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Spring 2015

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Bridgewater State University

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# Bridgewater

SPRING 2015



Passing the torch of excellence



# StudentSpotlight

**MIRIAM MONTEIRO**, a senior biology major, has come a long way from her hometown in Cape Verde. Since arriving in this country in 2010, she's already gone from Quincy College to BSU. Next stop: Yale.

The Brockton resident, mentored by Dr. Cielito (Tammy) King of the Department of Chemical Sciences, is researching the levels of lead in children's items she purchases at area stores. What she's discovered may alarm parents.

We asked Miriam about her work.

## **Tell us about your research.**

We decided to survey stores in Brockton regarding children's products. It was initially an idea mentioned by Dr. (Samer) Lone (associate professor of chemistry). Lead was one of the ideas he suggested, since it's a toxic element. So, I went to different stores, buying toys and preparing them for chemical analysis. After talking to Professor Lone more about the idea, he sent me to Dr. King, because it's very close to her area of interest.

## **How did you become interested in research?**

I had a great desire to gain lab experience and to do something for the community. I knew it would be a good idea to bring awareness about this topic.

## **Why is it important to keep lead out of these toys and other items?**

Lead is used in products like cars, baby dolls, popsicles and baby pacifiers, and the literature I have been looking at shows that children are greatly impacted by exposure to lead. I think everybody has a right to know what products they're buying and to protect their families.

## **What do you plan to do with your results?**

I'm planning to bring awareness to the public by creating a Facebook page or a blog. If I'm correct about the findings, I feel I should be more involved with the community in spreading the word.

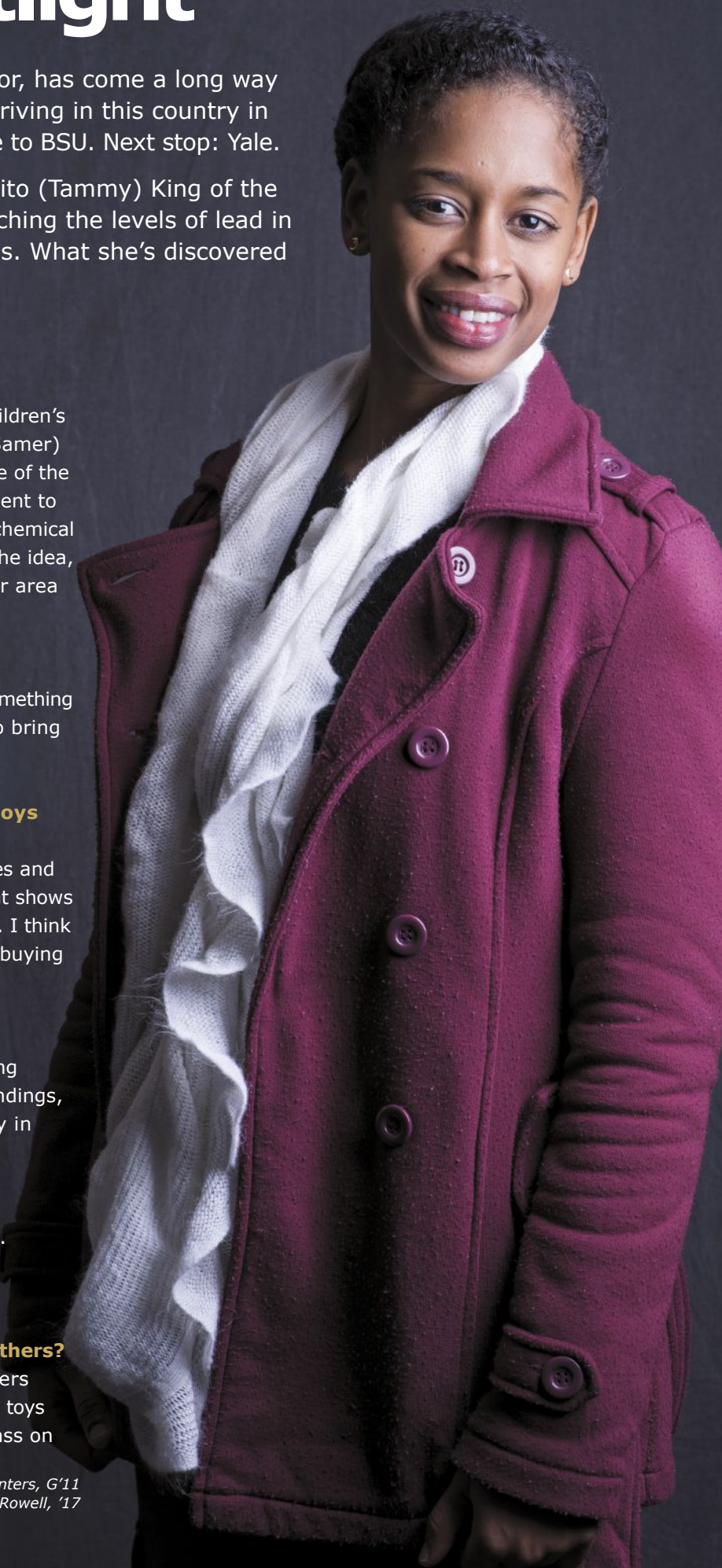
## **What are your plans after graduation?**

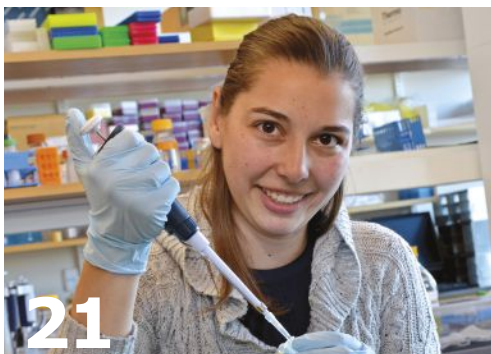
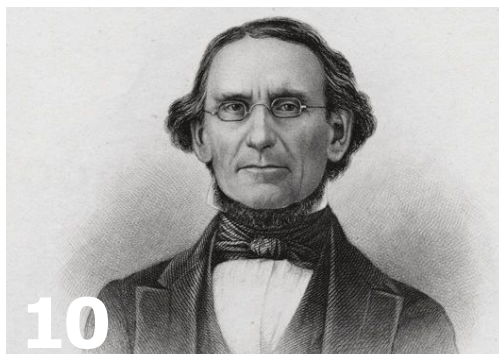
I plan to study clinical management and public health. And I have an offer to study at Yale, working as a research assistant.

## **How does it feel to do research that might help others?**

I feel grateful to have this opportunity to teach others who are unaware of the alarming levels of lead in some toys and children's products. This is what we should do, pass on this kind of information.

*Interview by John Winters, G'11  
Photo by Steven Rowell, '17*





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President Dana Mohler-Faria (left), who is retiring after 13 years leading BSU, stands beside Frederick W. Clark Jr., Esq., '83, current executive vice president and vice president for external affairs, who will become BSU's 12<sup>th</sup> president on July 1, 2015.

photo by Kindra Clineff

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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 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 [http://vc.bridgew.edu/br\\_mag/](http://vc.bridgew.edu/br_mag/).

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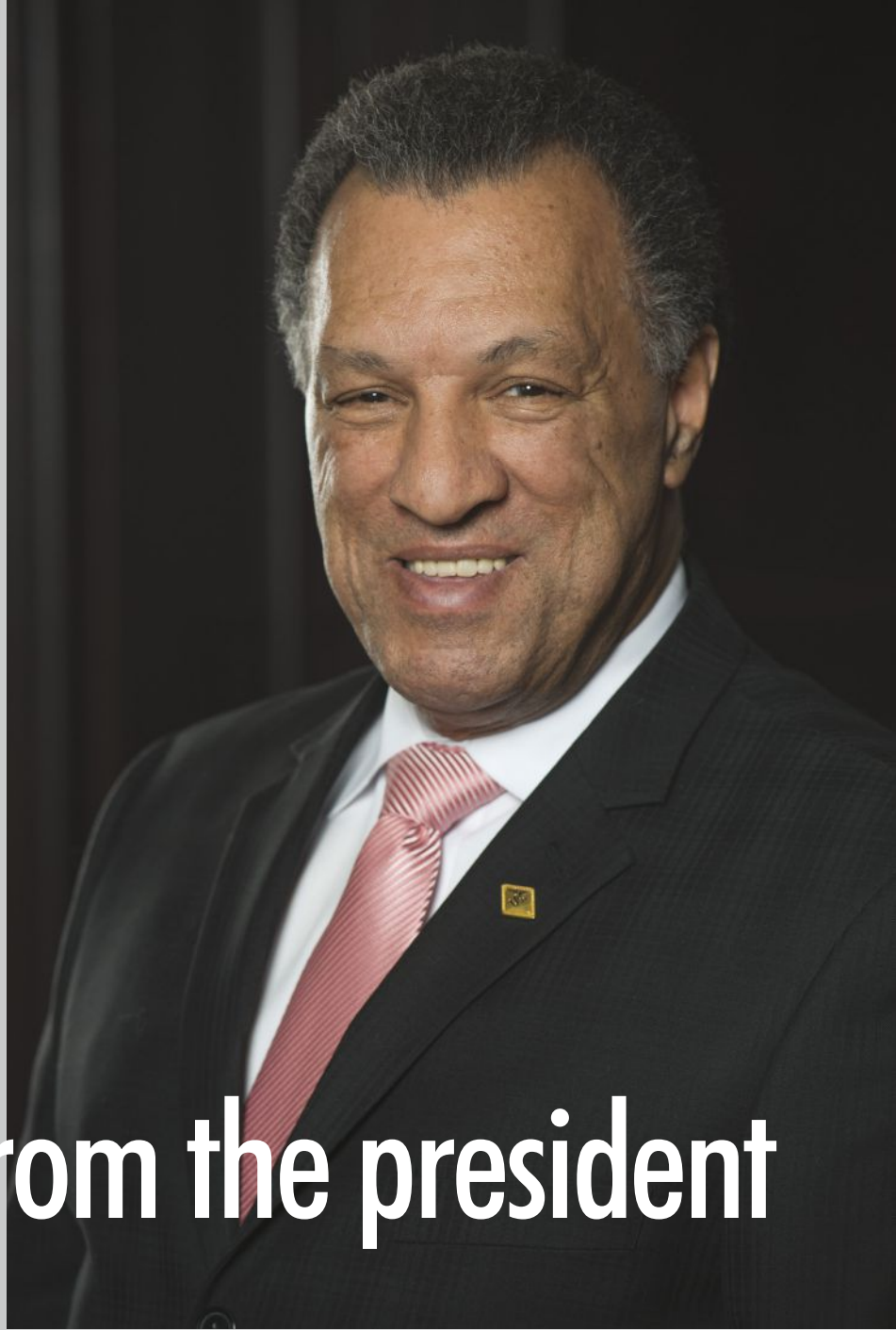
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Email class notes to: [alumni@bridgew.edu](mailto:alumni@bridgew.edu)

Keep up with BSU on social media.







# A message from the president

Dear friends,

Twenty-four years ago, I came to serve then Bridgewater State College, an institution owing its very existence to efforts made by one of the greatest education reformers of all time, Horace Mann, a passionate believer in the mission of public education. In the mid-1800s, he founded the normal school system in America and is credited with revolutionizing the ways in which we undertake the enormous responsibility of educating our citizenry. I began to read all about him. I studied what he wrote, and I looked deeply at everything he was saying and trying to do. I understood on a visceral level that fairness and equity is and always has been woven into the very fabric of our great institution.

Thirteen years ago when I assumed the presidency, I really started to think deeply about how we could reinvigorate the sense of social justice that has defined this institution for more than 175 years. What is education all about? Have we lost sight of our core mission? I then began to intentionally and purposefully create a structure within which justice and equity became top priorities. I knew if we were

to deliver on the promise of education, we needed to be action oriented. We needed to live the spirit of Horace Mann and remain a beacon of hope and an access point for justice. We needed to educate our students not only to think critically, but also to act responsibly within the context of personal and professional ethics.

As I reflect back on my journey as president, I am both proud of and humbled by all we have achieved. In so many respects, this university is a very different institution today than it was more than two decades ago – more vibrant, more engaged, more inclusive, more global, more technologically savvy, more environmentally friendly ... But in one very important respect, it is the exact same institution it was more than one and three-quarter centuries ago when Horace Mann championed education as the great equalizer of society.

I look back at my journey, and I ask, 'Did it matter that this administration was in place? Did we make a difference?' I think about our students. They are, after all, the very heart of this institution, and I do believe we have served them well. I think about our faculty, and I know we have supported and encouraged them as they, too, strive to serve the best interests of our students. I think about our staff, whose hard work helps to keep the institution moving forward. I look at our alumni, who represent the best of Bridgewater State University. And, from the bottom of my heart, I thank our donors, whose generosity makes the difference in so many of our students' lives.

The world is changing fast, and I am proud to say we have kept pace. In the last 13 years, we have taken many important steps and changed the organization in critical ways. During the time of an extraordinary financial downturn, we hired more faculty than any other public institution in Massachusetts. Our freshman-sophomore retention rate now stands in excess of 80 percent, and retention rates for low-income and students of color are now on par with the student body as a whole.

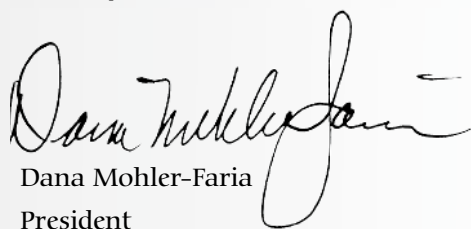
We built a \$98.7 million state-of-the-art science and mathematics center ... The list goes on. In 2010, we achieved university status, a hard-fought, well-deserved, life-changing milestone for our institution and for every member of the Bridgewater State University community.

We have kept our focus and moved the needle forward in a qualitative way. For that, and for so much more, I am grateful. I know where we've come from; I know how hard we've fought to get where we are today. I leave with tremendous hope for the future. Under the leadership of President-elect Fred Clark and his team, BSU will rise to the next level.

Twenty-four years ago, I joined Bridgewater State College as vice president of administration and finance. In June, I leave Bridgewater State University after having served 13 years as president. Altogether, this time frame accounts for more than one third of my life. Understandably, I feel a bit of sadness and nostalgia – sad to be leaving my friends and colleagues who have been such a major part of my life for so long; nostalgic for the thrill of the ride, the pride of overcoming the challenges, the exhilaration of both the small and large successes. I leave also with tremendous excitement and full of joy as I enter the next phase of my life's journey.

I thank each and every one of you for your belief in me, for your support, for your hard work and dedication. A leader does not lead in a vacuum. Bridgewater State University would not be where it is today without you.

Thank you,



Dana Mohler-Faria  
President





# A “true son of Bridgewater” will be its next president

BY DAVID K. WILSON, '71

FREDERICK W. CLARK JR., ESQ., '83, has been appointed the 12<sup>th</sup> president of Bridgewater State University, succeeding Dr. Dana Mohler-Faria, who will retire after more than two decades of service to the university, including the last 13 years as president. Mr. Clark will assume the presidency July 1; his formal inauguration ceremony is scheduled for September 1.

The Massachusetts Board of Higher Education gave its unanimous approval to the appointment of Mr. Clark at a special meeting held in Boston on December 2, 2014.

“I am deeply and profoundly honored to have this opportunity at Bridgewater because the university has been such an important part of my life and my family’s life for the past three-plus decades,” said Mr. Clark.

In an interview with *The Enterprise of Brockton* he said, “It’s emotional for me, because I’ve never really left.”

Born in Brockton, where he attended elementary school before his family moved to Easton, Mr. Clark and four of his siblings attended Bridgewater State, as did his wife, Carrie Kulick-Clark, '85.

His two sons attended BSU – one graduated last spring – and his daughter, who is in middle school, plans to follow her parents and brothers to campus as well.

Since 2011, Mr. Clark has been the university’s executive vice president and vice president for external affairs.

Prior to that, he was chairman of the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education and twice headed up the Council of Presidents of the Massachusetts State Universities.

After college, Mr. Clark served 18 years as an aide to Congressman Joseph Moakley, and in that capacity, in 1991, played an instrumental role in obtaining a \$10 million federal grant to build a technology center on campus. It was, at the time, the largest federal grant ever awarded to a state college in America.

In March 2000, then-President Adrian Tinsley asked Mr. Clark, chairman of the BSC Board of Trustees at that time, and Louis Ricciardi, '81, then-chairman of the Bridgewater Foundation, to co-chair the institutions’s first-ever public endowment fundraising effort. The “Campaign for Bridgewater” raised \$10 million for the university’s endowment.

In a message to the campus community on November 18, the day after Mr. Clark was unanimously recommended by BSU's Board of Trustees following a six-month search, President Dana Mohler-Faria, called Mr. Clark a "true son of Bridgewater," and said, "As evidenced by the reaction that I've seen from across the campus this morning, it is a great day for Bridgewater State University, for Fred and for his family.

then-vice chairman of the board and chairman of the search committee.

"Together, Lou and Gene conducted the process with the utmost integrity to ensure that the university's next president would continue to take Bridgewater State University to new levels of success. For this, and for their combined years of dedicated service to Bridgewater, we owe them a great deal," President Mohler-Faria said.



Taking part in the December 2, 2014, Board of Higher Education meeting during which Mr. Frederick W. Clark Jr., Esq., '83, (center) was named the 12<sup>th</sup> president of Bridgewater State University are (from left), Louis Ricciardi, '81, chairman of the BSU Board of Trustees and vice chairman of the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education; President Dana Mohler-Faria; Dr. Charles Desmond, then-chairman of the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education; and Eugene Durgin, vice chair of the BSU Board of Trustees and chairman of the Presidential Search Committee.

"His vision and leadership for public higher education in the commonwealth in general, and for the state university system and his beloved alma mater in particular, have been both inspiring and transformative.

"We benefit from those results today – from the acquisition of the Moakley Center, to our very name – Bridgewater State University. Fred's efforts in renaming the Massachusetts State University system were key and cannot be overstated," said President Mohler-Faria. "Fred's ultimate success is deeply rooted in the institution he will lead in the coming years."

President Mohler-Faria expressed special thanks to Mr. Ricciardi, chairman of BSU's Board of Trustees during the search, and to Eugene Durgin,

He described the presidential search as an "enormous undertaking," which involved reviewing more than 80 applications, conducting airport interviews and inviting finalists to campus within a matter of several short months."

In addition, the president said, "I want to also acknowledge the efforts of the Presidential Search Committee, composed of 16 members from the BSU community and region. I am most grateful and appreciative of their commitment and dedication throughout this important undertaking."

President Mohler-Faria promised Mr. Clark his full support as the new president leads us "to the promising future beyond the next horizon." ■

OVER THE COURSE OF 175 YEARS, Frederick W. Clark Jr., Esq., '83, and his wife, Carrie, '85, are the THIRD set of Bridgewater State graduates to:

- marry
- produce two children to attend Bridgewater State (so far)
- have at least one child graduate from Bridgewater State (so far)
- and to have the husband ascend to the leadership of the university.

Here are summaries of the previous two:

**Albert Gardner Boyden**, Class of 1849, married Isabella Whitten Clarke Boyden, also from the Class of 1849. Their two sons graduated from Bridgewater Normal School, as the university was then named – Arthur Clarke in 1869 and Wallace in 1876. Arthur Clarke went on to succeed his father as principal of Bridgewater Normal School, and Wallace became principal of Boston State Normal School.

**Arthur Clarke Boyden**, Class of 1869, married Katie Allen, Class of 1872, and their daughter and son both graduated from BNS. Ethel, Class of 1898, became a music instructor, and Edward Allen, Class of 1903, taught at Harvard Medical School.

This information is available thanks to the work of Dr. Thomas Turner, professor emeritus of history. ■





Joining Sergeant John MacLellan, '88, at a White House ceremony honoring him for his role in the Watertown shootout with the accused Boston Marathon bombers, are his wife Monique, daughter Taylor and brother David.

## Alumnus receives presidential medal

John MacLellan, '88, a Watertown police sergeant who was involved in the April 18, 2013, shootout with the accused Boston Marathon bombers, has been awarded the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor.

The medal was presented at a White House ceremony by Vice President Joseph Biden and U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder. Sergeant MacLellan was among five Watertown police officers and two firefighters honored for their part in taking down the suspected marathon bombers during the infamous confrontation on Laurel Street that was a turning point in the case. "Today we honor you, not just your bravery, but your professionalism, your commitment, your example," Vice President Biden said during the ceremony.

Since the inception in 2003 of the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor, only 95 have been awarded. The accompanying citation indicates the award is given by the president of the United States "for extraordinary valor above and beyond the call of duty."

Sergeant MacLellan called the award a "great honor." ■

## Undergraduate research in the spotlight

An ad placed in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* and other academic publications by The Council on Undergraduate Research identified BSU as a leader in undergraduate research. BSU is among 57 institutions (out of 900 participants) cited as tops in "providing significant numbers of ... students with an opportunity to present their work at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research," the leading national venue for the presentation of student research.

Roughly 1,400 BSU students participated in undergraduate research this past year, a number that has grown by a factor of 10 during President Mohler-Faria's tenure. BSU awarded grants totaling \$425,000.

BSU's undergraduate research program is held up as a model by institutions across the United States, in part because of the 94 percent acceptance rate to the National Conference on Undergraduate Research enjoyed by its students, a number well above the national average. Additionally, at least one student each year for the past six has been chosen for the most competitive student-research venue in the country, Posters on the Hill. This event, held in Washington D.C., has an eight percent acceptance rate, and twice in recent years, two BSU students were chosen the same year.

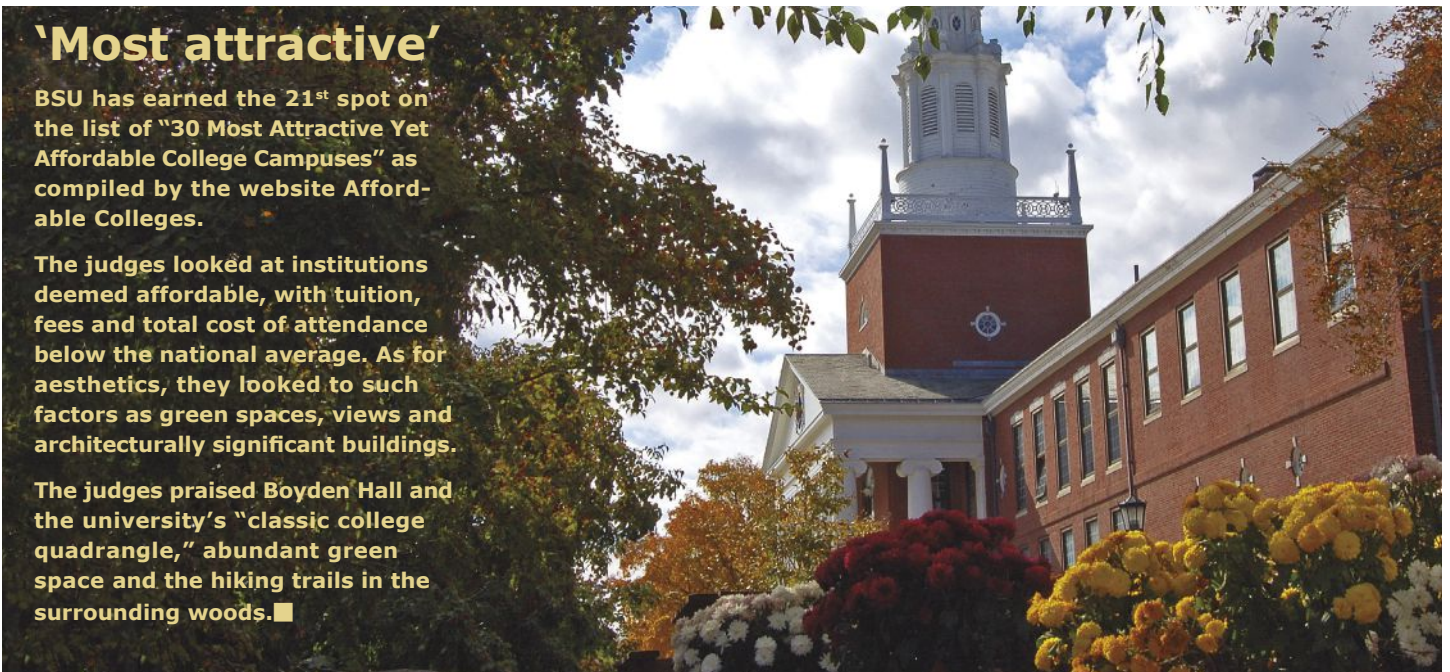
Last year, 24 percent of BSU's undergraduate research participants were students of color; 50 percent were first in their families to attend college; and 40 percent came from low-income families, highlighting the fact that undergraduate research is an essential part of BSU's commitment to social justice and access. ■

## 'Most attractive'

BSU has earned the 21<sup>st</sup> spot on the list of "30 Most Attractive Yet Affordable College Campuses" as compiled by the website *Affordable Colleges*.

The judges looked at institutions deemed affordable, with tuition, fees and total cost of attendance below the national average. As for aesthetics, they looked to such factors as green spaces, views and architecturally significant buildings.

The judges praised Boyden Hall and the university's "classic college quadrangle," abundant green space and the hiking trails in the surrounding woods. ■





# IN MEMORIAM

## Professor Jean Stonehouse, '66

In a message to the university community in early December, President Dana Mohler-Faria wrote, "It is with extreme sorrow and grief that I inform you of the passing of Jean Stonehouse, professor of history at Bridgewater State University and president of the Bridgewater Chapter of the Massachusetts State College Association (MSCA).

"Jean received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Bridgewater State College in 1966 and Master of Arts from Boston University in 1969.

"She joined the faculty of the Bridgewater State College history department in 1969, where she advanced through the ranks to professor in 1998. Jean served her department as chair from 1998 to 2007.

"With regard to her role as a teacher, Professor Stonehouse said, 'First, and most important, is creating a course environment that brings students and teachers into the world of ideas occupied by liberally educated people.'

"One of her most remarkable achievements and contributions was her leadership in the MSCA. She served as grievance officer from 1997-1999. Subsequently, she was elected president of the Bridgewater Chapter (1999) and served until her death."

The president said of Professor Stonehouse, she was "my friend, my colleague and my partner in the leadership of Bridgewater State University."■



## Dr. Robert J. Dillman

In November, word was received from Delaware of the passing of Dr. Robert J. Dillman, a member of the Bridgewater State faculty for 21 years.

In 1967, Dr. Dillman joined the faculty of then-Bridgewater State College's Department of Earth Sciences and Geography and spent the next 15 years there.

In 1982, then-President Adrian Rondileau appointed Dr. Dillman vice president for academic affairs where, among other significant accomplishments, he helped pioneer the first exchange program with the People's Republic of China.

Dr. Dillman was appointed acting president of Bridgewater State in December 1987 and held that position until he left the following August to become president of Fairmont State University in West Virginia.

He subsequently went on to become a long-serving president of East Stroudsburg University in Pennsylvania. Dr. Dillman had retired from that position and was living in Delaware at the time of his passing. Although he had been gone from the BSU campus for 26 years, there are many friends and colleagues who remember him well and hold him in high esteem. Dr. Dillman leaves his wife, Roseann, and four adult children, Deirdre (Buckley), John, Siobhan (Tarley) and James.■



President Mohler-Faria (right) presents a plaque to Louis M. Ricciardi, '81, at an event honoring Mr. Ricciardi's years of service to BSU.

## Celebrating 'extraordinary service'

Nearly 300 members of the extended BSU community gathered to pay tribute to the man President Dana Mohler-Faria introduced as "the longest-serving trustee on a public college campus in the history of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts."

Louis M. Ricciardi, '81, has been a supporter and benefactor of BSU for many years; the College of Business bears his name. December 10 marked his final board of trustees meeting as chairman. The celebration in his honor, held in the East Campus Commons dining room, was a chance to say thank you.

"[Lou's] 25 years of continuous, extraordinary service to his alma mater have been exemplary in every sense, and we've come together tonight to express our deepest thanks and appreciation to him," President Mohler-Faria said.

Mr. Ricciardi, at age 30, was the youngest person ever to be elected to the chairmanship of a Massachusetts public college board of trustees. He served two 10-year terms on BSU's Board of Trustees, from 1989 to 1999 and 2004 to 2014, 17 of those years as chairman, 1990 to 1999 and 2006 to 2014.

In 1990, Mr. Ricciardi became a trustee of the university's foundation, serving as chairman from 1996 to 2004. In that capacity, he co-chaired the institution's first-ever capital campaign in 1999, an effort that raised \$10 million. In April 2009, he was elected to a five-year term on the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education, and in March 2010, he was appointed vice chairman of that board.■





Peter Chase (right) and his son Adam, president and CEO of Chase Corporation

## Bridgewater State University thanks Peter R. Chase

Volunteerism, for some, is a learned behavior; for others, it's simply in their DNA. The latter is the case for Peter Chase, who began his lifelong practice of giving back as an altar boy in grade school – not surprising given his mother and father were heavily involved in supporting various charitable and business organizations.

Bridgewater State University is one of several organizations that have benefited from Mr. Chase's giving of his time and expertise. He first became involved with BSU as a member of the BSU Foundation (1998-2014), and, in 2007, he joined the university's board of trustees. His term ends in June 2015,

and BSU cannot thank him enough for his service.

"I've always felt that it's important to give back," said Mr. Chase. "I believe that it's essential to choose to volunteer with an organization that has meaning to you, personally, and that dovetails with your own belief system. Then, of course, it's important that your chosen organization can benefit from your specific area of expertise."

Mr. Chase's expertise is his business acumen. He is the executive chairman of Chase Corporation, a manufacturing company providing construction products and services to multiple markets.

Louis M. Ricciardi, '81, former chairman of BSU's Board of Trustees, who knew Mr. Chase from business dealings, recognized what an asset he would be to the university and invited him to join the team; the rest is history.

"I can't say enough about the leadership team at BSU," said Mr. Chase. Good solid people. I have enjoyed working with Lou, President Mohler-Faria, Mike Gomes, Bryan Baldwin, and many board, cabinet and staff members ... It's fun to be part, even in a small way, of a successful organization."

To make a difference as a volunteer, it is critical, he said, "to pay attention. Learn how the organization functions. Understand the strategy. Dana and Bryan did a great job crafting the strategy for the institution and demonstrating that strategy visually. That's been very helpful. You also need to understand why you've been called to serve – and to remember, you often get more out of the experience than you give."

Kathy Chase, Peter's wife, also has a résumé rich with volunteerism. Currently, she is involved with the Lost Coin Women's Fund, an organization that provides financial help to low-income women for higher education and training. Interestingly, the mission dovetails with BSU's own of keeping the doors of higher education open to all students.

Kathy and Peter Chase live in Bridgewater and have three children and five grandchildren. ■

## BSU and partners create Brockton Education Collaborative

BSU has joined Massasoit Community College and the University of Massachusetts Boston to create a new \$21.5 million higher education campus in downtown Brockton.

The Brockton Education Collaborative, a first-of-its-kind partnership, allows students to participate in programs offered by MCC, BSU and UMass Boston all under one roof.

"Opportunity" was the word on the lips of many local and state officials, including former Governor Deval Patrick, when the plans for the campus were announced at a Brockton City Hall ceremony. Brockton Mayor Bill Carpenter said the center creates a clear path to a four-year degree starting at MCC and continuing at UMass Boston or BSU.

Some of the funding for the satellite campus was included in the governor's 2015-2019 Capital Investment Plan. The project is expected to create 250 construction and permanent education-related jobs, attract more people to the area, increase foot traffic in downtown Brockton and provide affordable short-term training, certificate and degree programs for students.

Commissioner Carole Cornelison of the state's Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance called the project "an innovative public/private partnership ... that will result in a shared-services campus that adds to the many exciting revitalization efforts going on in downtown Brockton." ■



President Dana Mohler-Faria (right) looks on as former Governor Deval Patrick (left) and Brockton Mayor Bill Carpenter discuss the Brockton Education Collaborative.

Photo courtesy of The Enterprise of Brockton



President Dana Mohler-Faria (left) and Michael Hogan, president and CEO of A.D. Makepeace Company, sign a formal memorandum of understanding.

## Business deal

The first formal memorandum of understanding signed with a local business is in place, promising to bring increased cooperation on a number of fronts.

President Dana Mohler-Faria and Michael Hogan, president and chief executive officer of A.D. Makepeace Company, signed the agreement. The partnership will enhance internship and summer employment opportunities for BSU students, develop pathways to part- and full-time employment for students and graduates, and foster cooperation between staff members of the two organizations.

"Bridgewater State University is committed to the success of our students and our region," the president said. "By building deep partnerships with employers, we can better provide a well-rounded education that helps prepare students to meet the challenges of working in our commonwealth and across the world. Simultaneously, growing businesses like A.D. Makepeace benefit from direct access to our talented, motivated and hard-working students."

According to the company's website, A.D. Makepeace, based in Wareham, is the world's largest cranberry grower, the largest private property owner in eastern Massachusetts, and a recognized leader in environmentally responsible real estate development and stewardship. ■

## Meet the director of BSU's Cape Cod facility



Jennifer True, '02, (center) is flanked by Frederick Clark Jr., Esq., '83, executive vice president and vice president for external affairs, and Karen Jason, '04, G'10, associate vice president of facilities management and planning.

Roughly seven months into her role, the director of Bridgewater State University's new Cape Cod facility says she finds the job exciting but also challenging.

"We are really starting something from scratch," said Jennifer True, who began work last September. "There has never been a four-year institution that has had a real presence on Cape Cod, so I consider it a huge opportunity for us. We have a great partnership with the town of Yarmouth, and everyone on Cape Cod has been really supportive, but it's going to be a challenge. We really have to grow our undergraduate program," she said.

BSU Cape Cod is housed in a former Yarmouth school the university has renovated.

Ms. True has worked 12 years in higher education, including five as a BSU project manager after receiving a master's degree from the university in 2002. She is thrilled to help BSU serve a region that has struggled economically. "I'm hoping this will be an opportunity for people to stay and get an education, and find meaningful employment on the Cape year round," she said. ■



Chinese students from MAIA (above) will soon be studying at BSU as the result of a new partnership.

## BSU-China connection

In the coming months and years, BSU will host a growing number of Chinese students with the goal of assisting them in the process of acculturation, thanks to a new partnership with the Massachusetts International Academy (MAIA). The program's mission is to increase the Chinese students' English language proficiency, equip them with skills they need to be successful in and out of the classroom, and teach them about life in America.

MAIA is an innovative college preparatory school that positions high school graduates from overseas for success in United States' colleges and universities. The Marlboro-based program transitions its graduates to a local university. The University of Massachusetts campuses have enjoyed a strong relationship with MAIA, and the academy's students have enjoyed a matriculation rate of approximately 95 percent.

BSU will be the academic home to 50 students later this year and another 100 in 2016. In four years, it is expected that 350 MAIA graduates will have matriculated to BSU. ■





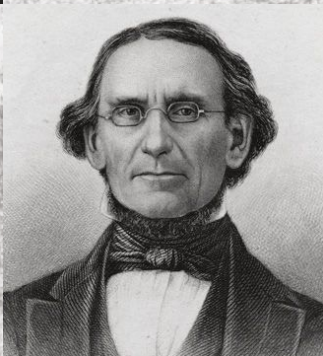
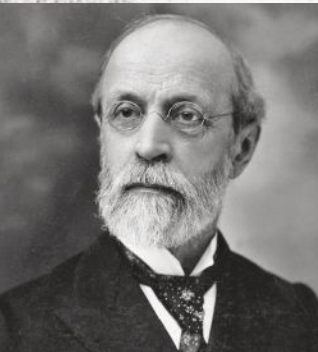
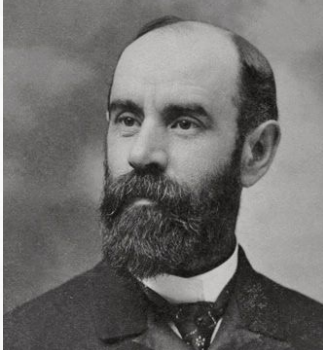
# 175 years

BY KAREN A. BOOTH

TO PUT 175 YEARS IN PERSPECTIVE, CONSIDER that in 1840 Martin Van Buren was the eighth president of the United States – ancient history to 21<sup>st</sup> century university students. Educators back then were, at best, a loosely stitched together community of well-meaning, though inadequately and inconsistently prepared, young women and men with little to no formal education themselves. Enter Horace Mann who, with a band of early pioneers, spearheaded the birth of the normal schools in an effort to “normalize” the education of teachers.

The historical comparisons are astonishing. Then – the blackboard and chalk. Maybe colored chalk to delineate one point from another. Now – the interactive, portable, whiteboard with front and rear projection and stereo sound. Then – the slide rule. The slide rule was the engineering “calculator” for the design of bridges, planes and roads that was utilized up until 1974. Now – the computer and the Internet with approximately 17 billion devices connected to its networks.

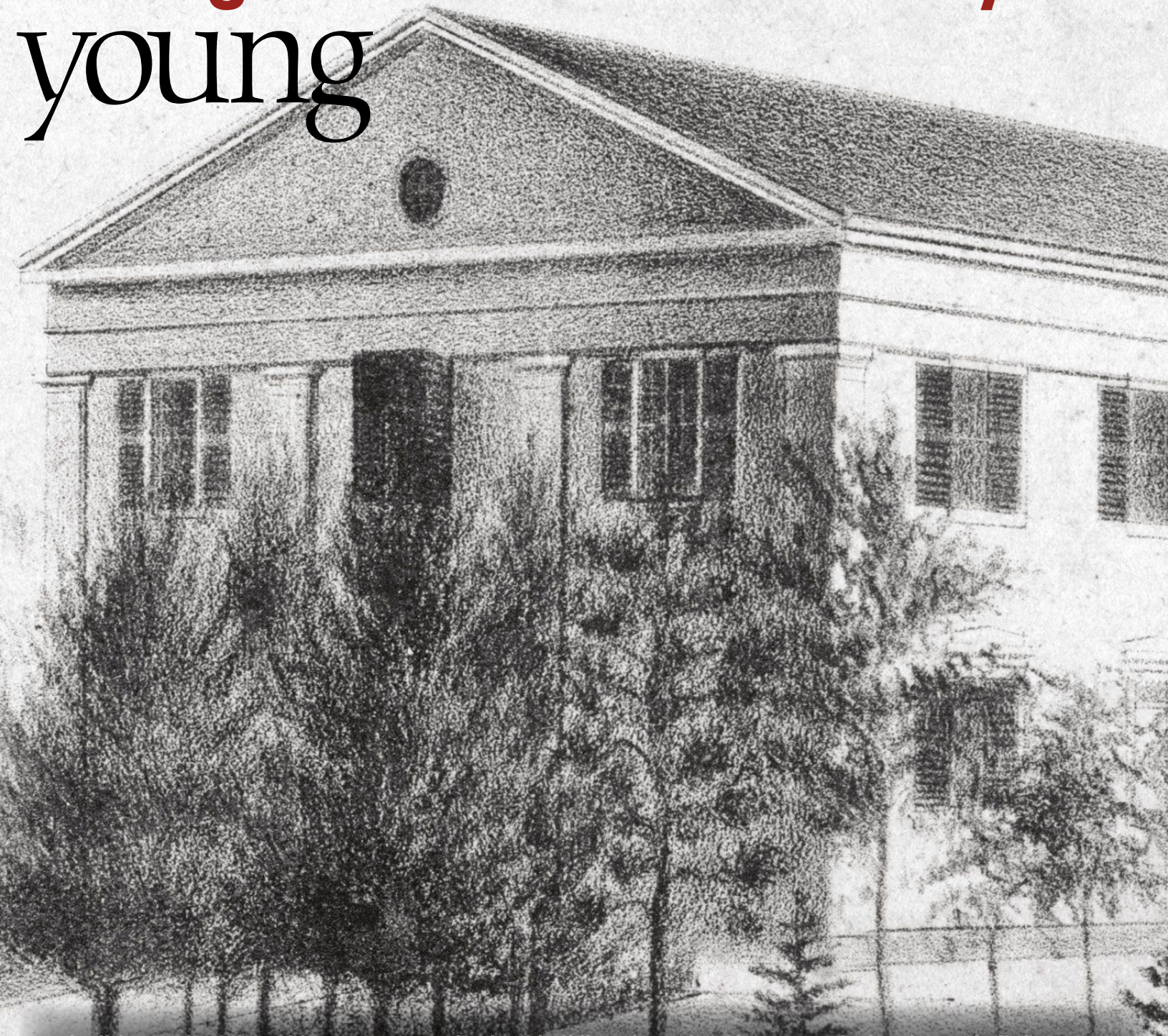
So, Bridgewater State University – Happy 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! The path from then to now has been a wildly exciting, exceptionally successful journey toward inclusive excellence, and all members of the BSU community – past and present – can rightfully celebrate this anniversary triumph.





# Bridgewater State University

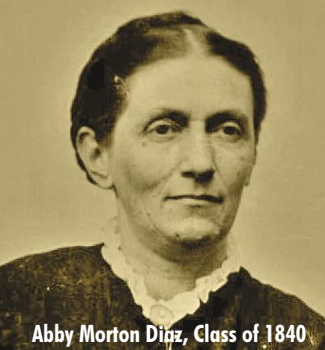
## young



The lithograph of the Bridgewater Normal School building shows it as it appeared when it was built in 1846. The first building on campus, it was also the first structure in the United States that was state financed for teacher preparation/education for a normal school.

Among the leaders of BSU are (far left, from top) Dr. Dana Mohler-Faria, the 11<sup>th</sup> president and the first person of color to lead Bridgewater State; Dr. Adrian Tinsley, the 10<sup>th</sup> president and first woman to hold that title; Arthur Clarke Boyden, the fourth principal of the institution, and later in his tenure, the first to be called president; Arthur Clarke's father, Albert Gardner Boyden, the third principal; and Nicholas Tillinghast, the first principal of what was then known as the State Normal School at Bridgewater.





Abby Morton Diaz, Class of 1840



Professor Eliza B. Woodward



Shuji Isawa, Class of 1877



Mary J. Cragin, Class of 1851



Sarah Lewis, Class of 1869



The Bridgewater Normal School building shown in the oldest photograph of a campus building in the BSU archives, dated July 1, 1871



Normal Hall, the first dormitory, built in 1869



The Bridgewater Normal School building as it appeared in 1881



Bridgewater Normal School opened its doors to 28 students in a one-room schoolhouse located in the basement of the old town hall. Today, nearly 12,000 students attend Bridgewater State University on a campus with 38 buildings on 272 acres. It is the 10<sup>th</sup> largest of all four-year colleges and universities in the commonwealth with 60 percent of its student body identifying as students of color, first generation in their families to pursue higher education and/or as a member of a low-income family. Opening the doors of higher education for students of all ages and backgrounds is not simply a hollow promise at BSU; it is embedded in the institution's DNA.

Facts and figures, bricks and mortar aside, Bridgewater State University is now, and has always been, all about the people – students, faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, donors and friends – whose passions, efforts, support and courage are woven into the fabric of BSU's 175 years.

No history would be complete without paying tribute to Horace Mann, Nicholas Tillinghast, Albert and Arthur Boyden, and the many others who were instrumental in the institution's formative years: Abby Morton Diaz, Class of 1840, who became a well-known author and women's rights activist; Mary J. Cragin, Class of 1851, the first female normal school principal; Eliza B. Woodward, a beloved professor who came to campus in 1857 and taught for the next 30 years; and Sarah Lewis, Class of 1869, the institution's first documented African-American graduate.

Many others in BSU's history will not only be remembered for their outstanding contributions, but also for being dubbed "firsts" in many categories: Shuji Isawa, Class of 1877, who became the "Father of Education" in his native Japan; S. Elizabeth Pope, the institution's first dean of women in 1919; Dr. Ellen Shea, '35, the first woman appointed dean of students; Aida Bruns, who, in 1985, became the first Latina full-time faculty member; Dr. Marilyn White Barry, '58, the first female dean of the School of Graduate Studies; Martha Drinkwater Jones, '64, who, in 1966, accepted an administrative position in student affairs and, later, a faculty position in what is now the College of Education and

Allied Studies; Carol Bliss Furr, who, in the mid-1980s, became the first woman to serve on the institution's Board of Trustees, was also the first African-American woman to chair the board; and Paul Gaines, G'68, the first African-American administrator at Bridgewater State who, initially, held the title of director of minority relations.

From the earliest days of Bridgewater Normal School's evolution to Bridgewater State University, the generosity of donors has helped pave the way. As early as 1881, Albert Gardner Boyden, the institution's third principal, purchased six acres of land with his own money. He was a visionary who knew it would be critical to BNS's future expansion. The state eventually repaid Principal Boyden and, today, the Rondileau Campus Center, Maxwell Library and Scott Hall are situated on this land.

Moving ahead, the generosity of donors like Terry Hart Cogan, '51, has impacted student success in ways far too numerous to mention. In 1992, Ms. Cogan, a lifetime donor, gave \$1 million to Bridgewater State, then the largest gift ever received by the institution. Ms. Cogan, who also co-chaired the institution's Three Pillars of Excellence, a Campaign for Bridgewater, credits Bridgewater State with preparing her "for a life of meaningful involvement. I am truly convinced that there is no better investment in our future than our students," she said. "Today's graduates are the fuel that propel our economy, enrich our culture, strengthen our region and, ultimately, will change the world."

She is not alone. Elite donors include Dennis and Dr. Marilyn White Barry, '58; Carolyn Van Buskirk Turchon, '64; Ruth Donnelly, '52, G'76; and Louis M. Ricciardi, '81. These donors are joined by hundreds of alumni and friends whose generosity continues to fuel BSU's inclusive excellence. In 2014, Bruce, '68, and Patricia Quinn, '67, Bartlett contributed \$3 million for need- and merit-based scholarships, bringing their recent contributions to more than \$5 million. Then there are the many board members and alumni, who willingly serve the institution, generously giving of their finances, time and talents.



A women's gym class, circa 1950, located on what was then known as the lower campus, between where Scott Hall and the Rondileau Campus Center stand today



The 1979 dedication of the Martha M. Burnell School with Bridgewater State President Adrian Rondileau and Governor Edward King (left and second from left)



President Adrian Tinsley and Louis M. Ricciardi, '81, at the 1992 groundbreaking ceremony for the John Joseph Moakley Center for Technological Applications



In 1989, Bridgewater State's Board of Trustees appointed Dr. Adrian Tinsley the 10<sup>th</sup> president of Bridgewater State and the first woman to lead the institution. President Tinsley brought Bridgewater State into the future with a modern-day leadership structure more fitting for the growth challenges to come. She accomplished this and much more, and she continues to be involved with the university.

In 2002, when President Tinsley retired, Bridgewater State once again made history when the board of trustees selected Dr. Dana Mohler-Faria as the 11<sup>th</sup> president, the first person of color to hold this position. President Mohler-Faria wasted no time in building on the foundation laid by his predecessor and instituting his own ambitious strategic plan with social justice at its core.

President Mohler-Faria titled his inaugural address "A Journey to Excellence," and he quickly initiated policies, procedures and programs to uphold his pledge to make Bridgewater State the education and cultural center of Southeastern Massachusetts. Understanding that equity for all must be the foundation upon which any journey to excellence must travel, President Mohler-Faria made inclusive excellence a priority.

Bridgewater State University's celebration of its 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary is a fitting finale to the 13-year tenure of President Mohler-Faria, who worked tirelessly to move the institution toward achievement of university status. It is an opportunity to honor the contributions of all past members of the BSU community, as well as highlight the university's more recent accomplishments, especially with respect to President Mohler-Faria's emphasis on social justice initiatives.

Included among those initiatives launched during President Mohler-Faria's tenure are the Diversity Task Force; Office of Institutional Diversity; Community Service Center; Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Ally (GLBTA) Pride Center; Friends and Mentors (FAM) for Change; Bridge Partnership program; President's Task Force to End Homelessness; Institute for Social Justice; two Residential Learning Communities; and the Diversity and

Social Justice Implementation Committee. Also under President Mohler-Faria's leadership, BSU launched Leading for Change Higher Education Diversity Consortium. With 18 member institutions and counting, participants insert a focus on diversity into their institutional missions and share metrics and best practices to track their progress.

In December 2014, after a nationwide search, the BSU Board of Trustees announced that when Dr. Mohler-Faria steps down from the presidency in June, Frederick W. Clark Jr., Esq., '83, will take the reins. Mr. Clark is eminently qualified for the job, and the BSU community is thrilled to have one of its own take the institution into the future. President-elect Clark shares President Mohler-Faria's passion with respect to the university's social justice initiatives.

In a recent interview, President Mohler-Faria pondered, "It comes down to the sense that we all come to this earth with different thoughts and beliefs about who we are. In reality, we exist in space together. Everything that divides us has been created by man. Over time – and I think about that, even prehistoric time – what man did to gain advantages for self and loved ones, was to subjugate other people ... put people in places that were not fair or just, whether it was color, or race or gender or different values, whatever it was to help that person or group achieve their objectives. Going back to that base place, unraveling all that – it's a tall order. Something that can only be accomplished in small places.

"We're not going to change the world. But, what we do in our space, at Bridgewater State University, how we begin to change all that – that's what this is all about." ■

***Preserving and sharing BSU's heritage is an ongoing process. Contributions of Bridgewater State-related documents, scrap-books, photographs, videos and other memorabilia are greatly appreciated. To learn more about how you can help tell the institution's story, contact Orson Kingsley, the university's archivist and special collections librarian, at 508.531.1389, or at [orson.kingsley@bridgew.edu](mailto:orson.kingsley@bridgew.edu).***



A Bridgewater Normal School classroom, circa 1895



Bridgewater Normal School faculty in 1899



Bridgewater Normal School Class of 1898 at its 50<sup>th</sup> reunion in 1948

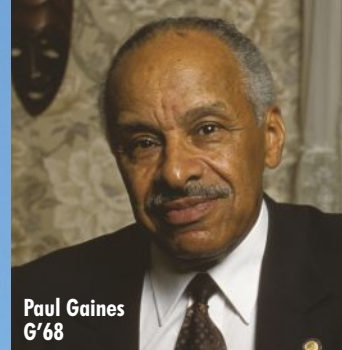




S. Elizabeth Pope



Dr. Marilyn White Barry, '58



Paul Gaines  
G'68



Dr. Ellen Shea, '35



Martha Drinkwater Jones, '64



Bridgewater State students on  
the steps of Boyden Hall, circa 1940



Bridgewater Day of Hope and Remembrance,  
September 19, 2001, held in recognition of  
the September 11 terrorist attacks



President Dana Mohler-Faria with  
Governor Deval Patrick as the governor signs  
legislation granting Massachusetts state colleges  
university status on July 28, 2010





Participants in the Presidential Fireside Chat are (from left), President-Elect Frederick W. Clark Jr, Esq., '83; President Emerita Adrian Tinsley; moderator Dr. Judith Block McLaughlin; and President Dana Mohler-Faria.

# Past, present, future

BY JOHN WINTERS, G'11

Presidential Fireside Chat brings together three Bridgewater State presidents for a look back and ahead

It was a historic enough occasion to draw Horace Mann himself from the afterlife and onto the stage of the auditorium named for him. The Presidential Fireside Chat, the first event of its kind ever held at Bridgewater, brought together the institution's past, present and future in the persons of President Dana Mohler-Faria, his predecessor Dr. Adrian Tinsley and President-Elect Frederick W. Clark Jr., Esq., '83.

Three presidents, one event, lots of history.

The event came at an auspicious time: President Mohler-Faria leaves his post at the end of June, and the institution is in the midst of celebrating the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding. It was appropriate for employees, students and alumni to have on their minds both the institution's heritage and its future.

After a few words from an actor portraying Horace Mann, the event began with an introduction by Trustee Chairman Eugene Durgin. Next, Dr. Judith Block McLaughlin, moderator and former trustee, gave each of the presidents a chance to share some insights into life as the head of an ever-changing institution, through times both good and bad.

"I am here today as the ghost of Bridgewater past," Dr. Tinsley said, bringing a roar of laughter and applause from the hundreds who'd gathered for the event. Her presidency, which began in July 1989, did not get off to a propitious start. Her predecessor had been led off in handcuffs, Bridgewater's selectmen were not going to allow the two forthcoming residence halls to connect to the town's water and sewer systems, and her office furnishings consisted of a card table, a typewriter and a telephone.

"Things went downhill from there," Dr. Tinsley said, again drawing laughter. However, she was quick to add that, "Even then, I was pretty sure that Bridgewater State was going to be worth all the experience and stamina I could put into it in the long run." The problems, as she saw them, could be solved.

And they were, thanks to good teaching faculty, a perfect location, a suburban campus with the potential to be beautiful and a physical plant not too badly run down. During her tenure, Dr. Tinsley had to deal with budget cuts and freezes, and a financial system in need of serious attention. In her second year, she hired Dr. Mohler-Faria as vice president of administration and finance.

Dr. Tinsley's years would see the landing of a \$10 million technology grant making possible the construction of the John Joseph Moakley Center for Technological Applications; the institution's first capital campaign, which raised \$10 million; a new athletic center that today bears her name; as well as the laying of a solid foundation upon which today's BSU is built.

President Mohler-Faria remembered facing "daunting" challenges when he took office. Before the transition, however, he'd asked Dr. Tinsley about her thoughts concerning the future of Bridgewater State. "What mattered? What would transform Bridgewater?" the president remembered thinking.

Such conversations and pondering led to the blueprint that has been in place since. His initial priorities were growing the student body, upgrading and expanding the physical plant, continued emphasis on fundraising, a focus on student success and providing the best possible educational experience.



## Spring events kick off Bridgewater State University's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration

Despite two serious financial crises over the years, President Mohler-Faria and the trustees pushed forward, aggressively increasing the size of the faculty through new hires, and finding ways to build new residence halls, academic buildings and more.

"So what we experienced was this significant growth that we've seen here at Bridgewater," he said, pointing out that the size of the campus has increased by almost 50 percent.

During his time in office, the president also served for 18 months as education adviser to former Governor Deval Patrick – after turning down the job of secretary of education – and has seen graduation rates and retention rates climb, as well as the number of students participating in undergraduate research and study abroad programs.

"It's been a long 13 years; it's been a great 13 years," President Mohler-Faria said.

Mr. Clark opened his segment by paying tribute to his predecessors. "I will certainly stand on these great shoulders that are right next to me," he said.

He outlined his priorities for the near future of BSU, including a continued focus on student success and academic excellence. Social justice and service to the region are also high on Mr. Clark's list.

Along with a fiscal climate that's once again less than ideal, Mr. Clark knows he will also face shifting demographics; the pool of potential college students in the state will dip by up to 10 percent. Low graduation rates and a renewed focus on the needs of adult learners are also places BSU can play a role, he believes, and keep the area's workforce well prepared.

"We have to do our job, to open those pipelines, to produce for our region," Mr. Clark said. All the while, he stressed the importance of making sure the university upholds its commitment to offering a liberal arts education. ■

### The Arc of Teacher Education: From the Normal School to Now

Bridgewater State University launched the observance of its 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary on March 26 with an all-day conference that drew 200 educators from across the nation to attend lectures, participate in workshops and listen to panel discussions focused on a variety of topics related to teacher education.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Arthur Levine, president of the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, and former president and faculty member at Teacher's College of Columbia University.

Speakers included (from top) Dr. Thomas Turner, author of *Not to be Ministered Unto, But to Minister. Bridgewater State University 1840-2010*, the definitive history book about BSU, and "Horace Mann," portrayed by Dr. P. Bradley Nutting, professor emeritus of history at Framingham State University. ■



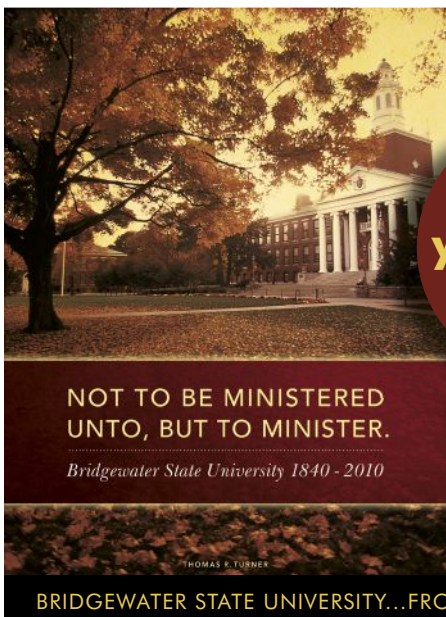
### Reminiscences of a Building

Five emeriti faculty members of BSU's Department of Art have contributed work for an exhibit depicting the Art Center.

The university's oldest building, the Art Center was built in 1905 as a gymnasium and over the years has served as the campus library, offices for the humanities faculty and a general classroom facility. In 1976, it became the Department of Art's home.

The emeriti professors taking part in the exhibit (above, from left), Steve Smalley, Dorothy Pulsifer, Joan Hausrath, Roger Dunn and John Droege (unable to attend), taught at Bridgewater State for 175 years cumulatively, a fitting number as the university celebrates its 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The artwork will be on display through May 21 in the glass cases at the main entrance of Boyden Hall. ■



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**MISSION STATEMENT:** *The Leading for Change Higher Education Diversity Consortium is a voluntary collaboration of institutions of higher education in Massachusetts and the greater New England region committed to identifying student and employee diversity best practices through uniform and transparent use of data, institutional benchmarks and reflective practice.*

# Leading for Change Higher Education Diversity Consortium

BY KAREN A. BOOTH



Speaking at the conference are Dr. Sylvia Spears of Emerson College and BSU president Dana Mohler-Faria.

Without clearly stated objectives and, more importantly, agreed upon metrics to measure those objectives, the success of any initiative would live only in the mind of the beholder. So, in August 2013, when Bridgewater State University hosted a two-day conference focused on diversity best practices, it's not surprising that defining objectives and identifying metrics were the order of the day. Attending were 214 participants from 48 public and private colleges and universities across the region.

The conference not only provided an overview of some of BSU's diversity best practices, but also offered structured exercises and facilitated support for campus teams to use in assessing their own diversity practices and goals. Dr. Sabrina Gentlewarrior, director of institutional diversity at BSU, spearheaded the project. "Bridgewater State University has been leading the region for several years in identifying and implementing diversity practices that are linked to the success of all students," she said.

Depending on an institution's specific objectives, measurable metrics might include enrollment, retention, graduation and/or persistence rates of students belonging to a specific demographic. At BSU, for example, two-thirds of students identify as first generation, students of color and/or low-income students. BSU asks: Is the campus environment welcoming? Do students feel supported, respected and safe? Just how is the impact of a targeted diversity initiative measured? And, importantly, are students finding jobs when they graduate? It is widely acknowledged that students who learn in a diverse environment are better prepared to compete in our increasingly diverse world.

After the conference, participants returned to their respective institutions and began the process of reviewing diversity initiatives on their own campuses. This included rewriting institutional mission statements to include a focus on diversity and social justice; creating a diversity intercultural dialogue series and, importantly, said Dr. Gentlewarrior, "increasing data-driven student success efforts to support students from all identities."

"Conference participants emphasized that they wanted the collaborative work on equity in higher education to continue," said Dr. Gentlewarrior. "They clearly understood that by working together we would be able to pool our knowledge about diversity-oriented student and employee practices, which would strengthen all of our institutions as well as the region."

The success of the 2013 conference set the stage for statewide dialogue. Dr. Gentlewarrior, with President Dana Mohler-Faria's support and a multi-institution planning committee, organized a second conference in August 2014. This time, more than 300 people from 58 institutions answered the call, among them four presidents, nine high-ranking administrators and leaders from BSU's sister institutions, as well as representatives from state organizations.

The conference was electrifying. Administrators and faculty from BSU and other institutions facilitated workshops designed to build on the dialogue begun the previous year. Participating institutions were invited to join the consortium, and as of this writing, 18 have done so, among them UMass Amherst, Bristol Community College, Emerson College, Mount Holyoke College and Wentworth Institute of Technology. (See page 17 for the complete list.)

Dr. Gentlewarrior opened the plenary session of the August conference with a quote from poet and activist Gwendolyn Brooks. "'We are each other's harvest,' and that simple sensibility is the underlying reason we are all here today," said Dr. Gentlewarrior. "We know that our fates are bound up together; our personal and institutional work is complete only when we do all we can so that all have access to higher education, all feel welcomed and supported while there, and all are supported by policies, practices and pedagogies to help them succeed."

In October 2014, building on the momentum of the earlier conference, participants returned and began the nitty-gritty work

of using their institutional research to identify how each campus is doing in meeting the benchmarks set forth by the Leading for Change Higher Education Diversity Consortium.

Leading for Change is not only a call to action, but also a mantra and a promise with members of the consortium pledging complete transparency when reporting on agreed upon metrics. As leaders in each participating campus track their progress in meeting the benchmarks and identifying the policies, practices and teaching strategies used to achieve those benchmarks, they will begin to identify strategies to help support the success of all students and employees.

Dr. Gentlewarrior is pleased with the progress made to date. "BSU and our sister institutions in the consortium are poised to make a significant contribution to higher education simply by working together on data-driven diversity efforts. The work is exciting and will be of great benefit to all of our campuses."

Dr. Sylvia Spears, vice president of diversity and inclusion at Emerson College, representing one of the first institutions to join the consortium, has called diversity and inclusion work "a moral





Dr. Sabrina Gentlewarrior, director of institutional diversity at BSU, said of the diversity conference participants:

*"They clearly understood that by working together we would be able to pool our knowledge about diversity-oriented student and employee practices, which would strengthen all of our institutions as well as the region."*

imperative." She emphasized, "We [conference participants] are all committed to the success of the members of our campus communities. We want our students to walk across that stage not because they survived, but rather because they thrived."

In a diverse learning environment, said Dr. Spears, "students' education is enhanced; their ability to employ higher-order thinking skills is enriched with diversity of thought, perspective and backgrounds. Diversity practices all across the institution provide strength ... everyone is made better."

President Mohler-Faria has emphasized the critical importance of the consortium. "The consortium allows us to pinpoint areas where we can make improvements. Are there opportunities to adapt, modify and share? Bridgewater has made incredible progress. There's a story to tell. We have a lot to share and a lot to build on," he said. "I'm tremendously excited about the consortium. For us, it's a commitment to better understand where we are in relation to the consortium and others in higher education and what's going on in the world."

Indeed, when it comes to diversity programs and initiatives, general consensus supports the notion that when higher education focuses on best practices in diversity, everyone benefits – from students who experience differing perspectives in the classroom, to faculty who challenge students to think more inclusively, to staff who engage in more meaningful discussions around issues of diversity in divisional and cabinet meetings, and to the business community, which benefits from cross-fertilization of creative ideas in a more diverse workforce.

Dr. Spears was adamant about the promise of transparency: "It behooves us to keep an eye on the prize," she said, emphasizing the importance of being "courageous enough to make our metrics public. We keep ourselves honest. It's about accountability. It's a positive kind of pressure and supports the will of the institution." She made the additional point that an institution demonstrates its values by where it commits its resources, both human and financial. It is, she said, a simple directive: "Put your money where your values are."

In promoting membership in the consortium, Dr. Gentlewarrior said, "One of the biggest reasons to join is so that all [member institutions] can move forward together. We benefit from the synergy, fellowship and expertise of our members."

Frederick Clark Jr., '83, BSU's president-elect, acknowledges that deepening our self-awareness, expanding our knowledge and participating in intercultural dialogues is essential work, but, he said, "It's not easy, and all levels of the institution need to be involved to lead for change ... Leadership sets the tone ..."

President Mohler-Faria believes those in leadership positions must make a commitment to leadership. Speaking to a cohort of Cape Verdean students in the Pedro Pires Institute for Cape Verdean Studies, he said, "Leadership is a way of life. It demands full commitment ... we must lead from within ourselves."

What he told the students is applicable to all leaders in all positions of power: "In your time as leaders, create a legacy that is sustainable. Provide opportunities for others to succeed." ■

## **Leading for Change Higher Education Diversity Consortium Institutional Members**

Bridgewater State University, President Dana Mohler-Faria

Bristol Community College, President John J. Sbrega

Cape Cod Community College, President John Cox

Emerson College, President Lee Pelton

Fitchburg State University, President Robert V. Antonucci

Framingham State University, President F. Javier Cevallos

Greenfield Community College, President Robert Pura

MGH Institute of Health Professions, President Janis P. Bellack

Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Acting President Kurt Steinberg

Massasoit Community College, President Charles Wall

Middlesex Community College, President Carol Cowan

Mount Holyoke College, President Lynn Pasquerella

Mount Wachusett Community College, President Daniel M. Asquino

North Shore Community College, President Patricia Gentile

Regis College, President Antoinette Hays

University of Massachusetts Amherst,

Chancellor Kumble R. Subbaswamy

Wheelock College, President Jackie Jenkins-Scott

Wentworth Institute of Technology, President Zorica Pantić



IF SARAH GENDRON EVER HAD ANY DOUBTS about her future career choice, last summer put them to rest.

The North Dighton resident and physics major (with minors in both mathematics and secondary education) had planned all along to teach in an underserved school district. Last summer, as part of the Southeast Massachusetts Science Teacher Scholars Program, Sarah was able to work with BSU's Bridge Partnership program, which brings at-risk middle-school students to campus for an immersive two-week stay filled with fun and education.

"I think that really solidified for me that I want to work in these types of schools," she said. "These students really appreciate the help you give to them. And when they see that you care, they want to work even harder."

Seven other BSU science majors spent their summer in a similar manner, all as part of the program. They served at K-12 educational camps and programs at Massasoit Community College, Hanscom Air Force Base and here at Bridgewater State University. The summer internships marked the first phase of the five-year, \$1.45 million initiative, which is funded by the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program. (A condition of the Noyce grant is that BSU must match \$250,000 to endow the perpetuation of the program; \$50,000 of that total has already been raised through private philanthropy.)



# Granting opportunity

National Science Foundation program helps turn BSU students into the STEM teachers of tomorrow

BY STEVE IDE AND JOHN WINTERS, G'11

The program encourages talented science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) students to pursue teaching careers in elementary and secondary schools, addressing the critical local need for K-12 teachers in those fields. The BSU Southeast Massachusetts Science Teacher Scholars Program offers scholarships, internships and a teacher-mentor to support and prepare students majoring in the sciences for a career in teaching. Students may apply for scholarships valued at \$10,000 to cover costs of tuition, fees and books for their last two academic years prior to receiving a bachelor's degree, and for licensure to teach elementary or secondary education.

In return, the participating students agree to work as science teachers in public schools in what are considered "high-needs" districts, including Brockton, Fall River, Randolph and Freetown-Lakeville.

"The main goal of the whole grant for all the Noyce programs is to put more talented scientists in the K-12 classrooms," said Dr. Jeffrey Williams, BSU physics professor. Dr. Williams, who has taught at Bridgewater State University for 15 years, is co-investigator of the program with Dr. Nicole Glen, associate professor of elementary and early childhood education, who has been at BSU for six years.

According to a 2007 report from the National Research Council, elementary students understand science more effectively when taught by teachers who have adequate knowledge of the field. Yet, the National Science Board reported in 2010, more than half of fifth-grade students in the United States are being taught science by teachers who do not hold a science or science education degree. Specifically, in Massachusetts, 55 percent of schools report a need for more qualified, licensed science teachers.

The program, in partnership with Massasoit Community College, has been four years in the making. Drs. Williams and Glen had applied three times for the grant before seeing their program greenlighted.



*"The main goal of the whole grant for all the Noyce programs is to put more talented scientists in the K-12 classrooms," said Dr. Jeffrey Williams, co-investigator of the program with Dr. Nicole Glen.*

What may have put them over the top to receive the highly competitive funding was the program's unique goal: to encourage high-caliber science majors to eventually teach at the elementary school level. This might seem like a nuance, but Dr. Williams explained that most science majors who go on to teach do so at the secondary school level.

"It's very rare for elementary school teachers to have a science degree," said Dr. Williams. "But having teachers who know science and loves science at the elementary school level is great for young children."

Overall, the grant will provide scholarships of \$10,000 per year for 40 science majors, paying for their junior and senior years at BSU. In exchange, the students will be required to teach for four years at the K-12 level in one of the participating public school districts. It is hoped that 12 of the BSU scholarship recipients will become teachers at the elementary school level, while the remaining 28 will become secondary-level schoolteachers.

For Arianna Jefferson, the Noyce Program seemed like the perfect stepping stone to heading her own classroom. "I've always wanted to be a teacher, but I want to also inspire," said the North Dighton resident and biology-elementary education double major. "And, I want to get students interested in science because I feel many are lacking the opportunity to do so."

Arianna's summer internship was at Hanscom Air Force Base in the STARBASE Academy, a program for fifth graders from underserved schools that teaches the students such things as robotics, physics and nanotechnology, among other topics. "We did a lot," she said.

Noyce grants are offered nationwide. In this case, it aims to help balance the scales of getting qualified science teachers into urban schools.

"High-needs districts" generally have high teacher turnover rates because fewer teachers choose to work in urban environments. As a result, these districts tend to lose high-quality teachers more easily than suburban schools.



**"I've always wanted to be a teacher, but I want to also inspire," said Arianna Jefferson. "And, I want to get students interested in science because I feel many are lacking the opportunity to do so."**





**"These [Bridge Partnership program] students really appreciate the help you give to them. And when they see that you care, they want to work even harder," said Sarah Gendron of her summer 2014 internship.**

"Since our scholarship program is targeted to students who do have high GPAs and who are really good students, the goal is to put those good science students into districts with children who need good teachers and to help mentor them so they will stay in those districts even when some of their colleagues might leave for jobs in more suburban schools," said Dr. Glen.

Students taking part in the summer intern program supervise learning that might involve planning and working within the curriculum, as well as teaching young children. During the academic year, teacher-mentors from the four participating districts will work with the scholarship recipients to guide their growth toward becoming future teachers.

The program is a natural for Bridgewater State University, which, like many state universities, began as a "teacher's college." The summer internship is a four-week program that allows the eight participants to dip their toes into the waters of teaching at the elementary and secondary levels. The students, to be paid \$450 per week, might choose to apply for the full scholarship. They will learn from their summer experience whether they think they might enjoy teaching at the elementary level, Dr. Williams said.

The summer program helped these students decide whether they want to teach science and also whether they can be inspired to teach young children from low socio-economic and differing cultural backgrounds, said Dr. Glen.

Ultimately, the goal is to get qualified physics, chemistry, geology and biology teachers into the K-12 system, though "getting into K-5 would be awesome," Dr. Williams said. He imagines the impact of the program on the hundreds of students who will be taught by someone who majored in science in college. "It might set their lives off in a direction, and one day they might also become scientists," he said.

Dr. Glen agreed. "My hope is to get more science majors to become elementary teachers, but also to get strong science majors who have good content knowledge, who are good students, who have worked with high-need student populations, out into schools that really need the good teachers," she said. "This can help inspire the children to become the scientists and the engineers of the future." ■

*Information from the Office of Grants and Sponsored Projects was used in this story.*



**A grant-funded study being conducted at BSU** is examining the barriers facing faculty interested in advancing in STEM (science, including the social sciences; technology; engineering; and mathematics) fields.

Traditionally, working in these areas has particularly presented challenges for women. Through surveys and interviews, Dr. Laura Ramsey, assistant professor of psychology, and her colleagues in the study, "Investigating the Importance of Workplace Flexibility for Women in STEM at a Teaching-Intensive University," hope to find the reasons for this and possibly suggest remedies. "What we're interested in studying is what these faculty feel are barriers to their success and what they feel is happening at Bridgewater to help them be successful," she said.

The research focuses on feedback concerning the experiences of both full- and part-time faculty at BSU. The two-year project has funding of \$194,000 from an IT-Catalyst Grant, sponsored by the National Science Foundation's ADVANCE Program, which seeks to increase participation and advancement of women in academic science and engineering careers.

In addition to Dr. Ramsey, the research team consists of Dr. Martina Arndt, professor of physics; Dr. Kimberly Fox, assistant professor of sociology; Dr. Pamela Russell, professor of movement arts, health promotion and leisure studies; and Dr. Michael Young, associate provost for academic planning and administration.

Dr. Ramsey said she hopes the effects of the study will be far-reaching. "Overall, we hope to use the data to inform policy changes that can increase the success of our STEM faculty. Policy changes that benefit STEM faculty will likely benefit other faculty members as well," she said.

Policies and best practices uncovered through the study may be applied not only at BSU but also more broadly across the state university system.■

## NSF grant funds a study of barriers facing STEM faculty

BY JOHN WINTERS, G'11

**Dr. Laura Ramsey (right), works with BSU student Maria Lebrun.**







the  
*AR*



On the first level of the Science and Mathematics Center is a series of 19 paintings by Professor Mercedes Nuñez. Titled *The Elegant Universe*, the series includes (from left) "Chance Resurrection (Earth)," "Deception Island (Neptune)" and "Chthonian God (Mars)."



*t* of

# science

BY JOHN WINTERS, G'11

**The Science and Mathematics Center is home to several head-turning displays and exhibits**

THERE ARE MANY WHO VIEW SCIENCE AND ART as two sides of the same coin. This idea likely originated with the ancient Greeks and was taken to heart by such luminaries as Galileo and da Vinci, and is one of the reasons the Science and Mathematics Center is not only filled with labs, high-tech instruments and classrooms, but also plenty of artwork.

"Scientists and artists each view the natural world from different perspectives, but we each are examining the same thing," said Dr. Arthur Goldstein, dean of the Bartlett College of Science and Mathematics. "Many of the things that scientists find beautiful about the universe stem from our appreciation of symmetry, form, function and color. There is beauty in so many things that scientists are enthralled with."

From the start, displays and exhibits were planned for the building, which opened in fall 2012. The items hanging on the walls and populating the myriad display cases are courtesy of both faculty members and outside artists. In some way, the artwork and display items all connect to one of the sciences.





"There's been a long tradition of artists and scientists collaborating," said Jay Block, collections and exhibitions manager, and the man most responsible for decking out the five floors of the Science and Mathematics Center with interesting works.

Currently, the building is home to out-of-this-world paintings by Professor Mercedes Nuñez, the skeleton of a whale that perished off the coast of Cape Cod, stunning photos of the night sky over Canada, and displays of meteorites, minerals and turned wood bowls. Together, they speak to the diversity of the sciences, yet at the same time, emphasize the natural beauty and wonder found in the universe.

"For this building, I look for something unique that will bring in an outside point of view," Mr. Block said.

Those entering the ground floor will be immediately struck by a series of paintings titled *The Elegant Universe*, featuring 19 works by Professor Nuñez that represent the sun and planets. Read right to left, they take the viewer on a journey from our solar system into interstellar space.

"The paintings are symbolic of the power and mysteries of space, indicative of all that is known and all that is yet to be," the artist wrote in a statement accompanying the work. The series took Professor Nuñez more than a year of intense research, conceptualization and painting. Commissioned by President Dana Mohler-Faria, *The Elegant Universe* is now part of the university's permanent collection.

Space is the subject of two other displays in the building. On the second floor is a glass case filled with meteorites from Harvard University's world-class collection and equipment donated from one of NASA's retired space shuttles, courtesy of the Massachusetts Air & Space Museum. "They tell the creation story of the Big Bang," Mr. Block said, pointing to meteorites of various sizes. "Some are from just after the first nanosecond of creation." Both of these loans were orchestrated by veteran mathematics Professor Philip Scalisi, who has connections to the donating entities.

The top floor is home to spectacular color photos of the Milky Way, as shot from Darryl Van Gaal's backyard. Mr. Van Gaal is a Canadian photographer who takes advantage of the lack of light pollution up north in order to capture the night sky in all its glory. "I love the fact that an academic institution has taken an interest in my work," he said. The photos are located on the fifth floor, outside the observatory, and are on a year-long loan from the artist.



Among the gems and minerals donated to BSU by Professor Philip Scalisi and his wife, Cheryl, '91, (above, left) are (from top) jadeite, from New Zealand; creedite, from Mexico; quartz, from India; and pyrite, from Peru.

Displayed on the fifth floor of the Science and Mathematics Center, just outside the observatory, are several examples of the landscape astrophotography of Canadian photographer Darryl Van Gaal, including "Torrance Tree," (right).









The skull of the whale skeleton that will hang in the foyer of the Science and Mathematics Center is shown before (below) and after (left) being cleaned in preparation for display.

The large whale skeleton that will hang in the building's foyer will be difficult to miss. Dr. John Jahoda, of the Department of Biological Sciences, oversaw the work that brought the whale from where it died on Cape Cod to BSU's old science building, where its skeleton was displayed. The ravages of time, however, meant that something had to be done to preserve it. With the help of Dr. Jahoda's colleague Dr. Donald Padgett, the whale bones were taken to a specialist in Maine where they were cleaned and readied for exhibition in the new Science and Mathematics Center. "It will be mounted on the third-floor level in the open space, allowing students and visitors to view it from above, at eye level and from below," Dr. Jahoda said.

A few feet away, in the third floor display case, are several gorgeous turned wood bowls created by Professor Torben Lorenzen of the Department of Mathematics. He works with wood culled from the centers of different types of trees. That some are endangered draws attention to their plight.

Another large display case is filled with gems and minerals, a donation from Professor Scalisi and his wife Cheryl, '91, a jeweler and goldsmith whose work is featured in museums. Professor Scalisi first became interested in finding and collecting these valuable objects as a boy. He has written a book on related subjects and still contributes to journals and magazines that cover the field.

Not only do the minerals and gems on display represent various types, they are gathered from around the world.



Professor Scalisi said, "They also bring together the various disciplines: chemistry, physics and mathematics, which is the crystallography."

Professor Scalisi has been teaching at BSU for more than four decades and views the opening of the Science and Mathematics Center as a high point in his time at the institution. Having a piece of his life and work showcased on its ground floor is special. "It means a lot, because Bridgewater has been very, very good to me," he said.

Dean Goldstein hopes a similarly warm feeling will envelop those who come through the doors of the facility and see the plethora of rare objects and artwork on display.

"If we can present this informally to people in the building, we also make the building a more welcoming environment, one in which people feel comfortable and may not even realize that it is, in part, because the artwork on display has helped create that environment," he said. ■

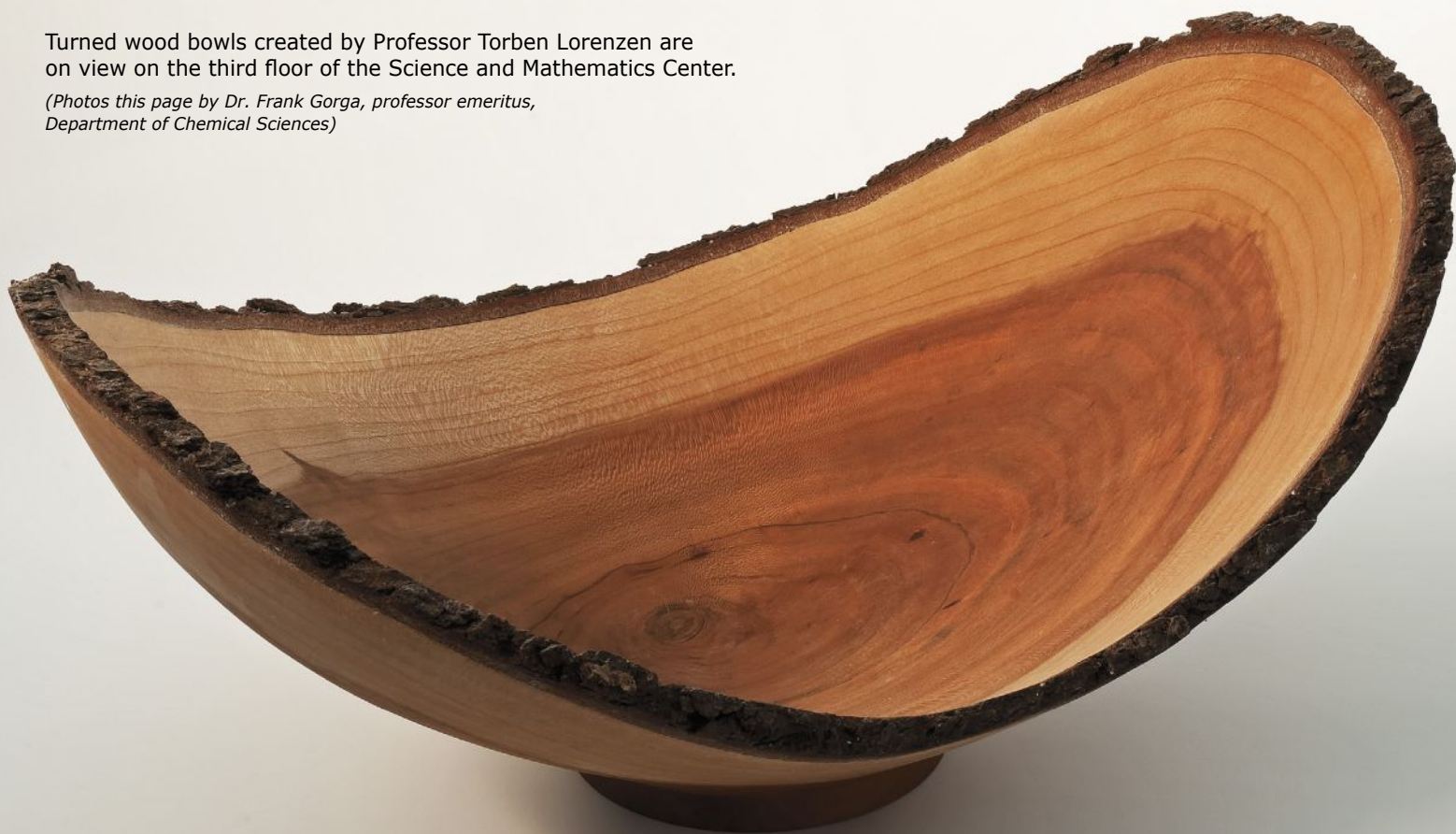
On loan from Harvard University and exhibited on the second floor of the Science and Mathematics Center are a variety of meteorites, including the two pictured at left.





Turned wood bowls created by Professor Torben Lorenzen are on view on the third floor of the Science and Mathematics Center.

*(Photos this page by Dr. Frank Gorga, professor emeritus,  
Department of Chemical Sciences)*







# Death *and the* criminal





Dr. Wendy Wright studied funeral vases at the National Archeological Museum in Greece and compared images of mourning in ancient times (figures with arms raised to the sky in supplication, above) to images of individuals being arrested in contemporary society (hands raised high to the sky in defeat, far left).

# justice system

BY KAREN A. BOOTH

*"To live ethically is to think about things beyond one's own interests. When I think ethically, I become just one being, with needs and desires of my own, certainly, but living among others who also have needs and desires."*

PETER SINGER

*Australian Peter Singer is known as one of the most controversial and influential philosophers alive today.*

Is what I say just, or is it not? Is what I do just, or is it not? Is what I think rooted in ethical thinking based on a clear sense of fair play and justice, or is it not? Why does it matter that one percent of Americans are incarcerated, more than any other country at any other time in history? What does it mean when we give the state the power to prevent suicide? Does it matter – and if so, why? – that we choose to sanction the death penalty? And, for that matter, what crime is deserving of death? Is justice served when we degrade an individual to the extent that he or she experiences what sociologist Orlando Patterson first described as "social death" in his 1982 book, *Slavery and Social Death*?



*"I'm interested in developing a course that looks death in the face in a real way. As a discipline, criminal justice sometimes takes a purely technical and functional approach," which, Dr. Wright agreed, is critical when educating future criminal justice professionals. "However," she said, "I'm trying to figure out the best way to enhance justice in the world ... Sometimes students get away from thinking about humanistic values, which are really at the core of the criminal justice system."*



Through extensive research and personal inquiry, Dr. Wendy Wright, assistant professor of criminal justice, ponders the answers to these and other questions with the express intent of sharing a broader interdisciplinary scholarship with her students. Dr. Wright takes a humanist approach to her discipline. Her overriding concern is for human welfare, which, she believes, is best served when individuals ask the tough questions and act fairly, always with a sense of dignity for the human condition.

Dr. Wright is well versed in ancient Greek philosophy, which is at the core of the "philosophical text of western canon," she said, referring to the underpinnings of today's criminal justice system. Life and death – and specifically how we, today, view each – is an overarching concern to Dr. Wright and is a common thread stitching the above ethically charged questions together.

During summer 2014, Dr. Wright attended a conference in Greece titled "Death in Ancient Greece," where she furthered her study of Socrates' thesis on living and dying and explored his emphasis on critical thought as it applied to moral decision making. She studied funeral vases at the National Archeological Museum in Greece and compared images of mourning in ancient times (figures with arms raised to the sky in supplication) to images of individuals being arrested in contemporary society (hands raised high to the sky in defeat).

This experience prompted her to examine these similarities in a thesis titled "Assuming the Position." In it, Dr. Wright looks at the specter of someone under arrest. "I used that coincidental physical representation as a way to look at how we think about death in a very removed way and, at the same time, I look at the reality of death in contemporary society. I was struck by how we might think about the positions of figures



in iconic imagery and how that might lead us into making useful comparisons, enabling and pushing us to consider the lives and experiences of human beings in different ways."

"Death is a case more than a framework," she said. "I'm interested in developing a course that looks death in the face in a real way. As a discipline, criminal justice sometimes takes a purely technical and functional approach," which, Dr. Wright agreed, is critical when educating future criminal justice professionals. "However," she said, "I'm trying to figure out the best way to enhance justice in the world ... Sometimes students get away from thinking about humanistic values, which are really at the core of the criminal justice system. I believe it is the job of criminal justice to keep people safe. And, one key element is keeping people alive. Framing a course around death will force students to face the gravity of the work that they are doing."

Socrates, she reminds us, was condemned to death for believing in false gods and corrupting the youth. He refuted the charges. At the risk of oversimplifying, his goal was to improve youth by sharing knowledge and encouraging critical thinking. With this subtext, Dr. Wright asks, "What does it mean to judge? What does it actually mean to want to improve someone or harm someone? What crimes, if any, are deserving of the death penalty? What crimes are deserving of a prison sentence?" She said, "I want to challenge students to explore how institutions and ideology interact in the process of criminal punishment. When we punish this way, what does it tell us about our broader society?"

Mass incarceration is a growing concern in America. In an interview for The Marshall Project, Attorney General Eric Holder asked criminal justice practitioners "to think about how we do our jobs in a different way – to ask the question of whether excessively long prison sentences for nonviolent offenders really serve any good purpose? ... We have five percent of the world's population and 25 percent of its people in incarceration. That's not something we can sustain."

Dr. Wright probes further: "What is actually happening? And, what happens to people when they re-enter society?" She does not attempt to give students definitive answers to the questions she poses, but rather offers interpretations and encourages them to consider alternative ways of thinking. "I do not want to demand that my students think one way about an issue," she said. This, Dr. Wright believes, will humanize the criminal justice practitioner in a way that will nudge society toward a more just, more sustainable and more ethical response to crime and punishment.

Dr. Wright further opines that understanding the concept of social death as presented by Mr. Patterson is one of the first critical steps to humanizing the offender's re-entry into society. He asked how it was that societies, such as the Greeks, who were known for advancing freedom, had slaves and systematically dehumanized an entire segment of the population.

Slave owners sold off family members, relocated and renamed them, and eradicated their birth records, essentially rendering them nonpersons.

Dr. Wright asks, "What happens when we consider not the race of the perpetrator, but the race of the victim?" To illustrate, she contends that the killing of a white soccer mom is more likely to be considered a capital offense than the killing of a black man.

With social death as the backstory, Dr. Wright explores offenders' re-entry into society. She points out the disproportionate number of persons of color, particularly African-Americans and Latinos, in prison. She references Michele Alexander, civil rights lawyer, advocate and legal scholar, who argues that mass incarceration constitutes "a new Jim Crow era in which African-Americans are re-relegated to second-class status, despite the 'colorblind' forms of contemporary legal and criminal justice systems."

Dr. Wright asks her students to consider the social death of prisoners after they have paid the price and served their time. She points out that in most states offenders are not only politically disenfranchised, but also more often than not they are denied meaningful employment, refused government loans for education and/or have difficulty finding housing.

Socrates believed knowledge is the means to ethical action. In posing these questions, Dr. Wright hopes enhanced knowledge will better prepare her students to think critically and act responsibly within the context of personal and professional ethics.

"We all learn differently," she said. "There are many ways to get at a topic. Multi-dimensionality becomes possible when we shift our framework." Visualizing the Greek funeral vases and exploring the iconic images of mourning relative to contemporary police officer's commands to assume the position, help us "rethink how we see and compare frameworks. It opens up questioning and encourages dialogue. One image is of mourning; the other, coercion. When we notice similarities or differences, it's interesting. It means one thing in a different place and time. What does that difference say about us?"

Dr. Wright describes her current work as "very much about figuring out which questions might give us the most accurate picture of the forces that produce positional outcomes in the contemporary criminal justice system." She is in the midst of working on a book that focuses on punishment. "I look to these questions," she said. "How is this form of state coercion justifiable? How do institutions and ideology interact in the process of criminal punishment? When we punish in a particular way, what does this say about our broader society?"

In class, she said, "I simply ask my students, even if they don't think a comparison is useful, to be willing to go with me on the ride. There is some utility to thinking in different ways." ■





# On your mark, get set, run

## **Falmouth Road Race's Team BSU raises \$6,000+ for student emergency fund**

BY KAREN A. BOOTH

There are fun runs – and then there are FUN RUNS! Forty-two years ago, the Falmouth Road Race, with approximately 100 runners, was a fun run. Today, no one would argue its status as a world-class FUN RUN, attracting everyone from amateur joggers to elite runners from all over the world. In 2014, more than 12,000 of the faithful participated in this wildly popular event.

Included in the more than 12,000 runners were BSU employees Reid Kimball, assistant director of the Teaching and Technology Center; Dr. Lee Torda, assistant professor of English and writing program administrator; and Maribeth Flakes, '01, associate director of student involvement and leadership; along with alumnae Linda St. Laurent, '87; Palmira Bolarinho, G'07; and Lenore Tavares, '09.

Each elected to participate in the BSU fundraiser to benefit the Student Emergency Fund (SEF), created by the BSU Family Association. According to SEF's stated mission, funds support "any current BSU student who is experiencing an extenuating circumstance due to a critical event such as the loss of a parent, fire damage, theft or significant illness." The goal is to provide modest sums of money to help alleviate some of the unexpected financial burdens.

Betsy Dubuque, G'11, associate director of advancement operations, along with her team, coordinated the fundraising efforts. "A member of the Family Association's executive committee came up with running the race as a fundraiser, and we ran with the idea, no pun intended," said Ms. Dubuque, who couldn't be more pleased with the results.





**BSU employee Reid Kimball**



**Linda St. Laurent, '87, (center)**



**Lenore Tavares, '09, (left),  
and Palmira Bolarinho, G'07**

The six runners on Team BSU raised more than \$6,000 in support of the Student Emergency Fund. "This is exciting for many reasons," said Ms. Dubuque. "Not only for the funds raised, but also this type of fundraising is new to us. Our runners used social media to connect with their own network of family and friends, which resulted in getting our message out to more people, people who might not otherwise be connected to Bridgewater. The cause resonated, and the results speak for themselves."

The 2014 race was the second year University Advancement partnered with the Family Association in collaboration with the Office of New Student and Family Programs (NSFP). Gael Deluliis, assistant director of NSFP, acted as liaison with the Family Association.

"The Student Emergency Fund was established recognizing the needs of our students, and there's really no other fund like it," said Ms. Deluliis. "It's intended to alleviate immediate stress that may result from financial hardship, sometimes as basic as being able to buy a winter jacket, or a commuter student being able to get his or her car fixed. It's about students finding the balance between two necessities like picking up a prescription or buying books. It's a small fund with small grants that make a big difference. The Falmouth Road Race fundraising effort was an awesome boost to the bottom line."

Tiffany Whynot, '08, development coordinator, handled the logistics, creating web pages for each runner and linking them to giving pages. She worked with race organizers to obtain the bibs, booked the registrations and completed the required post-race evaluations. "The deeper we got into the process, the more energized I felt," she said. "Especially when I met with the runners. I could feel their passion and belief in the cause, and it was very gratifying."

Ms. Flakes started running in 2009 with the goal of completing her first 5K. Five years later, she ran her third Falmouth Road Race, but with two major differences from her earlier runs: First, she had given birth to her daughter just seven months prior; second, she was running for a cause in which she passionately believed. Of her involvement in the race, Ms. Flakes said, "I was really excited to represent BSU. My undergraduate experience helped me to become the person I wanted to be. I found friends and mentors who picked me up and challenged me to work hard; I found peers and staff who told me I could do something even when I didn't believe it myself. Now as a staff member, I work with students who remind me a lot of myself, students who need the pick-me-up to reach their full potential."

As a member of Gamma Phi Beta International Sorority, Ms. Flakes reached out to her sisters to ask for their sponsorship. "They answered the call. I received donations from my sisters all over the United States and even Canada," she said. "And, very touching for me was to see donations from students and recent alumni who I know struggled to pay for school. It speaks volumes for the type of student who comes to BSU, who is willing to give what they can to help others."

Ms. St. Laurent is a first-generation college graduate. She worked in the biotechnology industry for many years, eventually finding her way to BSU to pursue an MEd in instructional technology. In 2013, she and her husband, Joseph, '87, "had the honor of watching our oldest daughter receive her BS in physics at Bridgewater," said Ms. St. Laurent. "Her experience mirrored mine. We both had supportive faculty; we were academically challenged and enjoyed learning in a culture that encourages service to school and others."

"I was super excited to be part of Team BSU at the Falmouth Road Race," she said. "My time at BSU contributed in a profound way to the person I am today, and I was proud to join with other supporters of BSU and 'pay it forward.'"

Of the Team BSU members, Mr. Kimball was the newest to running, having begun training less than three months prior to the race. His wife, Faith, also a runner, ran for the Dana Farber team, and the two crossed the finish line together. "It was amazing," he said. "The people ... the chaos ... the beautiful sunny day. It was exhilarating. I met my fundraising goal and finished the race."

Spirits were high for the 2014 race as the day dawned bright, bringing ideal running weather. The course was challenging, but with runners helping runners and crowds cheering, the six BSU participants ran strong. "I felt an amazing sense of accomplishment," said Ms. Flakes. "I felt the support of BSU to do it even when I didn't think I could – just like when I was an undergraduate student." ■

### 2015 FALMOUTH ROAD RACE

The race is so popular that far more runners apply to run than the course can accommodate. Typically, applications can be submitted online at [www.falmouthroadrace.com](http://www.falmouthroadrace.com) the first two weeks of May. The 2015 race will be held Sunday, August 16. BSU will once again secure several bib numbers for its annual fundraiser. Students, alumni, staff and administrators are invited to participate on a first-come, first-served basis. To learn more, contact Tiffany Whynot at [tiffany.whynot@bridgew.edu](mailto:tiffany.whynot@bridgew.edu).



## Upcoming ALUMNI EVENTS

### BRIDGEWATER ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING AND DINNER

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 6 PM  
Rondileau Campus Center Ballroom

### MARY POPPINS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, NOON  
Wamsutta Club Luncheon  
and Zeiterion Theatre  
New Bedford

### ALUMNI AWARDS DINNER

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 6 PM  
Rondileau Campus Center Ballroom

### HOMECOMING WEEKEND

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY,  
OCTOBER 23 AND 24  
Highlights include the Class of  
1965's 50<sup>th</sup> reunion celebration,  
the football game and the Golden  
Reunion Luncheon.

### AWARD NOMINATIONS

The Bridgewater Alumni Association Awards are presented annually to deserving alumni, faculty, staff and friends of BSU who have made an impact in their communities through their work or service to others. Nominations are accepted throughout the year, and the deadline is typically in early January. Nominations may be submitted by mail to the Davis Alumni Center or online at [www.alumni.bridgew.edu](http://www.alumni.bridgew.edu).

### BAA BOARD NOMINATIONS

The nominating committee of the Bridgewater Alumni Association is seeking interested candidates for board and committee vacancies. To learn more, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 508.531.1287 or [alumni@bridgew.edu](mailto:alumni@bridgew.edu).

### 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, 25 Park Terrace, 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



Taking part in the Welcome Week breakfast sponsored by the Office of Alumni Relations are (from left) Nichole Rich, '97, G'02, G'06; Susan McCarthy, '85; Lori Hindle, '97; Heidi Bellanger, '15; Marion King, '15; Oluwatobi Oshin, '18; Nicole Tranter, '11; and Karla Lopez, '18.

## Welcome Week breakfast

The Office of Alumni Relations held its Welcome Week breakfast on September 2, inviting new students to learn about alumni relations and its benefits for both students and alumni. Topics included scholarship and internship opportunities, how to interact with alumni mentors, the value of LinkedIn and the importance of Career Services. Four BSU alumnae attended the breakfast to connect with students and share their own BSU experiences. ■

## BSU holds first mixer for alumni employees

Starting the fall 2014 semester with a bang, BSU's alumni relations office held its first alumni employee mixer on September 17 at Barrett's Alehouse in Bridgewater. Employees had a chance to relax with friends and network with new colleagues while enjoying appetizers and drinks at the outdoor sandbar. The Office of Alumni Relations plans to hold regular events for BSU's approximately 350 alumni employees, both during the lunch hour and following the work day, to keep them connected and active in the BSU community.

Pictured (top photo, from left) are BSU employees Peter "Max" Quinn, '10, G'13; David S. Marion, '06, G'13, and Michael S. Caruso, '02. Below are (back, from left) Amanda J. Surgens, '02; Jennifer E. Maus, '08, G'11; Marie C. Murphy, '86; and Mary E. Delgado, '75; and (front, from left) Susan McCombe, '01, G'06; Kelly A. Hess, '06; Lisa Doucette, '01; and Alexis M. Conley, '00, G'14. ■







BSU students and alumni take part in an internship and job fair held on campus.

## Culture of collaboration

### ***Office of Alumni Relations and Career Services engage future alumni with programming partnership***

BY MICHELLE HACUNDA, '12

As part of BSU's ongoing engagement with current students and graduates, the Office of Alumni Relations and Career Services are collaborating on a number of fronts. By working together to build programming, the two offices hope to inspire students to make connections, while fostering opportunities for alumni to get involved on and off campus.

"All of our graduates relate to current students' time demands of juggling coursework, volunteer and extracurricular activities," said Shana Murrell, director of alumni relations. "They also have all been in the transition from college student to working professional."

Through a seamless integration of events, activities and services, both alumni relations and career services are excited to leverage the power of BSU's more than 50,000 alumni. This collaboration will allow generations of students to create lifelong connections with their alma mater through networking programs and career resource workshops.

Alumni relations and career services are pooling their talents and resources to ensure the long-term success of alumni and students. As they continue to innovate, they also are expanding upon their programming, which includes etiquette dinners, networking mocktail parties, internship and job fairs, education career fairs, practice interview workshops, career panels and the Alumni Mentor Program.

For Christopher Ernest, who completed a graduate degree in 2007 and is now chief financial officer of the Sacred Heart School in Kingston, a strong relationship with the career services' staff has allowed him to share his experiences in the field of accounting with current students, as well as given him the chance to interact with other alumni.

"I attribute a lot of my success to the experience I had while obtaining my master's degree," Mr. Ernest said. "During that time, I met a lot of incredible people, including faculty, staff and students, who have contributed greatly to my career. Because of this, I feel compelled to return the favor to the university's current students."

Given the challenges of the job market, any edge a student or graduate can have counts, said Carol Crosby, assistant director of career services. "In this difficult economy, our students must have built professional skills, made important contacts and participated in relevant practical experience prior to receiving an undergraduate degree," she said. "We have seen, firsthand, that these relationships have led our students to make key career decisions, mature into solid professionals, and receive internship and job offers." ■



Dr. Joyce Rain Anderson (left) joins Laurel Keith Lies and her husband, Brian, in the Maxwell Library. Ms. Lies came to BSU to discuss a book written by her late father, Sam Keith, G'62, which was discovered after his death and published last year.

## Twice-told tale

BY DAVID K. WILSON, '71

The remarkable tale of a best-selling book about the Alaskan wilderness originally published to rave reviews in 1973, which was subsequently reissued in 1999 and won the National Book Award, was shared with an audience at BSU by Laurel Keith Lies, daughter of the book's author, the late Sam Keith, G'62.

Joining Ms. Lies in the Heritage Room of the Maxwell Library for the program were her husband, Brian, an award-winning author himself, and Ms. Lies' cousin, Dr. Joyce Rain Anderson, associate professor of English at BSU.

*One Man's Wilderness: An Alaskan Odyssey* is the title of the book by Mr. Keith in which he edited the journals and photographs of his friend Richard Proenneke's solo experiences in Alaska.

The two met in the early 1950s while working in Alaska and shared, according to Ms. Lies, "a love of the outdoors, hard work and self-reliance."

Shortly after Mr. Keith's passing in 2003, Brian Lies, his son-in-law, discovered an unpublished manuscript in an archive box in their garage.

For the first time, 40 years after it was written, the story of Mr. Keith's own Alaskan experiences were told, and in 2014, his formerly lost manuscript, *First Wilderness: My Quest in the Territory of Alaska*, was published. ■



## ALUMNI SERVICES

*For more information about the services below, visit <http://alumni.bridgew.edu>*

### CREDIT REWARDS

An alumni rewards credit card bearing a picture of Boyden Hall is available to all Bridgewater State University graduates. Current students benefit directly from every purchase as the Bridgewater Alumni Association receives a percentage of all purchases to assist with scholarships and other academic opportunities.

To apply online, visit the alumni services link listed above. Contact the alumni office at 508.531.1287 for more information.

### INSURANCE PROGRAM

The Bridgewater Alumni Association offers discounted car, home and recreational vehicle insurance.

Learn more about this program by visiting the alumni services link listed at the top of this column.

### WEBSITE

Visit the Alumni Association website, <http://alumni.bridgew.edu>, to learn more about events, services, and the activities of alumni chapters and committees. It is a great resource to stay connected to BSU.

### BECOME A FACEBOOK FAN

The Alumni Association is on Facebook under "Bridgewater Alumni Association."

### LINKEDIN

The "Official Bridgewater Alumni Association" group on LinkedIn is more than 3,000 strong. Request to join the group today.

### TWITTER

Follow us on Twitter @BSU\_Alumni



The Class of 1964 celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> reunion (clockwise from top, left) at dinner, at the football game presenting a check for \$184,000 to support current BSU students and on the steps of Boyden Hall.

## Home again

The Bears football and women's soccer teams won, the weather held up, and hundreds of revelers from many different class years, along with friends and family, helped make the 2014 Homecoming and Family Day a success. The annual event features three days of activities, including sports, a parade and lots of food.

"Homecoming and Family Day is always special, and last year's was no different," said Shana Murrell, director of alumni relations. "It's a special weekend when we connect with our alumni and work to strengthen those relationships."

A new event, the all-alumni breakfast, gave participants from various class years a chance to catch up with old friends. Graduates from the Football Council, the Afro-Am Alumni Association, and Greek and student organizations gathered in the campus center ballroom for breakfast before heading out to see the parade.

Special events held Friday for the "Golden Graduates" from the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s, and for the Classes of 1959 and 1964, kicked off the big weekend celebration. The members of the Class of 1964, marking their 50-year reunion, presented a check at the start of the football game for \$184,000, a donation raised by 64 percent of the class in support of current students at BSU.

At the family breakfast Saturday morning, President Dana Mohler-Faria told those gathered, "This experience for your son or daughter is one of the most important of their lives." He then shared the story of the university's recent years, a time of "prolific and aggressive growth." He also updated the audience with some impressive markers of success, including a retention rate that is now at 81 percent.

Then it was parade time. Floats created by student groups rounded the campus to the cheers of enthusiastic crowds. The Class of 1964 had its own float in honor of its special day. Judges picked the best of the bunch; the top two floats were created by Delta Phi Epsilon and Phi Kappa Theta. Meanwhile, those along the route got a chance to show off their BSU gear and pose for a picture with Bristaco. ■



## Alumnus honored for philanthropic work

Donald Smith, '59, G'62, was honored as Bridgewater State University's Partner in Philanthropy at Rhode Island's National Philanthropy Day event held in November 2014 at Twin River Event Center in Lincoln, Rhode Island.

This annual event, hosted by the Rhode Island Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, highlights residents of the state who generously share their time and their talents with the community.

Mr. Smith truly embodies this philanthropic spirit. He has enthusiastically supported the university's Sponsor-a-Student Program, which provides a \$1,000 scholarship to a current BSU student. As a volunteer leader, Mr. Smith has served on the Bridgewater Alumni Association Board of Directors and the Class of 1959 reunion committee, helping to plan its 55<sup>th</sup> reunion. ■



Donald Smith, '59, G'62, is accompanied by Shana Murrell, BSU's director of alumni relations, as he is honored during Rhode Island's National Philanthropy Day event in November 2014.



## Alumni Chamber Choir honors its director

In December 2014, the Bridgewater State University Alumni Chamber Choir held its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration concert in honor of Dr. Carol Nicholeris, G'83, G'91, (front row, center, holding floral bouquet) at the Central Square Congregational Church in Bridgewater. Dr. Nicholeris has served as the chamber choir's director for the past decade.

In addition to composing the university's "alumni anthem," Dr. Nicholeris created an arrangement of the national anthem that is performed regularly by the Alumni Chamber Choir.

This special occasion also marked the first time the concert was videotaped and streamed live for home viewing. ■

To learn more about the alumni choir, visit <http://alumni.bridgew.edu/choir>

## CAREER SERVICES

*Help lead Bridgewater State University students to success!*

### CAREERLINK@BSU

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

### ALUMNI MENTOR PROGRAM

When you register as an alumni mentor, you can choose to network with students and other alumni, provide internships and job shadowing, and/or participate in Career Services' on-campus programs, including the Mock Interview and Workplace Protocol programs.

### 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.

### JOB SHADOW PROGRAM

This program invites alumni and other employers to host students at their company sites for one day during BSU's winter break in January, allowing students to explore careers, network with professionals and learn about professional organizations.

### INTERNSHIP AND JOB FAIR

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

1-3 PM

Rondileau Campus Center Ballroom

### JOB AND INTERNSHIP FAIR

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2016

1-3:30 PM

Rondileau Campus Center Ballroom

### EDUCATION CAREER FAIR

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2016

4-7 PM

Rondileau Campus Center Ballroom

*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).*



# ClassNotes

**1953**

**Ralph Fletcher**, former president of the Bridgewater Alumni Association, published a book titled *The ABC's of Caregiving: A Handbook for Caregivers of People with Alzheimer's Disease, Dementia, and Other Memory Loss Disorders*. In the book, he shares his experience caring for his late wife, Jean Collins, '51, as she struggled with Alzheimer's disease.

**1958**

**Dr. Ronald Carroll**, oncologist and founding member of the Maine Cancer Foundation, served on BSU's Medical Fields Career Panel in October 2014.

**Dr. John Fletcher** was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award from Durfee High School. A longtime member of the New Bedford School Committee, he has received many prestigious honors, including a Real Hero Award from the American Red Cross and the Marian Medal from Cardinal O'Malley. The City of New Bedford has commissioned a portrait of Dr. Fletcher, which will be displayed in the New Bedford Free Public Library.

**1966**

**Kay Alden, G'66**, presented a free program, "The Science of Popcorn," during summer 2014 at the Mattapoisett Free Public Library. As part of the program, she discussed the history of corn and the science behind popping it, incorporating movement, mathematics, science and fun.

New Bedford Festival Theatre Executive Producer **Armand Marchand, G'70**, and Artistic Director **George Charbonneau, G'70**, celebrated 25 years with the organization. Over the years, thousands of theatregoers have watched some of the most popular productions ever to appear on Broadway, including this year's production of *The Sound of Music*. New Bedford Festival Theatre has won two New England Theatre Conference Moss Hart Awards for Best Theatrical Production in New England for *Les Misérables*, in 2008, and *Hairspray*, in 2012.

**1971**

**Paula Sullivan** retired from Stonehill College after 43 years of service. She coached women's basketball her first 25 years, served as director of athletics for 12 years, and was vice president for intercollegiate athletics and recreation sports for her final six years. She was honored in 2013 by the Hyannis-Bridgewater Physical Education Alumni Association with the Dr. Catherine E. Comeau Award for leadership in the field of physical education.

**1973**

**Lance Kisby** presented new teaching techniques at the 2014 American Dental Education Association annual meeting. He is program director of the Pediatric Dental Residency, a program he was asked to create, at Nemours/A.I. Dupont Children's Hospital in Wilmington, Delaware.

**1975**

**Dr. George Milot, G'75**, is the principal of Saint John Paul II Catholic Academy's Lower Mills campus in Dorchester. He has been a principal for nearly 20 years and previously served as superintendent of the catholic schools in the diocese of Fall River.

**Sharon Sullivan Peterson, G'75, G'78**, retired after 39 years of teaching biology, chemistry and physics. She began her career teaching science in the Weymouth public school system. She moved to the Midwest and joined the teaching staff at Antioch Community High School in Illinois. For the past 28 years, she served as both a classroom teacher and science department chairperson.

**1977**

**Paul Eaves** was promoted to deputy chief of the Chelsea Fire Department in October 2014.

**1979**

**Suzanne Cabral** retired from Shepherd Hill Regional High School after 34 years as a special education teacher specializing in reading and science.

**James Hurley** was named a vice president of budget and planning at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, in October 2014.

**1980**

**Dr. Josh Hamilton** was chosen as the new dean of the Swenson College of Science and Engineering at the University of Minnesota Duluth and will also serve as a faculty member in the university's Department of Biology. He received an honorary degree from BSU at the 2013 winter commencement.

**1983**

**Laura Deming** was appointed senior vice president of engineering at Columbia Tech in October 2014.

**Maria Melchionda, G'93**, was honored with the 2014 Outstanding Professional Award by Shape America, the Society of Health and Physical Educators. She is the executive director of the Massachusetts Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

**1984**

**Joanne Pearson** is the new speech and language pathology assistant at Jacobs Elementary School in Hull.

**1985**

**Christopher Parella** will serve as interim police chief of the East Providence Police Department. He is a 23-year veteran who began his career in East Providence as a patrolman.

**1986**

**Anne Pelrine** joined the Winchester Nursing and Rehabilitation Center as executive director and is responsible for overseeing and directing day-to-day operations. She has served as an administrator at three Boston-area nursing and rehabilitation centers over the last 14 years.





## Rosemary Esson-Dawson, '04

BY CHRISTOPHER MARKEY, '08

**Science and art** seem forever juxtaposed against one another. Where science hinges on data and precision, art relies on its people and their creativity. For Rosemary Esson-Dawson, '04, however, science and art together are the foundation of an exceptional career.

"I graduated from Bridgewater State in 2004 with a Bachelor of Arts degree with a concentration in fine art and craft," said Ms. Esson-Dawson. "Yet, throughout my time attending college, I worked as a registered nurse in operating rooms. This was certainly an odd pairing of right and left brain activity."

Her time as a nurse was cut short after her BSU graduation as she was swept up by her passion for the arts. "I was asked to become a member of Imago Gallery in Warren, Rhode Island, (now Imago Foundation for the Arts) by my mentor, BSU Professor Mary Dondero," Ms. Esson-Dawson said. Focused on continuing her education, she earned a master's degree from Rhode Island School of Design in 2010.

Since then, Ms. Esson-Dawson has been a resident artist, a lecturer at Piedmont College in Georgia and is now an assistant professor in the art department at BSU. Along with teaching and mentoring students, she shows her work at Imago Gallery; Michael Good Gallery in Rockland, Maine; Worcester Center for Crafts; as well as in exhibitions around New England.

Ms. Esson-Dawson believes that education begins with listening. "Listen more! Allow whatever you create – whether art, writing or any other project – to be shared with others and listen to their feedback," she said.

Of course, this impressive career did not happen overnight. Every artist, like every nurse, requires patience. ■

### 1988

**Janet Anderson** was elected to serve a two-year term as vice president of the Massachusetts Teachers Association. She has served as president of the Taunton Education Association and on the MTA's board of directors.

**Tom Jahnke** is the Chatham Band's musical director. He also plays trombone in the Harwich Town Band and is a soloist in the Outer Cape Chorale.

### 1989

**Shawn George** was named senior vice president, senior commercial services officer of MountainOne Bank in Rockland. Mr. George has 25 years of financial leadership experience and served most recently as senior vice president, senior business banking development manager at Citizens Bank.

**Stephanie Gray** was appointed president of the Massachusetts State Parent-Teacher Association (PTA). She served previously with the Plymouth PTA and was instrumental in the recent redesign of the Massachusetts PTA website.

### 1990

**Andrea (Cieri) Clemens** wrote a book, *Invisible Target*, which she funded through kickstarter.com. The book promotes awareness of sexual abuse. Ms. Clemens has worked with educators through the organization Stop Educator Sexual Abuse, Misconduct & Exploitation (S.E.S.A.M.E.) and other programs for the past 10 years to help prevent abuse of children by trusted teachers.

In September 2014, **Michael Collier** self-published and registered in the Library

of Congress his book *Bruno Johnson: Private Investigator*. It has received 4.3 stars out of five by six reviewers on Amazon.com.

Vocalist **Stephanie Miele, G'90**, participated in the presentation *Everything Old is New Again: Songs from the Stage and Screen* during summer 2014 at the First Congregational Church in Falmouth. Among the featured composers and lyricists were Irving Berlin, Harold Arlen, and George and Ira Gershwin. Ms. Miele is a piano technician in Falmouth, tuning and repairing pianos.

### 1991

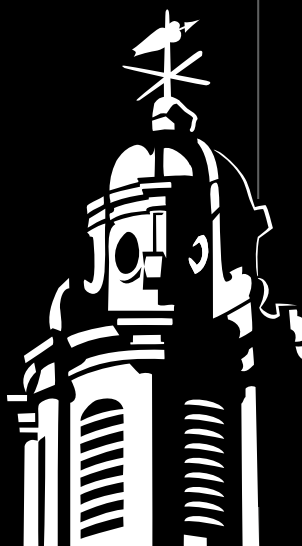
**Cara Hart**, vice president of human resources at Home and Hospice Care of Rhode Island, served on BSU's Medical Fields Career Panel in October 2014.



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[www.alumni.bridgew.edu](http://www.alumni.bridgew.edu) ►

*Check out the latest ...*



## Homecoming 2015

— October 23 and 24 —

### 1993

**Brad Bustin**, head baseball coach at B.M.C. Durfee High School in Fall River for the past 10 seasons, stepped down from his coaching role. He continues to serve as the teacher-in-charge for the school's physical education department.

**Sean R. Crump** joined Prestige Hospitality Group as vice president of operations in October 2014.

### 1994

In July 2014, **Dr. Jodi Fortuna** became superintendent of Hudson public schools, where she was hired in 2006 as principal of Forest Avenue Elementary School.

### 1995

**Christopher Michaud** was appointed Dartmouth's new public health director after serving 18 years as a health agent for the town.

### 1996

**Jennifer Copley** is a pre-kindergarten teacher at Mullen Hill Christian Academy in Lakeville. She taught pre-K at Seton Academy in Fall River for nine years, and served as a Sunday-school teacher and leader of children's youth groups.

### 1997

**Darlene Woo** was promoted to assistant vice president and human resources manager at South Shore Bank in October 2014.

### 1998

**Michael Siegel** was named military and veteran student counselor at Bridgewater State University in fall 2014.

### 2000

**Thomas Raab, G'00**, is business manager of the Hanover public school district. He was previously principal of Hanover High School.

### 2001

**Maribeth Johnson-Flakes**, associate director of student involvement at BSU, served on the BSU Careers in Student Affairs Luncheon and Alumni Panel in October 2014.

**Janet Meade, G'01**, became director of the Soule Homestead Education Center in Middleboro in July 2014. The Soule Homestead is a nonprofit organization dedicated to restoring farmland and developing an agro-ecology education center for local residents.

**John Murray, G'06**, is associate principal of Lexington High School. He previously served as assistant principal in Dedham.

### 2002

**Dan Osetek** is vice president, commercial loan officer at Meredith Village Savings Bank in New Hampshire and travels throughout the Lakes Region and surrounding communities to help companies achieve their business goals. He has 12 years of commercial credit and commercial lending experience. Mr. Osetek most recently served as assistant vice president, commercial relationship manager for Northway Bank.



**Robert Silveira, G'02**, has been named the 2015 Edmund K. Fanning Middle School Principal of the Year by the Massachusetts Secondary Administrators Association. He has been principal at Joseph Case Junior High School in Swansea since 2010 and was assistant principal for four years prior. Mr. Silveira previously taught science at Joseph Case High School.

**Shawn Thorton** is athletic director at Greater Lawrence Technical School. He formerly was athletic director at Mystic Valley Regional Charter School in Malden, and at Saint Clement and Pope John in Seabrook, New Hampshire, where he was also a girls' basketball coach. Mr. Thorton earned a master's degree at Northeastern University.

**Justin Whitfield**, director, Composite Material Technologies at Warner Babcock Institute for Green Chemistry, served on the BSU STEM Careers Job Search Panel in October 2014. He earned a PhD in green chemistry from the University of Massachusetts Boston in 2011 and has helped invent several successful green chemistry technologies, with one patent granted and several pending. Dr. Whitfield served on the President's Science and Mathematics Advisory Council at BSU.

## 2003

**Bill O'Connell, G'10**, is the physical education teacher and chair of the health, wellness and fine, applied and theatre arts departments at Sandwich High School, and also serves as head football coach.

**Jayson Tracy** was appointed the Town of Dedham's animal control officer in May 2014. He brings 10 years of experience with him to the role after working in the animal control departments of two other Massachusetts communities since 2004.

## 2004

**Alissa Hall** was promoted to commercial loan officer in the Commercial Loan Department for the Attleboro area at Bristol County Savings Bank.

**Sasha Link** was accepted as an Artist-in-Residence at Fresh Milk Art Platform Inc. in Barbados, a Caribbean nonprofit, artist-led, interdisciplinary organization

that supports and promotes wise social, economic and environmental stewardship through creative engagement with society and by cultivating excellence in the arts.

**Amy Mills** sang in the Kahilu Theatre's second *Applause from the Kahilu* in September 2014. The show featured Hawaiian artists and was recorded for broadcast by Hawaii Public Radio. After earning her bachelor's degree from BSU and singing for years on the East Coast, she now sings with the Waimea, Hawaii, Community Chorus.

**Joie Steele**, assistant director of the campus center and student activities at Brown University, was a panelist on the BSU Careers in Student Affairs Luncheon and Alumni Panel in October 2014.

## 2005

**Jessica Besnoff** graduated with a Doctor of Arts in Leadership from Franklin Pierce University in July 2014. Her mixed-methods dissertation research is titled *Sacred Music in Massachusetts Public Schools: Risk, School Policy, and Strategies for Teaching*. Her article "Music, History, and Culture of the Mississippi Delta," about her experience studying the blues at Delta State University through a travel grant sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities, was published in *Mass Music News*.

**Paul Casey** was named varsity wrestling coach at Beverly High School in October 2014.

**Heidi M. Charlebois** joined Habitat for Humanity-Metro West/Greater Worcester as Greater Worcester director of development. She has experience with many philanthropic organizations, including the United Way of Central Massachusetts, Hockomock Area YMCA and the U.S. Peace Corps.

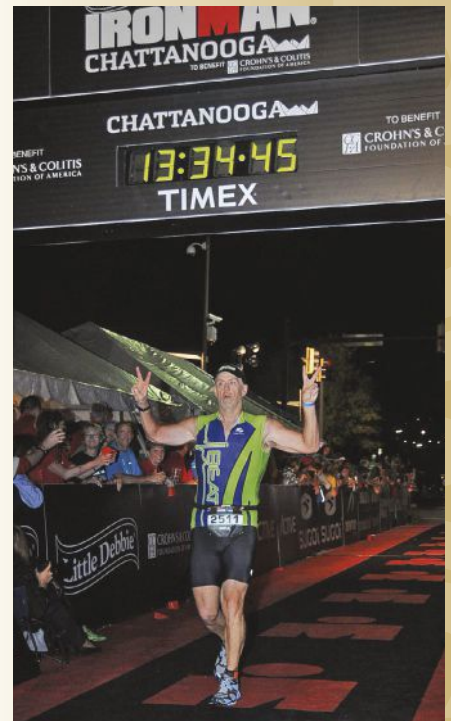
**Luis Rosa**, director of college services at Higher Education Partners in Providence, Rhode Island, served on the BSU Careers in Student Affairs Luncheon and Alumni Panel in October 2014.

## 2006

**Michael Courville, G'12**, is an academic mentor at New England College in Manchester, New Hampshire.



**Mary McLaughlin, '85**, senior vice president of Comcast's Western New England region, was recently honored as one of the top 100 regional power players in the cable industry by *CableFAX: The Magazine*. This is her third consecutive year receiving this honor, which is reserved for the most influential top-level executives in the cable industry.



In September 2014, **Paul Putnam, '86**, completed his second Ironman triathlon in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Since August 2010, he has completed 15 triathlons of various distances, including his first Ironman triathlon, on his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, in Louisville, Kentucky.





## Sheila Tunstall McKenna, '62

BY KAREN BOOTH

Where to begin? Let's start by acknowledging that Sheila McKenna's résumé is 15 jam-packed pages long, and this brief profile can't begin to do justice to her many life accomplishments and years of service to her alma mater. But, we must, as the saying goes, give it the old college try.

Before Ms. McKenna arrived at Bridgewater State, she was a three-sport athlete (softball, volleyball and basketball) at Fairhaven High School. She captained the basketball team, which won the Narragansett Girls' Basketball League in the 1957-1958 season, while leading the league in scoring with 20.5 points per game.

Fast forward to Bridgewater State. A physical education major, after graduating, Ms. McKenna taught physical education and coached field hockey, basketball, volleyball and spring track at Attleboro High School. Her lifetime achievements and accolades include receiving the Fairhaven Improvement Association's Outstanding Community Service Award, induction into the BSU Athletic Hall of Fame and receiving the BAA Alumni Award (now known as the Dr. George Weygand Award) for dedication to the Bridgewater Alumni Association. She served one term as president of the BAA, and also served as assistant treasurer and vice president, as well as a trustee on the Bridgewater Foundation Board.

"I had a wonderful experience at Bridgewater," said Ms. McKenna. "I wouldn't trade my four years for anything. Bridgewater was a lot smaller then. As a class, we were close. In fact, I'm still close to many of my classmates even after all these years."

Immediately following her graduation, she became an involved alumna, serving first on the executive board of the Hyannis-Bridgewater Physical Education Alumni Association (HBPEAA). Ms. McKenna has served on the BAA planning committee, the BAA constitution and bylaws committee, and the membership services committee. Additionally, she co-chaired her 40<sup>th</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> class reunions, and during that time was involved with the Dr. Jordan Fiore Award for Social Justice, as well as the promotion and awarding of the Bridgewater Cane to the oldest BSU alumnus. She also served on the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee of the physical education major program and chaired the Shea Scholar Committee for nine years.

"I always wanted to be involved in the good things happening at Bridgewater," she said. "I formed such friendships while in college and after with my involvement in the various committees and activities. In many ways, I feel like I've never left, and I think others in my class feel the same way."

Over the years, in her "spare" time, Ms. McKenna has continued to take part in athletic activities. She's a member of the CT High Fives, the oldest (age-wise) senior women's basketball team in New England, which plays in the 70-74 years bracket. At the 2013 Nationals held at Cleveland State University, the CT High Fives competed in the AAA division and won a bronze medal. Additionally, Ms. McKenna assists with the MT Elite Girls Basketball League.

In 2009, Bill Green, a *Boston Globe* photographer, produced a video, *Still in the Game*, which paid tribute to her many years as an athlete. The video won first prize in the Boston Press Photographers Association Annual Photo Contest.

Ms. McKenna lives in Attleboro with her husband John "Jack" McKenna, a retired electrical engineer from Raytheon. Her son, John William McKenna, earned his PhD from the University of Texas and is an assistant professor at St. John's University in New York. ■

**Julie White-Patel, '06**, was featured on the *Ellen* show, where Ellen DeGeneres highlighted the Quincy teacher's generosity and dedication to her students.

In a video made at the Francis W. Parker Elementary School where she teaches first grade, Ms. White-Patel recounted how she spends her own money to equip her students with the instructional materials they need. In the TV studio with Ms. DeGeneres, she was in for a surprise or two.

Ms. White-Patel posted a link to the segment on social media, and said she was proud to be a Bridgewater State graduate. "The amazing professors I met during my time there were so kind, inspirational, and motivating," she wrote.

**Michael Souza, G'06**, was named president of the Hospital Association of Rhode Island in October 2014.

### 2007

**Kevin Braga, G'10**, was appointed principal of Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School, where he previously taught history and, since 2011, served as assistant principal.

**Michael Hamilton**, assistant director of residential services at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, served on the BSU Careers in Student Affairs Luncheon and Alumni Panel in October 2014. He is pursuing an MBA in marketing and technological innovation at Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

**Kelsey McRae** is a sixth-grade teacher for the New Shoreham School District on Block Island, Rhode Island.

After graduating magna cum laude from BSU with a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology, and summa cum laude in 2013 from UMass Boston with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing, **Audra Poirier** intended to enter the field of oncology. One month after completing her second bachelor's degree, she began her nursing career in Los Angeles at City of Hope, a leading cancer research center, hospital and graduate medical school.

**Katie Sardina**, a quality engineer at Biogen Idec, served on the BSU STEM Careers Job Search Panel in October 2014. In addition to the two bachelor's degrees she earned at BSU, in physics and geology/chemistry, she holds a



master's degree in mechanical engineering from the Rochester Institute of Technology and a Master of Business Administration from Babson College.

## 2008

**Adam Joy** directed Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* play at East Bridgewater Junior/Senior High School in November 2014.

In June 2014, **Shawn Medeiros**, sports information director at Wheaton College in Illinois, was named the inaugural winner of the Division III Excellence in Communications Award by the United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association.

**Ryan Parker, G'08**, was appointed Fitchburg State University's head baseball coach. Before coming to FSU, he worked for eight seasons at Wheaton College in Norton as the pitching coach.

**Patrick Brady** was appointed originator of Arbor Commercial Mortgage, LLC, and is responsible for originating multifamily loans nationwide.

## 2009

**Erica Veiga** earned a Master of Education in Administration of Higher Education from Suffolk University in May 2014. She is the community coordinator for community standards at Regis College in Weston.

## 2010

**Al Emond, G'10**, is a licensed mental health counselor, and, since 2013 has worked as a therapist at Chamberlain International School in Middleboro, a therapeutic boarding and day school for students ages 11-22.

**Anne Henley** accepted an administrative staff position in the Disability Resources Office at Bridgewater State University in October 2014.

**Adam Isbitsky** played the role of Jean Prouvaire in the Company Theatre's production of *Les Misérables* at the Company Theatre Centre for the Arts in Norwell in August 2014. He is an active performing and teaching artist, having appeared as a singer, actor, music director and keyboardist with numerous theatrical companies throughout Massachusetts.

**Noube Rateau** received the Henry Hampton Award for Documentary Filmmaking for his latest documentary, *The Culture*, a film exploring the reasons behind gun violence. The documentary was shown during the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Roxbury International Film Festival at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. It was accepted into the Action on Film International Film Festival in Pasadena, California, in August and the St. Louis Black Film Festival in September.

## 2011

**Julie Abreau** is a fifth-grade English language arts and social studies teacher at John J. Ahern Middle School in Foxborough. She previously taught fourth grade in the Mansfield public schools.

**Josh Euglow** is head coach of the Blackstone-Millville Regional High School football team. He was hired in 2013 as a physical education teacher and was an assistant coach and defensive coordinator under the previous head football coach.

**Chris McMillan** recently passed the Massachusetts Bar Exam. He graduated from Northeastern University School of Law in 2013 and opened a law office in Osterville in November 2014.

## 2012

**Hailey Bussey**, clinical research coordinator for head and neck oncology at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, served on the BSU STEM Careers Job Search Panel in October 2014.

**Stephanie Lannon** is Salem State University's head women's lacrosse coach. She served as both an assistant field hockey coach and women's lacrosse coach at Gordon College for the past two seasons, and was an assistant field hockey coach at Salem State University in 2012.

**Matthew Malowski** is adjustment guidance counselor in both the alternative program and the therapeutic support program at Martha's Vineyard Regional High School. He was previously the high school's assistant principal.

**Amy Mellor** accepted the position of academic adviser at Bridgewater State University in fall 2014.



Matthew Maderos, '94, G'03, takes a break from the 2014 Pan-Mass Challenge in front of Boyden Hall at the memorial brick for his former colleague, long-time BSU employee Barry Guaraldi, '72, in whose memory he rides.

**Matthew Maderos, '94, G'03**, and **Tom Struzik, '94**, rode their bikes 100 miles in the 2014 Pan-Mass Challenge, joining approximately 6,000 other cyclists for this annual event that raises funds for life-saving cancer research and treatment at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The PMC generates more money than any other athletic fundraising event in the country.

Mr. Maderos rode in memory of Barry Guaraldi, '72, an employee of BSU for more than 30 years. The two worked together in the university's information technology department for more than 20 years. "I ride as Barry lost his fight with lung cancer in 2012; this is the second year I rode in his memory," said Mr. Maderos. "What is ironic about the PMC ride is the route goes by Boyden Hall. I stop and visit his memorial brick in front of Boyden with our friend and former co-worker, Kerri Filippini, also a BSU graduate (Class of 2005) and a current IT staff member."

Mr. Struzik takes part in the PMC as a way to say thanks, as his son has been cancer free for more than a year. ■



## ALUMNI SNAPSHOTS



**Jennifer Grunin, '03**, founded smishIE (stop making it so hard. IT'S EASY) a self-empowerment organization that uses quick, simple, "in-ya-face" messages to snap people into immediate focus when they are feeling drained, overwhelmed or lost. Often called Brooklyn-style ten-second therapy or a slap to the soul, smishIE is attempting to change the face of motivational psychology courses across the Northeast and to help teach people of all ages to heal themselves in seconds. Ms. Grunin published a book about the topic, *Hugs from smishIE: An In Ya Face Guide to Thrive*.



**Megan Caparella, '08**, married Neil Dupre on November 28, 2014.

**Erin Quimby, G'12**, was sworn into the Derry, New Hampshire, police department in early September.

### 2013

**Eli Bigelow** was the musical director for Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* play performed at East Bridgewater Junior/Senior High School in November 2014.

**Joanna Frageorgia** is a middle school English language arts teacher at Mullein Hill Christian Academy in Lakeville. She served as a fourth- and fifth-grade teacher during 2013-2014.

**Rebecca Kowalski, G'13**, is an art teacher at Weston Middle School. Previously, she taught art at Randolph Community Middle School.

**Linda Liberatore** led a weekly teen writers' group at Fiske Public Library in Wrentham during summer 2014. She graduated with a degree in English and a concentration in writing.

**Alexander Melo** is a part-time patrolman with the Rochester Police Department.

**Greg Sheedy** joined Coastal Community Capital as the community development financial institution's commercial lending assistant.

**Karoline Zacharer** was named director of media relations and social media for the Portland Pirates hockey team, the American Hockey League affiliate of the Arizona Coyotes.

### 2014

**Cameron Grimes** is insurance producer at Chase, Clarke, Stewart & Fontana Insurance Agency in Springfield.

**Patrick Kelley, G'14**, joined Holliston High School as assistant principal. He works with the sophomore and senior classes, and takes daily responsibility for managing the building. Mr. Kelley was formerly a history teacher at Sharon High School.

**Samantha Mahoney, G'14**, is a special education teacher at Jacobs Elementary School in Hull.

**Meghan McGuire, G'14**, is an elementary mathematics specialist at the Burrell Elementary School and the Taylor Elementary School in Foxborough.

**Jesse Medford** was hired by Woodbury Technologies in May 2014 as a telecom specialist at the U.S. Army's Natick Soldier Systems Center, formerly known as Natick Laboratories.

**Kelli Neville** was named female vocalist of the year (adult), female entertainer of the year (adult) and winner of the People's Choice Award at the New England Country Music Organization's award show in June 2014. In March, she took part in the North American Country Music Associations, International, competition in Tennessee and faced challengers from more than 30 states.

## Smile for the camera ... then send us the photo

Just get married? Have a baby? Complete a triathlon? We know you have photos of the special events in your life, and your classmates want to see them.

But, there are rules: Send only high-resolution digital files or professionally printed photos, please. Email digital photos as attachments; do not embed them in the body of the email or in a file. The class notes editor reserves the right to not include all submitted photos.

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



# NotaBene

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

**Emily E. Dunlop, '06**, to Thomas Clark on June 14, 2014  
**Patrick J. Orciani, '06**, to Elisha DeLuca on June 7, 2014  
**Dayce T. Moore, '07**, to Kurstin Meehan on June 21, 2014  
**Jennifer M. Borges, '10**, to **Bradford N. Petty, '11**, on June 28, 2014  
**Monica A. DiFelice, '10**, to Philip B. Adams on July 26, 2014  
**Monica A. Monteiro, '11**, to **Michael W. Lombardo, '11**, on October 18, 2014  
**Kaitlyn M. Erickson, G'12**, to Joseph Picozzi on July 12, 2014

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

Marjorie Harrington Chapman, '33, on August 5, 2014  
Bessie Freitas Plouffe, '34, on September 12, 2014  
Winifred Goodell-Alden Howland, '37, on January 19, 2012  
Mary Reposa Santos, '39, on January 9, 2013  
Ruth Smith Clark, '40, on April 17, 2013  
Irma Wall Dobbryn, '40, on October 10, 2012  
Gladys Vernon Moore, '40, on April 30, 2012  
William H. Rodgers, '40, on September 7, 2014  
Irene George Sarhanis, '40, on September 28, 2014  
Carey W. Brush, '41, on December 29, 2013  
Umberto V. Napoleone, '42, on September 13, 2013  
George Freeman Smith, '42, on October 15, 2014  
Katherine G. Rogers, '47, on October 2, 2014  
Varma Sundelin, '47, on July 13, 2014  
Mary Forest-Creedon Stewart, '49, on December 11, 2013  
Doris LaBelle Asci, '51, on August 8, 2014  
Shirley Tate Dean, '52, on August 13, 2014  
Ruth Donnelly, '52, G'76, on April 7, 2014  
Kathleen M. Stevens, '52, on October 22, 2014  
Janet Kearns Savage, '53, on August 8, 2014  
Mary Catherine Lydon, '55, on October 30, 2014  
Audrey Tavitian Ribero, '55, on July 24, 2014  
Ann Robbins Talbot, '56, on September 30, 2014  
Robert S. Haggerty, '57, on September 15, 2014  
Carol Scagliarini Redgate, '57, G'71, on July 21, 2014  
Ann Marie Splaine, '57, on October 2, 2014  
Arthur L. Faulkner Jr., G'58, on August 22, 2014  
Elizabeth A. Tormey, '58, on September 15, 2014  
Joseph Cambra, '60, G'65, on October 12, 2014  
Richard Carreiro, '60, G'65, on September 30, 2014  
Lawrence J. Henry, G'60, on July 25, 2014  
Hazel Howland Bodner, G'61, on June 14, 2013  
George Lelievre, '61, on March 15, 2014  
John J. Morgan Jr., '61, on September 1, 2014  
Stephen R. Almeida, '62, G'66, on August 4, 2014  
Bette Clark Marshall, '62, on August 21, 2014  
Thomas E. Ruffini, '62, on June 12, 2014  
Walter S. Siwik Jr., '63, on June 20, 2014  
Louise Eaton Hackett, '64, G'67, on August 20, 2014  
Kathleen E. MacDonald, '64, on August 10, 2014  
Agnes E. Waldron, '64, on August 8, 2014  
Mary Ann Ruma Claar, G'65, on June 19, 2014  
Richard A. Hjerpe, G'65, on September 18, 2014

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

Debra Evelyn Drake to **Derek C. Drake, '07**, and **Bethany A. Drake, '06**, on August 19, 2014

George R. Palmer, '65, on September 17, 2014  
Steven W. Olson, '66, G'66, on August 23, 2014  
James G. Bancroft, '67, on July 31, 2014  
Francis J. Duarte, G'67, on September 25, 2014  
James S. Harding, '67, on August 9, 2014  
Joanne O'Neil Lynch, '67, on September 26, 2014  
Elaine Flanagan Bogdanchik, '68, on June 23, 2014  
Elizabeth Warner Leonard, '68, on August 1, 2014  
Betsy A. McCarthy, '70, on November 1, 2014  
Mark H. Van Den Berghe, G'70, on October 7, 2014  
Jeanette Pagliarini, '72, on September 5, 2014  
Mary-Ellen Smith Bergeron, G'73, on October 2, 2014  
Elaine H. French, '73, G'79, on August 20, 2014  
Paul A. Trippi, '73, on October 3, 2014  
Linda Cameron Severance, '74, on June 25, 2014  
Margaret Yanuskiewicz Baczek, '75, on August 3, 2014  
Barbara A. Botelho, '76, on September 4, 2014  
Gary M. King, '77, on July 15, 2014  
Charles F. Baker III, G'78, on October 23, 2014  
Linda Clark Eder, '80, on July 6, 2014  
Diane C. Gosselin, '80, G'91, on November 3, 2014  
Donald M. Tivnan, '80, on March 9, 2013  
Margaret A. Field, G'81, on October 31, 2014  
John L. Sullivan, G'82, on October 17, 2014  
Edward P. Kehoe, '85, on August 4, 2014  
Christine Marino Psota, '87, on July 30, 2014  
Cynthia S. Crandlemere, '88, on June 24, 2014  
Melissa Drake, G'91, on August 7, 2014  
Lorraine Perrault, '91, on July 16, 2014  
Maryann Perry, G'92, on August 27, 2014  
Lee R. White, '92, on June 22, 2014  
Scott R. Bonneau, '96, on August 15, 2014  
Richard E. Hereau, '98, G'06, G'10, on July 13, 2014  
Mary Eastman Volonino, '99, on September 15, 2014  
Janet Daniels Gross, '02, on October 7, 2014  
Scott M. MacDonald, '03, on October 18, 2014  
Carl-Evan O. Yancey, '12, on September 28, 2014

The Bridgewater State University community extends condolences to the families and friends of Roberta Harris, who retired from BSU after serving more than 25 years in the Publications Office and passed away on November 10, 2014, and Audila DaVeiga, a BSU student who died on November 9, 2014.



# PartingShot



Two students battle fierce winds and driving snow as they trek across campus during what seemed to be a never-ending winter.

The season's storms set a new record for total snowfall in Boston, as well as immeasurable levels of frustration for many people across New England.

*photo by Steven Rowell, '17*





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As part of its ongoing effort to be environmentally friendly, BSU is exploring alternative formats to deliver information to you. Visit [www.bsumag.com/spring2015](http://www.bsumag.com/spring2015) to view a digital, interactive version of this issue of *Bridgewater*.

## Looking Back

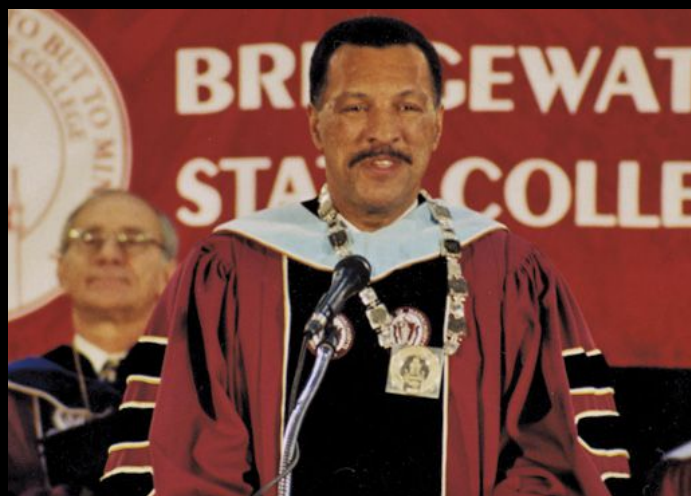
It is appropriate as Bridgewater State University celebrates its history and the end of Dr. Dana Mohler-Faria's presidency to look back at his words from his inauguration on October 18, 2002.

In his speech that day, titled "Journey to Excellence," President Mohler-Faria said:

*... "To the students, the faculty, the staff, the alumni and friends of Bridgewater – it is for each and every one of you that I now dedicate myself to the cause of championing the advancement of Bridgewater State College."*

*"We will advance, and Bridgewater will persist in its journey to excellence – an excellence made noteworthy by our high-quality programs and people, an excellence made obvious by our commitment to the cities and towns around us, and an excellence made distinct by our promise to foster the kind of community here on campus we would all like to live in."*

*"We have a serious obligation to our students at Bridgewater. I see the pure potential of every student who comes to Bridgewater. I see their hopes and dreams for a better life made possible by a Bridgewater education. ..."*



*"It helps me realize the true essence of what it is that we do here. It helps me realize that these same young people will someday go on to be the teachers, executives, lawyers, legislators, business leaders and most important, the parents in this region. They are the next generation of leaders in our commonwealth and our country. And it helps me realize why it is so critically important that we never, ever, let them down."*

*"We must never let their potential remain just potential."*

*"Together, we are going places. Our journey is just beginning."*

*by David K. Wilson, '71*