr. Jewett does not offer counseling himself, he can direct the soldiers where to go to find help. And he's done his homework.

In his few months at BSU, he's established connections with a number of veterans affairs offices in the region, as well as with many of the university's faculty and administrators. Recently, he helped a soldier who was homeless find shelter and work, which he said was very rewarding. "You get a real rush when you help someone," he said.

A veteran and an educator, Dr. Jewett has been stationed all over the world, including in the Middle East and at the Pentagon. He's taught military science at various universities and colleges, and served as a continuing education service specialist for the U.S. government.

That dual military and higher education background helps Dr. Jewett's cause, relating to and understanding the plights of both administrators and soldiers on campus. "It's easier to communicate if you speak the same language," he said. ■

## Upcoming ALUMNI EVENTS

### 3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL CRIMSON PRIDE CLUB AND RED SOX EVENT

THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 5 PM-end of game  
Lansdowne Pub and Fenway Park  
Boston Red Sox vs. Miami Marlins

### 12<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL BSU JOE VERRIA KICKOFF CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT

FRIDAY, JULY 27, 9 AM  
Olde Scotland Links, Bridgewater

### HYANNIS-BRIDGEWATER PHYSICAL EDUCATION ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY DINNER

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 6 PM  
Rondileau Campus Center Ballroom

This event will kick off Homecoming weekend. Interested in serving on the planning committee? Please email [alumni@bridgew.edu](mailto:alumni@bridgew.edu).

### HOMECOMING

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13

### A CHRISTMAS CAROL PRE-PERFORMANCE RECEPTION

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 6 PM  
Rondileau Campus Center

### GAMMA PHI BETA 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY EVENT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1  
Shaw's Center, Brockton

### STAY CONNECTED

Send your news to the Office of Alumni Relations via email to [alumni@bridgew.edu](mailto:alumni@bridgew.edu) or mail to Davis Alumni Center, Bridgewater State University, Bridgewater, MA 02325.

The class notes editor reserves the right to edit submissions for clarity and brevity. Submitted photos must be either high-resolution digital images or original prints from film. Photos generated on home printers are not of publication quality.

# AlumniUpdate



## Meet Shana Murrell, BSU's new director of alumni relations

BY CHRISTOPHER MARKEY, '08

Alumni of Bridgewater State University are steeped in a rich history and well prepared for a brilliant future. Ms. Shana Murrell, BSU's new director of alumni relations, brings a vision that embraces tradition, while providing exciting opportunities to move forward.

After 11 years of alumni leadership at Rhode Island College, Ms. Murrell understands the importance of encouraging alumni to stay involved with their alma mater. "The opportunities for networking, socializing and making a difference are tremendous," she said. "The alumni I have met are active volunteers, not only here, but in the greater community ... Our goal is to explore even more ways to help graduates connect with BSU."

Ms. Murrell's vision is rooted in engaging and empowering our diverse alumni. "We will strengthen our connection with our alumni by identifying leadership roles, and we will encourage alumni volunteers to join us," she said. "Beyond this, we will broaden our reach to our steadily growing alumni community by creating and expanding affinity groups and chapters." By doing so, Ms. Murrell hopes to create a more convenient and intimate culture for staying connected with BSU. "In fact," she said, "we are exploring establishing alumni chapters in Florida, Cape Cod and the greater Washington D.C. area."

"With the expanding number of international alumni, Bridgewater established the first international chapter in Japan last fall and is looking forward to working with a new alumni chapter in Cape Verde." BSU alumni continue to relocate domestically and internationally, all while juggling busier schedules. It is Ms. Murrell's belief that BSU must be prepared to accommodate these changes.

Like any successful leader, she understands that having a strong staff is critical. In addition to the experienced support in place, a new position, alumni relations coordinator, was filled this spring. In that role, Jane Donahue is focusing on creating a better virtual experience for alumni online. "Our alumni should anticipate and be on the lookout for many exciting changes online because, as technology continues to advance, so, too, will our social media and electronic communications," Ms. Murrell said.

Whether on the road meeting with alumni groups, planning for events or working with her staff on campus at the Davis Alumni Center, Ms. Murrell is committed to refreshing the already strong connection between BSU and its many alumni. "I am thrilled at the prospect of working with the dedicated and loyal alumni of this storied university. I believe we have so much to look forward to in the future." ■



**Bridgewater State University graduate and head swimming and diving coach/aquatics director Michael Caruso, '02, hosted swimming, diving and coaching alumni during the Swimming and Diving Alumni Weekend in January. Alumni from 1969, the first year of the program, joined more recent graduates at a series of events, including a Years of Service honor presentation to program founder and coach Joseph Yeskewicz, a BSU vs. Babson College meet and an alumni reception. They also took part in an alumni swim meet.**



**Members of the Class of 1963 gathered for lunch in September 2011 at White Cliffs Country Club in Plymouth. Annette Sherry arranged the luncheon and invited her classmates to her home. The group meets regularly to keep their friendship active.**

**Seated, from left, are Ginny Davis Lambert, Carolyn "Pinkie" Pinkham Young and Pat Costa Souza.**

**Standing, from left, are Carolyn Smith Meaney, Evie Ekberg Delutis, Joy Packard Franey, Diane Guaraldi Pimental, Annette Wessling Sherry, Linda Dow McMahon, Barbara Belyea Morris, Nancy Carvalho Briand, Pat Gurney Baker, Ginny Flanagan Curley and Maureen Chase Baird.**

## INTERNATIONAL NOTES

**Hannah Renglich**, a Killam exchange student (2007–2008) from York University in Toronto, Canada, is living in Toronto after spending a year in Costa Rica working on her master's degree in Natural Resources and Peace (with a focus on food sovereignty) at the University for Peace.

She spent six months performing an internship in India and then returned home to write her thesis and a manual on urban agriculture for major urban centers on the subcontinent.

Since last March, she has worked at the Ontario Natural Food Co-op, one of North America's last remaining co-op food distributors, on a new project linking food and farming co-operatives focused on environmental responsibility, social justice and community food security into a province-wide network.

Ms. Renglich is collaborating with a University of Peace alumna to publish a book about peace and food. It will be a compendium of insights, anecdotes, case studies and whimsies about the intersection of the two themes. ■





# Homecoming 2011

On Saturday, Oct. 22, sunshine and 60 degree temperatures made for a perfect Homecoming day. At 9 AM, the festivities began with 100 alumni, students, children and friends participating in the Carol Mulloy Cuttle 5K Road Race. Prior to the much anticipated Homecoming parade, breakfast events for football players and cheerleaders, fraternity members of Kappa Delta Phi and the Afro-American Alumni Association were held near the parade route. The air waves of the campus radio station, WBIM, were "taken over" throughout Homecoming weekend by alumni DJ's, including Joe "Doc Rock" McDonald, and Timothy Riel and The Riel Deal.

At Swenson Field, the hospitality tent was filled with alumni visitors. The BSU Alumni Choir sang the national anthem; Kara Andrews, '01, owner of Art on the Spot in Middleboro, provided face painting; and the BSU Crimson Ambassadors encouraged visitors to vote for Coach Chuck Denune as football coach of the year. The BSU football team delivered for the Homecoming crowd with a stunning 42-0 victory over Fitchburg State University. ■



## Rewarding ingenuity

President Obama appoints alumna as head of federal agency that supports innovation

ROBERT W. MATHESON JR., '07, G'12

**Among the framed diplomas,** family photos and artwork in Dr. Maria Lombardo's office at UMass Dartmouth, where she serves as project coordinator for the Spotlight Teacher Training Project and ESL licensure coordinator, there sits on her desk a framed letter – signed by President Barack Obama.

The letter appoints Dr. Lombardo, Class of 1973, as chairperson of the board of trustees for the Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation (CCFF), a federal agency dedicated to supporting innovations that benefit mankind. This new role of rewarding innovation acts as a culmination of Dr. Lombardo's lifetime experiences, weaving together many of her passions, including education, science and ingenuity and, surprisingly, her family history as daughter of a Nazi labor camp survivor.

"It's like pulling all my skills together to work for a single cause," said Dr. Lombardo, who lives in Newton Centre. "I feel honored."

Governed by a presidential-appointed board of trustees, the CCFF provides student innovators, teachers, scientists and other professionals with awards, grants and additional funds to further their scholarship and research.

"We reward innovation – anything that benefits humanity," said Dr. Lombardo, who received the letter of appointment last August. She previously served for six years as a CCFF board member in the 1990s, appointed by President Bill Clinton.

Awards go to inventors and leaders in a variety of fields, including life sciences, education and homeland security. However, the awards aren't just for adults. The Christopher Columbus Award, for instance, provides a \$25,000 grant to fund the work of one team of middle school students who successfully invent a way to rectify a problem in their community. The most recent award went to a group of students in North Carolina that will initiate a community awareness program about the environmental problems created by abandoned boats and create an alarm system to alert boaters of navigational hazards.

Although the CCFF has awarded many art grants in the past, in recent times, the foundation has focused more on the STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). Dr. Lombardo said it is important for the nation to promote STEM education and inspire a drive for innovation in today's schoolchildren. "In order to compete with other countries, America needs to give our students a chance to do STEM research and invent at an early age," she said. "It's the way of the future."

Her background is in elementary and bilingual education, but Dr. Lombardo attributes her respect for invention and innovation in part to her father, Salvatore Lombardo, a Nazi labor camp survivor from Italy. Mr. Lombardo traveled Western Europe, inventing ways to survive the Nazi occupation by finding work or otherwise keeping under the radar. "Ingenuity sometimes keeps people going," said Dr. Lombardo. "With my father, it helped him survive. With the kids, for instance, that ingenuity helps keep their communities growing stronger."

Dr. Lombardo wrote a book titled *A Camp Without Walls*, published in the United States and Italy, which describes her father's experience and Italy's role during World War II. She has conducted more than 45 conferences around the United States on the Holocaust in Southern Europe, during which she discusses the book and her life. "The passion that has driven me," said Dr. Lombardo, "is being the daughter of a survivor."

She previously served as the education director for the National Italian American Foundation from 1981 until 2001.

As chairperson of CCFF, Dr. Lombardo will help guide the foundation through proposal writing, fundraising and offer input on future programming and projects. In time, she hopes to develop a program to pair middle school children with college students and professors to inspire the youngsters to innovate and earn college degrees, especially in the STEM fields.

"That way, these kids will already be looking to change the world," she said. ■



# Six inducted into BSU Athletic Hall of Fame

BY DAVID K. WILSON, '71, AND MICHAEL HOLBROOK



The newest members of the Bridgewater State University Athletic Hall of Fame are (from left) Erika Smith, '04, G'07, G'10; Paula Habel, '03; Frederick Martin, '98; Kimberly Rhodes Robinson, '05; David Morwick, '64; and Richard Smith.

The Bridgewater State University Athletic Hall of Fame Committee enshrined six new members during Homecoming weekend in October. Honored at the 19<sup>th</sup> induction ceremony were Paula Habel, '03; David Morwick, '64; Erika Smith, '04, G'07, G'10; Frederick Martin, '98; Kimberly Rhodes Robinson, '05; and BSU head baseball coach Richard Smith. With their induction, the Hall of Fame's membership numbers 120.

**Paula Habel** spent four stellar seasons as a member of the women's lacrosse team and three on the women's basketball team from 2000-2003. She was a four-time New England Women's Lacrosse Alliance (NEWLA) First Team All-Star in 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003; two-time NEWLA Offensive Player of the Year in 2002 and 2003; two-time ECAC Division III New England Second Team All-Star in 2002 and 2003; and was selected to play in the 2003 STX Division III North-South Senior All-Star Game.

She captained the women's lacrosse team from 2001-2003, ranks second all-time at BSU in assists, third in scoring and sixth in goals. She ranks 15<sup>th</sup> all-time in Division III with 152 assists. She helped lead the Bears to a NEWLA Tournament Championship

and NCAA Division III Tournament bid during her senior season.

**David Morwick** was a two-sport athlete at Bridgewater State competing on the football and baseball teams from 1960-1963. He was the starting quarterback as a freshman on the 1960 team, which marked the beginning of the present-day program. Mr. Morwick was the signal caller for the Bears for three seasons before an injury at the end of his junior season cut short both his collegiate football and baseball careers.

On the baseball team, he was the starting first baseman his freshman and sophomore seasons and helped the team capture the Southern New England Coastal Conference championship in 1962. In 1967, he returned to Bridgewater State and spent the next 40 years as an administrator, before retiring in 2007. He served as the director of financial aid, director of administrative services and, finally, as director of special projects, and he was also the state union president of the Association of Professional Administrators (APA) for the nine state universities for 12 years.

**Erika Smith** excelled on both the field hockey and women's lacrosse fields for four seasons, from 2000-2004.

She has been the head field hockey coach at BSU since 2006, and also skippered the university's women's lacrosse program from 2006-2011. Ms. Smith, who captained the field hockey team for three seasons, was a Little East Conference (LEC) First Team All-Star in 2003 and Second Team All-Star in 2001 and 2002. She was a three-time All-MASCAC Field Hockey First Team selection and finished her career with 13 goals and 16 assists for 42 points over 66 games.

In women's lacrosse, Ms. Smith was a four-time NEWLA All-Star, capturing First Team honors in 2002 and 2004. In 2002, she was also named the league's Defensive Player of the Year and was chosen as an ECAC Division III New England Women's Lacrosse Second Team All-Star.

Through her first five seasons as the Bears' field hockey coach, she has produced an overall record of 52-44 (.542) and was named MASCAC Field Hockey Coach of the Year in 2007, when her squad set the program mark with 16 wins and captured the ECAC Division III New England Tournament championship. She recently stepped down as BSU's head women's lacrosse coach, but not before making an indelible mark on the program. She is the program's all-time winningest coach with an overall record of 74-32 (.698).

**Frederick Martin** is arguably the top closer in BSU baseball history. He graced the baseball diamond for the Bears from 1995-1998. He still holds both the BSU career and single-season marks for saves with 15 overall and 10 in 1998. Mr. Martin is also the Bears' all-time and single-season record holder for appearances with 57 overall and 17 in both 1996 and 1998.

During his career, the baseball team captured three MASCAC regular season titles, in 1996, 1997 and 1998, and made three NCAA Division III Tournament Appearances (1996, 1997, 1998). The Bears won the NCAA Division III regional tournament championship and advanced to the Division III World Series in both 1996 and

1997. The 1996 team posted a third place finish at the World Series.

**Kimberly Rhodes Robinson** was a four-year women's soccer standout at BSU from 2000-2003. She was selected to the All-MASCAC First Team in each of her four seasons with the squad and was a three-time MASCAC Player of the Year (2001, 2002, 2003), as well as the conference Rookie of the Year in 2000. Ms. Robinson twice earned National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA)/Adidas Division III All-New England Second Team honors in 2002 and 2003, and was chosen to the New England Women's Intercollegiate Soccer Association (NEWISA) All-New England Second Team in 2003. She led the MASCAC in goals scored in each of her four seasons at Bridgewater State and topped the conference in both assists and scoring points in each of her final three seasons with the Bears. She still holds BSU women's soccer program marks for assists in a game – four versus Roger Williams in the 2003 season – and 12 in 2002.

**Rick Smith**, head baseball coach, was the final inductee of the evening, and many of his current and former players were on hand to see him honored. Mr. Smith has enjoyed 18 successful seasons at Bridgewater State University, including nine trips to the NCAA regional championships and two trips to the NCAA Division III College World Series, in 1996 and 1997. His overall record of 449-242-4 during that period makes him the winningest coach in BSU athletics history. In 2009, he became the first BSU baseball coach to reach the 400-win milestone with an 18-8 win over UMass Dartmouth on April 23 at Alumni Park.

Mr. Smith was selected the MASCAC Coach of the Year in 1998 and 2000. Bridgewater State University has won or shared the MASCAC regular season title nine times during his head coaching tenure. His teams have also won at least 20 games during 16 of his 18 seasons at the helm, with two 30-win campaigns, in 1996 and 2000. ■



**In January, more than 60 Bridgewater State University alumni, students, faculty and friends of the Athletic Training Program attended a reception at the Westin Copley Place in Boston, site of the Eastern Athletic Trainers' Association conference. The host for the event was Dr. Marcia K. Anderson (above), professor in the Department of Movement Arts, Health Promotion & Leisure Studies, and program director of the athletic training education program. To help provide additional support ensuring a quality education for BSU students interested in careers in athletic training, she recently established the Marcia K. Anderson Athletic Training Education Fund. Joining Dr. Anderson at the event are (from left) Kevin Francis, '07; Colin McCullough, G'10; and Ricky Pimble, G'10.**



**BSU students who devoted many hours to the fall 2011 and spring 2012 phonathons are (clockwise, from back, left) Kayla Szettella, '13; Alyssa Monahan, '15; Mercedes Thompson, '12; Matt Hamel, '13; Jennifer Diogo, '13; Kristen Buffery, '12; and Amanda Aylsworth, '12.**

## ALUMNI SERVICES

For more information about the services below, visit [www.bridgew.edu/alumni/alumniservices.cfm](http://www.bridgew.edu/alumni/alumniservices.cfm)

### CREDIT REWARDS

An alumni awards credit card bearing a picture of Boyden Hall is available to all Bridgewater State University graduates. Current students benefit directly from every purchase because the Bridgewater Alumni Association receives a percentage of all purchases to assist students with scholarships and other academic opportunities. To apply online, visit the alumni services link listed above. For information, contact the alumni office at 508.531.1287.

### INSURANCE PROGRAM

The Bridgewater Alumni Association offers discounted car, home and recreational vehicle insurance. To learn more about this program, visit the alumni services link listed above.

### WEBSITE AND ONLINE COMMUNITY

Visit the Alumni Association Website, [www.bridgew.edu/alumni](http://www.bridgew.edu/alumni), to learn more about alumni events and services. To join the online community, use the constituent identification number printed on your magazine mailing label. For more information about registering, email Michelle Slavick in the Office of Alumni Relations at [m Slavick@bridgew.edu](mailto:m Slavick@bridgew.edu).

### BECOME A FACEBOOK FAN

The Alumni Association is on Facebook. Search for "Bridgewater Alumni Association."

### ALUMNI EMAIL ADDRESS

If you'd like a Bridgewater alumni email address, please email [alumni@bridgew.edu](mailto:alumni@bridgew.edu) with your name and class year, or call the alumni office at 508.531.1287.

# ClassNotes

## 1954

**Alicia Andruk Boucher**, was chosen by the East Bridgewater Rotary as its "Citizen of the Year."

**Joe and Judy Pauley**, continue to conduct active training process communication seminars throughout the country. They presented in Belgium in March and will present in France and Austria in August. The first edition of their healthcare book, *Establishing a Culture of Patient Safety*, sold out in five months. A second edition is now being printed.

**Hazel Luke Varella**, was selected by *The Enterprise* of Brockton as an "Outstanding Volunteer" for her work in her community, Easton.

**Donald Wormwood**, was featured in a story in the January 1 issue of the *Cape Cod Times*. The story explained that seven days a week he begins baking muffins at 2 AM in a Chatham coffee shop, and then shares his "encyclopedic mind" with breakfast and lunch customers.

## 1970

**Sylvia Manna Babcock, G'70**, was interviewed by *The Patriot Ledger* about her life after graduation as valedictorian from Hanover High School 50 years ago.

## 1972

**Philip Conroy** has been inaugurated as the 18<sup>th</sup> president of Vermont Technical College. (See story on page 45.)

## 1973

**Dr. Maria Lombardo** was recently appointed by President Obama as chairman of the board of trustees of the Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation. (See story on page 39.)

## 1974

**Susan Caivano Pease** is the new principal of Chapin Street School in Ludlow.

## 1976

**Middleton McGoodwin, '70, G'76**, was hired as the superintendent of SAU 6, a public school district in New Hampshire.

**Richard Waterman, G'76**, published his first novel, *The Oracle: The Succession War*.

## 1977

**William Kaste**, girls' volleyball coach for Haverhill High School, was elected into the Coaches Hall of Fame by the Massachusetts Girls Volleyball Coaches Association.

**Annette Raphel, G'77**, is the new head of school at Belmont Day School.

## 1978

**Nancy Johnson Emanuel** is the department supervisor of Special Education at Osbourn High School in Manassas, VA, where she was named teacher of the year in 2011. She is pursuing a PhD in special education and education leadership at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA.

## 1981

**Edward Cunningham, G'81**, had a one-person art show in November at the Middleboro Public Library.

**Kathy Mohler-Faria** retired from Falmouth Human Services where she served as a social worker for 27 years.

## 1982

**Janice Coffey Gallagher** is the new principal at Clough Elementary School in Mendon.

**Dave Robinson** owns a private chiropractic practice in New Bedford where patients pay by making a "cash consideration" in whatever amount is affordable to them as a way to remove financial barriers for people seeking service.

## 1983

**Scott Borstel** is the new superintendent of Marshfield public schools.

# Sharing her strength

BY KAREN A. BOOTH

**Beth (Walsh) Lambert graduated** from Bridgewater State College with a bachelor's degree in English in 1990; four years later, she earned her master's degree. That same year, she was hired as an English teacher at Grafton High School, where she continues to teach full time. She married Paul Lambert, '91, in 1996; her first son was born in 2000, her second in 2004.

That's the short story.

Navigating successfully through her longer, more complex narrative is a tribute to her schooling, her family, and her personal fortitude and courage. Of her tenure at BSU, Ms. Lambert remembers her involvement in peer ministry at the Catholic Center, "where our focus was on being supportive of people," she said. She sees parallels between her upbringing and the nurturing environment at BSU, calling it "the perfect match." Her personal courage speaks for itself.

Today, Ms. Lambert is a stomach cancer survivor; she serves on the board of No Stomach for Cancer, an organization established in 2010 to support others who, like herself, chose to have their stomachs removed rather than die the slow, painful death such a diagnosis promised.

Stomach cancer is a rare disease with an 83 percent fatality rate for those carrying the genetic mutation CDH1. Ms. Lambert's mother, who was diagnosed with colon cancer in 2005, carried the gene. In 2006, Ms. Lambert's brother died of stomach cancer at the age of 46. The four surviving siblings underwent genetic testing; three, including Ms. Lambert, carried the gene and chose the preventative route of having their stomachs removed. The surgery involves attaching the esophagus directly to the small intestine; eating then becomes a whole new proposition requiring a definitive lifestyle change.

Ms. Lambert, however, is not about lamenting her fate; she's not about anger or bitterness. She is all about sharing the awareness of stomach cancer with as many people as she can. "Stomach cancer is rare, but deadly," she said. "We all have two choices for how we respond to challenges in our lives. I am not a 'poor me' sort of person. It's when you don't 'get it' that it's sad.

"The focus of No Stomach for Cancer is on people. It's on educating others about the disease; it's on taking the time to talk with a person who is struggling with it ... So much of this is who I am as a teacher, and certainly who I am as a person."

Ms. Lambert said it is not a stretch to say who she is as a person is a credit not only to her family, but also to her education at BSU, an institution where community service and caring is at the forefront of its mission. ■



## 1985

**Mary Draper Murray** recently joined Braga & Associates real estate company in Scituate.

## 1992

**Jeff Ferranti, G'92**, is the director of special education and guidance services for the Athol-Royalston Regional School District.

## 1994

**Paula Maxwell, G'94**, is the new assistant principal at Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School.

## 1995

**Raymond Milano** has been named branch manager of the U.S. Small Business Administration's Springfield office.

## 1997

**Brian J. Crepeau**, has been selected as one of Super Lawyers 2012 Maryland Rising Stars. He has also been honored, for the second year in a row, as a Five Star Wealth Manager in *Baltimore* magazine.

**Jamie McGonnigal** recently moved to Washington, D.C., to pursue his work for LGBT equality. His blog, [TalkAboutEquality.com](http://TalkAboutEquality.com), has become one of the top LGBT blogs in the country. He is a contributing writer for *The Huffington Post* and *LGBTQ Nation*. He is working with the New Organizing Institute as a member of its community team and is responsible for putting together RootsCamp, the institute's annual conference of progressive organizers from around the

country. He also sings with the Congressional Chorus and continues to work as a voice actor on Pokémon and Yu-Gi-Oh!

**Amy Rekart** was appointed as an account manager in the personal lines department at the FieldEddy Insurance Network.

## 1998

**Nancy Bazanchuk** was inducted into the New England Wheelchair Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

**Jeffrey Parks** was appointed principal of the Parker Middle School in Chelmsford.

## CAREER SERVICES

Help lead Bridgewater State University students to success!

*The Office of Career Services has several programs in which alumni can participate; these programs provide experience and support to BSU students.*

### CAREERLINK@BSU

Post your business' jobs and internships on Career Services' online, easy-to-use system that provides access only to Bridgewater State University students and alumni.

### ALUMNI MENTOR PROGRAM

Bring your experience to Bridgewater State University students and alumni with this online mentoring program.

### EMPLOYER-IN-RESIDENCE

Spend five to 10 hours a month improving your company's visibility on campus while offering students résumé and cover letter critiques, as well as workshops.

*For information regarding the above programs, call career services at 508.531.1328 or email the office at [careersrv@bridgew.edu](mailto:careersrv@bridgew.edu).*

#### 1999

**Chris Belmont** was selected as the 2011 Eastern District Association Secondary Physical Education Teacher of the Year and the 2011 National Secondary Physical Education Teacher of the Year.

#### 2000

**Jeffrey Lahens'** designer collection recently premiered on a Boston fashion runway.

**Joseph Lyons**, founder of Spin 350 Creative, Inc., was recently honored with the Hyde Park Business of the Year award.

#### 2002

**Paul Desgrosseilliers** most recently served as operations manager for Jet Aviation's Boston/Bedford, MA, fixed base operation (FBO), and was responsible for 35 employees in the line service, aircraft cleaning, ground support and facilities departments, and operation of the FBO passenger terminal.

**Shawn Thornton** is the new athletic director at Pope John XXIII High School in Everett.

#### 2003

**Paula Habel** was named head coach of BSU's women's lacrosse team.

**Margreta Barelock MacRae** was installed as the settled pastor at the Lakeville United Church of Christ.

**Brittany Strojny** passed the Massachusetts Bar Exam and was sworn in at a ceremony in Boston.

#### 2004

**Brian Hughes, '89, G'04**, president and CEO of the Holy Rosary Credit Union of New Hampshire in Rochester, was elected to the New Hampshire Credit Union League Board of Directors.

**John Looney, G'04**, has been named to the board of directors of the New England Society for Healthcare Communications.

**John Medeiros** was interviewed by the *Boston Business Journal* about his struggles as a military veteran trying to find employment at home.

**Steven Peters** has been named Cape Cod Cooperative Bank's marketing manager.

#### 2005

**Richard Brejcha** is a music teacher at Fairhaven middle and high schools.

**Susan Brelsford, G'05**, is the new assistant principal at Somerset-Berkley Regional High School.

**Chelsea Fournier Callanan** joined the Portland, ME, law firm Murray, Plumb & Murray as an associate attorney.

**Jordan Geist, G'95, G'05**, is assistant principal of Bourne High School.

Alumni couple **Matt Mantalos, '04**, and **Megan Bradford Mantalos**, were featured on the HGTV show *House Hunters*.

**Jesse Mead**, received his doctorate at Palmer College of Chiropractic and is excited to start his career and begin offering chiropractic care at Fresh Start Chiropractic in Middleboro. He earned his bachelor's degree in exercise science at BSU, and he also has a certificate in strength training and conditioning. His goal is to provide chiropractic care for overall wellness, injury or chronic pain. He lives in Raynham with his wife, **Amy (Vanasse) Mead**.

#### 2006

**Peter Crowell, G'06**, is the new principal of Station Avenue Elementary school in South Yarmouth.

**Ruby Maestas, G'06**, was promoted to principal of Carver Elementary School.

# 'A great adventure two hours north on the interstate'

BY DAVID K. WILSON, '71

**Philip A. Conroy Jr., '72**, is completing his first year as president of Vermont Technical College — one of the state's five public campuses, with an enrollment of 1,800 students — and in that role, he oversees an institution that stretches from one end of Vermont to the other, encompassing two residential campuses separated by an hour drive, as well as 10 satellite campuses.

"In my first three months in office, I put 15,000 miles on my car because I had to visit all of the sites in Vermont," President Conroy said. He splits his time between the two residential campuses in Randolph Center and Williston as he focuses on the goal to develop Vermont Technical College into a 21<sup>st</sup> century polytechnic institution addressing the career and workforce development needs of Vermont and the region.

But he is delighted to have the opportunity because he's now realized the dream he's nurtured since the early 90s when he was an administrator at his alma mater.

"When I returned to Bridgewater in 1977 in a tenure-track faculty position at the Martha Burnell Campus School, I thought I might spend my entire career there," he said. "Later, when I moved into administration, first in financial aid and later as director of alumni relations and development, I began to consider other possibilities.

"In this, as in so many other ways, Bridgewater has had a profound impact on every phase of my life since I entered as a freshman in September 1968," he said.

President Conroy recalled meeting his wife, Jan, at BSU, where they both graduated in 1972. He also talks of his mentors, Deans Ellen Shea, '35, and V. James DiNardo, '39, as well as his service under President Emerita Adrian Tinsley.

"All outstanding mentors," he said.

After leaving BSU in 1995, President Conroy spent several years as an administrator at UMass Amherst, where he was director of development for the College of Food and Natural Resources. Subsequently, at Mt. Ida College in Newton, he served as vice president for enrollment management and marketing, and taught on both the undergraduate and graduate levels. After earning a master's degree in educational administration at Rhode Island College and then a Doctorate of Education in Educational Administration at Nova University in Florida, his thoughts turned to becoming president of an institute of higher education. Eventually, he and Vermont Technical College found each other. That opinion is shared by the officials in Vermont who oversaw the search.

"I believe Phil Conroy is the right person to take the college to new levels," said Gary Moore, chair of the board of trustees for the university system, when President Conroy was appointed in November 2010. "He is an inspiring educator and leader who will be an asset to the college and to the state."

Dr. Tim Donovan, chancellor of the Vermont state colleges, concurred, adding, "The college community, the board of trustees and I all agree that Dr. Conroy has the skills and character to lead Vermont Tech to an expanded role in Vermont's economic and educational future."

For his part, President Conroy — now one year into the presidency — said he and his family appreciate how welcome they have been made to feel at Vermont Technical College.

"There's such a strong sense of community and support here," he said. "I've spent 35 years in higher education, in both public and private colleges and universities, and rarely have I seen the level of enthusiasm for the institution and its goals that I see here every day. "My family and I spent most of our lives in Southeastern Massachusetts, and now we look at this as our 'great adventure two hours north on the interstate.' This is indeed a very special time in our lives." ■





## ALUMNI SNAPSHOTS



**Louise (Burke) Cote, '81, was recognized by the Greater Attleboro Area Council for Children for many years of contributions to the council's Christmas is for Kids™ program. Ms. Cote knits mittens throughout the year and donates 50 pairs to the drive. The council provided a happy Christmas to more than 900 children who would otherwise have gone without a gift in 2010.**



**Benvinda Cardoso, '08, and DaCarius Butler were married on July 30, 2011.**

### 2007

**Timothy J. Lawlor**, a special education teacher at Melrose High School, was named head coach of the Malden Catholic High School wrestling team.

**Bartholomew Lush, G'07**, is the new principal of George R. Martin Elementary School in Seekonk.

**Jeanna Veneto** has been named branch manager of Mutual Bank's Halifax Banking Center.

### 2008

**Jennifer Cubellis** recently joined Jack Conway Realtor in Pembroke.

**Matthew Ryan, G'05, G'08**, is an English teacher at Malden Catholic High School.

**Emily Sypole** is the new librarian at Alcott Elementary School in Concord.

**Dorienne Willis**, a freelance writer and independent contractor, wrote an article for *Best Buy Mobile Magazine* about how to manage your mobile device bill.

### 2009

**Mathew Montanile** was named Martha's Vineyard's EMT of the year. He also received the Dawn Sather Outstanding New Teacher Award from the Massachusetts Association of Science Teachers.

**Anas Al Tweijer, G'09**, graduated with a Master of Science in Management degree and is a full-time lecturer of management at Tafila Technical University in Jordan. He lives in Tafila with his wife and three children. He traveled to Saudi Arabia with fellow alumni **Malek Aledenat, G'10**, and **Nayel Al-Hawamheh, G'11**.

### 2010

**Kayne Beaudry, G'10**, is the new assistant principal at Halifax Elementary School.

**Kathleen Belanger, G'10**, is a special education teacher at Falmouth High School.

**Rachel Carr** is the newest member of the fourth-grade team at the Mildred H. Aitken School in Seekonk.

**Joseph Forte** was hired as a writing and editing intern by the Preservation Society of Fall River.

**Alyssa Gracia** was named as mayoral assistant to Taunton mayor Thomas Hoye Jr. She served as his campaign manager for the 2011 election.

**Alyson Lyons** graduated from the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps in July.

**John McCaffrey** teaches in the mathematics department at Oliver Ames High School in Easton.

**Ashley Mirabile** is an English teacher in the Azure house at Brockton High School.

**Christopher Veazie** will serve as a team member and an AmeriCorps volunteer with the Maine Conservation Corps.

**Kevin Vella** graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio.

### 2011

**Angelo Bruno** recently joined the audit and accounting department of G.T. Reilly & Company in Milton as a staff accountant.

**Jessica Sircar, '09, G'11**, was accepted to teach for the internationally renowned Japanese Exchange and Training (JET) Programme. She left for Japan in July to teach English to schoolchildren for at least one year.

# NotaBene

## **BIRTHS** *Congratulations to Bridgewater alumni on the new members of their families:*

To **April King**, '95, and Scott King, a daughter, Skylar Rose, on April 22, 2011

To **Keri Smith Pray**, '02, and **Christopher Pray**, '01, a son, Dillon, on July 9, 2010

## **MARRIAGES** *The university celebrates the weddings of the following alumni:*

Heidi Stimpson to **Mark Germanowski**, '91, on June 4, 2011

**Kerri Benevides**, '93, to Glenn Nunes on Nov. 27, 2010

**Christy Bliss**, '94, to Juan Garcia Nunez on Aug. 13, 2011

**Katie Cook**, '98, to Michael Camara on Aug. 1, 2010

Katie Sherman to **Craig Johnson**, '01, on Aug. 5, 2011

**Kim Sousa**, G'01, to Michael DoCouto on July 22, 2011

**Keri Smith**, '02, to **Christopher Pray**, '01, in May 2009

**Karen Jorge**, '03, to Craig Brightman on April 9, 2011

**Shealagh Dinneen**, '04, to Elder Soares on July 23, 2010

**Crystal Newman**, '05, to Joseph Downing on June 4, 2011

**Kendra Sharp**, '05, G'08, to Jeff Read on July 9, 2011

Stephanie Faria to **Jacob Raposo**, '06, on May 14, 2011

**Alicia Thompson**, '07, to **Paulo Figueiredo**, '06,  
on Aug. 6, 2011

**Benvinda Cardoso**, '08, to DaCarrius Butler on July 30, 2011

**Michelle E. Carr**, '09, to **Ryan Austin**, '08

## **IN MEMORIAM** *Bridgewater is saddened by the deaths of the following alumni and extends condolences to their loved ones:*

*EDITOR'S NOTE: In the Fall 2011 edition of Bridgewater, Thomas Walsh, '63, G'67, was incorrectly listed as deceased. Thomas P. Walsh Jr., G'53, of Assonet, passed away on Feb. 24, 2011.*

Alice Moynihan Gould, '33, on July 1, 2011

Anna Stafonwic Gilmore, '34, on July 10, 2011

Lucille Radlo Chernack, '38, on Oct. 2, 2011

V. James DiNardo, '39, on Nov. 4, 2011

Elizabeth Turner Packard, '39, on June 25, 2011

Jean Smith Parsons, '39, on Oct. 22, 2011

Joanna Lauchlon Smith, '39, on July 19, 2011

Jean Taylor Hueston, '40, on July 28, 2011

Joseph O'Donnell, '43, on Sept. 1, 2011

Mary Capiferri, '45, on Sept. 23, 2011

Eleanor O'Bryne Dupuy, '46, on Oct. 11, 2011

Barbara Bates Kirkland, '46, on Sept. 14, 2011

Rosemary Keefe Sullivan, '48, on Aug. 3, 2011

Stanley Roy, G'52, on Aug. 15, 2011

Lucille Kula, '53, G'58, on June 12, 2011

Rose Saulino Sasso, G'53, on July 5, 2011

Virginia Peebles Childs, '56, on June 11, 2011

Lois Twitchell, '57, on July 2, 2011

David Carroll, G'59, on July 12, 2011

H. Freeman Cash, '60, on Aug. 14, 2011

Laraine Scarlata Milauskas, '61, on Sept. 26, 2011

Edward Worcester, '61, on Oct. 12, 2011

Joanne Ward, '62, G'66, on July 18, 2011

William Browne, G'62, on Oct. 31, 2011

Joanne Levine Morris, '63, on Aug. 17, 2011

Marilyn Ross Gaudette, '64, on Aug. 16, 2011

James Henry, '64, on July 18, 2011

Robert Lane, '64, on July 28, 2011

Beverly Gordon Hozid, '66, on July 5, 2011

Virginia Alsworth, G'66, on Sept. 17, 2011

Gordon Ross, G'66, on July 13, 2011

Marilyn Miller Gaffney, '67, G'85, on Oct. 1, 2011

Thomas Cuoco, G'67, on June 29, 2011

Richard Faulkner, '65, G'68, on July 26, 2011

Elaine Marochino, '70, on Sept. 18, 2011

Patricia Sikora, '70, on Aug. 14, 2011

James Rosa, '72, on Aug. 17, 2011

Maureen Fitzgerald Sharples, G'72, on Sept. 4, 2011

John Mercer, G'75, on Sept. 8, 2011

Mary-Anne Grosso Andrews, '76, on June 24, 2011

Ann Martin, '76, on Aug. 25, 2011

Marion Clancy, G'79, on Aug. 20, 2011

Alison Crane Padula, '80, on June 4, 2011

Anne Sherman Lima, '83, G'87, on Aug. 29, 2011

Sylvia Flanagan, G'83, on Oct. 5, 2011

Elizabeth Greene Larkin, '88, on Oct. 27, 2011

Catherine Reardon Macy, G'93, on Sept. 19, 2011

Joan Tabak, '08, on Sept. 24, 2011

# PartingShot



Nearly \$11,000, 14,065 bottles and cans, 26.2 miles and innumerable beneficiaries. They're all part of the equation for Alison L'Heureux, who since last November has been cashing in bottles and cans, and collecting monetary donations from Bridgewater to Uxbridge, her hometown, to sponsor her entry in the 2012 Boston Marathon.

Alison, who is pursuing a master's degree in special education, donned her running shoes to raise funds for the Doug Flutie Foundation for Autism, inspired by the preschoolers diagnosed with autism she's worked with while student teaching. Alison hopes that the money she raised will help promote autism awareness, increase research and develop programs to help desperate families.

# Thank you

from BSU's phonathon students for sharing your important updates and treasured memories of the university with us each semester.

When we connect with alumni, we give new meaning to the term "SmartPhone." Gifts made through our phonathons show us that **AlumniSupport the Annual Fund.**

Every year, every semester and every call, we're proud to be your student callers. Thank you for being our answer.

**Questions about campus?  
Curious about events?**

Be ready for your call!  
During evenings throughout each semester, we'll be your direct connection to all things BSU.

Talk with you soon!

Jennifer, BSU Class of 2013

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# Looking Back

**Thanks to research by Ellen Dubinsky**, assistant librarian at BSU's Maxwell Library, we know there were 14 men and 22 women in the Class of 1861 at Bridgewater State Normal School, and that four of the men went on to serve in the Union Army during the Civil War, and three survived.

The first, Wilmon Blackmar, a Pennsylvania native, fought in 22 engagements, and in 1865, while serving on General George A. Custer's staff, he received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his gallantry at the Battle of Five Forks, VA. That same month, he was at Appomattox Court House in Virginia when General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant, and upon the orders of General Henry Capehart, a member of General Grant's staff, Mr. Blackmar was given the chair in which General Grant sat during the surrender ceremony to bring back to Union lines as a souvenir. General Capehart kept the chair, and later, in 1893, he willed it to Mr. Blackmar, who donated it to the Smithsonian Institution, where it remains today.

The second, Edward Southworth, became a prominent educator after the war and served as a teacher and then principal in the Boston public schools. An elementary school in Dorchester was named in his honor. The third member of the Class of 1861 to serve in the Union Army was Thomas Conant Jr., who after the war became a physician. Fourth was Willard E. Clarke, who lost his life in the battle of Cedar Creek, VA, on Oct. 19, 1864.

Their names are inscribed on a bronze tablet located just inside the main door of Boyden Hall that honors all of the Bridgewater State Normal School students and one faculty member who served in the Union Army from 1861 to 1865. (by David K. Wilson, '71)

**At right is a photo of Edward Southworth, one of four members of the Class of 1861 to serve in the Civil War. Above is a letter sent to Bridgewater State Normal School recommending Willard E. Clarke for admission. Mr. Clarke was killed in battle during the war.**

