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Bridgewater SUMMER 2016

Commencement 2016

Celebrating 'what is best about Bridgewater'

StudentSpotlight

DANIEL PERKINS, '17, never let autism get in his way. The theater major from Taunton is thriving at Bridgewater State University on many fronts. He recently took time from his busy schedule to create a video that explains what autism spectrum disorder is and what it means to live with it.

We sat down with Daniel to discuss the video and life as a BSU student.

What made you decide to major in theater?

When I was little, I used to sing, even though the doctors said I'd never talk. When I was 15, I got to see the musical *Les Misérables*, and then I saw the revival of *Hair*. That's what got me into the arts.

What brought you to BSU?

First, I went to Bristol Community College and majored in theater. While there, I started acting. It was really amazing. I got a lot of opportunities there in writing and directing, too. I always wanted to go to Bridgewater, but figured I'd take baby steps. Plus my sister, Margaret, goes here. She has had the most influence on me.

Why did you make the video?

When you hear about autism, you never hear about it from people who have it. So I figured why not have someone with it speak out?

Describe living with autism and what you've overcome.

When I was diagnosed at 2 years old with autism, they didn't have the services they do now. At that time, the doctors said I'd never talk, or read, or communicate or have relationships. My parents were focused not on that, but on what I could do. They really helped me with my social skills and reading, as well as articulation. They would take me to speech therapy. My father used to sit down with me and read the headlines out of the newspapers. Or they'd get a book and have me read aloud. They also made sure that when I went to school I was taught in a way I could understand.

Can you tell us about some of your classes?

One of them was public speaking. Professor Robert Burns made the class very stimulating and exciting. I related to him because we both had to overcome obstacles to get where we are. Now my autism is more of an asset than a weakness. (Professor Burns is an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Communication Studies who overcame a stutter and now works with others to address their communication challenges.)

You have exciting news to share, is that correct?

The video I made led to me being asked by Brown University to be a consultant for a play they're doing. It's an autistic character, and they wanted someone who has it. As for the future, I'm hoping to get my master's degree in fine arts as an actor. I also want to be a playwright and a theater teacher.

To see Daniel's video, visit <http://tinyurl.com/BSUPerkins>





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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 Office of Creative Services and Publications 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/.

ON THE COVER:

United States Senator Elizabeth Warren congratulates a member of the Class of 2016 during BSU's undergraduate commencement morning ceremony on May 14.

photo by Ashley McCabe

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Dear friends,

It's fitting that commencement ceremonies take place in spring, a time of new growth and exciting possibilities. Surely, our graduates feel it – that sense of excitement, personal achievement and tomorrows filled with promise. Commencement spells the beginning of yet another journey for our graduates, a well-prepared leap into their futures.

Commencement 2016 was my first as president of this great institution. And, as president, I have had the distinct honor of seeing our students take risks and grow, and I've marveled at their accomplishments. I've watched our faculty engage with our students in deep and meaningful ways. I am proud of each and every member of the Bridgewater State University community.

But I am not alone. At our morning commencement ceremony, United States Senator Elizabeth Warren praised BSU as an institution leading the way in excellence nationwide. Student speakers shared stories of their years on campus and credited the faculty and community with supporting them every step of the way.

In truth, many individuals and organizations recognize the caliber of education students receive at Bridgewater State University. The generous donations and grants awarded to the university are testament to the excellence that prevails in every corner of our institution.

In this issue of *Bridgewater*, you will learn about several projects undertaken by faculty and students as a result of this outside support: a project that takes a close look at our local rivers, storm water stewardship and impacts on fishery resources; one that focuses on continuing the exploration of deep sea springs; another that looks at workplace flexibility and its impact on quality of life; and yet another, which, thanks to an NCAA grant encouraging more diversity on the sidelines, provides support for an intern coordinator for athletics and external relations.

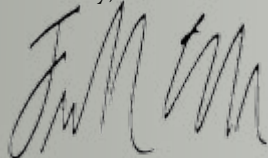
Excellence manifests itself in many ways on campus and off. Also highlighted in this issue is the university's Honors Program, which focuses not only on academics but also on creating a sense of community among like-minded individuals.

Excellence defines Bridgewater State University. This is a cutting-edge institution committed to student success, preparing students to engage fully in their lives and careers, and promoting social responsibility and a visceral appreciation for diversity.

I invite you to travel with us through the pages of this magazine; it is the story of today's students who venture down the path taken by you who went before them.

Enjoy!

Sincerely,



Frederick W. Clark Jr., Esq., '83
President



State leaders announce Commonwealth Commitment

President Frederick Clark joined Governor Charlie Baker, Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito and public higher education leaders on April 21 to announce the Commonwealth Commitment, an innovative college affordability and completion plan to help more students achieve the dream of a college degree.

The Commonwealth Commitment, the first agreement of its kind in the nation, was signed by University of Massachusetts President Marty Meehan, Worcester State University President Barry Maloney and Middlesex Community College President James Mabry, representing the three segments of the

public higher education system, at a ceremony held at Middlesex Community College. The plan commits every public campus to providing 10-percent rebates at the end of each successfully completed semester to qualifying undergraduate students, in addition to the standard MassTransfer tuition waiver received upon entering a four-year institution from a community college. Students pursuing a bachelor's degree who meet the program requirements will, depending on the transfer pathway they choose, be able to realize an average savings of \$5,090 over the course of their college years.

As part of the Commonwealth Commitment's goal to increase cost savings and predictability, tuition and mandatory fees will be frozen for program participants as of the date they enter the program.

"Bridgewater State University is glad to participate in Commonwealth Commitment as a measure that will help our students and prospective students complete their education," said President Clark. "The Commonwealth Commitment will further enhance pathways between Bridgewater State University and Massasoit, Bristol and Cape Cod Community Colleges." ■



Shine on

Brittany Baillie, '16, believes in the importance of providing disadvantaged children with the support they need to succeed in school. That passion was a factor in her selection as BSU's representative in this year's "29 Who Shine," an annual program that recognizes one student from each of the state's public campuses who has demonstrated academic excellence, leadership skills and a devotion to community service.

The Pembroke resident earned the award for her strong academic record combined with her extensive volunteer work helping students who face special challenges.

Dr. Lisa Battaglini, '79, dean of the College of Education and Allied Studies, nominated Brittany for the award, which she received at a Statehouse ceremony.

"It was a huge honor being there. It felt so unreal and special to be with other

award recipients who have done such amazing things in their college careers," said Brittany, who graduated in May with a degree in psychology and a minor in professional practices of special education.

Her volunteer work has included helping preschoolers in Brockton develop literacy skills through the AmeriCorps Jumpstart program run by the BSU Community Service Center. The experience helped shape her career ambition to teach in low-income areas. "I knew I wanted to be a teacher, but once I participated in Jumpstart, I was able to see the importance of teaching in high-need areas," Brittany said.

Her other volunteer activities have included tutoring homeless students and mentoring at-risk students at Brockton High School, and working with a student with intellectual disabilities who attended BSU through the Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment Initiative.

She also participated in several volunteer service trips, including one that Dr. Battaglini regularly leads to Belize to help out at a primary school. "I loved working with her," Brittany said of Dean Battaglini, "and seeing how much impact you could have." ■

Student 'StARS'

More than 700 undergraduate and graduate students presented their work at the annual Student Arts and Research Symposium (StARS) in Burnell Hall.

During the daylong event, students presented research posters, gave talks, displayed artwork, and performed music and dance numbers. Posters and art displays filled the atrium, and the student creators and researchers were on hand to walk visitors through the development of their projects.

Presenter Erico Pinheiro Fortes, G'16, (right) recalled how when he first arrived at BSU he saw Professor Michael Black with his homemade drone. "I asked him if he could teach me how to build one."

Professor Black agreed to help, and at the symposium, Erico displayed the drone he built himself. His creation was specially equipped to deposit seeds in hard-to-reach areas where deforestation is a problem.

A native of Cape Verde, Erico hopes his invention will not only help address the island nation's problems with erosion and deforestation, but also assist his grandfather, who lives on the island and could use a hand with his farm. "One of my main goals is to gain knowledge at BSU and bring solutions back to Cape Verde," Erico said.

Also happy to discuss their work were the members of a research team whose project sought to spread the word about the options available to witnesses of sexual assaults. "We wanted to make a stand and we wanted it to stop," said



Rebecca Conley, '17, (above, left) who worked on the project with fellow Class of 2017 members (from left) Erin Cavanagh, Johanna Delaney and Martha Ikua.

The team conducted surveys and used the results to create an educational campaign to let people who witness a sexual assault know what they can and should do. ■



Taking flight

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), or drones, as they are more commonly known, will soon be ubiquitous in the skies and used for such purposes as recreation, business, public safety and academics. To address growing use of these unmanned systems, BSU's College of Continuing Studies plans to launch two drone training programs later this year. The first will educate recreational flyers on the "know before you fly" safety guidelines and provide practical flight training. The second program will provide basic preparation for the commercial use of drones. The three-part course will combine a seminar on meeting Federal Aviation Administration requirements, a preflight ground school and a flight school.

On April 1, the university hosted a conference called "Welcome to the Drone Age." A large crowd took part in the event, which was dedicated to the safe use of UAVs and featured lectures from industry leaders. ■

Lives matter

Art project focuses on victims we never hear about

The students in Margaret Bellafiore's Art as Activism course developed a collaborative project titled, "Danger, War Zone." Twice in April, the students took to the front of Boyden Hall to share their work with the public.

Several students wrapped themselves in plastic "body bags" and laid on the Boyden Hall steps, while others held signs listing countries where little attention is paid to victims of violence and terrorism, such as Syria, Afghanistan, Uganda, Algeria, Palestine, Nigeria, Somalia, Israel and Zambia.

We asked Professor Bellafiore, who teaches art and art history part time at BSU, to talk about the project.



Where did the idea for this project originate?

The Art as Activism students broke into teams of four and made oral presentations on international art activism. After discussing the pros and cons of each one, the students voted. One student was inspired by performance artist Regina Jose Galindo from Guatemala, and her team got the most votes. They were invested in finding examples of violence/terrorism that got little media attention due to the fact that the country was less developed. They picked countries in that category and made a poster for each one.

What reactions did you get?

This is one student's reflection: 'I believe that our group project was both a success and a failure. It was a success because our class came together to create a piece of art while raising awareness on such an important issue that is constantly being overlooked. It was a failure in a sense that it needed to dramatically improve in order to reach the students at the BSU campus.' So, it was a learning experience in many ways.

What do you hope students learn from working on a project like this?

The students come away with a real-life experience in collaboration. They see how important it is to work together and count on each other to make something happen that they would want to be involved in.

Are art and activism as closely linked today as during the 1960s and 70s?

I think yes, and maybe more so. But my opinion could be based on the artists that I work with and am influenced by. ■



Spotlight on speaker

Matt Carroll spent 26 years as a reporter for *The Boston Globe*, yet he is perhaps best known today as a member of the *Globe's* Spotlight Team that won a Pulitzer Prize in 2003 for shining a light on the Catholic Church's sex-abuse scandal.

The scandal and the reporting that broke the story wide open was the subject of the 2015 film, *Spotlight*, which won the Academy Award for Best Picture. Mr. Carroll came to campus on April 5 to discuss his current work and his time in the "spotlight."

Now working for the Media Lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he runs the Future of News Initiative, Mr. Carroll spent the first part of his talk discussing his role there and two recent developments, Newspix and Fold.

Discussing *Spotlight*, he recalled first seeing actor Brian d'Arcy James portray him in an early cut of the film. "I thought my head was going to implode," he said. "It was a very, very surreal experience. Kind of crazy..."

Once he got past this, Mr. Carroll said he enjoyed the film and saw its merits. He went on to describe the first time the film was shown to a large audience. It was at the Toronto Film Festival, and it received an eight-minute standing ovation.

The Oscar buzz for the film began that night. ■

BY JOHN WINTERS, G'11

Commencement 2016

Graduates are told to 'get ready' for whatever life throws at them



James T. Brett (right) holds his honorary doctorate with President Frederick Clark.



Senator Elizabeth Warren congratulates a graduate from the Class of 2016.



President Clark (center) awards honorary degrees to Bruce, '68, and Patricia (Quinn), '67, Bartlett.

Nearly 2,100 students received their bachelor's degrees as BSU held its 175th commencement convocation on the Boyden Hall Quadrangle on May 14.

The event marked the first undergraduate commencement ceremony led by President Frederick Clark. He shared stories about a few of the graduates who found success in the classroom and have also given their time and energy in the service of others. One example was Brittany Baillie, who as a sophomore volunteered 300 hours of her time helping Brockton preschoolers develop literacy skills. She also mentored a student with severe mental disabilities. Brittany plans to earn a master's degree in special education and teach in an urban school. *(See story on Page 3.)*

Graduates like these "exemplify what is best about Bridgewater," the president said. "BSU opens doors, creates opportunities to take risks and grow, the chance to work hard on ideas that matter with a passionate faculty dedicated to helping students achieve their full potential."

United States Senator Elizabeth Warren was presented an Honorary Doctorate of Public Service and addressed graduates during the morning ceremony. "Bridgewater State is a school the rest of the country can look to for excellence," she said.

Senator Warren talked about how her life took many twists and turns. She never expected to become a lawyer, never mind a United States senator, she said. Then, prompting the loudest laughter of the ceremony, she added, "I never imagined I'd get into a Twitter war with Donald Trump."

"So, that's the great message, 'get ready,'" the senator said. Be focused, but flexible, she added, find out who you are, and be ready to fight for what you believe in.

Ashley DeCosta, an elementary education major, delivered the student address during the morning ceremony. Her advice was simple: "Embrace this new chapter in life, and trust that your education has given you every tool you need to be successful."

James T. Brett, president and chief executive officer of The New England Council, delivered the afternoon's keynote speech and received an Honorary Doctorate of Public Service. President Clark called him "A champion for the rights of the voiceless."

Mr. Brett told the story of his brother Jack who was born with an intellectual disability. His mother, against the advice of doctors and others who said the child should be institutionalized, opted to raise the boy at home. In this, Mr. Brett found inspiration that has lasted a lifetime.

"Each of us has a personal responsibility to care for persons with disabilities," he said. "In this way, our brother was a gift, a blessing to us. He opened our eyes and our hearts to the needs of the disabled."

Kayla Scott, an English major, addressed her fellow graduates during the afternoon ceremony. She said she has watched the struggles her classmates have endured in the name of higher education and how those experiences have shaped them.

Dr. Joseph H. Huber, founder of the Children's Physical Developmental Clinic at BSU and its director for more than 40 years, was given a Distinguished Service Award. President Clark called him "a true Bridgewater hero."

BSU's 11th annual graduate commencement convocation was held May 11, with approximately 500 students receiving their master's degrees and certificates of advanced graduate study.

Bruce, '68, and Patricia (Quinn), '67, Bartlett, BSU's most generous benefactors, jointly delivered the keynote address. The couple talked about their days on campus and offered advice to the graduates. They were presented honorary degrees.

Jordan Bates, '13, who earned a Master of Education in School Counseling, addressed her fellow graduates and said BSU was a place where she felt listened to and valued.

Ruben Ortiz received the Distinguished Graduate Thesis Award for his project, "War on Drugs: Examining the Effects on Social Disorganization and Crime in Cities." Linda Walenty-St. Laurent earned the Distinguished Graduate Research Project Award for her work, "Four-Year Impact of 1:1 iPad Use in Secondary School."■



Honored among us

BY JOHN WINTERS, G'11

**Honors Program provides
most-engaged students with
abundant support and opportunities**

When Ethel Bediako's professors encouraged her to get involved with the Honors Program, she told them that because of the time constraints she faced as a working mother and full-time student, she was disinclined.

Actually, what she said was, "Are you crazy? I want to be done with school."

Then the Brockton resident thought a little more about her professors' advice. "I figured you can rush through school and be done, or you can take these opportunities that come your way," she said.

Ethel, a senior majoring in sociology, became an honors student and is glad she did. "It challenged me and completely changed my thinking process," she said.

Most people know, or think they know, what an honors program is all about. It's good students taking tough classes, right? That's part of it, but it's so much more.



Autumn Burrell, '18, is an active member of the Honors Residential Learning Community in Scott Hall.



"Our attitude in the Honors Program is not one of elitism. It's about supporting students who want that kind of experience."

Dr. Teresa King
director of BSU's Honor Program

"Our attitude in the Honors Program is not one of elitism. It's about supporting students who want that kind of experience," said Dr. Teresa King, director of BSU's Honor Program, located in the Maxwell Library.

That experience is multifaceted, providing a mix of mentorship, challenging course work, research and support. Plus a bit of fun.

There are two types of honors programs. Commonwealth Honors is a statewide program open to students at BSU, its sister institutions and the University of Massachusetts campuses. It's a four-year program, and students have to get off to a fast start, earning 12 credits in honors courses by the end of their sophomore year. They need to earn an additional nine departmental or interdisciplinary credits before graduating. To remain in the program, students must maintain a 3.3 GPA.

Departmental Honors are focused on the junior and senior years, and even though different departments have their own requirements, generally, students must complete nine honors credits (by taking honors-designated courses) before graduating.



"The phrase I keep returning to is 'the Honors Program is one of Bridgewater's crown jewels.' It really allows students to have a much deeper and more connected undergraduate experience."

Dr. Todd Harris, assistant professor of management



**Ethel Bediako, '17,
conducted research
in Ghana, thanks to
the Adrian Tinsley Program
for Undergraduate Research.**

The Massachusetts Board of Higher Education has requirements that colleges or universities must meet in order to maintain Commonwealth Honors and conducts site reviews every six years to make sure the requirements are being followed.

It's this kind of rigor that the term "honors program" signifies.

"When students enroll in the Honors Program, it shows on their degree, and it helps their advisers; it indicates to them the seriousness of the student," Dr. King said. Honors students work on a particular skill set that includes critical thinking, oral presentations and writing. "All build toward the ability to do independent research or creative inquiry," she said.

Dr. Harris said there are three areas, in particular, where students benefit from being involved in the program. First, they enjoy a "richer intellectual diet" that's more thought provoking and offers exposure to a wider range of ideas.

Just ask Leonard Sprague, '16. He's heading to Brown University to earn a PhD in chemistry, and thanks his involvement in the Honors Program for helping him learn how to "handle abundant workloads."

"Being an honors student at BSU is one of the reasons I'm able to pursue my dream," he continued. "The people who supported me with critical advice and cheers of encouragement honed my mind for it."

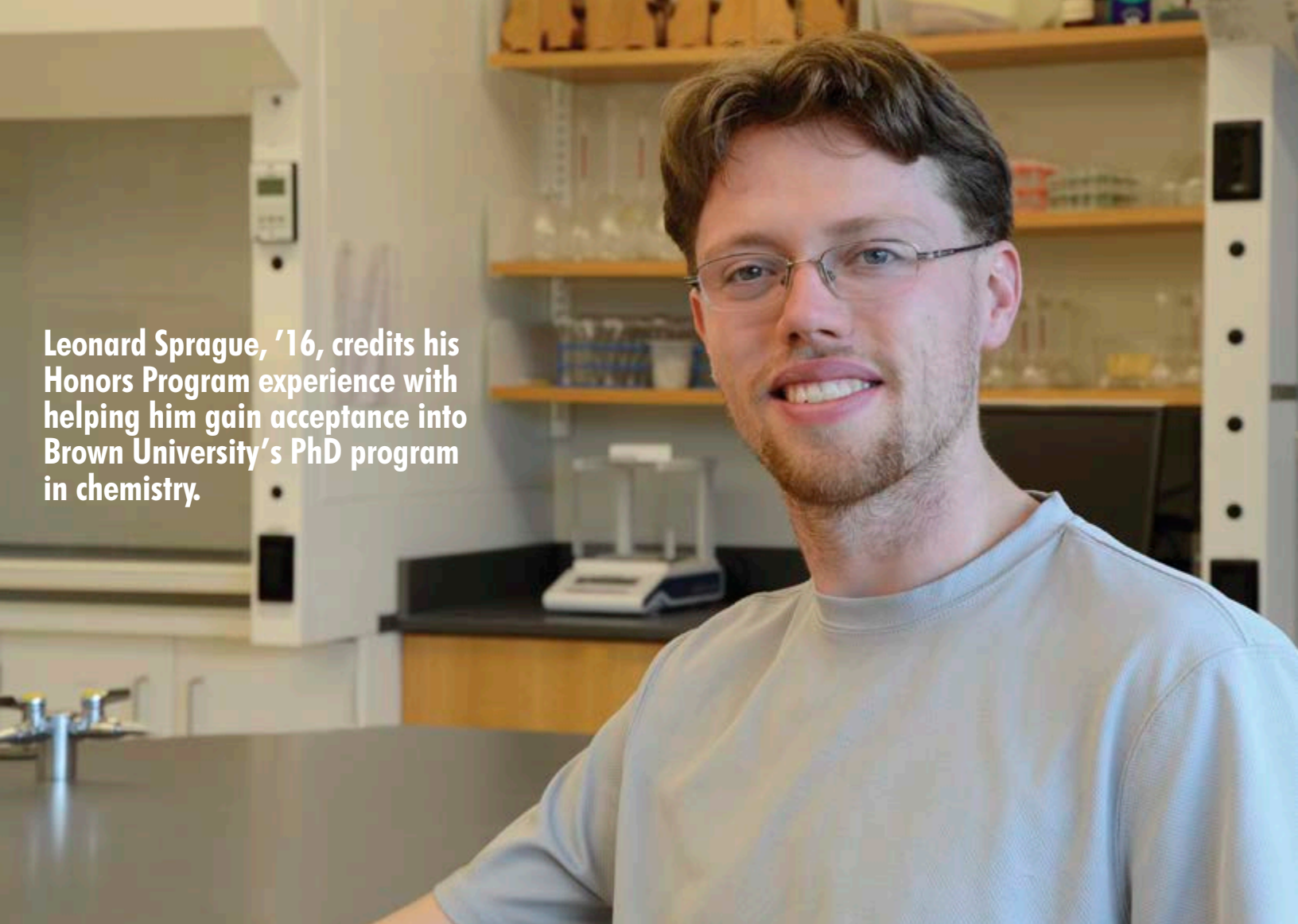
The second benefit honors students gain, according to Professor Harris, is a sense of community, what he called a sort of "second home for students." Indeed, nearly every person interviewed for this story spoke about this kind of peer support.

Both types of honors include close work with a mentoring faculty member and open up to students a world of learning, research and collaboration.


"The phrase I keep returning to is 'the Honors Program is one of Bridgewater's crown jewels,'" said Dr. Todd Harris, an assistant professor of management, who is actively involved with the program. "It really allows students to have a much deeper and more connected undergraduate experience."

Specially designated honors courses at BSU date to 1940, according to school records. In the mid-1960s, talk began of starting a full-fledged honors program. Some semblance of that plan came to fruition in the summer of 1968 when a few disciplines adopted a form of departmental honors, but it really didn't take off institution-wide until 1982. The Honors Program director at that time, Dr. Charles Nickerson, stated that the goal of the program was "to provide opportunities and challenges worthy of our finest students." The program was designed for students who wanted to excel during their time at BSU. The first group of students enrolled in the Honors Program numbered 141. Today that figure is 400, with an average of 100 students joining each year.



A portrait of Leonard Sprague, a young man with short brown hair and glasses, smiling. He is wearing a light blue t-shirt. The background is a chemistry laboratory with shelves holding various glassware and equipment.

Leonard Sprague, '16, credits his Honors Program experience with helping him gain acceptance into Brown University's PhD program in chemistry.

A portrait of Danielle Dupuis, a young woman with dark hair, smiling. She is wearing a blue and white striped shirt. The background is a brick wall with green foliage in the foreground.

Danielle Dupuis, '18, is the student coordinator for the honors peer mentoring program.

Some, like Autumn Burrell, '18, an environmental science major from Lunenburg, lived in a residential learning community (RLC), where honors students live together, study together and even attend a class held right in the residence hall. The immersive experience sets the tone for much of what happens in the program.

"I believe living in an RLC helped me to grow as a leader and to form strong friendships," Autumn said. "I didn't know the campus well or know people at the university, and being away from my family and friends was difficult. But the RLC made this transition easier. I felt like I was part of something special."

Renee Precopio, '16, a psychology major who lived in an RLC in Woodward Hall, said the experience paid other dividends. "For me, it involved learning about myself and the opportunities the school had to offer," she said. "We had a little community there."

That's the idea; let like-minded students spend more time with their peers. "If they're academically motivated, they want to be with other students who have the same aspirations as they do," Dr. King said.

The third benefit, Dr. Harris said, is that honors programs stand out on a résumé or school application.

"Quite honestly, employers are looking past the GPA and past the student's major and asking 'What extra capacity does this student have beyond just showing up, taking tests and writing papers?'" he said.

Peer mentoring is another important aspect of the Honors Program. Newcomers have the option of being paired with an upperclassman who can teach them about the ins and outs of the campus, provide introductions to other honors students and be there for any problems that arise. Danielle Dupuis, '18, a psychology major from Pembroke, recalls that when an injury kept her from playing on the BSU softball team, it caused her to lose interest in continuing at the university, but her mentor helped her through.

"My plans shifted, and I saw no purpose for myself at BSU," she said. "My honors mentor noticed my distance from my academics and how upset I was. He wound up getting me involved in the Student Government Association and the Honors Student Congress... and I flourished."

Also critical to the program is the mentoring relationship with a faculty member who helps the honors student, beginning with the research process on through the final thesis. Special honors classes are devoted to this process.

Evidence shows that these kinds of relationships are key to student success. A recent Gallup poll states that students are generally more than twice as likely to be engaged with their learning when a faculty member takes an interest in their work and encourages them. This is one of the most important dividends for students participating in honors programs.

Another advantage of the program is that class sizes are typically smaller than other courses. This gives students more one-on-one time with faculty, and, as Dr. King put it, "allows professors to be more experimental with their pedagogy."

Add it all up, and the Honors Program can provide students with "an almost Ivy League experience," Professor Harris said.

The students seem to agree.

"The Honors Program was the first community I became a part of, and I haven't looked back," said Danielle. "It has given me the tools I need to have a successful academic journey, build relationships and stand out at a large state university." ■

Renee Precopio, '16

Becoming a

DURING HER FIRST VISIT TO CAMPUS, Renee Precopio decided she was going to be an honors student. She and her mother were visiting the campus, and their tour guide mentioned the Honors Program.

"I had done well in high school, and part of my concern was that at college I wanted to make sure I was challenged," the Newton native said. "When I learned that there was an honors program, I knew that I wanted to participate as a way to stand out."

Indeed she has. Not only has Renee been an outstanding student, she has achieved that rare feat for an undergraduate: publication of her research in a peer-reviewed journal.

Initially an English major, she caught the psychology bug after looking over the shoulder of her roommate. Watching her do her homework, Renee "was so jealous."

During her second semester at BSU, she took an introductory psychology course and met Dr. Laura Ramsey, a professor who would become her mentor. The die was cast, and Renee changed her major to psychology with a minor in women's and gender studies.

One day while scrolling through her Twitter account, Renee saw the hashtag #yesallwomen. She found the discussion worth following, and it eventually led her to consider the relationship between men and the feminist movement. Later, when brainstorming for a thesis topic, she came across an article that added a component to this line of thinking – morality.



Amy Couto, administrative assistant for the Honors Program, coordinates a trivia night.

Trivia, travel and teamwork



Katherine Trudell, '19, (right) celebrates her correct answer during a spring trivia night. Looking on are (from left) Sara Ferreira, '16, and Amanda Pineo, '19.

Students taking part in the Honors Program find a host of activities to support their studies and each other. Many have a social justice component; others are offered to build a sense of community.

Among the activities are trivia nights, field trips, Honors Student Congress, service-learning opportunities, Friday colloquia, days of service, "pizza and prof" events and a book club featuring titles that focus on social justice. ■

standout

She and Dr. Ramsey developed a survey to learn about the relationship between particular moral concerns and men who identify as feminists. The result was a paper written with Dr. Ramsey titled "Dude Looks Like a Feminist!: Moral Concerns and Feminism Among Men." It was published in *Psychology of Men and Masculinity*, a well-respected, peer-reviewed journal of the American Psychological Association.

Renee plans to work for a year or two as a research assistant in social psychology, after which she's considering graduate school. Her Honors Program experience included both Commonwealth Honors and Departmental Honors, leading her to take high-level courses; work closely with her mentor, Dr. Ramsey; live for a time in a special residential learning community for honors students; and enjoy the support she needed to reach her academic goals.

BSU's Honors Program has definitely helped Renee meet her goal of standing out. "It's been one of the biggest and most influential experiences I've had in college," she said. "I'm so glad I jumped in right from the start." ■



Take them to the

Grant land

External sources help fund programs and research projects

BY JOHN WINTERS, G'11

Earning grants is a sign that a university is doing important work, and Bridgewater State University has been awarded many. With the help of external funding, BSU demonstrates its role as a regional and national leader in innovative research and projects that exhibit the talent, creativity and dedication of the campus community.

In recent years, BSU has received funding from such prominent sources as the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation's Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program, AmeriCorps and the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, among others.

And this summer, funding from the United States Department of State brought to campus 25 future leaders of Africa through the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, a program developed under the auspices of President Barack Obama.

The pages that follow feature a few key projects, on campus and beyond, that have received grant funding.



**Professors Kevin Curry and Rob Hellström
work with local waterways and schoolchildren**

river



**Dr. Rob Hellström (left) and Dr. Kevin Curry
at the juncture of the Mill River and
Lake Sabbatia in Taunton**

The reigning belief is that to get people interested in the environment, start while they're young. A new grant-funded project led by Dr. Kevin Curry and Dr. Rob Hellström takes this idea to heart.

The project focuses on the populations of river herring, American eel and other species in the Nemasket, Mill and Taunton rivers. Dr. Curry, of the Department of Biological Sciences, and Dr. Hellström, of the Department of Geography, will work with local teachers on the rivers themselves, and then develop lesson plans and hands-on activities for their students.

The curriculum will focus on topics such as storm water stewardship and fishery resources. Assisting is Kim McCoy, G'09, assistant director of BSU's Center for the Advancement of STEM Education and program coordinator of the Watershed Access Lab, home to the project.

The three-year initiative is funded by a \$220,000 grant from the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's Office of Education. As part of the grant's emphasis on storm water stewardship and impacts on fishery resources, students and teachers will study river herring and glass eels returning to tributaries within the Taunton River Watershed. Dr. Curry recently spent time with a citizen-science team from the Hudson River Eel Project in New York and hopes to incorporate monitoring of young eels and their movement within the river into this program.


Dr. Hellström will serve as climatologist, working with schools in Taunton and New Bedford to install weather stations so the students can help provide data, such as the amount of local rainfall. "This is a nationwide, citizen-science network, so the idea is that regular people can monitor weather conditions and assist," Professor Hellström said.

The project fills an important role beyond education. American eels are declining in population. They are a delicacy in Japan and are harvested in the United States as well. The river herring is a protected species.

The program began in July and continued through the summer with professional development sessions at BSU for area educators. Over the project's course, students will present their findings, and an in-depth summer program for youth will be offered.

Dr. Curry said the initiative covers a lot of bases. "This is a meaningful watershed educational experience," he said. "We train teachers in the classroom, but they're going to get out in the river, seeing the resource and helping to monitor it. This is education with a purpose."

As the program progresses, Drs. Curry and Hellström said they hope to join forces with the Hudson River group to share data and other information.



**Grant funding allows
Dr. Peter Saccocia
to continue research
into deep sea springs**

Way, way down

Dr. Peter Saccocia has been studying hot springs on the ocean floor for much of his career. Thanks to a three-year grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF), that work continued this summer.

A professor of geological sciences, Dr. Saccocia (above) once again collaborated with Dr. Jeffrey Seewald, a senior scientist at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution on Cape Cod.

The \$103,000 grant funded a series of experiments and provided an undergraduate research experience for up to 30 BSU students through a research course taught by Dr. Saccocia and Dr. Seewald and an intensive summer research experience in the labs at Woods Hole.

"From my perspective as a faculty member here, this provides Bridgewater students access to a world-class research institution like Woods Hole," Dr. Saccocia said. "That's a big opportunity for them."

The title of the project is "Laboratory investigation of redox reactions during sub-surface mixing in submarine hydrothermal systems." To explain what this means, a little background information is necessary.

Submarine hot springs on the ocean floor support unique biological communities found nowhere else on earth. Photosynthesis is not possible for these hot springs and their associated ecosystems as they are too deep for the sun to penetrate. Therefore, these ecosystems are supported by

chemosynthesis, or energy derived from chemical reactions. These reactions happen just below the ocean floor where the emerging hot springs mix with seawater.

The amount of energy made available from these reactions is thought to be related to their speed. Thus, Dr. Saccocia and Dr. Seewald, along with the BSU students, researched how fast these reactions occur by simulating the hot spring environment in the laboratory.

The results may help scientists better understand the connection between hot springs and their surrounding ecosystems. However, the project ties into a larger debate now taking place in the scientific community.

"Some scientists believe that the origin of life on earth could be tied to these ecosystems," Dr. Saccocia said. Therefore, knowing where and how they get their energy is critical.

This collaborative research model that Dr. Saccocia developed with Dr. Seewald is supported by the Research at Undergraduate Institutions program at the National Science Foundation. The program is designed to bring together institutions that do not offer graduate degrees in the sciences, like BSU, with high-level research institutions, such as Woods Hole.

"The folks at the NSF have told me they love this collaborative model; it's very unique," Dr. Saccocia said.

He added that multiple journal articles will likely be published based on the findings of this summer's work.

Workplace equity

Faculty members look at family-leave policies with hopes of making changes on campus and beyond

A multidisciplinary team of researchers is examining the role of workplace flexibility and its effect on the work experiences of full- and part-time faculty in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and social sciences at BSU.

Professors Martina Arndt of the Department of Physics; Laura Ramsey of the Department of Psychology; and Pamela Russell of the Department of Movement Arts, Health Promotion and Leisure Studies; along with Dr. Michael Young, associate provost for academic planning and administration, were awarded a two-year National Science Foundation ADVANCE program grant of \$194,000 to fund the project. Professor Kimberly Fox of the Department of Sociology is also part of the research team.

Employing interviews and surveys, the team has compiled results from more than 100 full- and part-time BSU faculty in STEM and social science departments. The analysis phase of the project is currently underway. However, the data are already revealing interesting information.

"The general findings are that full-time faculty who have greater workplace flexibility – especially women – tend to be more productive, experience less stress, are more dedicated to their job and have more job satisfaction," Dr. Ramsey said. The findings from part-time faculty are related but contextually different, necessitating an even more nuanced reading.

"We found that part-time faculty have a variety of backgrounds that led them to teach at BSU, and we found that once they're here, they are met with a number of challenges around limited resources and opportunities to maximize their experience outside of academia," Dr. Fox said.

Ultimately, the findings will be shared through conferences and journal articles, and be widely discussed across campus, where members of the research team hope it will have a real effect. The team anticipates that the results of this research will influence human resources policies at the university and eventually spread to other institutions. "The goal is that this research will have a broad impact," Dr. Fox said.

"This is a huge project," Dr. Arndt said. "This year, we've been focusing our advocacy efforts on family leave policies on campus, and we're hoping to affect change by working with the president, HR, union leadership and academic affairs."

The federal Family and Medical Leave Act provides employees with up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave per year. Within the Massachusetts State University system, in the case of adoption, birth or the arrival of a new foster child, full-time faculty can take two weeks of paid leave and an additional 10 weeks unpaid.

The team's research found that the current family leave policy is inadequate for the needs of BSU faculty. Dr. Russell points out that "this is a broad problem, and not just a faculty problem, but a problem that also impacts student learning, especially if students need to adapt to a new teaching style with a different faculty member or a hybrid/web class mid-semester."

In addition to their advocacy work, the team gave presentations at the Center for the Advancement of Research and Scholarship Celebration in May, as well as at off-campus locations. The research is also providing a foundation for the team's application for another grant that would offer support for institutional transformation.



From left are Dr. Kimberly Fox, Dr. Pamela Russell, Dr. Martina Arndt and Dr. Laura Ramsey

Game changer

NCAA grant encourages more diversity on sidelines

Thanks to an NCAA diversity grant, Athletics and Recreation will be hiring an intern to serve as coordinator for athletics and external relations.

The two-year Division III Ethnic Minority and Women's Internship Grant provides \$22,500 to cover the salary of the new hire, as well as \$3,000 in professional development funds.

Dr. Marybeth Lamb, director of athletics and recreation, said, "It is essential that BSU seeks to broaden a diverse representation on our staff. Students like to see faculty and staff that 'look like me,' and this grant is an amazing opportunity to support this hiring initiative. The intern will be responsible for coordinating our recruiting and fundraising efforts within the department. This is definitely a win-win for both the NCAA and BSU."

The grant program supports what Bernard Franklin, NCAA executive vice president of education and community engagement/chief inclusion officer, called a top priority of the association.

"As a core value, the NCAA believes in and is committed to diversity, inclusion and gender equity among its student-athletes, coaches and administrators," he said. "These grants not only directly support career opportunities for administrators and coaches, but also enhance the student-athlete experience overall." ■

Dr. Marybeth Lamb,
director of athletics and recreation,
inside the Swenson Athletic Complex

Grants galore

In 2015, \$1.1 million was awarded to BSU to support research and sponsored projects. Below is a sampling.

Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment Initiative (ICEI)

Sponsor: Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

The goal of this project is to implement and enhance partnerships between public high schools and public institutions of higher education to offer inclusive concurrent enrollment opportunities for students ages 18-22 who are considered to have severe disabilities. Students participate in credit and noncredit college-level courses along with their non-disabled peers. In the case of students ages 18 or 19, the program shall be limited to those students with severe disabilities who have been unable to achieve the competency determination necessary to pass the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System exam. The project is designed to help these students develop self-determination and self-advocacy skills, and participate in career planning for improved academic, social, functional and other transition-related skills. The broader impact of the program is that the partnerships between the high schools and higher education institutions will result in improved systems to serve students with severe disabilities, and support their college and career success.

Science Teacher Scholars Program

Sponsor: National Science Foundation Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program

The National Science Foundation provides funding for scholarships and programmatic support to recruit and prepare science majors to become K-12 teachers. The program's goal is to increase the number of K-12 teachers with science content knowledge to teach in schools with a diverse population of students.

This five-year grant was awarded to BSU in partnership with Massasoit Community College (MCC) and four public school districts: Brockton, Fall River, Randolph and Freetown-Lakeville.

Scholarships will be awarded to support the final two years at BSU for 40 science majors who enroll in an education licensure program. The scholarships are valued at \$10,000 for each year, fully covering tuition, fees and books. Twelve of the scholarships will be specifically for science majors planning to become elementary education teachers and 28 will be awarded to future secondary education teachers. The program will also fund eight paid summer internships at either BSU or MCC for first- and second-year science majors.

Jumpstart

Sponsor: AmeriCorps, Jumpstart for Young Children Northeast Region

Through this program, Bridgewater State University student-corps members work one-on-one with pre-school children in the communities of Taunton, Raynham and Brockton to improve literacy and problem-solving skills, and provide additional services as needed. Along with improving the children's skills, BSU corps members increase their workforce readiness and develop an interest in performing community service.

Bridge Partnership

Sponsor: Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

In collaboration with the public school districts of New Bedford, Brockton and Boston, the Bridge Partnership is a two-week, residential summer program for approximately 400 academically at-risk middle-school students. The program includes intensive, activity-based learning to improve academic skills in mathematics and English language arts; visits to area institutions of higher education; enrichment activities; mentoring; and community service. One goal is to increase the high school graduation and college-entrance rates of the students, and to provide educators (pre-service, in-service K-12 and higher education) with experiences that increase their ability to enhance the learning of at-risk students. A second goal is to instill students with a broader view of careers that are available by completing high school and seeking higher education and/or employment training. ■

Visit www.give.bridgew.edu to learn how you can play a role in the continued success of programs like these.



In New Orleans to create a video for VH1 is Emmanuel Boakye-Appiah, '16, (right), who is joined by (from left) Timothy Thomas of R. City band; Trell Thomas, press and talent relations manager for VH1 Save the Music Foundation; and Theron Thomas, also of R. City.



Man in Motion

Viral video leads 2016 graduate
to a contract with VH1

BY JOHN WINTERS, G'11

There's a lesson here: When opportunity knocks, grab it with both hands.

That's exactly what Emmanuel Boakye-Appiah, '16, did when he was asked by his friend Eric Adjepong, a chef in New York City, to photograph an event he was hosting. No problem, Emmanuel is a professional photographer.

When asked if he could also film the event, Emmanuel paused – he'd never done that before.

Then, he dove right in.

The video turned out quite good; in fact, it went viral. Not long after, an executive from VH1 came calling. Today, Emmanuel creates videos for the television network and its Save the Music Foundation. In April, he traveled to New Orleans to shoot another segment.

"I thought I was dreaming," he said of the moment when VH1 called. "I actually pinched myself and then realized that it was a legitimate offer. I fell to my knees and thanked God instantly. Then I told my brother and sisters."



Emmanuel has a gift for finding the best angle, setting up compelling shots and then pulling everything together with music that has just the right beat. It's that last part, assembling all the pieces, that really excites him. "Editing is so much fun," he said. "You can make any event look like the best ever... And it's all about the music. That's the magic of it."

Emmanuel's parents, the Reverend John and Akua Appiah, came to the United States from Ghana in 1989. They settled in Brooklyn, New York, for a while, but after Reverend Appiah went into the ministry with the Church of Pentecost in 2002, they moved frequently.

When Emmanuel was young, his father bought a camera and encouraged his children to use it. Emmanuel did so, and quickly found he had a knack for taking photos.

"I would take pictures and put them on Myspace," Emmanuel recalled. "People really liked them. But as I got older, I lost interest in photography."

After living in Brooklyn; Kumasi, Ghana; and Columbus, Ohio, the family settled in Worcester when Emmanuel was a high school sophomore. Around that time, his father got a new camera, and Emmanuel's interest was rekindled. His work was so popular with his classmates at Worcester's Burncoat High School, they asked him to design their senior yearbook.

When it came time for college, Emmanuel enrolled at BSU, where, as a freshman, he played football and studied criminal justice. He soon changed his major to health studies with a concentration in community health and gave up his gridiron dreams.

At first, he spent most of his spare time making music. He started a band called NewGenn – short for new generation –

with his two best friends, Justice and Junior Boateng, and his brother Samuel. The group played in churches, backed African musicians and performed at weddings.

He soon began photographing those weddings and launched his career as a professional photographer. When the opportunity came along to make videos, NewGenn morphed into a creative enterprise that can handle just about any gig – audio or visual – that comes its way.

Thus far, Emmanuel has made three videos for VH1, and his photography business is expanding. However, after graduating from BSU in May, he's not heading to New York or Hollywood for a life behind the lens. He plans to continue his education at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Worcester.

Pursuing an advanced degree in health care is important to Emmanuel. "I have a passion for helping people," he said. His graduate studies are just as important to his parents, who expect their children to be well educated and develop traditional, stable careers.

Emmanuel doesn't mind that they have set the bar high for him. "My parents have impacted me a lot," he said. "My mom is a go-getter, and my father is a hard worker and very passionate about everything he does." His siblings, Samuel, Gloria and Graceloyes, are looking to follow his example.

That's OK, said the multit talented Emmanuel. "They're what's most important in my life. I love my family. They're the only reason I do what I do."

What he's doing now, in addition to his creative endeavors, is serving as a clinical counselor at Youth Opportunities Upheld, Inc., in Worcester, a private, nonprofit child welfare and behavioral health organization that serves troubled and at-risk children, adolescents and families.

"I love it; it's a humbling experience," Emmanuel said.

Emmanuel lives in Rockaway, New Jersey, and with his talent, his heritage, his drive and his concern for others, there's no telling where this young man's future lies. Odds are it will be a pretty special place. He always bears in mind his father's advice: "Son, don't let your heart be troubled. Your future is built on greatness, and, with God, all things are possible." ■

Photos by Emmanuel Boakye-Appiah are (clockwise from top left, opposite page) *Opening*, *Wedding #1*, *Above*, *Destination*, *Shon Daily* and *Limitless Skies*.



Upcoming ALUMNI EVENTS

ALUMNI AWARDS BANQUET

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 6 PM
Rondileau Campus Center Ballroom

HOMECOMING AND FAMILY DAY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15
For a complete schedule of
events and activities visit
www.alumni.bridgew.edu/homecoming

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK ALUMNI EVENT

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7
Crimson Hall, Dunn Conference Suite

BRADENTON BRUNCH

SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2017
IMG Academy Golf and Country Club
4350 El Conquistador Parkway
Bradenton, Florida

AFRO-AMERICAN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION DINNER

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2017
Rondileau Campus Center Ballroom

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 may be submitted by mail to the Davis Alumni Center (address below) or online at 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.

STAY CONNECTED

Send your news to the Office of Alumni Relations via email to 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



President Frederick Clark, '83, and Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs Dr. Pamela Witcher (right) join scholarship recipients (from left) Amina Elmi, '15; Scherly Durandis, '16; Daniela Belice, '18; Dylan Preston, '16; and Ailson Lopes-Carvalho, '17.

Scholarship recipients thank BSU donors

The Donor Appreciation Reception gave scholarship recipients a chance to mingle with alumni and friends who give generously to benefit current students.

Each scholarship recipient has a story to share. As part of the program, Russell Brilliant, '17, a sophomore political science major, told his. He spoke from the heart explaining what receiving the Cape Cod Alumni Scholarship meant to him. "Sometimes all it takes is reassurance in knowing your hard work is worth it and can make a difference. That someone believes in you. That you are not your surroundings," he said. "That is what your donations do for students like me. You give us hope. You give us purpose. And you create opportunities for us that most people take for granted."

The Cape Cod Alumni Scholarship is the result of a collective charitable effort created from several gifts given by donors who live and work on the Cape.

Fairhaven resident David Braga, '17, recipient of the Janice Foley, '67, and Robert Olds Scholarship, is a history major with a minor in secondary education and a member of the Honors Program. The reception gave David a chance to thank Ms. Olds in person. She contributed to BSU's Sponsor-A-Student program where gifts of \$1,000 or more are awarded in their entirety as a one-time scholarship to a student in need.

For information about giving to BSU or the Sponsor-A-Student program, please visit give.bridgew.edu or contact Betsy Dubuque, G'11, at 508.531.2100.■



David Morwick, '64, talks with Russell Brilliant, '17, the Cape Cod Alumni Scholarship recipient.



David Braga, '17, recipient of the Janice Foley, '67, and Robert Olds Scholarship thanks sponsor Janice Foley Olds, '67.



Janet Hinds Cartwright, '00, poses with Amelia Fuss, '18, an English major with a minor in secondary education and recipient of an Annual Fund Scholarship provided by an anonymous donor.

Tradition and excellence celebrated at Afro-American Alumni Association dinner

"Following Tradition, Pursuing Excellence" was the theme of the annual Afro-American Alumni Association dinner in March.

Mistress of Ceremonies Gloria Stanton, '74, G'00, kicked off the program that highlighted the talents of Hakim Hill, '10, and Crystal Tavares, '10. Mr. Hill gave a poetry performance, while Ms. Tavares sang "I was here."

President Frederick Clark, '83, brought greetings from the university, and Afro-American Alumni Association President Michael Henry, '92, introduced keynote speaker Ayanna Pressley, Boston City Councilor-at-Large. In 2009, Ms. Pressley was the first woman of color elected to the council. In her subsequent re-election campaigns, she made history as the first person of color ever and the first woman in 30 years to top the ticket. Her remarks were inspiring as she challenged attendees not only to recognize the needs in their own communities, but also to be willing to roll up their sleeves and do the work to bring positive change.

Each year, the association presents the Afro-American Achievement Award to a member of the university community who has made a positive impact on students of color. This year's recipient is Miguel (Mike) Gomes Jr., former senior vice president for administration and finance at BSU. He was introduced by Angel Figueroa, '08; Christian Gonsalves, '96; and Luis Rosa, '05.

Mr. Gomes, who retired in June after 21 years of service, was a member of the president's senior management team responsible for overseeing BSU's financial and physical operations, including more than \$500 million of new construction and renovation. While his scope of responsibilities was impressive, it was his behind-the-scenes role of mentor and motivator that is most deserving of recognition. Mr. Gomes exemplified the caring community BSU represents and assisted countless students on their college journeys.

The evening concluded with closing remarks from the vice president of the Afro-American Alumni Association,



Taking part in the festivities are (from left) Michael Henry, '92, association president; Afro-American Achievement Award recipient Mike Gomes Jr., former senior vice president for administration and finance; Boston City Councilor-at-Large Ayanna Pressley; Shalika Smith, '06, association secretary; Vinda Cardoso Butler, '08, association vice president; and President Frederick Clark, '83.



Members of the Afro-American Alumni Association Planning Committee include (from left) Christian Gonsalves, '96; Jeanne Oliver Foster, '77; Angel Figueroa, '08; Maria Pinto, '10; Michael Henry, '92; Gloria Stanton, '74, G'00; Dorie AuCoin, '75, G'79; Vinda Cardoso Butler, '08; Shalika Smith David, '06; and Luis Rosa, '05.

Vinda Cardoso Butler, '08, as well as dancing and celebrating with the music of DJ Back Spin, Freddy Fontaine, '09.

This annual event would not be possible without the support of a dedicated volunteer committee. The association's planning committee meets on week-nights during the academic year and is always seeking new members. To help plan next year's celebration and other activities, email alumni@bridgew.edu or call 508.531.1287. For information about the association and future events, visit www.alumni.bridgew.edu/A4. ■



Sydné Marrow, G'14, director of BSU's Center for Multicultural Affairs, talks with Mike Gomes at the dinner event.

ALUMNI SERVICES

For more information about the services below, visit www.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.

STUDENT LOAN ASSISTANCE

Through American Student Assistance® (ASA), a nonprofit organization that financially empowers college students and alumni, BSU alumni have access to expert student loan counselors.

Contact ASA at 877.523.9473 (toll-free) or loanhelp@saltmoney.org.

To learn more about the program, visit www.saltmoney.org/bridgew.

WEBSITE

Visit the Alumni Association website, www.alumni.bridgew.edu, to learn more about events, services, and the activities of alumni chapters and committees.

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.



Coming together at The Oyster Bar in St. Petersburg are (above, from left) Guy LeVan, '76, and Jeffrey Tuller, '78, and (below, from left) BSU Vice President for University Advancement Brenda Molife, Beverly Shapiro, '51, and Marianne McGuire, '74, G'79.



At JetBlue Park are (above) Robert and Vivian St. Laurent, '65, and (below, from left) Professor Emerita Virginia Hogg, '60, G'65, and Mary Mahan, '60.



Boarding the trolley for the Naples St. Patrick's Day parade are (from left) Carol and Eugene Durgin Jr.; Kathleen Gutierrez, '71; Joan Montford; Marijke Alsbach; Sylvia Chariton, '71; Susan Szachowicz, '75, G'81; Judy Schneider, '60; Carolyn Turchon, '62; President Frederick Clark, '83; George McSherry, G'63; Georgia Pappas; and William Montford, '66.



Enjoying the Bradenton Brunch are (above, from left) Jana Samuels, '64; Susan Libby Thevenin, '64, G'74; John Newburn, '64, G'74; and Sheila McKenna, '62; and (below, from left) Jane, '59, and Bernie, '61, G'63, Powers; and Janice Metz, '61.

If it's March, it must be Florida's Gulf Coast

Alumni and friends living in and visiting the Sunshine State in March had many choices where to gather, celebrate and meet BSU's new leader, President Frederick Clark, '83.

The Red Sox spring training game at JetBlue Park, an annual favorite, didn't disappoint. A sunny day greeted alumni, who enjoyed a pre-event, mini-reunion barbecue under a tent. Graduates from Worcester and Fitchburg state universities joined the festivities.

Equally enjoyable was the BSU trolley in the Naples St. Patrick's Day parade, which was packed with enthusiastic alumni. Along the route, many former Massachusetts residents greeted the trolley with cheers. A special thank you is extended to Don Shea, '94, for arranging the pre-parade breakfast at Foxfire Country Club to kick off the day's celebration.

New this year was an evening reception in St. Petersburg at The Oyster Bar. And, of course, no visit to Florida would be complete without the annual Bradenton Brunch. Arthur and Susan Libby Thevenin, '64, G'74, have graciously hosted this event for many years at the IMG Academy Golf Club overlooking beautiful Sarasota Bay. ■



Massachusetts state university alumni gather in Washington, D.C.

Nearly 200 alumni of the Massachusetts state university system came together in Washington, D.C., in March at the Dirksen Senate Building, with the largest number coming from BSU. Joining them were four BSU students taking part in The Washington Center Program for Internships and Academic Seminars.

Participants included (standing, from left) Brittany Townley, '15; David Wilson, '14; Laura Knapik, '15; Norman Smith, '88; Donna Wolohojian, '74; George Wolohojian; President Frederick Clark, '83; Mary Walek, '78; Elena Liatsos Lagos, '82; Tracey Livingston, '08; Patricia Fee, '63; Bill Clifford; Lorenz Marcellus, '17; David Fee, '62; and Adam Pare, '95. Kneeling are (from left) Invanilda Nascimento, '16; Katherine Costa, '16; Shaivon Dixon, '16; Sheliah Calhoun, '04; and Michael Scarlett, '06. ■

Men Integrated in Brotherhood (MIB) awards celebration

MIB, a student organization with more than 30 active members and the credo "building a strong foundation for future generations with brotherhood and education," celebrated scholarship and fellowship in an April ceremony. Several founding members attended the event, which included an impassioned talk by Nigel Smith, '01, about MIB's history. ■



Coming together on campus are MIB founding members (from left) Michaelangelo Palmieri, '00; Dr. Alan Comedy; Richard Booth, '00; Damien Cornwall, '02; Nigel Smith, '01; and Michael Henry, '92.

Master of Public Administration (MPA) graduates celebrate



MPA 2016 graduates and their advisory committee gathered in March at Barrett's Alehouse in Bridgewater to celebrate the students' successful completion of the MPA program's comprehensive exam. The graduates (from left) are David Marciello; Chris White; Kelsey Davis, '13; Jodie McDonald; Connor Read; and Samantha Loutzenhiser. ■

CAREER SERVICES

Help lead Bridgewater State University students to success!

CAREERLINK@BSU

Post jobs and internships available at your organization on the Career Services easy-to-use online system that allows access to BSU students and alumni.

BSU STUDENT AND ALUMNI NETWORKING GROUP

Join the BSU Student and Alumni Networking Group on LinkedIn.com and connect with BSU students and other alumni online. Help members explore career options, learn about internships and jobs, and build networks with professionals on this popular professional social media site.

EMPLOYER-IN-RESIDENCE

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

INTERNSHIP & JOB FAIR

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1-3 PM
Rondileau Campus Center Ballroom

The Internship & Job Fair features more than 60 organizations recruiting for full-time, professional-level opportunities, as well as available or anticipated internships at their organizations. Meet local, regional and national employers who value the quality of a Bridgewater State University education.

ON-CAMPUS ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

A number of opportunities are available for alumni to engage with BSU students on campus. Career Services will be collecting names of alumni who would like to participate in career panels, as well as the Etiquette Dinner taking place in fall 2016.

For information regarding the above programs, call Career Services at 508.531.1328 or email the office at careersrv@bridgew.edu.



Tiffany Whynot, '08, and Stephen Macauley were married on August 22, 2015.



Eleanor Dillon, daughter of Holly Sigle Dillon, '06, and Mark H. Dillon, '06, was born on December 5, 2015.



Eowyn (Winnie) Reid Dubuque, daughter of Elizabeth Coon Dubuque, G'11, and Cory Dubuque, G'13, was born on March 30, 2016.

1954

Hazel Varella was honored by Oliver Ames High School in Easton with the dedication of the Hazel Luke Varella Social Studies Office. Ms. Varella, who taught social studies at OAHS for more than 40 years (33 years as department chairperson) before retiring in 1997, was recognized for her service and commitment to the social studies department and the community. Funding was provided by her many colleagues and friends, and arranged by former department chairman **Edmund Hands, '70**.

1962

Sheila Tunstall McKenna and her husband, Jack, are pleased to announce the marriage of their son, Dr. John W. McKenna, to Dr. Melissa A. Parenti on December 18. The newlyweds are both professors at St. John's University in New York.

1985

Gregory Gelineau was promoted to executive vice president at American Senior Benefits in Providence, a national insurance marketing organization that focuses on comprehensive retirement planning for the mature market in America. He has been in the financial services industry for 31 years, starting in the field shortly after graduating from Bridgewater State. Mr. Gelineau was a member of the first class to graduate with a major in management science. He minored in marketing.

1990

Linda O'Connell and her company, Take 5 Productions, were featured in her local community paper, *Courier Life*, in March. The company specializes in preserving family memories by transferring audio and video recordings from old formats to newer ones. Ms. O'Connell, who lives in Wisconsin, received a bachelor's degree in business.

Brian Dwyer was promoted to vice president in the Boston office of STV, a firm specializing in engineering, planning, architectural, environmental, construction and management services for transportation systems, infrastructure, buildings, energy and other facilities.

1992

Andrew Donovan became the Green Building housemaster at Brockton High School in March. He has worked at the school for 19 years, including 14 years as a teacher and almost five as assistant housemaster of the Red Building.

Rebecca Pacheco was appointed residential director of LifeStream Inc., a Southeastern Massachusetts provider of human services, in March. She has worked for the company since 2000 in various roles, including residential coordinator, residential manager and consumer advocate.

1995

Richard Noonan was promoted to lieutenant with the Foxboro Police Department. Lieutenant Noonan, who earned a bachelor's degree in sociology and criminology, joined the department in 1999 and served as a patrol officer for four years and a patrol sergeant for 13 years.

2001

In honor of Black History Month, **Steffen Landrum-Alves** was invited to speak at Lynn English High School. A Boeing 737 flight officer with United Airlines who graduated from BSU with a degree in aviation science, he spoke about diversity and overcoming a difficult upbringing to achieve success.

2002

Thomas Choberka is a volunteer director for the American Red Cross of Broward County, Florida. He also serves on the communications committee of the organization's board of directors.

2005

Christopher Pereira has led the Knights of Columbus Father Hogan Council #14236 in Dartmouth since July 2012. The council received the distinguished Star Council Award in 2015 for the second consecutive year. The award is the organization's highest honor. The council was recognized for its membership recruitment/retention, insurance/investment program and, most importantly, its charitable services. The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic lay organization, and it serves the community with its charitable programs.

JOHN CROWLEY, '87

Chief of the Brockton Police Department

BY JOHN LAIDLER

John Crowley was a senior majoring in management when he learned that a classmate planned to take the state civil service exam to become a police officer. Lacking career plans of his own, Chief Crowley figured he might as well do the same.

That chance decision led to a career in public safety that has landed him at the top of a municipal police force. Hired as a Brockton police officer in 1987, he rose through the ranks, culminating in his appointment as chief in January 2015.

The lifelong Brockton resident said that until he took the exam, he could never have imagined he would one day be a police officer, let alone a chief. "I was not thinking of a police career," Chief Crowley said. "I was pursuing a management career."

But he believes his undergraduate experience has proved invaluable to his work as a law enforcement leader. "Especially now that I'm the chief, I think back on all the things I learned in college, the human services part of it – dealing with people and employees, getting everyone to work together, to go in the same direction," Chief Crowley said, calling those skills essential to his job.

Starting as a patrol officer, he was promoted to sergeant in 1999 and lieutenant in 2004. He served as acting chief several times in 2014 before earning the official role. His roles during those years included police prosecutor in district court, executive and commanding officer of operations, chief of detectives and shift commander.

Chief Crowley, who has a master's degree in criminal justice from Anna Maria College, oversees a department of 186 uniformed officers and 214 overall employees in a city where crime remains a major concern.

"We are a busy department. Sometimes you wish you had more officers, but we do the best we can with what we have," he said. "Overall, we have a highly motivated and very successful department."

After three decades in law enforcement, Chief Crowley's enthusiasm for police work has remained unchanged. "It's an opportunity to help people, and to make the city a safer and better place for everybody," he said. ■



photo courtesy of ENTERPRISENEWS.COM

2006

Ryan Methia is the athletic director of the Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School.

Craig Consigli, G'06, was chosen unanimously by the Milford School Committee as assistant superintendent of the town's public schools. He had served as principal at Milford's Woodland Elementary School for the last four years.

2007

In April, **Brett Zografos** was elected selectman in Dighton. He is the youngest person to serve on the board of selectmen in the town's 304-year history.

2008

Glenn Barrows Geiler joined the Brockton Area Transit Authority as assistant grant manager.

John Dooley was a contestant on the April 5 episode of *Wheel of Fortune*.

2009

An article by **Joel Gervais**, titled "Use of an Acetyl Derivative to Improve GC-MS Determination of Norbuprenorphine in the Presence of High Concentrations of Buprenorphine in Urine," was published in the *Journal of Analytical Toxicology*.

Ian Abreu, who graduated with a degree in communication studies, was sworn in as at-large city councilor for New Bedford in March.

Misty Pisani was certified as a licensed independent clinical social worker by the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Social Workers. After graduating from BSU, she earned a Master of Social Work degree from Simmons College.

2011

Natalie Cohen was named coach of the men's and women's volleyball teams at Dean College in November. The teams are additions to the college's athletics program, which is transitioning from a two-year program to an NCAA Division III program.

Kristen Baker performed in *Stars Over Melrose*, a talent show held at Memorial Hall in Melrose.

Benjamin Fey, a business management major at BSU, was named general manager of the New England Collegiate Baseball League.

2012

Jordan McDermott was named head coach of Massasoit Community College's softball team in January. A physical education major, she was captain of both the women's soccer and softball teams in her senior year, as well as an All-Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference selection in both sports.

Keith Greene, CPA, MST, was promoted to accounting and auditing senior at G.T. Reilly & Company in Milton in February. He joined the firm in 2013 after graduating from BSU with a degree in accounting.

2013

In April, **Lisa Cabral, G'14**, was named an audit accountant by KAF, a CPA and business consulting firm in Braintree.

Michael Emond is content producer at New England Sports Network. At BSU, he was production coordinator for the Bears Sports Network, which covered university athletics, and he provided play-by-play commentary for BSU games. Mr. Emond also was an intern at Comcast SportsNet New England and the Futures Collegiate Baseball League of New England, Brockton Rox team.

Tim Whalen was cast as a police officer in the Academy Award-winning film, *Spotlight*.

2014

Luiza Souza is community coordinator and administrative assistant to the vice president at Siemens Corporation.

2015

Kenny Monteiro, G'15, was named assistant director of urban outreach initiatives at Boston College in January.

Elaine Clement-Holbrook coaches the OAHS girls basketball squad at TD Garden in Boston during the team's 2006 championship season.



ELAINE CLEMENT-HOLBROOK, '75, G'81 Oliver Ames High School Girls Basketball Coach

BY JOHN LAIDLER

When Elaine "Laney" Clement-Holbrook broke the state record for most wins by a girls basketball coach in January, it was another highlight in a storied 40-year career.

"It was a really happy moment," said the Oliver Ames High School coach, recalling the hugs from her players and the rousing cheers from spectators – many wearing signs reading "634," the number of wins it took to break the record.

Breaking the record also continued a family tradition of athletic accomplishment. Her father, Wendell F. Clement, founded Dedham Pop Warner football, and her uncle, Don Earle, was once the television voice of the Boston Bruins. Ms. Clement-Holbrook was introduced to sports at an early age and was a four-sport athlete at Dedham High School.

This affinity for the sporting life is what drew her to Bridgewater State. Its reputation, then as now, was based in part on parity for female athletes. Ms. Clement-Holbrook played basketball and softball during her undergraduate years and later earned a master's degree in health education. She was inducted into BSU's Athletics Hall of Fame in 2008.

Ms. Clement-Holbrook broke the record when the OAHS girls basketball team defeated King Phillip High School. The win also clinched a post-season berth for the team. "It was kind of awesome that it happened at the same moment," she said.

The record had been held by another BSU alumna, the late Vi Goodnow, '58, who coached at Frontier Regional High School in South Deerfield.

The milestone adds to a long list of career highlights, including 17 Hockomock League titles and two state championships. Ms. Clement-Holbrook has also been selected as Girls Coach of the Year five times by the Massachusetts Basketball Coaches Association and inducted into the Massachusetts State Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

Hired by Easton's Oliver Ames High School after graduating from BSU, Ms. Clement-Holbrook taught physical education and, later, science. She began coaching her first year, and by her second year, became girls basketball head coach. She retired in 2011, but still teaches part time and has no plans to quit coaching.

One of her former players, Bridgett Casey, has been BSU's womens basketball coach for 20 years. She said Ms. Clement-Holbrook has been a big part of her life. "She was my coach, a mentor, and is now my peer and truly a great friend. I can always go to her if I have questions, or just to bounce things off her. Laney's someone special – a true pioneer in the sport of womens basketball," said Ms. Casey, who added she's proud to lead the team at her former coach's alma mater.

Ms. Clement-Holbrook said she is just one of many female BSU graduates who became successful coaches, including her friend and former roommate, Barbara Stevens, '76, the longtime womens basketball head coach at Bentley University.

For Ms. Clement-Holbrook, the accolades keep coming. By season's end, she'd notched her 645th career win and was named HockomockSports.com girls basketball coach of the year. Meanwhile, the OAHS girls basketball team had a great post-season run claiming the Hockomock League's Davenport Division title and winning the Division II South Sectional Tournament before losing in the state semifinals.

There's little doubt the coach is already focusing on improving for next season. ■

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

Christina M. Ranieri, '01, to Todd Shafer on November 27, 2015
Renee A. Johnson, '03, to Ryan Walsh on October 31, 2015
Jenna Cetrone, '11, to **Craig Carew**, '14, on May 1, 2015
Alexandra J. Chisholm, '12, G'15, to **Jeffrey B. Hyde**, '14, on October 10, 2015
Erica Scola to **Michael A. Gentili**, '13, on November 12, 2015

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

Caroline T. Feindel, '35, on April 8, 2016	Paul F. Callahan, '63, on March 24, 2016
Phyllis Roberts, '37, on December 28, 2015	Frederick Golembewski, G'66, on January 9, 2016
Miriam Thomas Hill, '39, on January 9, 2016	John E. Grant, '66, G'70, on March 13, 2016
Margaret Wall Reed, '40, on January 19, 2016	Louise St. Amand Banks, '68, on April 8, 2016
Eileen Rowe Condikey, '41, on January 9, 2016	Penelope Girard Patenaude, '69, G'79, on December 19, 2015
Mary Sullivan O'Reilly, '45, on March 18, 2016	Winifred L. Frongillo, G'72, on January 19, 2016
Mary Ellison Harrington, '46, G'54, on February 21, 2016	John A. Celani, '74, on December 14, 2015
Grace Sweeney Gorman, '46, G'52, on March 22, 2016	George A. McKenna III, '76, on February 7, 2016
Phyllis Schneider Smith, '49, on December 3, 2015	Jean Jones MacDonald, '76, on March 20, 2016
James A. Flanagan, '49, on March 30, 2016	Mary Geran Hayes-DeLucia, '80, on January 9, 2016
Richard Morin, '52, on January 21, 2016	Michael Pillarella, G'85, on March 15, 2016
Marian Murphy LeBlanc, '52, on February 14, 2016	Christopher L. Oliveira, '91, on January 20, 2016
George W. Cahill, '53, on February 13, 2016	Mary J. Padgett, G'93, on February 25, 2016
Donald L. Wormwood, '54, on February 26, 2016	Henry B. Gustafson, G'93, on March 7, 2016
Patricia St. John Hackett, '55, on March 14, 2016	Valerie White Murrill, '95, on December 29, 2015
Robert M. Ponte, '55, on March 27, 2016	Theresa Mathews Bryan, '95, on January 9, 2016
Albert J. Vachon Jr., G'58, on March 6, 2016	Sara E. Tucker, '95, on January 14, 2016
Genevieve Roberts Lamoureux, '59, G'84, on February 13, 2016	Jacquelynne A. Beard, '96, on March 31, 2016
John J. Connors, '59, G'61, on March 5, 2016	Mark Rose, '97, on March 3, 2016
Rozaline Camacho Sisson, '60, G'65, on February 26, 2016	Gerard F. Cusick Jr., '99, on March 31, 2016
Louis A. Tessier, G'61, on January 31, 2016	Joyce Gilmartin, G'01, on February 19, 2016
Clara H. Crosson, G'61, on February 14, 2016	Diane E. Stanchina, '03, on April 3, 2016
Joseph J. Powers, '62, on February 7, 2016	John E. Merry Jr., '11, on March 15, 2016
Paul J. Nicoletti, G'62, on February 10, 2016	

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 or mail to Davis Alumni Center, Bridgewater State University, Bridgewater, MA 02325.


PartingShot



Bridgewater State University's 175th academic year ended under a beautiful blue sky as nearly 2,100 undergraduate degrees were awarded to the Class of 2016. While we will miss these men and women in our classrooms, we're happy to welcome them to our alumni ranks, which now number nearly 60,000.

Congratulations BSU Class of 2016!

photo by John Winters, G'11



"I know what it is like to come from nothing and have dreams of everything. I come from a background of homelessness. When I graduate I plan to work with victims of sexual assault and open my own transition house for women and children. My goal in life is to help people become the best they can be, because at any moment in life the tables could turn. In my moment of need, you were there. Thank you for the financial support you have given to help me continue to pursue my dreams."

Chantele Cabrera, '16,
Criminal Justice

When you give to
the Annual Fund,

You change lives.

Your donation will provide financial assistance to hard-working and deserving BSU students, **like Chantele**, struggling to find a balance between work and school. Your gift today has the power to change a life. **Thank you!**

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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/summer2016 to view a digital, interactive version of this issue of *Bridgewater*.



WELCOME HOME

Homecoming and Family Day

Saturday • October 15, 2016

Bridgewater State University invites alumni and BSU families to Homecoming and Family Day.

For a complete schedule of events and registration information visit bridgew.edu/homecomingfamilyday.

Save The Date!

OCTOBER

15

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