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INSIDE: The Bridgewater Alumni Association celebrates its 175th anniversary

Bridgewater

SUMMER 2017



Making a difference

At BSU, student success means inspiring and educating people of all ages, at home and abroad

StudentSpotlight



ADAM COSTA, '17, will be heading to Manchester, England, in the fall to spend a year continuing his research into youth violence-reduction programs as a U.S. Fulbright Scholar.

Adam, who graduated in May as a Commonwealth Honors Student with a degree in political science and a concentration in public administration, will use the Fulbright award to earn a Taught Master's degree in Politics at the University of Manchester and continue the comparative research he started with his honors thesis at BSU.

"It's a dream come true," the Rochester resident said. "I've been waiting so long to find out, and this is the greatest honor I have received while studying at BSU."

Adam interned with The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars as well as at the Massachusetts State Democratic Delegation at the 2016 Democratic National Convention. He also interned with the Massachusetts Department of Correction and, last fall, in the Boston office of Senator Elizabeth Warren.

Recently, we caught up with Adam to ask about his future plans.

Where do you see yourself in a few years?

I would like to focus on legislation. Legislation reaches millions of people, and it is crucial to understand how different people interact within the law. My dream is to one day have a seat at the table where my research will be able to make a positive difference.

What did you learn by working in Senator Warren's office?

I found out I like talking with constituents. I learned that political discussion is the great equalizer; anyone can contact their representative or senator, and their staff will get back to you. This internship proved one thing to be true, "all politics is local."

What is it that makes you want to help others?

In the recession that began in 2008, my dad was laid off and my mother became the primary earner. We had a stable household, but we were in limbo where we didn't know what was going to happen. I was 14 at the time. A few years later in high school, I had the chance to go to Massachusetts Boys State, with a sponsorship from former Boston City Councilor Larry DiCara. He inspired me to go in this direction. I knew when I started college that I wanted to help people by affecting change on the local level.

How did you come upon your research topic of youth violence reduction?

The topic formed while interning with the Massachusetts Department of Correction over summer 2016. I witnessed how everything's connected to policy. That's one thing I've taken away from college: One change on the local level can have a multiplying effect for thousands of families.

What's your view of national politics today?

I believe you can't be cynical and/or disenfranchise yourself. If you do, you're not getting your voice out there. Everyone should get involved, at least locally, to be a part of our democratic process.

*Interview by John Winters, G'11
Photo by Ezechiaste Pompilus, '19*



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Kelly DeAndrade, '17, a student-teacher, works with a student at Brockton's Huntington Elementary School.

photo by Widmaer Fleuransaint, '18

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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/.

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Keep up with BSU on social media.



Dear Friends,

Student success is the measure of all that we do here at Bridgewater State University. It guides the decisions that we make and defines the outcomes we strive to achieve. No matter what form student success takes, it all begins with the types of opportunities to which students have access.

Whether it's helping students find their passion, develop the skills and knowledge for a chosen career, or prepare to be thoughtful, well-rounded and contributing citizens, we're confident the students of today and tomorrow will find the means to reach their goals here at BSU.

The university aspires to be a national leader in removing barriers to academic achievement, providing the necessary support to help each and every student grow and succeed, and eliminating any and all achievement gaps among different groups of students. BSU seeks to build upon its nationally ranked undergraduate research program, to bolster learning opportunities beyond the classroom, including expanding the paid internship program, which affords students vital career opportunities while helping regional employers meet their need for talent.

None of this happens by accident, which is one of the primary reasons why two years ago we embarked on an inclusive, campus-wide strategic-planning process. The plan's goals are simple but ambitious: to deepen the Bridgewater State University experience for students; forge an extraordinary teaching and learning environment; expand the university's role as a center of regional intellectual, economic and cultural engagement; and advance social justice.

We are making strides toward realizing each of these goals:

- In the spring semester, BSU had 358 full-time faculty members – the most in our history;
- Each year, more than 1,700 students participate in undergraduate research, and about 450 have paid internships;
- Last year, 20,000 K-12 students, their teachers and members of the community attended science programs on our campus, and nearly 15,000 enjoyed our productions of *Beauty and the Beast* and *Mary Poppins*;
- The university awarded nearly 2,500 degrees and certificates at our May commencement ceremonies.

While working hard to accomplish our goals, we can never lose sight of BSU's motto, "Not to be ministered unto, but to minister." This issue of *Bridgewater* magazine focuses on the many ways in which this institution lives up to its creed. In these pages you'll read about the university's outreach efforts in local K-12 schools, a program that brings to campus graduate students from Belize, an undergraduate research project that enabled an immigrant student from Honduras to present his work in Washington, D.C., BSU's five-year-old partnership with Red Cloud Indian School on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, the initial steps of the Pedro Pires Institute for Cape Verdean Studies, as well as stories about the Bridgewater Alumni Association's 175th anniversary and the two boards critical to all that happens on campus: the Trustees and the Foundation.

Each tells an important part of the story that makes this university such a special place.

I think you can see why it's an exciting time in the robust 177-year history of Bridgewater State University. Guided by a clear vision and path forward, I am confident that the members of the larger university community, including our alumni, can meet the challenges of a changing higher education landscape while marching toward the more perfect realization of our calling to minister wherever a need shall exist.

With warmest regards,



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





President Frederick Clark Jr. shares a laugh with Mandela Fellows (from left) Biruh Gemeda Gage and Maria Celeste Monteiro Fortes, and BSU student Claudio Eshun, '19.



Dr. Sabrina Gentlewarrior, vice president for student success and diversity (left), and Shelly Keniston, associate director of residence life and housing (fourth from left), enjoy dinner with Mandela Fellows (from left) Maria Monteiro Fortes, Quina Lima Fernandes Sequeira Bragança, Chisomo Grace Febbie Kaufulu and Fareeda Serwaa Brobbey.

Mandela Fellows return to campus

Twenty-five of Africa's brightest emerging public-management leaders spent part of the summer at BSU for a six-week academic and leadership institute.

This is the second consecutive year Bridgewater State University was selected by the U.S. Department of State as a partner with the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, which is the flagship program of the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI). The program empowers leaders from Sub-Saharan Africa through academic coursework,

leadership training, mentoring and networking opportunities.

This year, 1,000 fellows participated in 40 institutes offered by 38 colleges and universities across the United States. Approximately 64,000 applications for the program were received from all 46 Sub-Saharan nations.

The fellowship, which began in 2014, has engaged 2,000 young leaders – women, men and individuals with disabilities – from both rural and urban areas in every country in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Each participating institution has an area of specialty: BSU's is public management. Other schools focus on business and entrepreneurship, or civic leadership.

At a welcome dinner, President Frederick Clark Jr. addressed the visitors. "I encourage you to do your best to change the world, starting with your local community," he said. The president reminded the fellows of something Horace Mann said, "Education is the great equalizer."

"Education does matter, both here and in your home country," the president said. ■

Plymouth Philharmonic to perform campus benefit concert

The Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra, under the direction of Steven Karidoyanes (right), will perform a family-friendly concert in October to benefit BSU's Martin Richard Institute for Social Justice.

The program, titled *Inspiration, Hope and Joy*, has been selected specifically for this occasion to celebrate the richness and joy of community. The concert will include the BSU Wind Ensemble, directed by Dr. Donald Running, and BSU Family Performing Arts Center members Dr. Colleen Rua, artistic director, and Lisa Troy, producing artistic director. Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey will narrate music from Aaron Copland's *Lincoln Portrait* as part of the performance.

The concert will be held Sunday, October 1, at 3 PM in the Rondileau Campus Center Auditorium (RCC). Tickets are available through www.BSUTix.com and at the BSU box office in the RCC lobby.

The Institute for Social Justice is named for Martin Richard, the youngest victim of the Boston Marathon tragedy. His parents are BSU alumni who met as undergraduates. Members of the Richard family, who are deeply involved in the work of the institute, plan to attend the concert. ■



New partnerships help attract and retain students

Bristol and Massasoit Community Colleges have joined forces with Bridgewater State University to offer local students guaranteed dual-admission. The program will debut this fall for targeted undergraduate programs.

Through the initiatives – known as BCC2BSU and MCC2BSU – applicants to Bridgewater State University can be granted a conditional admission, as opposed to a traditional rejection, should they enroll at either BCC or MCC and participate in the program. Students do not have to re-apply to BSU after earning their associate degree.

Each year, approximately 350 MCC students and 300 BCC students come to BSU to attain their bachelor's degrees. Students in the programs will now have access to resources on both campuses, which will create a smooth pathway for their transition.

Another new initiative is 100 Males to College. The goal of the program,



Your Degree Connection



Your Degree Connection

grade low-income and/or male students of color whose grades indicate that with a small amount of additional support they would likely complete high school and enroll in college.

BSU and MCC will train peer college mentors to work with these young men in guiding them and impressing upon them the importance of higher education. The program will also provide

E-transcripts available at BSU

Obtaining or sending copies of your BSU transcript can now be done with a few clicks, thanks to a new program initiated by the Registrar's Office and Information Technology.

Previously, students and alumni had to submit a transcript request in writing, make a payment online (or in the Student Accounts Office), and bring a copy of the receipt to the Registrar's Office. Then, in five to seven days, the transcript would arrive in the mail.

The new system allows users to handle the entire transaction online and for half the cost. Registrar Joseph Wolk compares the experience to shopping at Amazon.

"In the times we live in, I think there's an expectation that things can be done instantly," he said. "This provides the kind of service our students and alumni expect and deserve." He added that as of July 1, the state's Office of Educator Licensure only accepts e-transcripts, making the new service even more timely.

Current students can access the new system via InfoBear (click "Student," then "Student Records," then "Order Official Transcript"). Former students can simply log on to www.bridgew.edu/transcript. Within a half hour of requesting a transcript, a PDF of it will be sent to the email address of the desired third party, be it another school or prospective employer. Users are notified when their request has been received, when the transcript has been emailed and when it has been accessed by the recipient.

The system is always available, and the cost of an electronically delivered transcript is \$7.50, or \$15 to have a hard copy sent. Users can also log in and check on the status of any transcript request they've placed, as well as order copies of their transcript for themselves.

The e-transcript system features the top digital security available for electronic files. "E-transcripts are just as official, and even safer," Mr. Wolk said. ■



Brockton High School students enrolled in the 100 Males to College program came together in June for a presentation by President Frederick Clark Jr.

which is funded by a grant from the office of Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker, is to prepare young men from the Greater Brockton area to succeed in school.

Cross-divisional teams at Bridgewater State University and Massasoit Community College are launching the program in conjunction with Brockton High School and Southeastern Regional Vocational Technical High School. Administrators at the two schools will identify 100 promising 10th and 11th

college and career planning and financial aid literacy to help the students navigate college admissions, along with other skills classes to help them with their future education. The 100 males will take dual-enrollment classes and engage in other college experiences.

Dr. Sabrina Gentlewarrior, vice president for student success and diversity, said the program fills an important need. "This type of work is key to closing the achievement gap, and Bridgewater is excited to be part of this initiative." ■

'You are the inspiration'

Nearly 2,600 diplomas were awarded at this year's commencement ceremonies. Most went to graduates receiving bachelor's degrees in the arts, sciences, business and education during Bridgewater State University's 176th spring commencement convocation, held May 13 on the Boyden Quadrangle.

When it came time for President Frederick Clark Jr. to give his official remarks, the graduates were expecting him to provide words of uplift and advice. Instead, he threw the graduates a curveball. "You are the inspiration here today," he said.

Meanwhile, two nights earlier, approximately 450 students received their degrees and certificates of advanced graduate study at BSU's 12th graduate commencement convocation. President Clark shared inspiring stories about a handful of the graduates during the ceremony, also held on the Quadrangle.

"This is the first year in our history that we've had the graduate commencement outdoors because we wanted to make sure all of our families and friends could be here," President Clark said. ■



Moakley Foundation funds internships

Thanks to a donation of \$125,000 from the John Joseph Moakley Charitable Foundation, Bridgewater State University will be home to a second endowed paid internship.

President Frederick Clark Jr. made the announcement during June's Leadership Celebration. The president also spoke about the late congressman, with whom he worked for 18 years. "He put people first ... And Joe Moakley's values are Bridgewater State University's values as well," President Clark said.

The first paid internship to be endowed at Bridgewater State University was by the family of late faculty member Dr. Guy C. Clifford of the Department of Political Science. ■

◀ **Congressman John Joseph Moakley (left) with President Clark in 1998**



Class acts

College of Education and Allied Studies program makes outreach its mission

BY JOHN WINTERS, G'11

THE ONLY ONES HAVING MORE FUN THAN PROFESSOR DANIEL CHASE on this rainy afternoon at Brockton's Mary E. Baker Elementary School were the five fifth graders hanging on his every word. Dr. Chase, from the Department of Movement Arts, Health Promotion and Leisure Studies (MAHPLS), had an assignment for the youngsters, the fun of it belying its serious intent.

Above, (from left) learning how to use cameras provided by Dr. Daniel Chase for his afterschool program at Brockton's Mary E. Baker Elementary School, fifth graders Isabella Alves, Isabella Ho, Jayline Mendes and Enasia Council, take a group selfie.

On the facing page, the students' teacher, Tiffany Easter, '16, helps Brandon Torres with his camera, while Dr. Chase reviews Jayline Mendes' photos.

The students were to take home cameras Dr. Chase had given them and photograph things that were good for them. The resulting images, Dr. Chase hoped, would be of things like celery and seatbelts. The following week, they'd be asked to take photos of things that are bad for them. Dr. Chase would then print the images so the students could discuss and write about why they chose to shoot what they did.

The youngsters quickly grasped the idea, and, before long, were bopping around the classroom practicing with their cameras.

"I think it's really good because people can take a photo of something healthy, and they'll be inspired to eat healthy and not junk food," said 11-year-old Isabella Ho.

Acquiring healthy habits is more complicated than that, but the project, dubbed Photo Voice, is a step in the right direction. Dr. Chase got involved with the Baker School after Dr. Lisa Battaglini, '79, dean of the College of Education and Allied Studies, invited him to a meeting and asked if he had any ideas he could bring to local elementary classrooms. He did. Now, a few times a week during the school year, he is off campus and working with youngsters at two area schools to provide extracurricular lessons.

Dr. Chase is not alone. BSU faculty and administrators from across many disciplines can be found at any one of up to a dozen local K-12 schools. The College of Education and Allied Studies makes sure of this. Through a program known as the Professional Development School Partnership, the needs and wish lists of local schools are addressed and taken up. In return, BSU faculty and education majors get to spend time in local schools learning what they need to know to stay on top of what's going on inside today's classrooms.

PARTNERSHIPS

Collaborators with the College of Education and Allied Studies in its Professional Development School Partnership program include:

BROCKTON

Huntington Elementary School
Edgar B. Davis K-8 Community School
Mary E. Baker Elementary School
East Middle School
Oscar F. Raymond Elementary School
Brockton High School

EAST BRIDGEWATER

Central Elementary School

NEW BEDFORD

Carlos Pacheco Elementary School

SANDWICH

The Hundred Acre School

TAUNTON

James L. Mulcahey Elementary School

REGION

Southeastern Regional Vocational Technical High School,
South Easton



It begins here

It's a Wednesday morning in early April at the Southeastern Regional Vocational Technical High School, and a handful of administrators from both the high school and Bridgewater State University are gathered around a table. The air smells of coffee from the main office next door, and all around are smiles and friendly banter, but the focus quickly turns to a list of projects and proposals.

It is here, and in meetings like this held monthly during the academic year with roughly 10 other schools across the region over the past five years, that a program of collaboration and professional development has taken shape. These are reciprocal relationships, where the schools benefit from BSU's expertise in a number of disciplines, and, in return, the university gains opportunities for its students and faculty.

"It's totally unique and really awesome," Dean Battaglini said. "We've always had student teaching, but we wanted it to be more meaningful."

Each meeting is scheduled for an hour, and those around the table adhere to a to-do list. New topics are discussed, followups and progress reports on older projects are given, and a plan of attack is created to accomplish all items on the list. Recent meetings at the schools have focused on obtaining shared grants, developing afterschool programs and needed workshops, visits to the schools by BSU faculty, "embedded" classes, the creation of a schedule of shared events, and much more. Sometimes the school takes the lead; sometimes BSU does. "We figure out what they need and what we need," Dean Battaglini said.

Through the professional development meetings, a playground equipment donation has been facilitated, gardens built, scientist of the month visits are held on a regular basis, and much more.

At the Southeastern Regional meeting, educators from the school and university discussed development of specialized curriculum built around Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) rules for vocational teachers, the possibility of an embedded math class for next year and a potential visit by the university's giant inflatable globe, known as EarthView. Representing BSU at the meetings,



Southeastern Regional Vocational Technical High School students (from left) James Foye and Dylan Cook operate a robot. BSU faculty and administrators work with local educators to stay up to date with what's going on in the classroom, particularly cutting-edge developments like this.

in addition to the dean, was Associate Administrative Dean Mary Ann McKinnon, G'91, who specializes in licensure issues, and Dr. Jo Hoffman, an associate dean who has spent decades preparing future teachers.

The needs of local schools that emerge from these monthly meetings provide the marching orders for the subsequent month and beyond. That's when BSU faculty and administrators get busy. "It is not teaching from the ivory tower," said Dean Battaglini.

An education trailblazer

BY JOHN LAIDLER

Growing up in Brockton, Dr. Claire Appling, '54, G'57, knew she wanted to be a teacher. That inspiration sparked a career that continues today, more than six decades later.

From 1954 until her retirement in 2006, Dr. Appling was a teacher and administrator in the Brockton public schools, including 30 years as a housemaster at the high school. Now well into "retirement," she still works as a substitute teacher for the Brockton school district and parochial schools.

"I just enjoy being with the children. There's nothing more satisfying than seeing a child

learn something and get excited about it," said Dr. Appling, who received both a bachelor's degree in education with concentrations in history and geography, and an MEd from Bridgewater State. She later earned a PhD in administration and supervision from Boston College.

Her service to the schools and extensive civic involvement have made the lifelong Brockton resident a fixture in the city. She has also been an active alumna and donor, crediting the university with playing a vital role in launching her career and those of so many others.



Double duty

The Huntington Elementary School was built in 1896. A brick-and-stone structure, it sits on Warren Avenue in the heart of Brockton, flanked by one-way roads in a residential neighborhood. BSU has a long history of working with the administrators, teachers and students at the school, and on a recent Wednesday morning, the place was teeming with Bears.

In room B21, the fourth grade class of Yolanda Fonseca, a pair of BSU students helped implement a two-day literacy lesson involving bison. In nearby classrooms, similar scenes were taking place. Afterward, the student-teachers met in a conference room next to the school's library with their professor, Dr. Jennifer Manak, associate professor of elementary and early childhood education, to discuss the morning's sessions. She called her students up in pairs, asking them about their classes and what questions they have for her. The students seek advice on a variety of topics, such as how to lead a class discussion with fourth graders or how to command an elementary classroom. The BSU students also get feedback from the Huntington School teachers.

The process – doing then discussing – works well, Dr. Manak said. “It’s a great mix of theory and practice.”

The program is perhaps best described as an embedded class. It’s not a student-teaching assignment per se, but part of a regular BSU class that’s simply held inside a local elementary school. The BSU students also have to write about teaching at the Huntington School and reflect on their time in the classroom. The upshot is that students feel better prepared when they get jobs and have to step into their own classrooms.

“Other schools don’t do this, and their students don’t feel as prepared,” said Amanda Flanagan, ’17, of Dartmouth. “This gets you really, really prepared.”

Her classmate, Sara Angelo, ’17, of Woburn, said she’d first had experience as a substitute teacher and found it a touch nerve wracking. “Now I feel much more comfortable,” she said.

Dr. Appling began her career in education by teaching for eight years at Brockton’s West Junior High School, then she transferred to Brockton High School. In 1969, she was named one of four housemasters at the high school, becoming one of just a few female school administrators in Massachusetts at the time. “It was a challenge,” said Dr. Appling, of her trailblazing role, but it was eased by working as part of a team with the other housemasters in what was then a new position. From 1999 until her retirement, she was director of health education for the school district.

“There is not a better career than education,” she reflected, “because of the effect you have on people’s lives, your ability to be a role model and motivate young people.” ■



Melissa Baumgartner, '18, helps a student in Brockton's Huntington Elementary School with her classwork.



Dr. Jennifer Manak of the Department of Elementary and Early Childhood Education talks with BSU student-teachers about their classroom experiences.



BSU student-teachers Devin Belden, '17, and Allison Bromberg, '17, compare notes about their day at Huntington Elementary School.



STEM time

Meanwhile, back on the second floor of Huntington Elementary School this same morning, Dr. Jennie Aizenman, director of BSU's Center for the Advancement of STEM Education, was busy as the scientist of the month, a regular feature that brings a BSU administrator or faculty member into the classroom to discuss a particular topic.

"Scientists do a lot of things," Dr. Aizenman told the eager-looking class of third graders, before asking them the question of the day: "What are germs?" Projected on a screen behind her were pictures of real germs (magnified 10 million times), as well as a few cartoon versions with faces.

During the same class, Dr. Aizenman sprayed a substance called Glo Germ on the students' gloved hands. Using an ultraviolet light, the "germs" became visible, even after the students had washed their hands and even more so after they shook hands with someone. The moral? Germs are hard to kill.

"The general goals of my presentation were to give students a broader understanding of what scientists do, and that men and women of diverse backgrounds can be scientists," Dr. Aizenman said.

Dr. Jennie Aizenman, director of BSU's Center for the Advancement of STEM Education (top, left), teaches a class at Huntington Elementary School in Brockton in April as the scientist of the month. Her presentation included spraying students' gloved hands with Glo Germ, which under ultraviolet light shows students how prevalent germs are.

'Amazing'

Two years ago, while meeting with Dean Battaglino, Professor Daniel Chase discussed the Photo Voice project, and also mentioned a program he'd initiated as a graduate student at the University of Northern Colorado. The latter program has morphed into something he calls the After-school Leadership Program, and he implements it each week at the Carlos Pacheco Elementary School in New Bedford.

A mix of experiential activities and teaching strategies developed by Project Adventure and a responsibility-based teaching model developed by Don Hellison at the University of Illinois-Chicago, the program allows underprivileged children to explore their leadership potential. It's not a mentoring program, but more a way to provide a safe environment in which participating students can be motivated to learn and accept both personal and social responsibility.

The program involves outdoor activities, field trips that are both fun and educational, and an ample showering of attention. Professor Chase, along with Dr. Jennifer Mead, a fellow MAHPLS assistant professor, has taken the dozen or so Pacheco School students to hike in North Dartmouth and to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield. The youngsters are given surveys about their strengths, and the two BSU faculty members use this information to build upon. A component of the program includes having the students talk and write about their experiences.

"I would say the biggest thing is the students begin to see what it means to belong to a team," Dr. Chase said. "It's a way to make them feel like they're a part of something bigger than themselves."

Twice a week for 16 weeks he spends time with the students. Part of what draws him to this important work is his own experiences; he recalls when he was in their shoes.

"I remember when I was in seventh grade. It was such a hard time," Dr. Chase said. "I mean if I had a program like this, I would have adjusted to high school better. It would have been amazing."

More to learn

Back at the April meeting at Southeastern Regional Vocational Technical High School, Dean Battaglino and her team worked through the long list of needs, updated those in progress and scheduled new initiatives. These monthly meetings are the core of the College of Education and Allied Studies' professional development program, which provides crucial connectivity to local schools where graduates will soon work. Meanwhile, in-service teachers at these schools help BSU faculty and administrators keep pace with the ever-changing nature of K-12 education.

Dean Battaglino said these reciprocal relationships are key to the work of the college's administrators and faculty. "This is the epitome of what we do," she said.■



Dr. Daniel Chase of the Department of Movement Arts, Health Promotion and Leisure Studies plays basketball on campus with students from the Carlos Pacheco Elementary School in New Bedford who are taking part in the Afterschool Leadership Program, led by Dr. Chase and his colleague Dr. Jennifer Mead.



**Pedro Pires Institute for
Cape Verdean Studies
announces fundraising
campaign, new initiatives**

Understanding a culture

BY EVA T. GAFFNEY, G'01

JUST THREE YEARS into its development as the preeminent academic resource on the history and culture of the Republic of Cabo Verde and its diaspora across the globe, the Pedro Pires Institute for Cape Verdean Studies at Bridgewater State University has reached a number of significant milestones.

The institute's main events, such as a two-week Summer Leadership Program for professionals from Cape Verde, have become must-do occasions; its primary research projects are garnering international, national and regional attention; and its collection of research materials continues to grow and flourish.

The foundation of the Pedro Pires Institute for Cape Verdean Studies, named after the nation's legendary first prime minister, has been built. And it is solid, as the institute, through fundraising initiatives led by the Bridgewater State University Foundation, moves toward financial self-sustainability.

Since the campaign launch at a historic inaugural gala last December, which featured all the leaders of Cape Verde in its 42-year history as an independent island country off the coast of West Africa, the Pedro Pires Institute is nearly a third of the way to reaching a \$2 million goal.

Dr. Joao J. Rosa, executive director of the institute, credits "a tremendous amount of collaboration" for its early success. "So many people are working to make the institute successful," he said. "Everyone needs to be congratulated."

Academic and social engagement with Cape Verde and Cape Verdean experiences are at the heart of the institute's mission. Dr. Rosa said he has always envisioned the institute "forging paths that allow for creating, sharing and disseminating knowledge of the history and the culture of Cape Verde through a rigorous engagement with scholarship."

Toward that end, the Pedro Pires Institute has completed two exhaustive scholarly projects – one focused on recording oral histories, the other a documentary about genres of Cape Verdean music – and is launching a third project on cultural festivals.

The music project enlisted the help of musical artists, producers, composers and promoters largely from two of Cape Verde's 10 islands – Santiago, the nation's

A fireside chat (above) hosted by the Pedro Pires Institute for Cape Verdean Studies in December 2016 brought together current and former leaders of the island country with the BSU community. Taking part are (from left) Dr. Joao J. Rosa, executive director of the institute; Carlos Veiga, former prime minister; Pedro Pires, former prime minister and president, and namesake of the institute; and José Marie Neves, former prime minister.

largest island, where its capital, Praia, is located; and Sao Vicente, one of the nation's six windward islands.

Citing a lack of material about the range of music created in the island country, the Pedro Pires Institute "wanted to produce a pedagogical instrument to teach students about the genres of Cape Verdean music," said Dr. Rosa. The two-year project includes interviews as well as musical sessions. It was screened last spring at the Atlantic Music Expo in Cape Verde, an international music festival.

The documentary, which was subtitled in English, Portuguese, German and French, was also submitted to a variety of film festivals prior to its release online in April.

The oral history project involved interviewing elders to preserve the legacy of the Cape Verdean community. "People who want to connect to their roots can do that," said Dr. Rosa. "We need to capture that legacy."

This year, the institute embarked on its cultural festivals project, which is studying unique festivals on four different Cape Verdean islands and their impact on the people who live there. "Projects in which I'm engaging are designed to build the comprehensive look at both what Cape Verdean culture means to life here and in the diaspora," said Dr. Rosa.

Summer months are busy for the institute with its academic conference at BSU. The institute receives submissions from faculty at universities in Portugal, France, Italy, Israel, Cape Verde and the United States.

hone their leadership skills. Dr. Rosa and colleagues deliver courses and content during a morning lecture, followed by afternoon site visits and conclude each day with an inspirational speech in the evening.

The Pedro Pires Institute has also acquired the extensive collection of renowned Cape Verdean scholar Dr. Richard Lobban upon his retirement from Rhode Island College and continues to receive material donations from the community, in addition to financial support.



Gil Moreira is one of several musicians appearing in a documentary produced by the institute about genres of Cape Verdean music.

On campus, Dr. Rosa's goal is to offer an interdisciplinary concentration or minor in Cape Verdean Studies to BSU students.

The institute has hosted a number of speaker programs. For example, in collaboration with the university's Dr. Edward W. Minnock Center for International Engagement, U.S. Ambassador to Cape Verde Donald Helfin met members of the region's Cape Verdean business community who are interested in establishing businesses on the islands.

"People understand the role that the Pedro Pires Institute for Cape Verdean Studies can play, and they continue to be very supportive," Dr. Rosa said. "It's been very good." ■



Artist Fatima Fidalgo stands alongside her work on display at an event marking the launch of the institute in December 2016.

Presentations on subjects ranging from immigration to nationalism and transnationalism are made as several hundred individuals discuss major issues concerning the horseshoe-shaped archipelago and its citizens who live across the globe. Massachusetts has one of the largest Cape Verdean populations in the world.

A two-week Summer Leadership Program on campus has been designed for 10 to 15 professionals from Cape Verde from private, public and nonprofit/philanthropic sectors to

Telma E. Soares, G'17, works on a project for the institute. She also assisted with production of the music documentary.



Belize to BSU and back

Graduate students from the Central American country study here, then return home to educate others

BY CHARLIE PETERS

Odelia Caliz always remembers her father's advice of not looking at the mountains surrounding her childhood home in a small village in Belize, but to always seek what was beyond them.

That thought has stood her in good stead over the years, especially when she began teaching students not much younger than herself. Understandably, she saw education as a mountain with steep slopes. But nothing could prevent the then 19-year-old from wanting to see that view from the top. "Luckily, I connected with the students," said Odelia. "It seemed where I was meant to be."

Two decades later, Odelia has once again luckily connected with Belizean students – only this time, Bridgewater State University is where she was meant to be.

Despite growing up in a poverty-stricken village so destitute that Coca-Cola chilled in a river qualified as a memorably generous Christmas gift, the lifelong learner always dreamed of studying at a top-notch American university. That dream became a reality in fall 2016 when Odelia – now a senior education officer for Belize's Ministry of Education – arrived on campus, thanks to a BSU program specifically created to enhance Belizean educators' contributions in their native country.

"I'm here for a reason, and Bridgewater will always be a part of my experience," said Odelia, who, along with fellow Belizeans Paul Noralez and Luis Ramos, is pursuing a Master of Education in Pre K-12 Education for Educators in non-U.S. settings. "This program has really made its mark and made my childhood dream come true."

On the front steps of Boyden Hall are (from left) Claudette Williams, Paul Noralez, Luis Ramos, Odelia Caliz and Linsdale Graham.





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"Bridgewater State University has always had a strong commitment to the region and its students, but we have also long recognized that we have an obligation to prepare students to be global citizens, to think of life beyond our immediate borders. That is our ethos."

— Dr. Karim Ismaili, acting provost and vice president for academic affairs

Also from Belize, Linsdale Graham and Claudette Williams lived on campus this past year while they worked toward earning a nonlicensure graduate degree in mental health counseling for international educators. Both the teaching and counseling programs are offered at BSU through a partnership between the University of Belize and the Belize Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. The rigorous tuition- and fee-free program requires the Belizeans to earn 15 credits per semester in a variety of classes. Upon graduating, they are expected to provide substantial contributions back home to the Ministry of Education's educational system as policymakers or educators.



Dr. Christy Lyons Graham of the College of Education and Allied Studies founded the Mental Health Counseling International Nonlicensure Program, which provides training for educators in Belize.

"Bridgewater State University has always had a strong commitment to the region and its students, but we have also long recognized that we have an obligation to prepare students to be global citizens, to think of life beyond our immediate borders. That is our ethos," said Dr. Karim Ismaili, acting provost and vice president for academic affairs. Added Dr. Roopa Rawjee, former director of international student and scholar services at the university's Dr. Edward W. Minnock Center for International Engagement, "For educators, and especially counselors, there was a need in Belize – and Bridgewater is filling that need."

Without a counselor training program in the country of Belize, Professor Christy Lyons Graham founded the Mental Health Counseling International Nonlicensure Program with the intent of creating a ripple effect.



"Our program is a train-the-trainer model," said Dr. Graham of the College of Education and Allied Studies, who went on to call the partnership of Bridgewater, Belize and its students a "win-win-win."

The bond between BSU and Belize was created decades ago when renowned wildlife biologist and television host Jeff Corwin, '92, worked with the International Zoological Association in the diverse Central American country, and subsequent service trips began to be conducted frequently. More than 10 years ago, Bridgewater State administrators, faculty and students began traveling to the country to help build schools and volunteer in other ways. Today, an undergraduate exchange program is held each fall, and BSU students participate in service-learning trips to Belize.

But BSU's involvement in Belizean education – spearheaded by Dr. Lisa Battaglini, '79, dean of the College of Education and Allied Studies – became re-energized when the university and Belize's Ministry of Education signed a joint agreement in 2013.

From Paul Noralez's perspective as a student at BSU, the agreement has more than delivered on his lofty expectations. "I wrote a paper recently on the value of the human experience and what makes us human. There are three things that every human wants: to feel valued, respected and appreciated," said Paul, who has created a home-away-from-home with Belizean cookouts for the group on Sundays. "Those are also the three things I've felt here at Bridgewater. No matter what you say, it is valued. No matter what you do, you are respected. And no matter who you are, you are appreciated."

To get a sense of how crucial the BSU experience can be to a nation's education, consider the sacrifices made by the Belizean students. Two of them left young daughters back home with family, while all have scores of students they

deeply miss. And yes, the weather: The group traded sunny 75-degree beach days for New England winters, of which a reminder is met with a unanimous and perfectly harmonized groan.

But in the cheerful re-telling of building snowmen or feeling snowflakes for the first time, these teachers-turned-travelers prove they are optimists at heart.

That positive mentality will be useful upon re-entry into classrooms in Belize, as they expect a bumpy road toward progress. But they will begin planting seeds of change after spending countless hours cultivating resources, raking over research papers and observing the growth patterns of local schools.

For example, watching teachers collaborate digitally in real-time at Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School validated Luis Ramos' dream of developing a pioneering national educational database for the Ministry of Education.

"It's a big thing, but we want to start small," said the technology-focused educator who hopes to shift traditional computer curriculum away from simply repairing machines and toward full classroom integration. "Eventually, we'll all have the tools to get it done."

The tools can be a bit of a sticking point, as many schools in poverty-stricken communities in Belize are often bereft of technology, access or a significant educational budget. So for the time being, the educators will become improvisers. Paul brings his personal laptop and projector to school each day, while Luis will try to get his math courses into the computer lab.

Meanwhile, there are rare places in Belize where resources are not a problem, such as the island of San Pedro, which derives economic stability from a vibrant tourism economy. But there, educators can often encounter other maddening situations.

"We've been shown how to teach great ideas like digital storytelling; it's not hard to do, and we see it work," said Odelia, whose next dream is to become the Ministry of Education's top administrator. "But we do it for three or four days. Nobody continues to monitor it, and then we go back to the same old traditional models of teaching."

So how do educators go about making change? First, by being honest with themselves about their career objectives, and then finding a crew to work toward shared goals. At a BSU graduate student forum held this past spring, Paul heard an alumnus describe how best to affect change if



BSU has a long history of lending a hand and building bonds with the children of Belize at St. John's Anglican School. Enjoying their time with young students at the school are (top) Dr. Lisa Battaglini, '79, dean of the College of Education and Allied Studies; (middle, from left) Julia White, '15, and Leah Thompson, '17; (bottom, from left) Andrew Rodrigues, '18, and Justin Clark, '14.

your job didn't give you the freedom to fix issues: You need to resign in search of a more empowering position.

"That was a harsh reality for me, but I knew I needed to move out of the classroom," said Paul, a career teacher who has since been motivated to seek out a doctoral program in organizational leadership and conflict resolution. "I do not want my light to be diminished, and I want to use my energy to help shape how others in Belize view education. I have learned that I have to have people alongside me who also believe, and I have those people here with me at Bridgewater who can help me keep my light on."

Linsdale Graham, who works with hundreds of students each year back in Belize as a counselor, said the American educational system of inclusion and support may not be

BSU's involvement with Belize – specifically the training of native students who then return home to become professional educators – mirrors the institution's relationship with Japan from 140 years ago. Shuji Isawa, class of 1877 at what was then Bridgewater State Normal School, after graduating returned to his native Japan where he is considered the father of teacher education.

"I think the connections we make are a huge part of what is hidden in Bridgewater's motivation. Yes, we are doing good. But in doing good, we are also learning something and gaining a global experience right here at Bridgewater," said Dr. Rawjee. "Whether it's Belizeans, Cape Verdeans or any other international student speaking about their home as a person who lives and breathes the experience – not

We asked four of BSU's Belizean graduate students to sum up their time at Bridgewater State University in a single word and to explain their selections.

POSITIVITY. We take it for granted, but positivity is so important in a classroom. If a teacher tells students they are doing amazing work, the students really feel like they are doing something important. *Paul Noralez*

REFLECTION. This is what the courses here have given me. As teachers, you know how important reflection is, and here at Bridgewater, they encourage you to look at what you're doing as an educator and reflect on how to make yourself better. *Odelia Caliz*

GROWTH. Both professionally and personally, Bridgewater has been a place for me to grow. I feel I'm better prepared to be an advocate for teachers and students. *Linsdale Graham*

HUMANITY. School shouldn't be so hard; having students fail is harsh. As a student in Belize, I often felt that the teacher wanted us to fail and wouldn't give us second chances. Here, you can get a second chance, and teachers can show their human sides. *Luis Ramos*

directly transferrable to his school. However, the Belize City native steadfastly believes that he can be an agent of change.

"One of the main things we'll take away is the importance of advocating – not just for teachers, but on behalf of students and inclusion," he said. "Teachers are provided support, while students get material resources to reach their potential. The reality is that we won't often have the resources to designate an entire class to special education students, so what we'll do is inform ourselves to make the class more accessible, and then we'll inform and train others."

That ripple effect is essential as Belize aims to build its educational model nationwide. But at BSU, administrators have been thrilled with the stimulation caused by the fusion of learners from two decidedly different backgrounds.

just what's on the news – it provides a dialogue and a perspective to the rest of the class. There is always something transferrable in the learning process."

For the next batch of Belizean mold-breakers and test-takers set to arrive at Bridgewater State University in the fall, former exchange student Rashid Murillo, '12, said they should ready themselves for a learning process unlike any other.

"Be prepared to work hard; here at Bridgewater, the professors expect nothing but the best. I can say that firsthand," said Mr. Murillo. "But the rewards are amazing afterwards, and the sleepless nights will be worth it. Prepare to work hard, and prepare to shine."

Just like the rising sun, revealing everything that lies beyond even the steepest mountain climb. ■

More alike than different

While a BSU student, Sarah Freudenberg, '13, G'14, developed a classroom program for special-needs students in Belize

THE SUNNY BEACHES brought Sarah Freudenberg to Belize, but it was something she couldn't see that kept her there.

Seeking a teaching opportunity on a learning trip during her senior year, Ms. Freudenberg said the Belizean beaches were a tie-breaker over other worthy destinations. But after just six weeks working in a primary school, she noticed something missing from her inclusion placement program: students who needed inclusion.

"I got there and said, 'Where are all the special-needs children?'" she recalled, then recounted how she was told many Belizeans believed their children's disabilities were a curse from God for sinning – or that special-needs children did not exist at all. "Those beliefs kept many, many children home," she said.

After returning from her brief trip, Ms. Freudenberg couldn't shake the image of those students desperately in need of an education and felt emboldened by her BSU professors with international experience, such as Dr. Robert Sylvester. So she decided to do more than just look for an opportunity – she created one.

Still a college student finishing up her master's degree in special education as part of a dual-license program, Ms. Freudenberg, who earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education and history, began pitching the idea of opening special education classrooms to Belizean schools.

"A person from one school said, 'We have a boy that we think has autism. He sits in the main office every day, and we try to teach him, but he mostly just sits on my lap while I type,'" said Ms. Freudenberg, "Then they said, 'We have been looking for someone who can help.'"

Three months after earning her master's degree – and one day after finishing teaching a summer school class in the Boston public school system – Ms. Freudenberg became a special education teacher in another country.

In the coming years, she earned the title of director and oversaw the education of students with disabilities running the gamut from attention deficit disorder, spina bifida, Down syndrome and hydrocephalus, among others.

That Ms. Freudenberg was able to grow the program from one student to 12 in two years is a monumental accomplishment considering how special-needs children are often viewed in Belize.

The parents of a student with cerebral palsy told Ms. Freudenberg that minutes after the girl's birth, their obstetrician suggested that they "would be better off leaving her behind" because she's "floppy and probably not going to live long."

Undaunted, Ms. Freudenberg pushed to change the culture, sometimes just one home at a time.



Sarah Freudenberg, '13, G'14, and one of her students in Belize smile for the camera.

"At one point, we went door-to-door and actually looked for special-needs children," she said. "To be officially diagnosed, they would have had to go out of the country, but we knew they were there."

Once she got inside the homes, Ms. Freudenberg became part of the families who, deep down, knew their children needed help. Their gratitude showed daily, whether it was by offering Ms. Freudenberg a ride home or inviting her to stay for dinner. "It's so tight-knit that you just become part of these families," she said. "This wasn't easy at all, but it had such a huge impact for the families."

Speaking of families, Ms. Freudenberg spent the most recent school year teaching in Fall River because she had started her own. But after giving birth to a baby boy in February, Ms. Freudenberg said her plan remains to head back to Belize for another year of Camp Starfish. The educational summer program she created, which now includes a group of volunteers from BSU, offers arts and crafts, swimming lessons, movement exercises and music lessons.

But the best part doesn't come until the end of the summer. That's when the children with special needs take to the streets and parade through the communities that used to hide them inside.

"Our biggest legacy is that parade," said Ms. Freudenberg, who added she might look into opening a school one day. "The kids love it, and our theme is, 'We are more alike than different.'"

Even though she's made her mark already, she isn't done yet. "They're going to primary school, but my next focus is how we are getting them to high school," said Ms. Freudenberg. "That's the next bridge to cross."■

**BSU and Red Cloud Indian School
mark five years of collaboration**

An enduring partnership

BY JOHN WINTERS, G'11

IT WAS THE FALL OF 2011, and then-President Dana Mohler-Faria was watching television when a show titled *A Hidden America: Children of the Plains* came on. It dealt with the Pine Ridge reservation, located in the southwest corner of South Dakota. Dr. Mohler-Faria was familiar with the area, having been stationed many years earlier at Ellsworth Air Force Base, less than two hours to the north.

The former president was struck by what he was hearing. The reservation, roughly the size of Connecticut, was home to a population of Oglala Lakota, nearly 50 percent of whom lived below the poverty line, amidst an unemployment rate that topped 65 percent.

The stories about the children hit even harder. Youngsters crammed with more than a dozen relatives into tiny government housing, a boy whose only hope of feeding his extended family depended on how much powwow prize money he could win, kids living among alcoholism and lost chances, and a college senior who became pregnant, thus jeopardizing the future she once dreamed of.



A bridge to Red Cloud

Last summer, nine students from Red Cloud Indian School had an audience with President Frederick Clark Jr.

They were at BSU to participate in the Bridge Program, which brings to campus inner-city youth from Brockton, New Bedford and Boston. In 2015, the program was expanded to include groups of students from Red Cloud.

Through the Bridge Program, the visiting students spent two weeks participating in classroom instruction, as well as activities that were both fun and educational.

President Clark welcomed the students to his office and told them about himself and his family. Then he asked if they'd enjoyed their time at BSU. They did, albeit after overcoming a bit of homesickness.

Dr. Mohler-Faria had seen enough. The next day, he contacted the show's host, Diane Sawyer, and asked to meet with her. Shortly after, he drove to New York to discuss the situation with the famed news anchor. They were joined by representatives from Red Cloud Indian School, one of the largest schools on the Pine Ridge reservation.

That discussion spurred a trip, led by then-Executive Vice President for External Affairs Frederick Clark Jr., to the reservation itself. Thus were the seeds planted for a partnership that flourishes to this day, and includes BSU students and alumni working and teaching at Red Cloud, as well as an exchange program.

The relationship has benefited all involved, Dr. Mohler-Faria said. "It's given our students an opportunity to be engaged in an educational environment with students who are dealing with substantial issues," he said. "It also fits nicely with Bridgewater's commitment to social justice."

President Clark has continued and expanded BSU's ties to Red Cloud, an expression of his commitment to the partnership.



"I liked it a lot," said Jennifer Red Shirt. "I got to relax and meet a lot of people. Plus there were a lot of activities. Everything was really fun here. I'll probably apply here."

During his talk with the students, the president asked how many were planning to go to college after graduating from Red Cloud. Every young hand went up.

Impressed by the response, President Clark told them, "Our objective is we hope you apply somewhere. If you decide to come to Bridgewater, that's great for us."

Accompanying the students was Dr. Joyce Rain Anderson of the Department of English, who has played an integral role in the BSU-Red Cloud partnership, along with BSU students, past and present, who had volunteered at the school.

As the Red Cloud students were leaving the president's office, one young lady was overheard saying, "I don't want to go home." It seemed to be a sentiment shared by many of her peers.■

Joining President Frederick Clark Jr. are (facing page, seated, from left) Taylor Charging Crow, Alicia Maria Muñoz and Elizabeth Richards. In the middle row are (from left) President Clark; Jillian Smith, '15; Stephanie Kills Back; Jennifer Red Shirt; Malia Fallis; Kimberly Felix; and Lanise Miranda Alves. In the back row are (from left) Morgan Two-Bulls, Dr. Joyce Rain Anderson and Talia Slow Bear.



BSU faculty and students, including Dr. Ben Carson of the Department of English (second from left), take part in handgames at Red Cloud's afterschool program.



BSU faculty, including Dr. Patricia Emmons of the College of Education and Allied Studies (standing), visit Red Cloud Indian School annually to conduct professional development workshops for the school's teachers.



Morgan Two-Bulls (right) sings alongside Wampanoag and Narragansett men at the Wampanoag Homesite at Plimoth Plantation during his visit to BSU in 2016. One of the goals of the student program is to connect East Coast and plains cultures.



Learning about local culture helps inform the volunteer experience for BSU students. Above, Maka Akan Najin Clifford, volunteer coordinator for Red Cloud Indian School, talks to BSU students about the local cemetery.

"Having the opportunity for this institution and our students to engage with Red Cloud students provides a higher level of awareness about the social justice needs across the region and across the country," he said. "At the same time, just as we've been trying to do in Cambodia and Belize, we have the obligation to build capacity, in this case educational capacity, to transform the lives of others."

Following that first visit to Pine Ridge, Dr. Mohler-Faria enlisted the help of faculty and administrators to put in place a plan to engage with the school on an ongoing basis. One of those he called upon was Dr. Joyce Rain Anderson of the Department of English. She has Wampanoag ancestry on her maternal side and is active in Native American issues.

"My biggest concern when we first started was that so many people go there after seeing something on television, and they want to help, but it's always 'one and done,'" she said. "It makes people feel good, but it doesn't do much for the people there."

When Dr. Anderson learned how committed BSU was, she gladly helped and has remained actively involved with the project.

Dr. Joyce Rain Anderson:

Recently the Conference on College Composition and Communication recognized a book co-edited by Dr. Joyce Rain Anderson (right) with an honorable mention award.

The book, *Survivance, Sovereignty, and Story: Teaching American Indian Rhetorics*, published by Utah State University Press in 2015, includes more than a dozen essays from various writers regarding the teaching of indigenous North American rhetorical and literary texts, along with related material on each work's associated culture and context. The collection includes a chapter by Dr. Anderson titled, "Remapping Colonial Territories: Bringing Local Native Knowledge into the Classroom." Her contribution was honored by BSU's Class of 1950 with its 2017 Distinguished Faculty Research Award.

But what exactly does Dr. Anderson mean by rhetorics? It's an expansive view of literacy that features more than just the spoken or written word. In the case of Native American studies, it includes "texts and a variety of crafts like pottery and baskets that, in and of themselves as objects, tell stories or carry stories," she said.

The roots of her work in this area date to the mid-1990s, when she presented at the conference's annual event and put the focus on underrepresented groups of learners. Soon after, Dr. Anderson and some colleagues formed the American Indian Caucus, a group that had few members at first but that has grown tremendously in the intervening

What soon followed were exchange trips between the university and Red Cloud officials, along with discussions as to how BSU could help with teacher preparation and evaluation. Dr. Mohler-Faria also tapped Valentina Merdanian, director of institutional relations at Red Cloud, to appear on campus as part of his Distinguished Speaker Series. A member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe and a lifelong resident of Pine Ridge, Ms. Merdanian introduced members of the extended BSU community to her school. "We are a small miracle with what we do each day," she said.

Indeed, Red Cloud is a Lakota/Jesuit school and the only private institution on the reservation. It serves Oglala Lakota Native American children. It actually comprises three schools on the Red Cloud campus in Pine Ridge and a K-8 school nearby, which together host more than 600 K-12 students. These schools graduate nearly 100 percent of the student body annually, and many go on to earn higher degrees. In her moving lecture at BSU, Ms. Merdanian said, "We offer not just an education of the mind, but of the heart, as well." She added that the students of Red Cloud envision more than just a career after graduation: "They don't just see school as a door of opportunity for

themselves, but as a way to help their families, communities and tribes. It becomes our responsibility to make that dream become possible."

Melissa Batty, '18, an English major with minors in anthropology and U.S. ethnic and indigenous studies, thought she knew a lot about Native American culture. Then she took a spring break trip to the Pine Ridge reservation, where she said she learned a great deal, adding, "It truly changed my life."

Her primary takeaway was that the students of Red Cloud weren't that much different from her. "I felt a deep connection to the students, and I was honored how they embraced my cohorts and me while we were there," said the New Bedford resident. "I never once felt like an outsider."

The Red Cloud students were thinking about college, using social media and talking about music and movies. "The difference I felt was in how mature they are," Melissa said. "I definitely left a piece of my heart with the students at Red Cloud." She added that she plans to return to the reservation school as a volunteer teacher after graduating from BSU.

Talking the talk

years. Since then, the conference has featured an expanding number of Native American-related workshops and presentations. The book Dr. Anderson edited grew out of these experiences.

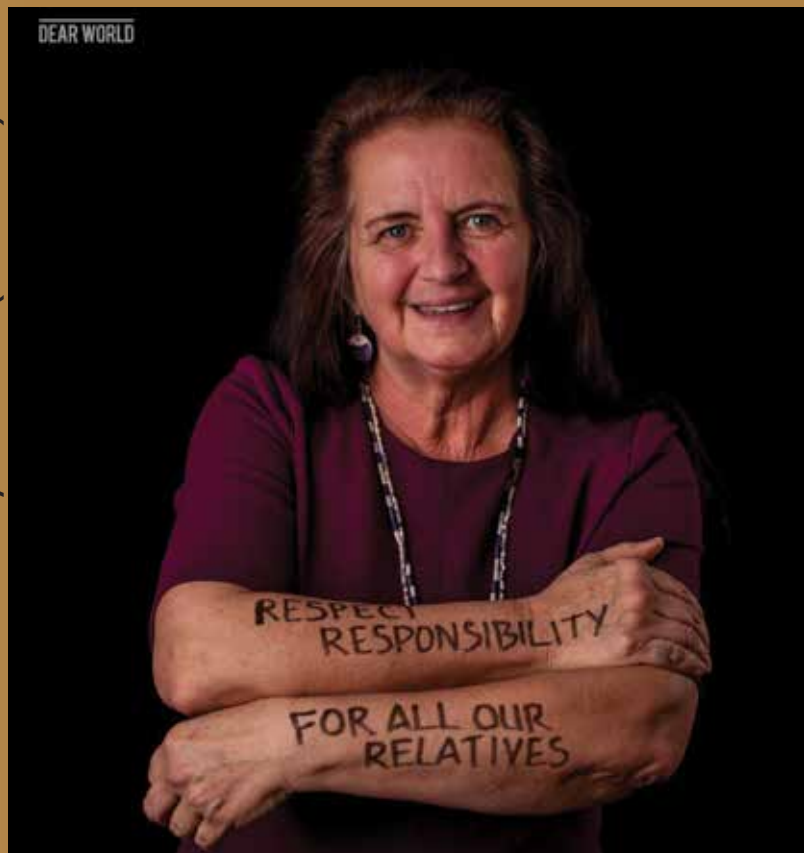
Dr. Anderson's involvement in BSU's Red Cloud partnership is a natural outgrowth of her work in this field. It was part of the reason she earned BSU's 2015 Presidential Fellowship. (Two years earlier, she was presented with the President's Award for Diversity and Social Justice.) Her overall mission is to ensure that Native American history and culture are not only taught in the classroom but also done with accuracy.

"My message to educators is that they can create classrooms that do this ethically with an understanding that you don't just teach these stereotypes about Native people, but in a way that's inclusive of Native people," she said.

She practices what she preaches in BSU's classrooms. On campus she has planted a three-sisters garden, a staple of local Native settlements; has her students map local indigenous sites; makes traditional cornhusk dolls; and teaches students about the lives and history of Native Americans, past and present.

"There's so much rich indigenous history that is often overlooked," Dr. Anderson said. "So we have to think about the richness we can bring into the classroom, based on the continuous presence of native peoples."■

Photo of Dr. Anderson courtesy of Dear World (dearworld.me)





"I felt a deep connection to the students, and I was honored how they embraced my cohorts and me while we were there ... I definitely left a piece of my heart with the students at Red Cloud."

—Melissa Batty, '18 (holding a dreamcatcher, one of several handcrafted items she purchased from native American artisans)

Over the past five years, BSU's involvement with Red Cloud Indian School has grown. Other faculty members, including Dr. Ben Carson, a colleague of Dr. Anderson's in the Department of English, have spent time at the school providing professional development for full-time teachers. Each of the past three years during spring break, BSU students have traveled to the reservation where they spend a week working at Red Cloud and learning about Native American culture. Alumni have volunteered to teach for a year at the school, and, most recently, students from Red Cloud began visiting campus each summer to take part in the Bridge Program, where for two weeks they are immersed in the college experience, from the classroom to the dorm room, and take part in visits to local attractions, including those connected to Native American history.

In just five short years, BSU's connection to Red Cloud Indian School has become a cornerstone of the institution's social justice commitment.

"I was proud of this partnership from the start and remain even more so today," President Clark said. ■

Teaching at Red Cloud

Jillian Smith, '15, first visited Red Cloud Indian School during her senior year on a spring break trip. She immediately felt a connection. "I was sure I wanted to volunteer to teach there," she said.

Ms. Smith was captured by the stained glass of the church, the decorative quilts that hung on the walls, the abundance of medicine wheels and crucifixes, the smell in the air of burning sage and most importantly, the welcoming environment of the school itself. "In the classrooms I visited, I heard students tease their teachers and call them by their first names, but not in a disrespectful way," she said. "It was apparent that they had built a friendly and respectful rapport."

The following year, Ms. Smith found herself working in those classrooms as a volunteer. She is one of a handful of recent BSU graduates to do this. The opportunity fit her like a glove.

"It was easy to relate to the students," she said. "Last year, the cross-country coach let me run with the team during practices, and the ninth-grade Lakota teacher generously allowed me to sit in on his class, so I was able to hang out with and learn alongside my students. It changed the student-teacher dynamic when I could talk with them about strategies to study for upcoming tests that I, too, would be taking, rather than evaluating." As a Red Cloud volunteer, Ms. Smith also drove a bus, bringing students to local athletic competitions. "I enjoyed getting to know my students more holistically outside of our student and teacher roles," she said.

BSU alumni have been making a difference at Red Cloud, which is why each year Maka Akan Najin Clifford sets up shop in a meeting room in Tillinghast Hall. As the volunteer coordinator for Red Cloud, he visits campus looking for graduating education majors interested in gaining the special kind of experience that only teaching at a Native American school can provide.

"I'm looking for people who are first and foremost interested in the field of education, have a spirit of service, and are willing to challenge themselves and leave their comfort zone," Mr. Clifford said. It's not for everyone, he's quick to add. "There is a culture shock that comes with entering an Indian reservation, to learn and grow and be faced with certain elements of life there," he said.

Following in Ms. Smith's footsteps was 2016 graduate and Easton resident Abby Wotton. As her commencement was approaching, she began considering her options, and one of them was something that wasn't initially on her radar.

"I'm looking for teaching experience," Ms. Wotton said, adding that she was open to something less traditional. She said she's in the position where she can afford to



volunteer her time. "One of the nice things about having gone to Bridgewater is I'm not buried in student debt, so I don't have to immediately go to work next year," she said.

The BSU-Red Cloud connection is important for everyone involved. "This partnership has been so fruitful for us, and we want it to grow," Mr. Clifford said. "We want more Bridgewater people out there." Red Cloud seeks to bring in up to two dozen volunteer educators per year. "The volunteer program is so vitally important in expanding our students' world-view," Mr. Clifford said.

The volunteers get much from the experience. Some return year after year.

Ultimately, Ms. Smith spent a year teaching at Red Cloud, before taking a job as an instructional coach five miles down the road at Wolf Creek School, which serves students from kindergarten through eighth grade. She works alongside the school's teachers to refine learning targets for lessons, help them deliver high-quality instruction and assess students' progress to increase achievement. She also spends time working with Wolf Creek's principal to design professional development for the teachers.

It seems Ms. Smith has found her calling. "What I like about teaching on the reservation is how much I learn every day that I'm here," she said. "I work with dedicated educators who have a wealth of knowledge about local history, local families and the needs of the students we serve. It's an honor to work with the next generation of Lakota leaders and to be part of their journey." ■



"I'm looking for people who are first and foremost interested in the field of education, have a spirit of service, and are willing to challenge themselves and leave their comfort zone."

—Maka Akan Najin Clifford, volunteer coordinator for Red Cloud (above left) meets with Abby Wotton, '16, during one of his annual visits to BSU seeking education majors to teach in Red Cloud classrooms.

Two who took up the offer are Jillian Smith, '15, (top, left) and Abby Wotton (top, right), pictured here teaching in a Red Cloud classroom.

Chasing the American dream – all the way to Bridgewater

Melvin Caballero, '17, tells the story of his fight to get from Honduras to BSU

BY CHARLIE PETERS

DRUNKEN OUTLAWS aimed guns at his head, and federal officers bloodied his face. A mighty river pulled him under before an unforgiving and vast desert nearly starved him. And yet, Melvin Caballero never stopped chasing his American dream.

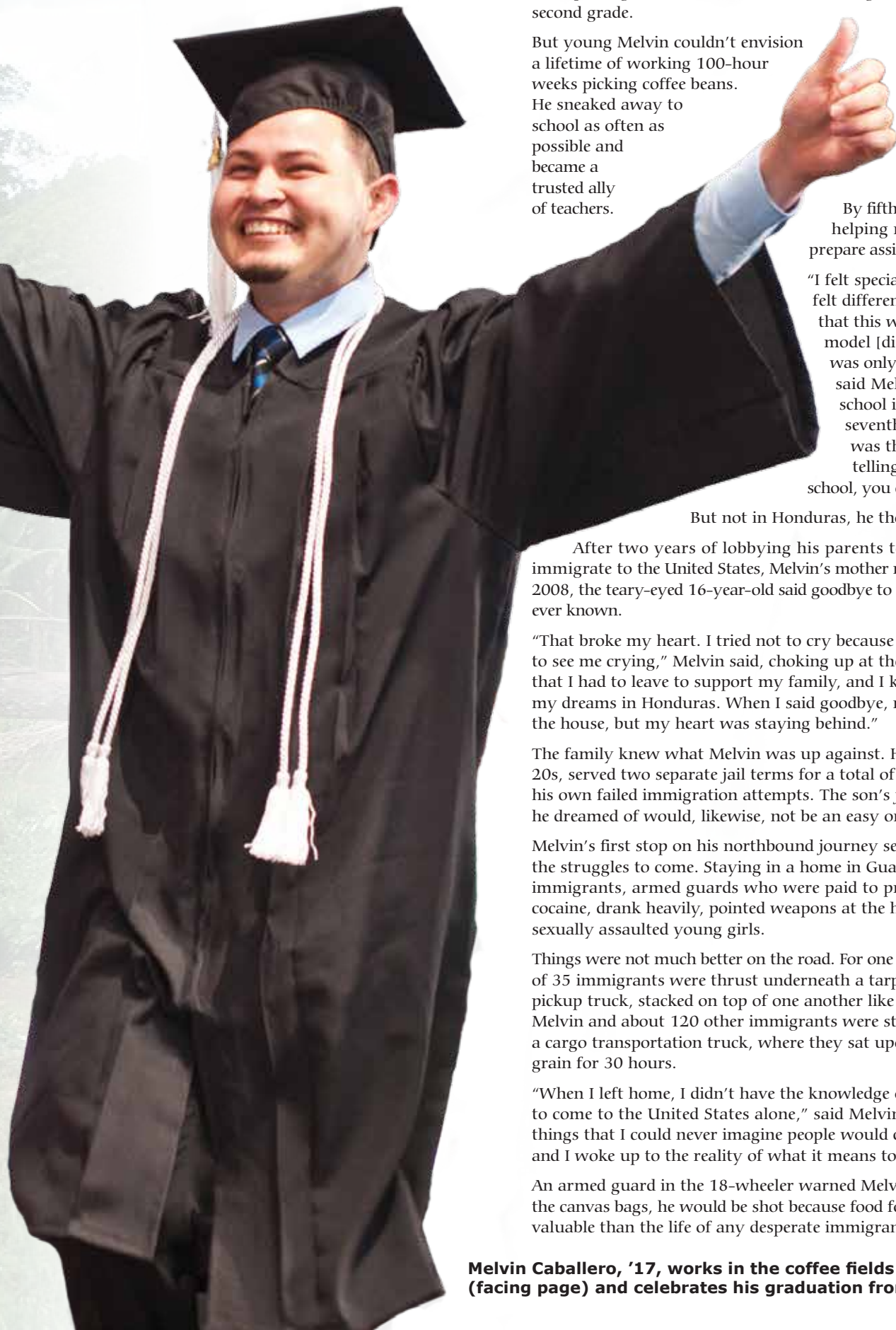
On a mission from a sweltering Honduran coffee farm to the marble steps of the United States Capitol, the Bridgewater State University alumnus has been locked up by the nation for the audacity of his immigration attempt and later lauded by its leaders for the tenacity to never stop trying.

Nearly a decade after illegally entering the United States – and a year after becoming a legal citizen – Melvin began to tell his story through academic research, hoping to play some part in shifting the immigration narrative.

“Many people in our schools and communities see it on the news from the perspective that immigrants are taking control, taking jobs and need to go back,” said Melvin, a Spanish major who minored in history and Latin American and Caribbean studies, graduating in May. “I came to the U.S. to look for an education that I couldn’t have had in Honduras. I earned an opportunity to study, to work and to have a chance at a brighter future – and when I tell my story, I feel that I have been welcomed to their society.”

And at BSU, to the family.

“At a time where so many are living precarious lives due to the increasing marginalization of migrants, immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers, Melvin’s story reminds us of the enduring power of the American idea,” said Acting Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Karim Ismaili. “He is home.”



As one of 11 children in a mountainous Honduran town, instead of being in a classroom, Melvin spent the majority of his childhood on a farm picking coffee beans. Most of his siblings didn't advance beyond second grade.

But young Melvin couldn't envision a lifetime of working 100-hour weeks picking coffee beans. He sneaked away to school as often as possible and became a trusted ally of teachers.

By fifth grade, Melvin was helping revise exams and prepare assignments for his peers.

"I felt special doing that, and I felt different. Right away, I knew that this was a way to break the model [dictating] that success was only earned on the farms," said Melvin, who attended school in Honduras through seventh grade. "In me, there was this thing waking up, telling me, 'If you go to school, you can succeed.'"

But not in Honduras, he thought.

After two years of lobbying his parents to allow him to immigrate to the United States, Melvin's mother relented. On May 5, 2008, the teary-eyed 16-year-old said goodbye to the only world he'd ever known.

"That broke my heart. I tried not to cry because I didn't want Mami to see me crying," Melvin said, choking up at the memory. "But I felt that I had to leave to support my family, and I knew I couldn't reach my dreams in Honduras. When I said goodbye, my body was leaving the house, but my heart was staying behind."

The family knew what Melvin was up against. His father, when in his 20s, served two separate jail terms for a total of eight months due to his own failed immigration attempts. The son's journey to the future he dreamed of would, likewise, not be an easy one.

Melvin's first stop on his northbound journey served as a preview of the struggles to come. Staying in a home in Guatemala with 40 other immigrants, armed guards who were paid to protect them snorted cocaine, drank heavily, pointed weapons at the heads of children and sexually assaulted young girls.

Things were not much better on the road. For one six-hour ride, a group of 35 immigrants were thrust underneath a tarp in the bed of a small pickup truck, stacked on top of one another like sacks of coffee. Later, Melvin and about 120 other immigrants were stuffed into the back of a cargo transportation truck, where they sat upon bagged animal grain for 30 hours.

"When I left home, I didn't have the knowledge of the risk of trying to come to the United States alone," said Melvin. "I started to see things that I could never imagine people would do to other people, and I woke up to the reality of what it means to be an immigrant."

An armed guard in the 18-wheeler warned Melvin if he defecated on the canvas bags, he would be shot because food for the cattle was more valuable than the life of any desperate immigrant.

Melvin Caballero, '17, works in the coffee fields in his native Honduras (facing page) and celebrates his graduation from BSU in May (above).



Melvin Caballero stands on the steps of the Supreme Court in May (left), holds his United States citizenship document in May 2016 (center); and works at a local IHOP in April 2016.

"There was no space and no air, and it felt like you were dying, little by little," said Melvin, whose voice faltered several times recounting the desperation of being in that truck. "It is difficult to talk about, because I felt that I was being abused as a human being. I reached a point that I asked God to kill me because I couldn't deal anymore. I couldn't fight anymore."

Mercifully, the doors to his "coffin" eventually swung open. After arriving near the Texas border, Melvin waited out a storm for six days near the Rio Grande River. America waited on the other side.

Stripping naked and placing his clothes in a dry bag so they would not weigh him down, Melvin set out across the river; the current pulled him under, and he fought for his life. He can still remember delivering a panicked prayer as he battled the powerful river and fought for air.

The joy of arriving on American soil would be short-lived. For five days, Melvin's group of immigrants, which included a 75-year-old man and four-year-old boy, crept blindly through the night across the unforgiving Texas desert. "We survived like wild animals," Melvin said. Immigration officers descended upon them on the fifth night, arresting an El Salvadoran girl sleeping on Melvin's lap. He managed to slip away.

After connecting with another group of fellow travelers the following day, Melvin remembers his heart sinking as sirens wailed behind him again. Moments later, he said a border patrol agent punched him in the forehead. Blood poured down his face from a wound visible today as a scar.

"I just started crying because of the blood and because I needed the opportunity," said Melvin. "I needed to escape. I needed to run."

The chase for the American dream started up again, but only for a few hundred yards. Downed by an agent's Taser, Melvin awoke in lockup.

Thirty days into what would be a four-month detention at a U.S. Customs and Border Patrol station in southern Texas, Melvin reluctantly signed a deportation request. But an immigration judge shocked him with the news that a Honduran-American family living near Boston volunteered to sponsor him.

Melvin's next stop was Hyde Park. He moved in with Napoleon and Herminia Escobar and their three children, Rosa, Napoleon Jr. and Cesar, and a bond began to form between the stranger and his saviors.

"I love him so very much, and I feel like he was born from me, like my children," Ms. Escobar said in Spanish, as part of an interview later translated by visiting faculty member Alejandra Peary. "He knows that since he arrived to this home, we've received him as one more son. It was like he came from my own blood."

Meanwhile, Melvin excelled in the classroom as a freshman at Boston International High School in Dorchester, despite learning English while mastering algebra and biology. Four years later, Melvin graduated near the top of his class earning accolades from the school and then-Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino. After sending out a dozen college applications, the responses came in: *We regret to inform you...Unfortunately, we cannot offer you admission...We're certain you will find an institution where you can thrive...*

Every single school turned down the dreamer – all, that is, except Bridgewater State University.

Living on campus his first two years, Melvin built a network of supportive friends, and while in class, he found stimulating challenges and faculty he knew were invested in his success. He also discovered BSU's unique social justice opportunities, such as working with migrant families on service-learning trips to Phoenix, Arizona, and Apopka, Florida.



"Living with those families, I felt a familiar sense of community and sense of love, which encouraged me to want to help more," said Melvin. "Sharing my story with them made me see that I am not alone and that there are more people out there struggling like I did, struggling to become a legal citizen of the United States."

Melvin's struggle ended when he became a citizen on May 3, 2016 – almost eight years to the day he left his childhood home.

Preparing for his senior year at BSU, Melvin decided to chase something new, but with a familiar twist.

Dr. Alba Aragón and her family left their native Nicaragua for the United States when she was just 13 years old, setting her on a path that would lead her to becoming a professor of global languages and literatures – and a faculty mentor for Melvin. Once Dr. Aragón heard Melvin's story, she encouraged him to write a memoir, which caught the attention of BSU's Office of Undergraduate Research.

"Melvin is very courageous to write down and share his story," said Dr. Aragón, who also teaches English at BSU and serves as a coordinator for the Women's and Gender Studies program. "However, as you can glean from the widespread scapegoating and demonization of immigrants and refugees today, finding one's place as a young and gifted Latino or Latina in the United States is not easy. The weight is heavy."

The memoir became the core of a research project funded by an Adrian Tinsley Program summer grant in 2016. For months, Melvin conducted research on unaccompanied minors crossing the United States border from Central America and wove in the account of his own experience.

"Melvin Caballero is an awesome example of the power of undergraduate research," said Dr. Jenny Shanahan, assistant provost for high impact educational practices. "Students are seeing this opportunity to say, 'This is what matters to me, so how do I want to make my mark on the world?' In Melvin's case, a personally lived experience helps him create something that changes the world for the better, and we all now have Melvin's story."

His story was recognized by the National Council on Undergraduate Research, which selected Melvin to present his work in April at its annual Posters on the Hill conference, one of the most prestigious forums for undergraduate research in the country. The invitation allowed Melvin to travel to the nation's capital and show his work to legislators and education policy aides.

"I am a representation of thousands of immigrants who enter the United States without legal documentation," said Melvin, who met with – among others – BSU alumna Natasha Silva, '13, an education specialist legislative aide to Representative Stephen Lynch. "I felt so honored to be in Washington, D.C., and while I was meeting with officials, I felt that every bit of my struggle was worth it."

Upon returning home, Melvin wasn't done telling his story to politicians. Selected as BSU's representative for "29 Who Shine," which honors Massachusetts public higher education students who excel in academics, service and leadership skills, Melvin met Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker at the Statehouse. President Frederick Clark Jr. and Dr. Shanahan were by his side.

The next chapter in Melvin's pursuit for a brighter future has yet to be written. He's leaning towards working in education and attending graduate school, but has not yet settled on a career path.

"This entire journey has taught me to see the person within me: I am a strong person who fights for what I want and who doesn't give up easily. I am a person who can achieve great things, a person who can do more than what I have already done," said Melvin, who married his longtime sweetheart, Osiris Gomez, this summer. "This has taught me to remember my past and what I have come from, and it has taught me to see my future. This journey prepared me to see the greatness I can still achieve."

But the excitement of sharing research with the governor and federal policymakers paled in comparison to the anticipation he felt in meeting a group of VIPs at Logan Airport in Boston in late-April: his family.

Melvin's father, mother and sister boarded a plane for the very first time to come to BSU for his graduation. His typically stoic father, Jose Antonio Caballero, found the trip particularly emotional. As a result of his attempts to enter the United States decades ago, authorities temporarily detained him during a layover in Atlanta because his name was still on a restricted travel list.

"I could never dream that he would be here. It is not easy to be from our country and come to this country," Mr. Caballero said. "I'm very happy that I'm going to be at his graduation; I don't have any words to express myself because I am too emotional."

Two weeks later, a grinning Melvin embraced President Clark on stage during BSU's 176th commencement, then found himself swarmed by members of both his biological Honduran and adopted American families as he left the stage.

His cheeks awash with his own tears and those of his family, Melvin deeply inhaled and exhaled, as if he was catching his breath. The chase, after all, was complete. ■



Chairman of BSU's Board of Trustees Eugene J. Durgin Jr. (left) joins Chairman of the BSU Foundation Thomas Caron, '75, outside East Campus Commons.

At any given moment during the academic year, Bridgewater State University students are studying around the world, engaged in paid internships, volunteering at inner-city schools and sitting in classrooms where everything from the teaching to the technology is top notch.

These opportunities don't materialize by chance. They require planning, strategizing, fundraising and investment management. Most of this important work takes place under the auspices of two volunteer boards: the Bridgewater State University Trustees and the Bridgewater State University Foundation.

Getting it done

**A lot happens at BSU,
and it all starts here**

BY JOHN WINTERS, G'11

"They perform a critical role," President Frederick Clark Jr. said of the trustees. "And I think we've been blessed at Bridgewater with really committed, passionate trustees for as long as I can remember."

The Foundation, he added, has "taken this institution from one having minimal resources to something I'm very proud of."

Nine of the 11 governing board trustees are appointed by the governor to serve five-year terms. The president of the university reports to and is appointed by the trustees. One member of the board is a BSU student, elected each year by his or her peers. An alumni trustee is also nominated by the alumni association and approved by the governor.

Taking student success to heart



BSU VETERANS CENTER:

Supporting President Clark's goal of increasing student success, the Board of Trustees encourages programs such as the Veterans Center, which provides a wide range of assistance for student-veterans.

WITH THE INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT FREDERICK CLARK JR., the concept of student success has proliferated across campus. There's even an office bearing that name, dedicated to making sure every student achieves at the highest level possible.

The student success mantra has also infiltrated the Board of Trustees. Its members have taken the notion to heart as a guiding principle for the work they do. "While student success has long been the hallmark of the university, a number of initiatives prioritized by President Clark have begun to focus on the many components that contribute to student success leading to the achievement of a Bridgewater degree and how the path to that degree may diverge widely with individual students," said Chairman Eugene J. Durgin Jr. "The Board of Trustees has been enthusiastic in working with the president and senior staff to implement a variety of plans and programs to put in place an ever-broadening support system for all students, helping to more intently define an individual's path to their goals or eliminating hurdles that may impede them."

He cited several key initiatives that speak to the importance of helping BSU students succeed, including the Veterans Center and the president's new Retention Grant Program, which offers students in good standing and very close to graduation small but critical stipends that allow them to continue when unexpected hurdles arise, such as health issues, family situations or financial pressures.

"The Board of Trustees has every confidence that this deepening and multi-dimensional emphasis on student success will ensure that each student who comes through Bridgewater's doors will be given every possible opportunity to achieve their degree and beyond," Chairman Durgin said. ■

Michael Siegel, '96, director of military and veteran student services (above left), meets with student-veteran staff Adrian Young, '17, (center) and Cory Ahonen, a graduate assistant.

The trustees not only have fiduciary responsibility for the university but also review and approve most academic and business matters, including setting student fees and approving the annual budget.

The trustees meet five times each year. Much of the work is done in subcommittees, of which there are six: executive; academic and student affairs; budget, finance and facilities; university advancement; external affairs; and audit. These

subcommittees convene prior to each full board meeting to consider and report policy and action recommendations to the full board.

Board of Trustees Chairman Eugene J. Durgin Jr. has been around long enough to see BSU evolve in its enrollment numbers, program offerings and accessibility, and much of that came through the work of the board he now leads. "We are not the same school we were," he said. "Today,

Bridgewater is the flagship of the state university system. When I began it was Salem. There's so much more esteem and value attached to Bridgewater State now. This is the theme we have to get into people's minds."

In short: "It's not your uncle's Bridgewater. Your degree is so much more valued now," the chairman said.

The BSU Foundation dates to 1986. A nonprofit organization, its members are charged with raising and managing private donations, and investing the funds responsibly. They have varying sets of professional skills and collectively provide specialized legal, business and financial management expertise to the Foundation's operation for the betterment of the university. Nearly every single dollar raised is used to support BSU students.

"I see the Foundation as an arm of the trustees – independent – but we serve the same needs," said Chairman Thomas Caron. "Our ultimate goal is to get people to be interested in being involved with or giving to BSU," he said.

BSU has been having a good run as of late. The campus has grown exponentially, the endowment stands at more than \$35 million, and 25 percent of the students enrolled in the state university system attend BSU. The institution is ninth in the United States in closing achievement gaps; graduate accounting students at BSU have among the highest percentage passing rate on all parts of the CPA exam among all Massachusetts colleges and universities, public or private; the university is recognized as the number-one supplier of the state's math and science teachers; and it has been chosen for two years in a row to host the Young African Leaders Initiative, a program of the U.S. State Department started by President Barack Obama that brings to campus roughly two-dozen future leaders from across the continent for six weeks of intensive training on everything from the U.S. government to trade and economic policies.

While these achievements aren't directly the work of the trustees or Foundation, both boards have created the circumstances and provided the framework and funding to make them a reality.

The work of the Foundation can be seen in the university's paid internship program, of which President Frederick Clark Jr. is a big proponent. In fact, he has set a goal of funding 1,000 of these internships each year.

He has also asked the board to grow the endowment over the next decade. "The fundraising has been impactful, but it needs to be more impactful, so we need to build upon the great level of philanthropy that now exists," President Clark said.

Meanwhile, the trustees are working on a variety of issues, including enrollment matters, campus safety, data security and strategic planning.

A new challenge that has presented itself in recent years is one that many institutions of higher education are dealing with – a dip in the number of traditional college-aged individuals. The way to do that is to spread the word about the opportunities inherent in a BSU education.

"One thing we continue to do is emphasize the value of a Bridgewater education," Mr. Durgin said. "Your degree is worth much more than it was 30 years ago."

Mr. Caron reflected upon the same issue. "What is it that brings students here?" he said. "The experience is what they come here for. Also, we are a university that graduates leaders. I tell students, 'Every one of you is going to lead something. Why? Because that's what BSU does, we graduate people who lead.'"

Finding ways to spread the word about the plethora of opportunities available at BSU is part of the mission of both boards.

The fact that the trustees and the Foundation are volunteer driven aligns well with the institution's commitment to service and social justice. They lead by example and ask other members of the BSU community – staff, faculty and alumni – to do their part.

"We need new blood," Mr. Caron said, adding that he's hoping others will step forward to serve on the Foundation, the Bridgewater Alumni Association or other BSU organizations.

"Everyone can play a part in the growth, the achievements and how we are viewed both nationally and regionally," Mr. Caron said.

Giving back sends the clearest message about the value of a BSU education, Mr. Durgin said. "It lets people know that this university has worked for you." ■

To support the programs featured in this story, visit www.give.bridgew.edu.

Supporting students in need



LORENZ MARCELLUS, '17:

Once homeless, Lorenz received a full scholarship to BSU thanks to the Bridgewater Scholars program, funded by the Foundation.

LORENZ MARCELLUS was happy to know the Bridgewater State University Foundation had his back. The communication studies major found himself homeless during his senior year of high school. But with the help of the Bridgewater Scholars program, one of many initiatives funded by the BSU Foundation, in May the Haiti native was able to cross the stage during spring commencement.

"It will be really great," the 23-year-old said last spring, thinking ahead to graduation. "It will feel good just knowing where I came from."

Indeed, the college-educated young man is a long way from where he'd been just a few years before. Bridgewater Scholars, which offers homeless students with solid academic and community service backgrounds a full scholarship to attend BSU, was instrumental in helping Lorenz realize his dreams.

Since the program's launch in 2011, there have been 13 Bridgewater Scholars, five of whom have graduated. Dr. Michele Wakin, who teaches in the Department of Sociology and is director of BSU's Center for Urban Poverty, conceived of and developed the program under the leadership of President Emeritus Dana Mohler-Faria. The president's office continues to support the program, and Bridgewater Scholars admits two new students each year.

Lorenz can tell stories of being a teen and finding himself crammed into a local homeless shelter with older men. Instead of cowering, he took it in stride. Through it all, he got up every morning and made it to Brockton High School. He also learned about empathy. "I know I was humble before, but that experience really opened my eyes and made me more sensitive toward other people," he said.

Eventually, Lorenz graduated high school and made his way to Massasoit Community College, before being accepted as part of the Bridgewater Scholars program and attending BSU, where he buckled down and became a model student. Coming from where he did, Lorenz said he was intent on preparing himself for whatever the future held. "I wasn't just there for the grade, but to learn and get the skills I need for after college," he said.

Bridgewater Scholars is just one program the Foundation supports. The board also provides funds for paid internships, financial aid and undergraduate research, to name just a few. ■

Bridgewater Alumni Association:

175 years strong

BY KAREN A. BOOTH

Our story begins when a small, but determined band of pioneers joined together to carry out a great experiment – normalizing the education of teachers. And the rest, as they say, is history. Bridgewater Normal School (BNS) in 1840 and Bridgewater State University (BSU) in 2017 are one and the same – the same mission, the same culture and, importantly, the same alumni association, which marked its 175th anniversary in August, just two years after the university celebrated its 175th anniversary.

The first convention of Bridgewater Normal School alumni, 1842

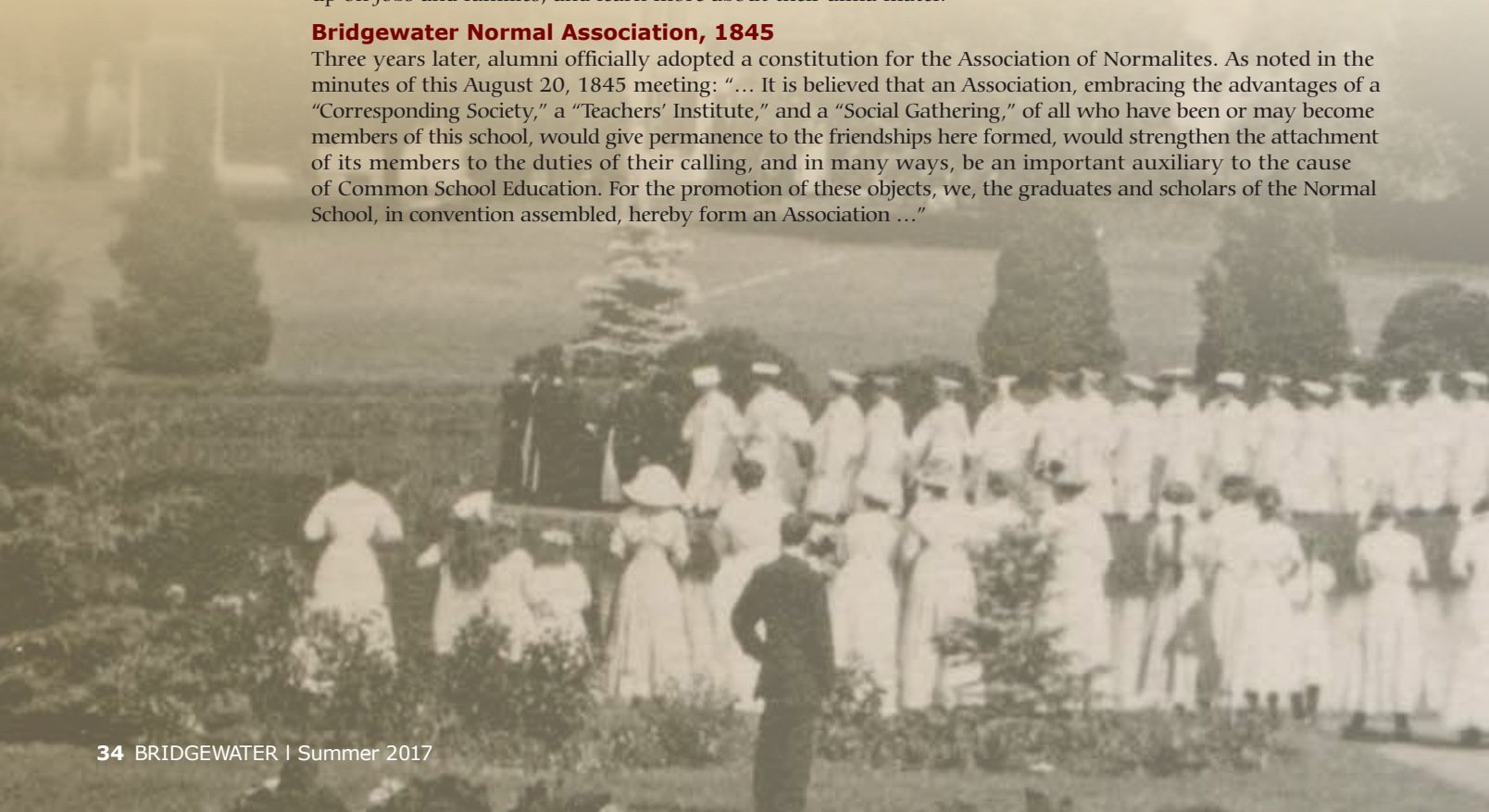
On the morning of August 3, 1842, 99 alumni gather in a schoolroom in the Town of Bridgewater. In the two years since BNS opened its doors, 130 students had graduated. To have attracted 76 percent of the graduates to the first gathering of alumni is a testament to the leadership of its principal, Nicholas Tillinghast; the very culture of the institution; and the strength of the shared moral values and beliefs of its alumni.

For these BNS alumni to make it to the meeting could not have been an easy task. Three years would pass before the Old Colony Railroad would connect Boston to Plymouth, thereafter to Bridgewater. Forty-odd years would pass before the horseless carriage reinvented travel by land. Presumably, alumni in 1842 traveled by horseback or horse and buggy; if local, perhaps by foot.

The graduates gathered for much the same reasons as alumni in 2017 do – to renew old acquaintances, catch up on jobs and families, and learn more about their alma mater.

Bridgewater Normal Association, 1845

Three years later, alumni officially adopted a constitution for the Association of Normalites. As noted in the minutes of this August 20, 1845 meeting: "... It is believed that an Association, embracing the advantages of a "Corresponding Society," a "Teachers' Institute," and a "Social Gathering," of all who have been or may become members of this school, would give permanence to the friendships here formed, would strengthen the attachment of its members to the duties of their calling, and in many ways, be an important auxiliary to the cause of Common School Education. For the promotion of these objects, we, the graduates and scholars of the Normal School, in convention assembled, hereby form an Association ..."



Similarities are evident between the 1845 Bridgewater Normal Association and the 2017 Bridgewater Alumni Association (BAA). The resolve of members throughout generations to stay connected is clear in the Corresponding Society, precursor to our modern-day class notes. Social media, email and web platforms replace the handwritten notes, but the purpose remains the same.

Even today's networking opportunities can be traced to the early Teachers' Institutes, which began as lectures by a distinguished educator at the annual daylong meeting of the Normalites. The goal then was as today – to offer alumni useful information and meaningful professional contacts.

And, yesteryear's Social Gatherings are now the mainstay of today's alumni relations' program of events and formal class, club and chapter reunions.

Taking a stand, 1800s

Not unlike today, BNS alumni stood in solidarity for what they believed important. Published in 1931 from the record book of the Bridgewater Normal Association, *Reminiscences for Biennial* recounted several areas of concern to BNS alumni.

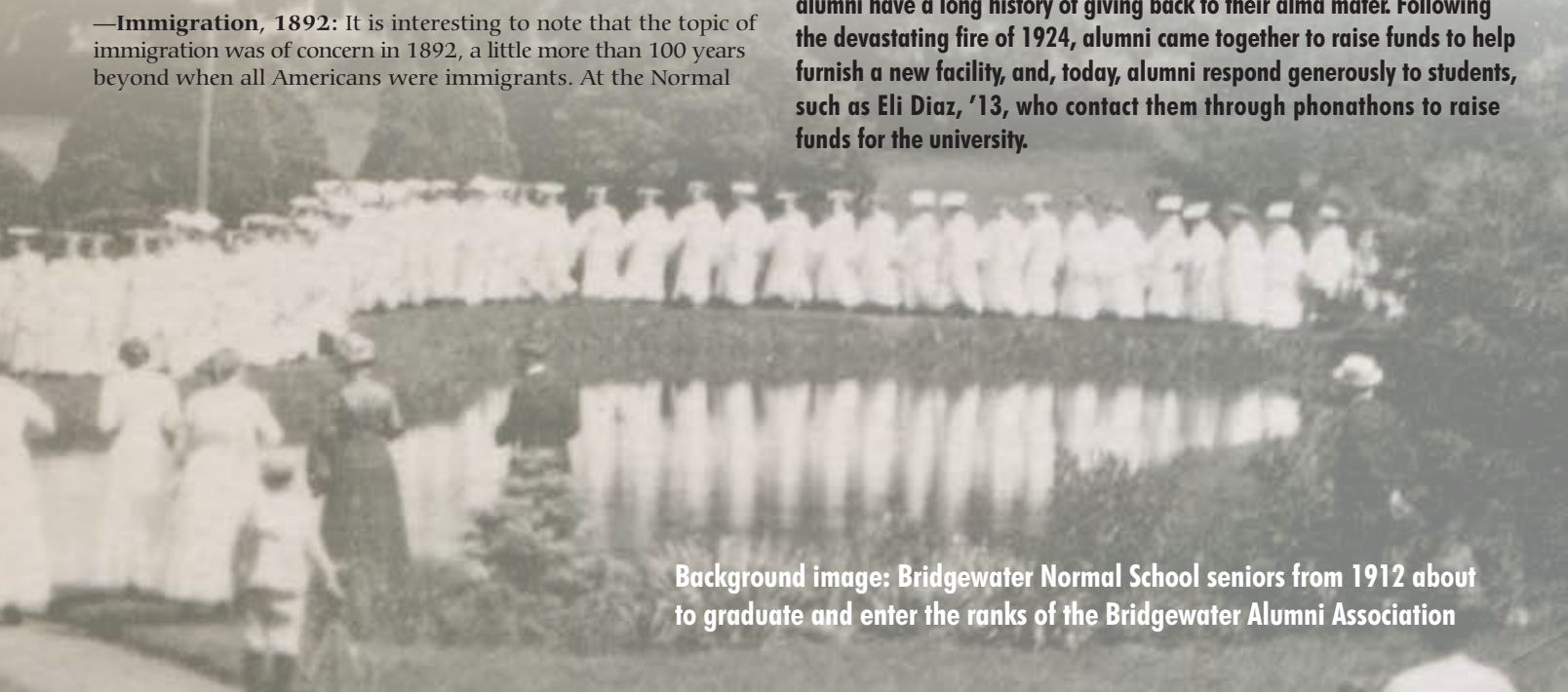
—**Physical education, 1845:** In 1845, physical education, or the lack thereof, was a topic of interest as seen by this entry in *Reminiscences*: "That physical education has been too much neglected, and that the penalty which inevitably awaits the violation of the physical laws may be avoided, those laws should be made a prominent subject of study." In discussing the issue, BNS alumni were well ahead of the curve. Physical education was not of import in public school curriculum until somewhere in the 1890s, and it wasn't until the mid-1950s that it became a staple in elementary education.

—**Women's rights, 1866:** In the early to mid-1900s, gender roles in society were still very much defined as "male" and "female." Consider, however, as early as 1866, BNS alumni were addressing gender inequities, perhaps influenced by the sustained energy generated by the women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York, in 1840. As evidenced by the *Reminiscences* report, the issue in 1866 was the slate of officers in the association "Whereas: the gentlemen graduates of the BNS number but about one third of the lady graduates ... therefore, Resolved, That the lady members of this association shall be recognized in the apportionment of offices."

—**Immigration, 1892:** It is interesting to note that the topic of immigration was of concern in 1892, a little more than 100 years beyond when all Americans were immigrants. At the Normal



Whether donating their time or financial assistance, Bridgewater State alumni have a long history of giving back to their alma mater. Following the devastating fire of 1924, alumni came together to raise funds to help furnish a new facility, and, today, alumni respond generously to students, such as Eli Diaz, '13, who contact them through phonathons to raise funds for the university.



Background image: Bridgewater Normal School seniors from 1912 about to graduate and enter the ranks of the Bridgewater Alumni Association

Bridgewater Alumni Association:

175 years strong

Association's biennial convention in 1892, Granville B. Putnam, master of the Franklin School in Boston, spoke about "The Relation of School and State." As reported in the *Normal Offering* (1892, Vol. 12), he discussed how children of immigrants must be given an education worthy of U.S. citizens: "... these children will soon be citizens with votes as powerful as those of the chief



magistrates of the land." However, his message became somewhat combative, by today's standards, when he said, "Whether these become true Americans or vagabonds and outlaws depends on whether or not the moral training of the school is sufficient to overcome the baneful influence of homes and street corners. On our public schools principally depend our country's future."

It cannot be known if the BNS alumni present agreed or disagreed with Mr. Putnam. However, the annals of Bridgewater State University, especially in modern history, suggest a steady focus on inclusion and the recruitment of a diverse study body.

Fundraising, 1845-1988

Philanthropy is the embodiment of an authentic, shared desire to make a difference, and whether graduates of BNS or BSU, alumni have demonstrated their generosity. The very first call-to-action occurred at the 1845 convention, when, according to published minutes, Principal Tillinghast appealed to alumni for financial assistance to cover a \$500-\$1,000 shortfall of state money allocated for the "erecting of a school-house ..." Mr. Tillinghast concluded his appeal "by suggesting to those present, the raising of a small amount by each person, by subscription or otherwise, to assist in supplying the deficiency."

In 1924, in the aftermath of the great fire that devastated the campus, alumni joined together to raise money to furnish the new school building. Other endeavors have included raising funds for the centenary celebration, purchasing books for the library, and establishing the S. Elizabeth Pope Trust, which continues to fund student scholarships. Even today's highly effective phonathon program has its origins in alumni fundraising, dating back to a telethon drive in 1974, organized by volunteers to raise funds to support alumni programming.

In 1985, the *Campus Comment* reported that "a group of interested alumni, staff and friends of the College embarked on a bold venture to raise \$100,000" in honor of the 145th anniversary of Bridgewater State College. The successful culmination of the campaign was reached six months ahead of schedule. Then, in 2012, the institution's second major fundraising campaign raised \$16.2 million, exceeding its \$15 million goal, thanks in large part to the generous contributions of BSU alumni.

Bridgewater Foundation, 1986-2017

In 1988, Bridgewater State began to channel all private fundraising efforts, including those by alumni, through the Bridgewater Foundation, which had been established in 1986.



Alumni over the years return to campus time and again to reunite and reminisce with their classmates. Clockwise (from top left) are:

1929 Officers of the alumni association (standing, from left) Charles B. Sinnott, '81; John F. Scully, '87; and Edgar M. Copeland; and (seated, from left) Flora M. Stuart, '88; Margaret May Smith; William D. Jackson; Helen L. Thompson; and Edgar W. Farwell, '90

Circa 1946 Alumni at a memorial marker for the site of the first state normal school building, including BNS President John Kelly (seated, far right)

1973 Pope Scholarship Awardees on Alumni Day (standing, from left) John Franklin, G'74; Veronica Tochio, '73; Donna Houlker, '76; Elaine Gordon, '74, G'81; and Kathleen Riordan, '75; and seated (from left) Stella Monks Fogelman, '19, and S. Elizabeth Pope

Over the years, the Foundation trustees have invested wisely, helping students to not only attend the university but also to participate in high-impact programs such as undergraduate research, community service projects, social justice initiatives, internships and athletics. As of the end of fiscal year 2016-17, the combined assets of the Foundation and the BAA were reported at \$37 million.

Davis Alumni Center, 1990

The Davis Alumni Center came to be as a result of a \$25,000 gift to Bridgewater State from Stanton and Elizabeth Davis for the purchase of 25 Park Terrace. But, as part of a multi-year commitment of \$375,000, that gift was just the beginning of the couple's generosity to the university. Including this gift from the 1990s, the Davis Educational Foundation has a total giving history of \$977,000 to the BSU Foundation.

Alumni chapters, 1907-2017

It would be impossible to list every alumni club and chapter established through the years. But it is of interest to report that as early as 1907, alumni formed the Bridgewater Club of New York and Vicinity, followed by the Cambridge Alumni Club in 1908 and, in 1917, the Haverhill-Bridgewater and Springfield-Bridgewater Normal clubs. In 1990, a group of alumni established the Afro-American Alumni Association with the goal of supporting the Bridgewater Alumni Association while assisting students of color on campus.

Today, alumni come together at informal gatherings around the country, including Florida, Washington D.C., California, Rhode Island and Cape Cod, all of which boast large numbers of BSU alumni. While 85 percent of BSU graduates remain in Massachusetts, alumni now reside in all 50 states and in countless countries around the world.



Bridgewater Alumni Association, 2017

Rooted in this tradition of proud, involved alumni, the BAA continues its mission not only of fostering lifelong connections with the university but also of promoting civic engagement and embracing diversity. An ambitious slate of events and activities speaks to these three strategic goals.

It is important to note that the "modern day" association owes much to the efforts of S. Elizabeth Pope, a distinguished faculty member and dean during her 61 years of service to Bridgewater State, who served as secretary of the alumni organization from 1955-1970; James DiNardo, '39, who served as treasurer from 1959-1980 and was known as a driving force and staunch loyalist of the BAA; and Jack, '62, and Martha D., '64, Jones, who both served as presidents of the BAA and were instrumental in helping to shape the future of the association.

Today, understanding the importance of social media to engage alumni, BSU's Office of Alumni Relations has increased its presence on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn. Social media not only helps promote alumni events, it often facilitates a unique style of alumni engagement that is increasingly common among more recent graduates.

Social media also has proven to be an excellent tool for fundraising. The university's first ever Day of Giving in 2016 is a good example with 262 donors, the majority of whom were alumni, contributing more than \$25,000 within a 24-hour period.

In continuing efforts to engage alumni in the life of the university, the Office of Alumni Relations partnered with colleagues in Career Services with impressive results. More alumni than ever participate in panel discussions, internship and job fairs, job shadow programs and career fairs, among other activities. Alumni often serve as mentors to current students, assist with events and plan reunions.

"The history of the Bridgewater Alumni Association shows that Bridgewater alumni are extraordinarily loyal to their alma mater. Their pride in what the institution has become is evident in the stories of Bridgewater that they share with friends and future students," said Jason Stocker, '04, president of the BAA. "Over and over again, they have demonstrated their generosity with the giving of their time and financial support, which has impacted generations of students who followed in their footsteps.

"To be part of this continuum of caring is a privilege, and I am particularly honored to serve as president during the BAA's 175th anniversary year and hope to help prepare us for the next 175."

Bridgewater State University, a promising future

When we look back to our roots, to 1842, and to the early Corresponding Society, Teachers' Institutes and Social Gatherings, we see the commitment of generations of graduates reflected in the words and actions of today's alumni. We applaud the accomplishments of past generations, and we re-commit to build on the legacy of the caring support that we have inherited. We look to the future to create an even more powerful network of professional and volunteer partnerships to ensure that today's students reap the benefits.■

1948 Alumni from 1898 and 1913 at Alumni Weekend

2016 Homecoming and Family Day events, such as the annual football game, bring together alumni of all ages with current students and their families

Upcoming ALUMNI EVENTS

For more information about the following events, visit www.alumni.bridgew.edu or call 1.888.272.9555.

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME DINNER

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 6 PM
Rondileau Campus Center Ballroom

HOMECOMING AND FAMILY DAY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21
For a complete schedule, visit www.alumni.bridgew.edu/homecoming

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK ALUMNI EVENT

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 6 PM
Dunn Conference Suite, Crimson Hall

BRADENTON BRUNCH

SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 2018, 11 AM
IMG Academies Golf and Country Club
4350 El Conquistador Parkway
Bradenton, Florida

AFRO-AMERICAN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION DINNER

SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2018, 5 PM
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 the deadline is typically in early January. Nominations may be submitted by mail to the Bridgewater Alumni Association, Bethany House, 26 Summer St., Bridgewater, MA 02325, 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 Bethany House, 26 Summer St., 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



School of Social Work reception

The School of Social Work held its annual alumni reception in November, featuring guest speaker Jorge Velázquez, director of the Massachusetts Child Welfare Institute.

Attending are (Above left, from left) Dr. Beverly Lovett, Jorge Velázquez and Dr. Arnaa Alcon, interim dean for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. Above right (from left) are Anna Seery, G'12; Dr. Anna Martin-Jearld; and Joan Stratton, G'08. Right (from left) are Dr. Barbara Bond, Kristianna Fontes, G'13, and Amiline Valmyr, G'13.



Valentine's Day dinner at BSU



BSU alumni celebrated Valentine's Day at a dinner and concert held on campus in the Rondileau Campus Center Ballroom.

Couples enjoying the dinner are (from left) Raymond, '68, and Phyllis, '69, Cabana; Thomas, '68, G'71 and Yvonne Evans; and Robert, '66, and Betsy, '67, Hodge.

Singer/songwriter Kelley Lennon (below, center) performed at the dinner. Joining Ms. Lennon following the show are her parents, Linda, '74, and Jerry Schimmel, '75. The Schimmels met as undergraduates at Bridgewater State.





Benvida (Cardoso) Butler, '08, (left) receives the Alfred J. Gomes Community Service Award from Afro-American Alumni Association member Angel Figueroa, '08.

Afro-American Alumni Association honors members of BSU community

The Afro-American Alumni Association's annual dinner, "Passport from BSU," was held in March and included the presentation of awards to BSU alumni, students and staff. Association president Michael Henry, '92, said the awards recognize individuals who have made a significant impact and contributions to the university and communities across the country.

"Reflect, Connect, Make a Difference," the organization's motto, is borne from what it seeks to accomplish, while "building on the shoulders" of its founders and inspirational predecessors, after whom several awards have been named.

"Bridgewater now has more than 20 minority student groups who've branched out," said Mr. Henry. "They would not be here if not for the shoulders of the Afro-American founders. Through these awards, we are showing the legacy and history of the institution."



BSU organization Men Integrated in Brotherhood (MIB) was honored with the Henry Hampton Bridge Building Award, given to a student or a student group of color on campus that has sought to address campus unity. MIB strives to make the world a better place by fostering emotional, educational and spiritual growth, and promoting acceptance and respect. Accepting the award are (from left) Nigel Smith, '01; Richard Booth, '00; John "Lenny" McLean, '90; Michael Henry, '92; Ethan Kay, '19; Romarje Antoine, '18; Trevion Moss, '20; Wesner Pierre Louis, '14; and Chris Laguerre, '17.



Barbara Jackson, '80, G'89, speaks about receiving the Sarah A. Lewis Afro-American Distinguished Alumni Award.



President Frederick Clark Jr. (left) talks with Reverend Dr. Chang-Hee Son, who received the Paul Gaines Sr. Afro-American Alumni Achievement Award.

ALUMNI SERVICES

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

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.

ASA can be reached at 877.523.9473 (toll-free) or loanhelp@saltmoney.org.

For more information, visit www.saltmoney.org/bridgew.

WEBSITE

Visit the Bridgewater Alumni Association website, <http://alumni.bridgew.edu>, to learn more about events, services, and the activities of alumni chapters and committees.

FACEBOOK

The Alumni Association is on Facebook under "Bridgewater State University Alumni Assoc BSU."

LINKEDIN

The "Official Bridgewater State University Alumni" group on LinkedIn is more than 4,000 strong. Request to join the group today.

TWITTER

Follow us on Twitter @BSU_Alumni.

INSTAGRAM

Follow us on Instagram @BSU_Alumni.

ChapterNews

FLORIDA

BSU President Frederick Clark Jr. and members of the university staff joined alumni across Florida in February and March, taking part in a number of events.

Bradenton.....



BSU alumni enjoyed a hearty brunch and familiar company at the signature Bradenton brunch. Joining President Clark are (from left) Fran Murphy, '61, Mary Lou Thornburg and Chloe King.



Attending the brunch are (from left) Peter Servins, '71; Linda Schnarr, '78; Linda Servins; Jana Samuels, '64; and John Newburn, '64.



Host of the brunch, Susan Libby Thevenin, '64, G'74, (left) talks with Jeffrey Tuller, '78, and Mary Beth Lamb, BSU's director of athletics and recreation.



Taking part in the brunch are (from left) Wayne Koles and Jack Colpas, '71.

Fort Myers.....



Each year, BSU alumni come together to support their hometown Boston Red Sox during spring training at JetBlue Park in Fort Myers. Watching the Sox this year are (from left) Nancy Hart Flynn, '61, G'64; Peter Flynn, '61; and Beth Flynn Ferry.



Matthew Elia, '09, who graduated with a degree in aviation science, attended the game with Emily Cox following a Florida-style barbeque with fellow BSU alumni.

Naples.....



Dr. Lisa Battaglini, '79, dean of the College of Education and Allied Studies (third from left), shared news with Naples alumni about education programs and awards received by BSU, while Paul Noralez, G'17, (left) highlighted the importance of the international student experience.

Attending the event are (from left) Paul Noralez; Dr. Susan Szachowicz, '75, G'81; Dr. Battaglini; Judy Schneider, '60; Laura Carley, '67; Judith Medeiros, G'78; Richard Houde, '63; and Marijke Alsbach.



Priscilla, '65, and Brad Hurd attend an alumni luncheon in Naples.

St. Petersburg.....



At the Sandbar Beach Bar in St. Petersburg are (from left) Dave Thompson; Jeffrey Tuller, '78; Karen Thompson, '83; Christine Pellegri, G'14; Scott Levinson, '85; Richard Hitchcock; Janet Hitchcock, '69; and Deborah Carnaroli, '68.

The Villages.....



Christine Pellegri, G'14, greets Karen Orcutt, '55, and William A. Orcutt, '57, G'60, at The Villages.



Alumni from the Class of 1964 (from left), David Morwick, John Scudder and Philip Curry talk about their days at Bridgewater State at The Villages event.



Dr. Jenny Shanahan, BSU's assistant provost for high impact practices, talks with Nancy Guilford, G'82, at The Villages.

ChapterNews

WASHINGTON, D.C.



Coming together in the nation's capital are (from left) Jeff Burke, '91; Norman Smith, '88; and Greg Wyse, '92.



Enjoying the alumni get together in the Russell Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C., are (from left) Natasha Silva, '13; Diane Bell; Diana Ramos, '12; and Augusto Goncalves, '12.



Amy Pepin Driver, '06, and Adam Pare, '95, catch up at the Washington, D.C., event.

NEW YORK CITY



Crystal Howard, G'17, and Andrew Contreras, '09, reconnect at the Gossip Bar in NYC.



NYC alumni (from left) are Joseph Cutrufo, '05; Devere Morris, '85; John Pine, '04; Kevin Croke, '04; and Mike DeGagne, '06.

BOSTON



Attending the Boston event are Dora, '75, G'79; and Kenneth Ottariano, '75, who met on campus.



At Champions in Boston are (from left) Keileen Hopps, '08, G'15; Lori Hindle, '97; Lionelle Demosthene, '00; and Stephanie Reynolds, '10.

SAN DIEGO



Robert Barrows, '54, (left) and Harold LeBlanc, '56, attend the San Diego event.



Showing hometown pride while in San Diego are Susan Paul, '05, and Thomas Humphrey, '68.

FALL RIVER



Joining President Clark at the inaugural Fall River networking event are Bridgewater Alumni Association board members (from left) Peter Castonguay, '05, and legacy family Anne Vieira Lachance, '04, and her father, Mike Vieira, '75.



Professor Emeritus Dr. Philip Silvia Jr. attended with his aunt, Ruth Burke, '44.



At the Fall River event are (from left) George Charbonneau, '66, G'70; Armand Marchand, '66, G'70; Rebecca Pye, '03, G'07; and Timothy Comeaux, '05.

ClassNotes

1970

Natalia Ritchie is an instructor of music at the American International School. After completing her teaching assignment in Cairo, Egypt, she will move to Beirut, Lebanon, to teach music to children in grades 2-5. She said she enjoys living in the Middle East.

1975

Elaine Clement-Holbrook, G'81, the girls high school basketball coach with the most wins in Massachusetts history, was selected to coach the East Team in the McDonald's All American Games in Chicago in March. She is the first local coach nominated since 2000.

1978

Daniel J. Morgado retired as Shrewsbury's town manager in July, following a nearly 40-year career working in town government. While a 21-year-old student at Bridgewater State in 1977, he was elected to the planning board in Swansea, his hometown, and after graduation he served as executive secretary for the board of selectmen. In the early 1980s, Mr. Morgado was an administrative assistant in Shrewsbury before becoming town administrator in Blackstone and later in Easton. He served as Grafton's first town administrator, from 1987-1997, before taking on the same position in Shrewsbury.

1981

Paintings by Falmouth artist **Gayle Kiley** were displayed at the Thomas E. Hanley Art Gallery at Falmouth Hospital in December. Ms. Kiley, a member of the Falmouth Art Association and the South Shore Art Association, has won numerous first place awards for her work. Her recent portrait of former Bruins player Milan Lucic is part of the New England Sports Museum collection.

1986

John Munies is senior vice president for civilian and homeland security programs at TeraThink Corporation in Reston, Virginia, a provider of management and technology consulting services to the federal government. He brings more than 27 years of senior-level technology and finance experience, including nearly 14 years at CACI International as a senior vice president and 13 years in various roles with Commonwealth of Boston, Massachusetts.

1988

Jason M. Rua was honored by the Fall River Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc., as the 2016 Roger Valcourt Outstanding Citizen of the Year.

1990

Maura Power ran her first marathon in December, the Clonakilty, Ireland, Waterfront Marathon, to promote the Inclusive Assisted Athletic Movement in

racers, where able-bodied athletes partner with athletes who have disabilities.

1994

Robert Cozzone is the chief financial officer of Rockland Trust. He has worked for the bank for 15 years, serving as treasurer of Rockland Trust and Independent Bank Corp. from 2008 until September 2013.

DR. BRETT ZOGRAFOS, '07 Selectman, Town of Dighton

BY CHARLIE PETERS

Dr. Brett Zografos earned a bachelor's degree in biology at Bridgewater State followed by a PhD at the University of Texas. Now, the scientist is cooking up his biggest experiment yet: a career switch into public service, and he's coming back to BSU to do it.

Dr. Zografos, a selectman in Dighton, hopes to return to campus in September to pursue a Master of Public Administration degree with the intention of making a career as a town manager or administrator.

That's quite a departure from his previous work – which included a two-year fellowship in Paris studying brain cancer tumors – but one that he believes is ultimately more rewarding.

"I didn't run for selectman for me; I ran for the people who asked me to run," said Dr. Zografos, who at 32 is one of the youngest selectmen in the region. "It gives me a great sense of pride to go to work every day and know I'm doing something for them."

Dr. Zografos majored in biology at Bridgewater State from 2003-2007 before heading to Texas to earn a doctorate in cell and molecular biology.

Following his participation in a postdoctoral Marie Curie Fellowship in France from 2013-2015, he returned to the United States to work for an issue-based campaign organization in Boston and began a departure from his given area of study. "I love science. Reading about it, thinking about it and talking to people about it. I just didn't like the isolation of doing it in a lab," Dr. Zografos said. "But I wouldn't change the experience – I'd still get my PhD, and I'm grateful for it for the transferable analytic and critical-thinking skills. It's about being able to see the truth in people and things; science is about getting to the heart of the matter. I wish politics was always that way."

He's hoping to make a bit of change in the political arena, beginning with his native Dighton. To do so, however, Dr. Zografos thought he could use more seasoning in the classroom and didn't hesitate to apply to the MPA program at his alma mater.

"The professors here invest in the students and genuinely care about them. I still run everything by my mentor, (BSU professor emerita) Dr. Patricia Mancini," said Dr. Zografos. "For grad school, Bridgewater was my first choice. I love my alma mater; it's like a home to me. Why wouldn't I come back here?" ■



CAREER SERVICES

Help lead Bridgewater State University students to success!

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. Help members explore career options, learn about internships and jobs, and build networks on this popular professional social media site.

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.

INTERNSHIP & JOB FAIR

(With a focus on Louis M. Ricciardi College of Business and College of Humanities and Social Sciences majors)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1-3 PM
Rondileau Campus Center Ballroom

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

ON-CAMPUS ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

Many opportunities are available for alumni to engage with BSU students on campus. Career Services is seeking alumni interested in taking part in career panels, as well as the annual Etiquette Dinner and the Networking Mocktail Reception.

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

Dr. Michele Fazio is an associate professor of English at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke and president of the Working Class Studies Association. She is noted for her work on the documentary *Voices of the Lumbee*, which tells the story of modern-day Robeson County, North Carolina, and the Lumbee Tribe's place within it.

1996

Scott Holcomb, G'99, began serving as the North Attleborough school district superintendent in February.

Justine Lambroschino, a graduate of the social work program, works in the profession helping children and families. In 2016 she published a book about family communication titled *Conversations With Your Child*.

1997

JoAnn Byrnes is a local state-permitted wildlife rehabilitator who has worked with wildlife for more than 20 years. She also writes about animal and environmental issues as a columnist for local newspapers.

1999

Lindsey Farnham earned a master's and a doctoral degree in special education at Teachers College, Columbia University, in New York City. She lives in Maine and works for Apple servicing school districts across the state.

Dr. Elisa Martin has been a visiting assistant professor of social work at Siena College in Loudonville, New York, since 2014.

2000

Jason Merrill was appointed principal of Melrose High School in January after serving as assistant principal and interim principal.

2001

David Degan, G'01, G'05, is the principal of Southeastern Regional Vocational Technical High School in Easton. Mr. Degan began his career in the Southeastern Regional School District in 1986 as a pastry and baking teacher. In 1999, he was promoted to vocational director and from 2004-2009 served as assistant principal. Most recently he was director of the Southeastern Technical Institute (STI), which offers vocational-technical training and education for adults.

Maribeth Flakes was presented with the Phillippi Award at the Northeast Greek Leadership Association Annual

Conference, held in Hartford, Connecticut. Thanks to letters submitted by BSU students, she was nominated for this award. She is the first BSU employee who advises fraternities and sororities to win the award in nearly 18 years.

2002

Tom Bartosek, G'02, former wrestling coach at Canton High School, was one of five new members inducted into the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in April. He was honored with the Lifetime Service to Wrestling Award, given in recognition of years of dedication to the development of leadership and citizenship in young people through the sport of wrestling. Mr. Bartosek, an East Bridgewater resident, was the founder of Canton's program and, prior to his 2010 retirement, had been its only head coach. He also taught biology and chemistry for 32 years.

Mr. Bartosek was the state editor for *USA Wrestling Magazine*, a contributor to *Amateur Wrestling News* and *WIN* magazine, and served on the Coaches' Association's executive board. He received the *Boston Globe* Coach of the Year award and was inducted into the Massachusetts Wrestling Coaches' Association Hall of Fame.

Courtney Curran Bulman, a teacher at Abigail Adams Middle School in Weymouth, brought members of the sixth-grade student council to BSU to meet with the executive officers of the Student Government Association (SGA). The SGA created a presentation for the sixth-graders about what student government means at BSU and highlighted ways that they have spoken up for change at the university.

Michael Caruso of Weymouth, BSU's director of aquatics and head coach of the men's and women's swimming and diving teams, ran the 2017 Boston Marathon for the Joslin Diabetes Center in support of his wife, Shannon, a Type 1 diabetic who has been a patient there for more than 27 years.

2003

Steven A. Peters, IV, was honored in November with a Native American 40 Under 40 Award during the 41st annual Indian Progress in Business Awards gala at the Buffalo Thunder Resort and Casino in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development bestows the award upon individuals

DIANA RAMOS, '12

Program analyst for the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program

BY JOHN WINTERS, G'11

Six years ago, Diana Ramos was outside the Rondileau Campus Center listening to a speaker discuss the topic of homelessness. The talk was part of Tent City, a weeklong event during which BSU students live outside abjuring the comforts of home.

Last fall she returned to her alma mater. This time, Ms. Ramos wasn't listening to a speaker; she was the speaker.

She, herself, was once on the verge of homelessness, but her aunt opened her home in Worcester to Ms. Ramos and her mother when all the local domestic violence shelters were full. She'd come a long way from that situation, and the month before graduating from BSU, Ms. Ramos was selected as one of the commonwealth's 29 Who Shine, a group of students from state institutions boasting a record of academic achievement, student leadership and community service.

Addressing classes on campus over the course of two days last October, she retraced her steps from college graduate to employee of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in Washington, D.C., where she is a program analyst for the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program. She spends her days making sure states comply with federal regulations as they pertain to WIC and helping them customize the program as needed.

The fact that WIC helps low-income people struggling to feed themselves and their children is what attracted Ms. Ramos to the job. "I've always had a strong sense of civic duty," she said. "I tend to think very systematically. I like to look at the big picture, but without losing sight of what's going on on the ground."

The job has led her to ask some larger questions, such as: What does poverty mean? What does it mean for our future? This is not new territory for Ms. Ramos. At BSU she was active in many organizations, including as a member of the Social Justice League and Diversity Council; a founding member and president of Students for Sustainability; and publicity chair for AWARE, a student-run organization for GLBT students and allies. She also interned at former Senator John Kerry's office, at the Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation Enforcement in the nation's capital, and at Centro de Amigos para la Paz (Friends Peace Center) in Costa Rica.

Follow her example, was advice Ms. Ramos shared with BSU students during her recent visit to campus. "I told them to take advantage of all the opportunities they can," she said.

She continued to be involved in organizations important to her after graduating from BSU, serving twice with AmeriCorps Vista, once near her hometown in Central Massachusetts, the second time in Washington, D.C., where she worked for the nonprofit D.C. Hunger Solutions. "I was working with government officials to see how our nonprofit can help with their nutrition assistance programs," she said. "This sparked my interest in the role the government plays with regard to food security and nutrition."

During her campus visit, Ms. Ramos also spoke with students about the importance of networking. While at an event in Washington, D.C., she met the son of a woman who happened to be the deputy administrator at the USDA. She asked the woman for an informational interview to learn more about the agency. Months later, her new connection paid off: She was hired by the department in September 2014. "People always say this is how you get a job, but it's true, this is how it happens."

Those classrooms of students who heard from Ms. Ramos got an object lesson in how to find their place in the world. Get involved, take chances, do good work and network whenever you can. "It made the difference for me," she said. ■



To assist Bridgewater State University students coping with food insecurity, visit www.give.bridgew.edu/foodbank.

younger than the age of 40 who have been nominated by members of their communities and have demonstrated leadership, initiative and dedication, and have made significant contributions in business and their communities.

Mr. Peters, a member of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, is a marketing and communications professional recognized for developing socially-conscious campaigns to reshape the general public's understanding of its shared history with Native Americans.

2006

Ryan Mandeville has been a full-time personal trainer since 2004. He formulated his own fitness television show, *The Mandeville Method*, which aired on BTV, Bridgewater Community Television. In summer 2011, he opened a personal training studio called The Mandeville Method, located at 91 South Avenue in Whitman.

2007

Christopher Ernest, G'07, was promoted to principal at BlumShapiro, an accounting and auditing firm.

Francis Freel is an English Language teacher at Leominster High School and has been involved with the school's cooperative swim program for three years; the first as assistant coach followed by two years as head coach. At BSU, he was a member of the Bears swimming and diving team.

ALUMNI SNAPSHOTS



Marie Rudd Thomas, '38, (seated, center) celebrates her 100th birthday with family and friends at Brasserie JO in Boston. Legacy tables at the event featured letters, photos and citations, including one from the Boston City Council declaring February 2, 2017, her actual birthday, Marie Rudd Thomas Day. The senate sent a birthday greeting as well. Another table featured mementos from her Bridgewater State days and greetings from the national president of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., as well as from the sorority's Boston chapter.



Kaitlin Carey and David Loomis, G'16, pose at their wedding with (from left) the bride's parents, Michael, '78, and Cherylann Vincent Carey, '78; Karissa Carey Connors, G'11; and Kylene Carey, '09.



Emma and William Santos (from left), children of Melissa, '06, and Jerry Santos, were born on November 8, 2016.

Nicole Long, G'07, is CEO of Old Colony Elder Services in Brockton. She began her career with the organization in 2005 in the Family Caregiver Support Program and was appointed assistant executive director in 2015. She holds a Master of Social Work degree from BSU and is a licensed independent clinical social worker.

2008

Kathleen Rudewicz Kelly, G'12, was recognized for Excellence in Education at the 26th annual Goldin Foundation Educators Forum, hosted by Canton High School where she has served as an English teacher for eight years.

Courtney Sergio was named field hockey coach of the year for Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School. She played field hockey at Bridgewater State and is an eighth-grade English teacher at O'Donnell Middle School in Stoughton.

2009

Philip Mastro is the full-time athletic trainer for Arlington Catholic High School and an exercise technician at ProEx Physical Therapy in Arlington. He is a certified athletic trainer, a certified strength and conditioning specialist, a certified exercise specialist and a performance enhancement specialist.

Nicole Parsons, G'13, who holds a Master of Education degree from BSU, is a licensed school guidance counselor for Winchester public schools.

2010

Meghan McCoy, G'10, program coordinator for the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center at BSU, was the keynote speaker at the Barnstable County Human Rights Day breakfast in December.

2011

Kevin Eam was nominated for a 2016 Screen Actors Guild (SAG) Award for outstanding performance by a stunt ensemble in a comedy or drama series for the Netflix original series *Daredevil*. Mr. Eam, known by his stage name Kage Yami, was a student filmmaker at BSU. At the 2011 Campus MovieFest national awards ceremony he earned the best cinematography award, as well as "AT&T Rethink Possible" semi-finalist honors for his film *Unattainable: A Ninja's Story*. Since graduating from BSU, Mr. Eam has worked in the entertainment industry, primarily doing

stunt work for films, commercials and TV, in part, he says, due to his experience with Campus MovieFest.

2013

Will Felix is the continuity manager for Entercom Boston, a radio company. He earned his bachelor's degree from BSU in communication studies with a concentration in media and communication technologies.

Jamie Medina was accepted into the PhD program in cellular and molecular medicine at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. As a BSU student, he spent a summer in the Marine Biological Laboratory Research Experience for Undergraduates Program in Woods Hole and worked at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston before applying to graduate school. He will be the third BSU student to attend Johns Hopkins University.

David J. Vasapolli attended Suffolk University Law School and graduated, cum laude, in 2016. He passed the Massachusetts Bar Exam and was sworn in as an attorney in November. He works at his father's firm in Saugus, Vasapolli & Ricciardelli.

2014

Donald P. Cahill, Jr., was appointed a special officer with the Dover Police Department in January. A criminal justice major at BSU, he worked as a dispatcher for the Bridgewater State University Police Department.

Dylan Holbrook is a marketing administrator for Welch & Forbes, LLC, a 178-year-old investment firm in Boston.

2015

Gianna Mazzola is a community standards and wellness graduate fellow at Merrimack College in North Andover.

2016

Destiny Ihenacho was named a Howard Rye Institute fellow. The institute is a nine-month intensive training initiative building tomorrow's leaders of African descent.

Tristan Lamb is a licensed agent of New York Life Insurance Company.

David Marciello, Esq., G'16, became town manager of Millbury in January, after earning a Master of Public Administration degree from BSU.

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

Lindsey N. Clark, '14, to **Matthew W. Cardillo**, '13,
on September 17, 2016
Briana L. Murphy, '13, to Seth Gilbert on May 15, 2016

Bryna Marie-Claire Brooks to **Jessie R. Gotlib**, '14,
on July 10, 2016
Emily St. Pierre to **Michael Bilodeau**, '15, on September 10, 2016
Alexi G. Idreos, '15, to Tyler Caffelle on October 22, 2016

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

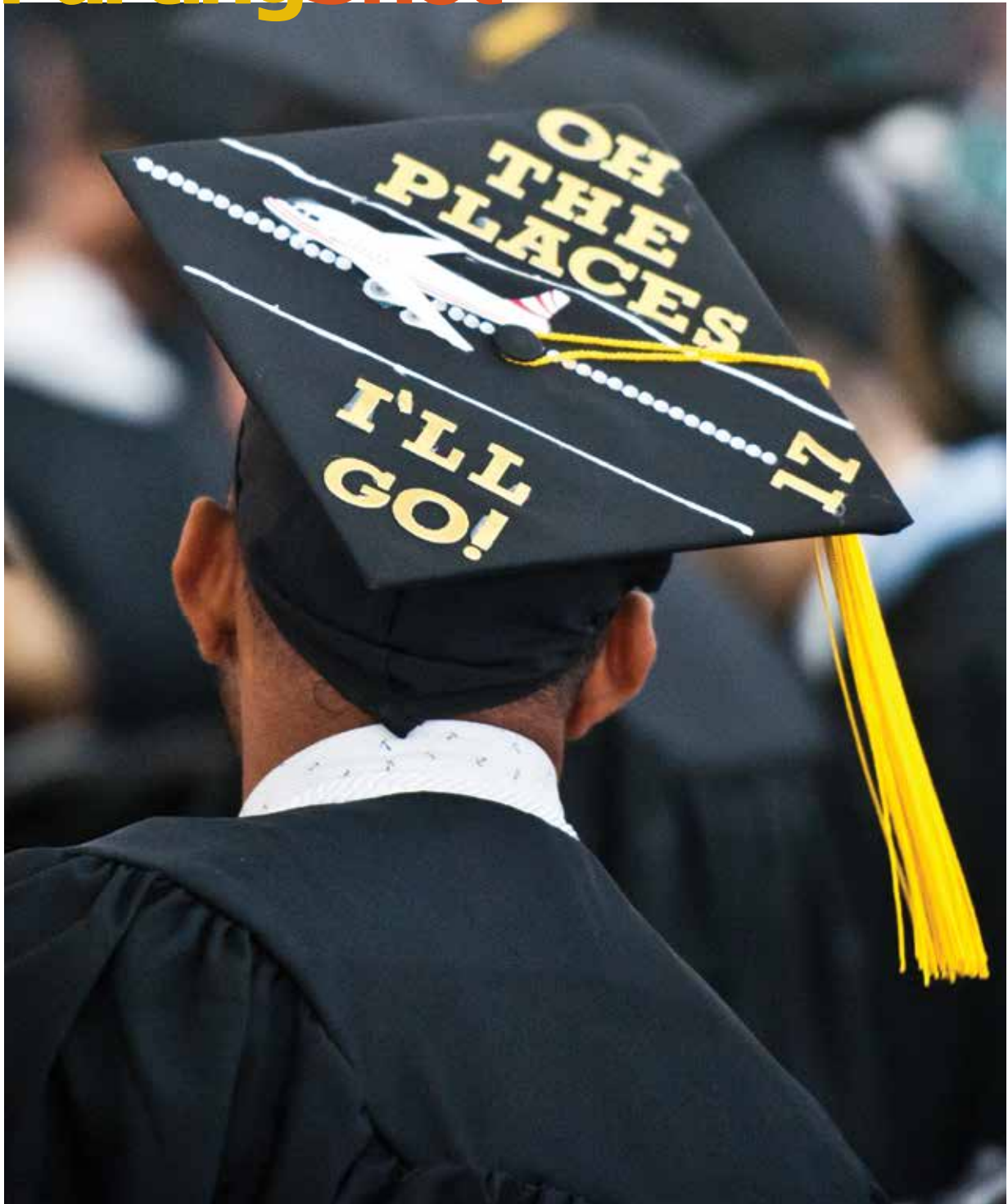
Gertrude Deighton DeCost, '35, on January 20, 2017
Elsa Johnson Lundgren, '36, on January 23, 2017
Mary Judge Barrett, '39, on November 30, 2016
Avis Matteson Thomas, '39, on November 29, 2016
Rita O'Grady Kerivan, '41, on February 28, 2017
Eileen Doyle Atwood, '42, on January 5, 2017
Elaine Kamandulis Mazgelis, '43, on February 22, 2017
Marie R. Kennedy, '44, on December 29, 2016
Dorothy Morton Sturtevant, '45, on August 23, 2016
Jane Russell Bielski, '46, on January 30, 2017
Eileen Sheehan Coyne, '46, on January 23, 2017
Marie Mack Spieler, '46, on November 27, 2016
Margaret Boffetti Tonello, '47, on November 2, 2016
Mildred Duggan Foy, '48, on January 10, 2017
Helene O'Hara Adams, '49, on October 23, 2016
Jean M. Maguire, '50, on November 13, 2016
Elizabeth Dunford, G'51, on October 31, 2016
Frances Tate MacKay, '52, in November 23, 2016
Jean Mello LaBelle, '53, on November 20, 2016
Barbara Patterson Walsh, '53, on February 4, 2017
Murielle G. Michaud, '54, on February 19, 2016
John P. Hackett, '55, G'60, on November 17, 2016
Robert W. Bachmann, '56, on October 14, 2016
Shirley Day Landers, '56, on January 20, 2017
Nathalie Alves Palmer, '56, on February 11, 2017
Owen V. Burke, G'59, on February 24, 2013
Raymond Kenney Jr., G'60, on November 9, 2016
Joanne C. O'Brien, G'60, on July 23, 2013
Irmin L. Pierce, G'60, on November 24, 2016
Carolyn Kelly Schindelwig, '60, on November 2, 2016
James Argir, '61, on December 8, 2016
Victor J. Ladetto, G'61, on November 14, 2016
Deborah E. Brooks, '62, on January 18, 2017
Gerald E. Gorman, '62, on October 25, 2016
Douglas M. Pfeninger, G'62, on November 6, 2016
Suzanne Rivard, '62, G'72, on November 13, 2016
John W. Leroy Jr., G'63, on March 16, 2017
Lawrence W. Gouldrup, '64, G'67, on January 23, 2017
Mary Glidden Williams, '64, on December 6, 2016
Martha Boyette Douglas, G'65, on December 28, 2014
Rosemary G. McMorro, '66
Carol Westgate Voght, '66, on January 2, 2017
Rosemary Cronin Downey, '67, on December 10, 2016
Bernice Mader, '67, on February 12, 2017
Karolyn Boyd, '68, on September 28, 2012
Mary Regan Critchlow, '68, on February 14, 2017
Dorothy Genthner, '68, on August 22, 2012

Frederick M. Lindquist, G'68, on February 11, 2016
Nancy Rapoza Salamon, '68, on December 4, 2016
Beverly A. Furness, '69, on September 20, 2015
Margaret A. Roche, G'69, on July 1, 2013
Patricia Drislan Gibney, '70, on February 26, 2017
Gloria Proulx Morrisette, G'70, on December 22, 2016
Sheldon J. Thayer, '70, on January 24, 2015
Louis J. Volpe, G'70, on January 10, 2016
Dorris M. Berger, G'71, on December 22, 2016
Patricia A. Yellope, '72, on December 15, 2015
Patricia V. Munro, G'74, on November 30, 2016
Gary R. Dubois, '75, on February 18, 2017
Paula Tukesbrey Murphy, '76, on March 5, 2017
Sherin L. O'Brien, '76, on December 28, 2016
Malcolm MacLeod, '77, on December 12, 2016
Noel L. Larrabee, '78, on April 28, 1996
John Lee, G'78, on November 6, 2016
Edmund C. O'Rourke, '78, G'80, on February 5, 2017
Matthew C. Leahy, '79, on December 21, 2016
Carolyn Nerbonne Speeckaert, G'79, on December 12, 2016
Lucy G. Crowley, G'80, in 2010
Mary G. Hersey, '80, on February 23, 2017
Lisa Wright Murphy, '83, on February 14, 2017
Michael J. Pleiss, '83, on December 12, 2016
Richard J. Monteith, '84, G'08, on February 6, 2017
Margaret L. Guiney, '85, on November 23, 2016
Theresa E. Dougall, G'87, on December 12, 2016
Christopher J. Cline, '88, on January 11, 2017
Melinda Westerlind Elwell, '89, G'96, on November 16, 2016
Marie B. Burt, '93, on December 11, 2016
David H. Smith, '93, G'95, on April 8, 2016
Christina M. Brown, '02, on November 2, 2016
Lakia Wharton Felix, '04, on October 26, 2014
Amanda Allen Kershaw, '04, on December 3, 2016
Matthew G. Eaton, G'09, on November 8, 2016

BSU pays its respects to the following faculty members who recently passed away:

Dr. Joseph DeRocco, professor emeritus, Department of English, on November 13, 2016
Professor Emerita Ann Coakley, Department of Movement Arts, Health Promotion and Leisure Studies, on March 21, 2017
Dr. Thanh T. Nguyen, professor of instructional technology, College of Education and Allied Studies, on July 6, 2017

PartingShot



Soaring to new heights

This young man expresses the sentiments of many of his classmates during Bridgewater State University's 176th spring commencement convocation on May 13.

Best wishes to the nearly 2,600 members of BSU's Class of 2017 as they take off on the next journey of their lives.

GIVE TO THE BRIDGEWATER FUND

Help a student accept an internship...

"My internship was a cultural experience, a chance to network, to build my resume. I gained the confidence I needed to transition out of the classroom and into the working world.

It was invaluable and only possible because of generous alumni like you.

On behalf of all students who have had the privilege to participate in an internship, thank you!"



YOU HELPED MAKE IT HAPPEN

Heidi Belanger, '15

BA, Strategic Communications

Internship: The Washington Center, Tricom Associates

Heidi Belanger participated in The Washington Center internship program in D.C., working at Tricom Associates, a public relations firm located in the heart of our nation's capital. Though the internship was unpaid, Ms. Belanger received financial support from BSU alumni and worked a catering job to make ends meet. Today, Ms. Belanger works at M/C Partners, a private equity company that invests in telecommunications and fiber network companies.

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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/summer2017 to view a digital, interactive version of this issue of *Bridgewater*.



WELCOME HOME

Homecoming and Family Day

Saturday • October 21, 2017

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

21

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