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Spring 2019

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Bridgewater State University

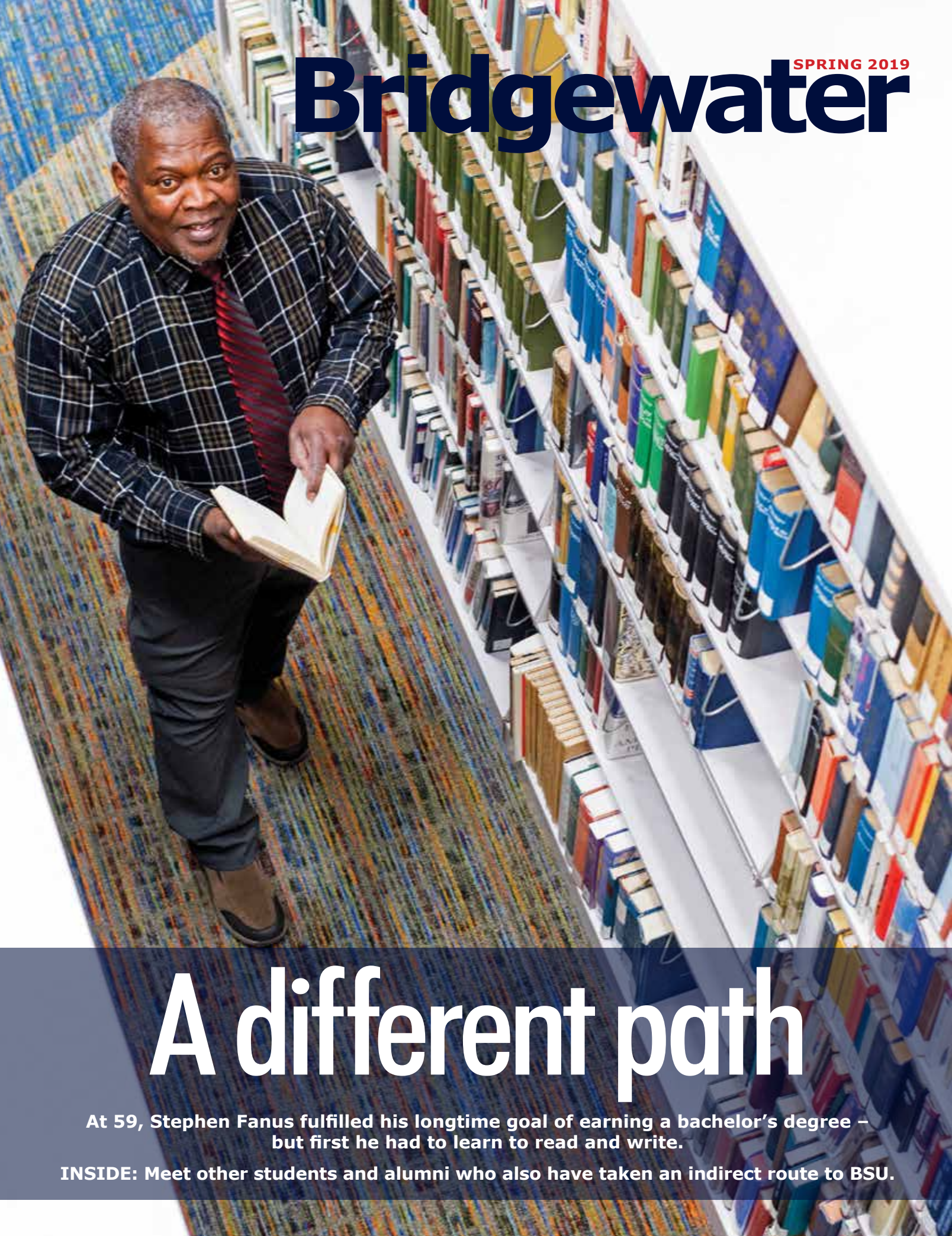
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SPRING 2019

# Bridgewater

## A different path

At 59, Stephen Fanus fulfilled his longtime goal of earning a bachelor's degree – but first he had to learn to read and write.

**INSIDE:** Meet other students and alumni who also have taken an indirect route to BSU.



# StudentSpotlight

It must be nice to rewrite history as a senior in college. **Vanessa Sherman, '19**, recently did just that. For her efforts, she earned a place at Posters on the Hill, one of the nation's most prestigious forums for undergraduate research.

As an honors student double-majoring in political science and anthropology and minoring in Middle East studies, Vanessa is deeply interested in the building of democratic governments. During an internship at Plimoth Plantation, the Somerset resident studied the manner and extent to which the Mayflower Compact actually served as the foundation of Plymouth Colony's political life.

Vanessa found evidence that the Mayflower Compact was still in use 16 years after being created in 1620. Previous to Vanessa's discovery, historians believed that the Mayflower Compact was never used in the politics of Plymouth Colony. Her paper, "Testing Tocqueville: The Political Theory of the Mayflower Compact and Its Legacy," was researched and written under the mentorship of Dr. Jordon Barkalow, associate professor of political science.

Vanessa's research will be featured in *Smithsonian* magazine's Plymouth 400 commemoration issue.

## What drew you to this topic?

People see the Pilgrims as simple churchgoers and simple people. I could see that a lot of our principles today can be traced to them. They had to be highly political and had to make a civil document to keep themselves together. They were facing so many challenges and had the ability to navigate them very well. In addition to this, Tocqueville places them as the founders of the United States.

## What sparked your interest in the subject?

It was at my internship when I was reading old law books and codes, and I found references to the Mayflower Compact being used as the legitimization of the government 15 years later. At Plimoth Plantation, they thought it had been put away and not used for governance. It just kind of refocused the conversation.

## How did it feel to be selected for Posters on the Hill?

I didn't think I was going to get it. When you talk to people who aren't interested in this topic, they say, "You're studying the Pilgrims?" So I didn't think my project was interesting enough. Then I got the email about being selected, and I was very, very excited. I love D.C., and I love talking about my project. So I can't wait to share it with the people on Capitol Hill. (Posters on the Hill was held April 29-30.)

Interview by John Winters, G'11



# Bridgewater

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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/](http://vc.bridgew.edu/br_mag/).

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Keep up with BSU on social media.



ON THE COVER: Stephen Fanus, '19, in the Clement C. Maxwell Library

photo by Ashley McCabe



Dear Friends,

According to a famous writer, “Different roads sometimes lead to the same castle.”

That wasn’t Shakespeare or Austen, but rather *Game of Thrones* author George R.R. Martin.

The quotation aptly sums up the theme guiding this issue, which looks at the different paths people have taken to become members of the Bridgewater State University family. The profiles in these pages reflect the diverse backgrounds of our student, alumni, staff and faculty-librarian populations. We believe these stories are emblematic of the diverse mosaic that is, and always has been, the strength and pride of this institution.

In these pages you’ll find tales of adversity bested, long distances traveled, hard work rewarded, journeys completed and dreams realized. The subjects featured come from around the world and down the street. Some of the stories concern current students, while others introduce graduates busily enjoying their chosen careers. You’ll also read about alumni who have returned to BSU to give back in important and powerful ways.

It is my hope that in reading these stories, it becomes clear that Bridgewater State University provides a transformative experience for all those engaged with the institution. And now for a Shakespeare quotation, one that speaks to the transformation that’s at the heart of the BSU experience: “We know what we are, but know not what we may be.”

With warmest regards,



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



# BridgewaterNews

SPRING 2019

## BSU recognized as top producer of student Fulbright recipients

Bridgewater State University has been recognized for its role in generating Fulbright recipients over the 2018–2019 academic year.

With the granting of three Fulbright awards to recent alumnae, BSU is among the top 19 schools in its category in the country, according to a Department of State analysis. BSU is in a category of schools that award master’s degrees but are not viewed as research institutions.

“This is a thrilling accomplishment for the institution, and that’s mainly because it’s showing that what we’re promising is what we’re achieving,” said Dr. Jenny Shanahan, assistant provost for high-impact practices. “We’re telling our students and our prospective students that we are committed to providing the most outstanding educational opportunities available in higher education.”

These accomplishments show that BSU can match the experiences students have at private universities that are out of reach financially for many of our students, Dr. Shanahan said. She credits BSU’s strong undergraduate research program and faculty mentors. “Sometimes a nudge from faculty and staff will encourage a student to apply for an opportunity such as the Fulbright Program that they didn’t know was even a possibility.

“The commitment has been to get the word out to students,” Dr. Shanahan said.■



## Honoring a special student: Sackie Nyanquoi

BSU officials renamed the Minnock Institute Global Learning Lab in honor of Sackie Nyanquoi, a chemistry major and member of the Class of 2019, who died in October.

Sackie, a Liberian native, overcame many obstacles in his 27 years, including a near-fatal acid attack in 2008 by an assailant trying to rob his parents’ home in Monrovia.

“I think it’s more than appropriate to recognize Sackie’s contributions to our university and how he was able to make an impact,” said Joseph Oravec, vice president for student affairs and enrollment management. “This dedication is emblematic of how he assisted BSU to move forward with international student relations.”

Always diligent in his studies, Sackie was a frequent visitor to the lab.■



## Meet the new executive director for alumni relations

Ellen Cuttle Oliver, ’82, G’89, is the university’s new executive director for alumni relations.

As a double-Bear, she said she feels a sense of belonging and connectedness to Bridgewater State University, something she wants to create for BSU’s more than 70,000 alumni.

“Whether you’re a graduate from 50 years ago or five years ago, or even a student of today, it’s the connections we remember,” she said.

Ms. Oliver has fond memories of her time as a student at what was then Bridgewater State College.

“Bridgewater changed my life,” Ms. Oliver said. “The friends and roommates I had then are my closest friends today.

“Those relationships are important. The interactions with faculty are important. It’s those connections you make while transforming from a kid to an adult that matter.”■





### New dean appointed

Dr. Arnaa Alcon was named dean of Bridgewater State University's College of Humanities and Social Sciences. Since August 2017, Dr. Alcon has served as interim dean of the college, and is credited during that time with prioritizing diversity, inclusion, interdisciplinary programs, student recruitment and retention, strategic and budgetary planning, and collaborative initiatives.

"I am deeply honored and very excited about the opportunity to work with colleagues across the university, and especially in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, to realize a shared, evolving and ambitious vision of the best college and BSU we can be," Dr. Alcon said.

Prior to her appointment as interim dean, Dr. Alcon led the School of Social Work, serving as chair since 2009 and as acting coordinator of the Master of Social Work program from 2010-2011.

The focus of her teaching and applied research has been in the areas of aging, social policy and financial literacy. Dr. Alcon's scholarship has been presented at national social work, gerontology and leadership conferences.■

### Dean of the Ricciardi College of Business named

Dr. Jeanean J. Davis-Street has been named dean of the Ricciardi College of Business, effective July 1. She had served as interim dean for the past year.

"During that time, she has prioritized student success, faculty engagement, academic program development and assessment, strategic planning, and external relationships. Her work over the past year has advanced a number of important initiatives, and has been carried out in a thoughtful, collaborative, and creative manner," said President Frederick Clark Jr. and Dr. Karim Ismaili, provost and vice president for academic affairs, in making the announcement.

Dr. Davis-Street, who joined BSU's faculty in 2009 in the Department of Accounting and Finance, worked with faculty colleagues to create a tutor lab and establish new graduate MBA and accountancy programs. She also spent time as the college's associate dean, where she led a number of signature projects that enhanced the profile of the college externally, and provided students with an ever-widening array of exceptional educational opportunities.■



### Training the high-tech workers of the future

BSU is one of several institutions, including Stonehill College, working with a \$1.8 million grant secured by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology from the U.S. Office of Naval Research. The grant allows AIM Photonics Academy at MIT to develop a program to train people to work in advanced manufacturing. The initiative brings together industry, academia and government.

Through the new program, students can complete a 15-month, 30-credit certification program, which will include apprenticeships at companies. BSU will also offer a photonics minor as well as a concentration for physics majors.

Photons are particles of light capable of replacing electrons. Using photons allows for higher-density chips in devices and improves the transmission of information, providing more bandwidth and less energy loss. Photonics is expected to revolutionize the world's technology, making everything from medical devices to cell phones function better. However, the emerging field needs trained workers.

Officials from Draper Lab have already visited BSU to talk to students about future opportunities in the field.■

### Accounting program recognized nationally

With a CPA first-time exam pass rate of 61.3 percent, and a low undergraduate 19:1 student-to-faculty ratio, it's no surprise that BSU's master's and bachelor's degree accounting programs are being recognized nationally.

AccountingEDU.org recently included the department on its State-by-State Guide to the Most Affordable Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Accounting 2018-19. Boston College and BSU were the only two Massachusetts colleges featured on the master's degree list, while Bentley University joined BSU on the undergraduate list.

Carly Pierce, senior editor of AccountingEDU.org, said the goal of creating the list is to help potential students interested in accounting find deserving programs that they are confident about recommending. "We considered more than just affordability when compiling these lists," Ms. Pierce said in an email. "We wanted to find quality programs with strong first-time CPA pass rates as well."■

# Passing the torch

### Alumnus' legacy of goodwill carries on with fund to help students in need

Throughout his lifetime, Michael F. Maguire, '76, G'87, was someone people knew they could count on.

As a student at what was then Bridgewater State College, he often paid the tab for friends who didn't have any money. Later in life, Mr. Maguire continued spreading goodwill in a variety of ways. He called everyone he knew who'd served in the military each Veterans Day, kept in regular touch with a wide circle of friends and was always there for anyone who needed a helping hand.

"He was like that, a very giving guy," said his longtime friend Philip LeFavor, '72, G'76. "We wanted to do something to memorialize him because he touched a lot of people."

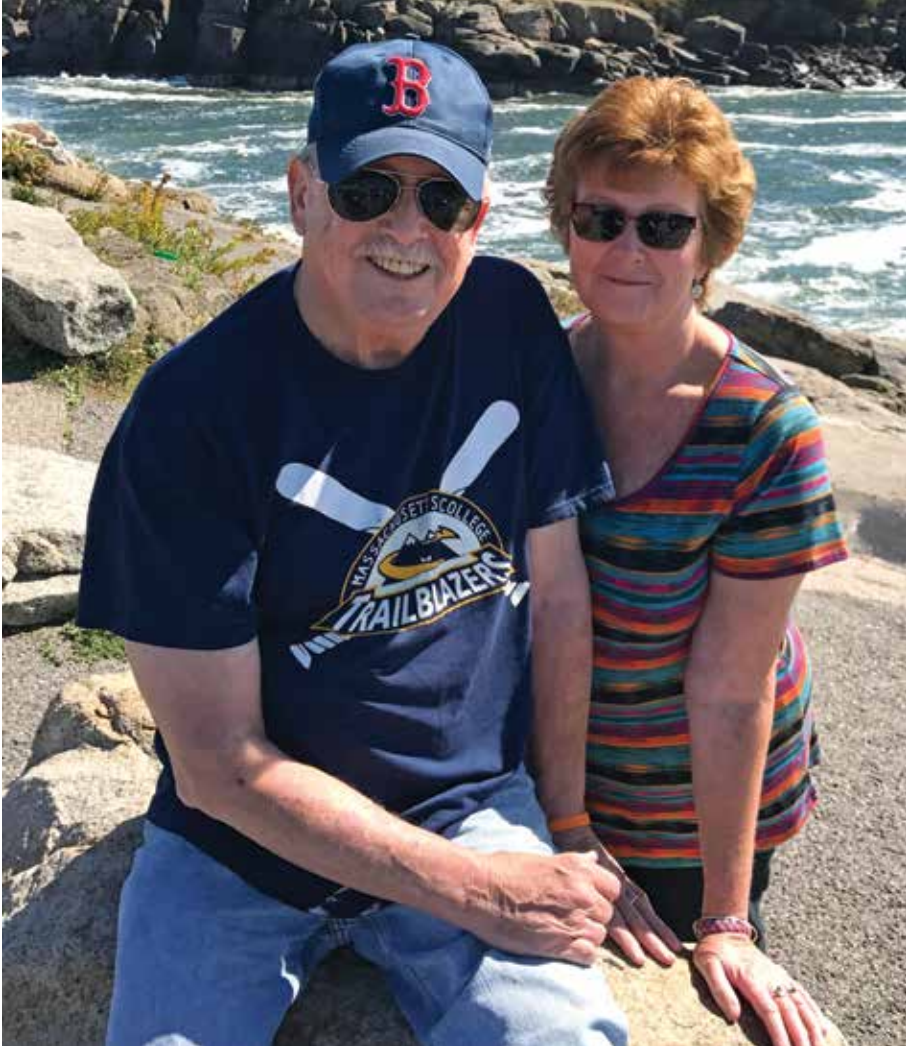
Mr. Maguire died in December 2017, at the age of 68. Now his widow, Ginny, '76, G'02, and his legions of friends have come together to create The Muggsy Fund.

"Muggsy" was Mr. Maguire's nickname. The fund named in his honor was established to help students deal with emergencies – relatively costly and unexpected expenses, from auto repair to a new suit for a big interview.

"You never know what a student is going through," Mr. LeFavor said. "So many of them are just getting by."

The idea was born at last year's football alumni dinner, when Mr. LeFavor and others spoke to President Clark about creating a fund in honor of their friend. It was agreed that a discretionary fund to help students in case of emergencies was the best way to pay tribute to the man everyone affectionately called "Muggsy."

"He would have loved this," said Mrs. Maguire. "He was such a great guy with a great sense of humor."



Michael, '76, G'87, and Ginny, '76, G'02, Maguire

Mr. Maguire grew up in Easton and was diagnosed with polio at the age of five. More hard luck arrived during his high school years when both his parents died. None of this sidelined him for long. At Oliver Ames High School (OAHS), he served as team manager for so many sports over so many seasons, he was inducted into the school's athletic hall of fame and had the most varsity letters of any alumnus.

He graduated from OAHS in 1967, and came to Bridgewater State, where, Mr. LeFavor said of his friend, "He was on the extended plan." Indeed, Mr. Maguire spent eight years on campus working toward his degree. During those years, the campus had its share of students who'd come back from Vietnam. "If their VA check didn't arrive in time, everyone took care of everyone else," Mr. LeFavor said. That was especially true of Mr. Maguire.

Mr. Maguire met Ginny Spellman at Bridgewater State. The couple married in 1977 and had two sons. Their father

regularly volunteered as a Little League coach during off hours from his job as a social worker at Bridgewater State Hospital.

Mrs. Maguire described the time she and her husband spent at Bridgewater State as almost Edenic. "We had the time of our lives," she said. "The school was very important to us, and we made a lot of lifelong friends there."

The Muggsy Fund is accepting donations and will also be supported by an annual golf tournament held each June at the Easton Country Club, along with other fundraising events. In addition to helping BSU students in need of money due to a crisis or emergency, the money raised provides scholarships at Oliver Ames and Apponequet high schools (with preference given to students planning on coming to BSU).

For more information about the Muggsy Fund or to donate, log on to <https://alumni.bridgew.edu/muggsy>.■





Gina Campanini, '20, (left) and Meghan Domagala, '19, flank *Wheel of Fortune* host Pat Sajak.



Ellen DeGeneres shows Giavanna Giorgio, '20, how to play Holy Roller on *The Ellen Show*.

### BSU students appear on popular TV shows

Bridgewater State University students Gina Campanini, '20, and Meghan Domagala, '19, found themselves \$64,000 richer after appearing on *Wheel of Fortune*.

The two students gave a shout out to Bridgewater State University during their appearance on the show, and they joked with host Pat Sajak that if they won any prize money, they would put it toward their student loans.

Also getting a star turn on national television was Giavanna Giorgio, '20, who appeared on *The Ellen Show* on January 9. The Marshfield resident, who said seeing the show in person was a lifelong dream, played the show's well-known Holy Roller game. Fellow Bear Jessica Perry-Gore, '19, took in the show with Giavanna over winter break. ■

## In Brief

●Prospective students and their families can now get a lifelike feel for the Bridgewater State University campus by embarking on the new, **360-degree, immersive virtual tour**. In addition to the ability to explore the campus via the university's website, the tour is available on mobile and Facebook platforms. The experience allows visitors to take further action to apply or inquire about BSU. Log on to [www.bridgew.edu/campus-tour](http://www.bridgew.edu/campus-tour) to take the tour.

●For the fourth straight summer, the U.S. Department of State-sponsored **Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders** has chosen BSU to host some of the continent's brightest emerging leaders. This year, BSU is the only college or university in New England – and one of just 27 across the country – selected as an institute partner. The program, founded in 2014 and administered by the International Research & Exchanges Board, helps fellows develop leadership skills as they take part in academic study, mentoring, networking, public service and other activities. They also build strong ties with U.S. citizens with whom they interact. After returning to their home countries, fellows participate in alumni programming to continue building skills and networks.

●The U.S. Department of Education has awarded the **College of Graduate Studies** up to \$450,000 over three years to prepare students to fill in-demand computer science jobs, particularly around cybersecurity and artificial intelligence. The funding will be used to award fellowships that will cover selected graduate students' tuition, stipend and other expenses, allowing them to focus full time on their studies.

●**Music Professor Deborah Nemko** performed the music of Dick Kattenburg, who was killed in 1944 at the Auschwitz concentration camp, during the Anne Frank Awards Ceremony at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., on March 27. The annual event recognizes people who work in the spirit of inclusion and diversity embodied by Anne Frank, the famous Jewish diarist and Holocaust victim. Log on to <http://y2u.be/SEMWJETQHZk> to see Professor Nemko's performance.

●The molecular biosciences publication *FEBS Letters* is featuring undergraduate research by **Nicole Berry, '19**; classmate **Jacquelyn LaVallee**; and alumni **Terrain Edwards-Grant, '18**; **Stephanie D'Angelo-Early, '17**; **Sergey Kletsov, '18**; and **Kimberly Abt, '18**. They worked with **Professors Ken Adams** and **Christopher Bloch**, both of BSU's Department of Biological Sciences, and Boston University Lecturer Mario Muscedere. Typically, such accomplishments are the domain of graduate and doctoral students, faculty and professional researchers. Using predominately rat and mouse cell lines, the group researched a protein called NAB2 that is not fully understood. In humans and other mammals, NAB2 regulates gene expression (whether genes are turned on or off). It also contributes to the development and maintenance of nerves outside of the brain. The study added to scientists' understanding of NAB2 by identifying a region in the protein called a "nuclear localization signal" that is required for NAB2 to enter a cell's nucleus, where it regulates gene expression.

●**President Frederick Clark Jr.** was named chairman of the Metro South Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors during the organization's annual meeting. "To be here in this capacity is really remarkable for a son of Brockton," the president said. The chamber serves Brockton and many nearby communities, including Bridgewater. President Clark sees a synergy between its activities and the education taking place at BSU. ■

## Faculty Focus

### DR. JAKARI GRIFFITH / Management

As with many faculty members, Dr. Jakari Griffith's life experience has helped shape the educator and researcher he is today.

The assistant professor of management and 2019 Award for Academic Excellence recipient came to Bridgewater State in 2003, after teaching at Salem State College. Early in his career, he focused on management issues revolving around positive psychology and leadership.

Eventually, however, Dr. Griffith, who grew up in Rockland County, New York, found a topic that was closer to home: researching ways to help ex-offenders find suitable employment once they're released from prison.

The popular professor is no stranger to the law. Dr. Griffith's father is a retired New York City police officer, and, in 2008, his younger brother was a victim of deadly gunfire. Instead of seeking retribution for that terrible act, he turned in the other direction. "I honor my brother not only by grieving, but also by my actions," he said.

Some sort of vengeance, whether it's an eye for an eye, a hefty prison sentence or the death penalty, may help the loved ones of some victims feel better, but Dr. Griffith said it can too often be a Pyrrhic victory.

"None of it helps anyone to become whole again," he said. "Educating people and providing dignified employment offers us the best chance to avoid violence to begin with."

Dr. Griffith received a PhD in management from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, a Master of Arts in public administration from Florida A&M University, and a Bachelor of Arts from the School of Business & Industry, also at Florida A&M University. At BSU, he teaches courses on human resources, organizational behavior and leadership.

When not in the classroom or working on issues he's passionate about, Dr. Griffith can be found running marathons (in March he completed one in Los Angeles) or riding ultra-long distances on his bike. Sometimes, his son Jaeden, 16, accompanies him.

The route from prison to work is little understood. An article by Dr. Griffith and some of his colleagues that looked at a decade's worth of studies on prison-to-work initiatives was recently accepted by an international journal. They could find just 58 studies. "There are tons of questions that have not been answered," Dr. Griffith said.

He is intent on removing the stigma attached to former inmates when they enter the job force and is seeking ways to educate employers about the fact that former offenders



often make excellent employees. Dr. Griffith is pushing an initiative to provide incentives for employers willing to hire individuals after they are released.

While he believes that some people commit crimes that necessitate their being separated from society for extensive periods of time, or even forever, Dr. Griffith hopes the recent study and his continuing work will open some minds to those convicted of lesser offenses.

"It would be great to put forward some policy guidance or to help validate the view that ex-offenders are an added value and can make a contribution to society," he said. "We're trying to find the win-win." ■



# Awards & Accolades

## Coaches inducted into regional hall of fame

**Bridgett Casey**, BSU's women's head basketball coach, and the late **Suzanne Rivard, '62**, were inducted into the New Agenda: Northeast Hall of Fame. New Agenda recognizes women who commit themselves to girls and women in sport throughout New England.

Coach Rivard taught for 37 years at Oliver Ames High School in Easton, and served as a physical education teacher, assistant principal, and coach of the girls basketball, softball, and field hockey teams. She was inducted into the school's Hall of Fame in 2005.

Coach Casey's 20-plus years leading the BSU women's basketball team earned her the distinction of being the program's all-time winningest coach. In 2014-2015, she guided the Bears to a 16-10 record, and fifth straight MASCAC tournament championship and NCAA Division III tournament appearance.

## Physics major earns research award at Harvard

**Adam Jabak, '20**, a physics major, earned first place honors in the physical sciences presentation category at the National Collegiate Research Conference, held at Harvard University. The presentation by this native of Lebanon highlighted collaborative research among BSU, Northeastern University and Chalmers University of Technology in Sweden that could support development of better cancer medication. Adam is continuing research by Nicholas Bryden, '17, the first BSU student to present at the National Collegiate Research Conference. He conducts his research in Dr. Thaya Paramanathan's single molecule biophysics lab.

Seniors **Caitlin Rowley**, a political science major mentored by Dr. Melinda Tarsi, and **Kelly Gately**, a biology and elementary education major mentored by Drs. Heather Marella and Nicole Glen also presented at the conference.

## Social work alumna earns statewide award

**Carla B. Monteiro, '17**, received the 2019 Future of Social Work Award from the National Association of Social Workers' Massachusetts chapter. The award recognizes the contributions of an exceptional student enrolled in a Massachusetts social work graduate program. Ms. Monteiro founded the Cape Verdean Social Workers Association and volunteers with the Big Sisters Association of Greater Boston. She's also traveled to the Arizona-Mexico border to aid migrants. Now a graduate student at Boston College, she works at the Brigham Health Bridge Clinic helping substance-use patients.

## Student earns Best Senator Award

**Kailynn Palaima, '19**, earned the Best Senator Award for her portrayal of U.S. Senator James Risch (R-Idaho) during the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Floyd M. Riddick Model United States Senate, held March 28-30 at Stetson University in Deland, Florida. Her leadership skills and knowledge of parliamentary procedure made her a standout at the event.

## Professor named editor of scholarly book series

**Dr. Aeon J. Skoble** was named co-editor of the *Essential Scholars* series, published by the Fraser Institute, the top-ranked Canadian think tank where the philosophy professor is a senior fellow. The series will publish Dr. Skoble's ninth book, *The Essential Nozick*. Additionally, in 2017 and 2018, he was invited to deliver lectures at the annual meeting of the American Philosophical Association, as well as at several universities and the Fraser Institute. He recently presented a paper at the annual meeting of The Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society, and was an invited discussant at seven conferences between 2017 and 2018.

## Seniors' project includes work on Pre-Columbian artifacts

Seniors Scott Delaney and Jacob Coffey assessed almost three dozen Pre-Columbian artifacts that date back thousands of years, such as spinning spools and figurines with ritual significance. The items were donated to BSU by the Joan Pearson Watkins Trust. The trust had little information about the objects, leaving Scott, an archeology major, and Jacob, an anthropology major, to scour auction house websites and other sources in a dogged search for answers. "It was a very big mystery, and both of us are very easily intrigued by mysteries," said Jacob.

The artifacts generally hail from Central and South America. But the collection includes a terracotta effigy from Europe and a modern piggy bank, outliers that underscore the importance of keeping good records.

"People think archeologists study artifacts. We do, but that's so we can learn about the people," said Dr. Michael Zimmerman, an assistant professor of anthropology, who is working on the project with Scott and Jacob. "The vast majority of information learned about artifacts comes from their context. Objects without context can tell us very, very little."

Through work more commonly done by graduate students, Scott and Jacob researched, cataloged, photographed and described items in the collection, including: "Tequila Drinker" (100BCE-250CE), from the Nayarit culture of Western Mexico, and "Dancing Dogs" (300BCE-300CE), from Colima, Mexico, which is a reproduction of pieces found in shaft burials.

Scott and Jacob hope to continue this work as part of their own business.■



Seniors Jacob Coffey (left) and Scott Delaney set up a display of Pre-Columbian objects in Boyden Hall.



"Dancing Dogs" (300BCE-300CE)



"Tequila Drinker" (100BCE-250CE)

# Commencement 2019

## Smiles and tears mark commencement week

Approximately 2,100 bachelor's degrees were awarded on May 18 in dual ceremonies on the Boyden Quadrangle.

In his remarks, President Frederick Clark Jr. used a light touch in telling the graduates they were well prepared for the future with their BSU degrees. He cited popular culture figure Jon Snow from *Game of Thrones* and the Marvel comics hero Thor, saying, "So maybe you don't have a magical hammer, but you do have new-found wisdom. You are ready."

Much to the audience's delight, Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh, who spoke to morning graduates, made BSU mascot Bristaco an honorary member of the Boston Bruins as the hockey team prepared for the Stanley Cup Finals.

Meanwhile, U.S. Senator Edward Markey told the afternoon graduates that much is expected from them. "We are all here today because we have been given opportunities that were beyond the reach of many in past generations," he said. "If knowledge is power, and with power comes responsibility, then your generation has more responsibility than any one that has ever come before it."

An emotional moment occurred during the afternoon ceremony for undergraduates when a posthumous degree was awarded to Katie Brannelly, who was struck by a vehicle while crossing the street in her hometown of Norwood in 2012, just weeks before she was set to graduate from BSU.

Held on May 16, was the commencement ceremony for the College of Graduate Studies, during which approximately 460 diplomas were awarded. Keynote speaker Marylou Sudders, secretary of the state Executive Office of Health and Human Services, urged graduates to go old school once in a while. "You can't Google your values. That comes from your heart," she said.

Before the graduate ceremony, a smiling Anne Smith, '15, G'19, said, "Bridgewater is what set me up for success."■



Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh (right) delights graduates and President Frederick Clark Jr. by making BSU mascot Bristaco an honorary member of the Boston Bruins.



Clockwise, from top left:

U.S. Senator Edward Markey speaks at the afternoon undergraduate ceremony.

Thomas Brannelly (right) greets Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Karim Ismaili after receiving a degree awarded posthumously to his daughter Katie of the Class of 2012.



Marylou Sudders, secretary of the state Executive Office of Health and Human Services, speaks during the College of Graduate Studies ceremony on May 16.



President Frederick Clark Jr. presents Dr. Lisa Battaglini, '79, with BSU's Distinguished Service Award.

## Retiring dean honored at commencement

During the morning undergraduate commencement ceremony, Dr. Lisa Battaglini, '79, was honored with BSU's Distinguished Service Award. She joined the institution as a full-time faculty member in 1992, teaching in the Department of Special Education, and has served as Dean of the College of Education and Allied Studies since 2012.

Under her leadership, the college has increased student and faculty engagement throughout the world with study-away opportunities, international student-teaching placements, global partnerships and faculty exchanges. Through BSU's tablet initiative, Propel-BSU, Dr. Battaglini has successfully promoted the advancement of applicable technology in education. Her leadership in the area of technology and education has resulted in BSU twice receiving the prestigious Apple Distinguished School Award and, in 2016, being selected to participate in a special White House Summit on leadership aimed at improving technology for teacher preparation.

These accomplishments are just a few among many. Dr. Battaglini was also awarded the Presidential Fellowship in 2004 and the BSU Alumni Association's 2015 Nicholas P. Tillinghast Award for achievement in the field of education.

In announcing Dr. Battaglini's retirement, President Frederick Clark Jr. reflected on Dr. Battaglini's "outstanding 30 years at Bridgewater."■

For more about Dr. Battaglini, see page 30.





# Bear tales

**Behind every member of the BSU community there's a story.**

**In the pages that follow are just a few.**

BY JOHN WINTERS, G'11

How do you describe a Bridgewater State student?

Going by the numbers, the answer to this question is easy.

However, not apparent, based on just the data, is the fact that each of the current 11,000 students has a story as to how he or she became a member of the Bridgewater State University community. The same can be said for alumni and faculty.

This issue is dedicated to sharing stories about the different pathways people take to get to BSU. From international

students who long dreamed of an education like that available at BSU, to transfer students who found what they were looking for on our campus, to students who stepped away from college for any number of reasons but returned to the classroom in mid-life – or later – and found the experience more rewarding than they could have imagined.

And, did you know more than half of Bridgewater State University's students are the first in their families to attend a four-year institution of higher education? Meet some of these first-generation students who have also emerged as campus leaders.

You'll read about alumni who tell of the places their Bridgewater State degree has taken them and the opportunities it has unlocked. They work in the nonprofit sector, the local media and high school classrooms, among other professions.

Finally, meet some of the faculty members and a dean who hold degrees from BSU and found their careers at their alma mater.

The message of this issue of *Bridgewater* magazine is more than just the cliché, "It takes all kinds." These profiles speak to a level of diversity amidst the larger campus community that stretches beyond the usual demographic measures. The stories are emblematic of an institution that draws strength not from sheer numbers but from distinctiveness. To paraphrase the novelist Mary McCarthy, these individuals are, deservedly so, "the heroes of their own story."

That's how we think of them, and we at Bridgewater State University are glad they made this institution part of their journey.■

## Bridgewater State University BY THE NUMBERS

**Nearly 11,000 total students**

**70,000 alumni**

**23 percent of students are of color**

**19:1 student-to-faculty ratio**

**22 students in the average class**

**2,543 diplomas awarded in 2018**

**1,086 transfer students**

**96 percent of undergraduate students hail from Massachusetts**

**40 percent of undergraduate students live on campus**

**357 full-time faculty members**

**17 percent of faculty are of color**

**94 percent of full-time faculty hold terminal degrees**

*SOURCE: The Fall 2018 Bridgewater State University Fact Book*

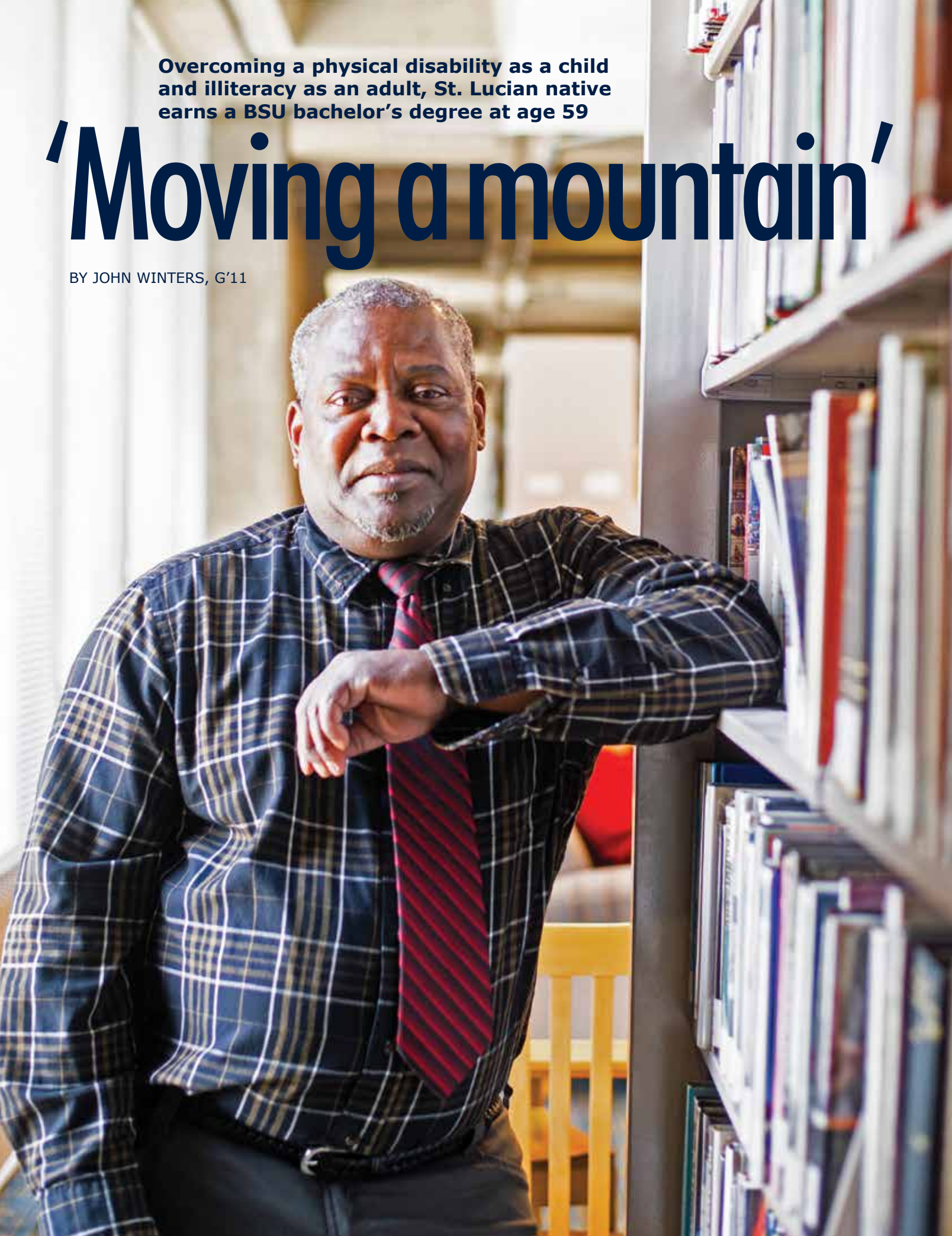




Overcoming a physical disability as a child and illiteracy as an adult, St. Lucian native earns a BSU bachelor's degree at age 59

# 'Moving a mountain'

BY JOHN WINTERS, G'11



WHEN STEPHEN FANUS WALKED ACROSS THE STAGE at Bridgewater State University's 2019 commencement, it was the culmination of a long journey.

"Words can't explain it," he said. "The trip that I've made from where I came from to here, to be able to do that, I can't explain it. Someday maybe I will."

If words fail him, it's understandable. The 59-year-old's story is one full of sadness and challenges that would defeat most mortals. However, it's also a tale of grit and determination, as well as proof of how far an indomitable will can take one.

The odds were against him from the start. Born in the Saint Lucian village of Micoud to an illiterate mother and absentee father, Stephen was born with a hernia that extended beyond his legs. His prognosis was so dire that his family held a wake for him the same day he was born. "No one thought I would live," he said.

Back in the late 1950s, his village had no doctors, just a midwife. Somehow Stephen pulled through.

Unable to walk due to the hernia, he dragged himself along the ground for the first years of life, leaving him open to ridicule and abuse from some of his less-understanding neighbors and even an uncle, who tormented him.

Stephen's condition also meant he could not attend school. Education was merely a dream, and he would watch, enviously, as his peers walked by heading to their classes each day.

He was determined, however, and would not accept a life of being housebound. He sneaked outside at every chance, intent on having some semblance of a normal childhood.

Stephen would be 12 years old before he had surgery for his hernia. An American doctor with the Peace Corps performed the handful of operations that changed his young life. Suddenly, he was able to attend St. Mary's Infant School in his village. It turned out to be bittersweet.

"It was great," he recalled. "Then I found out what I had to do. This was my nightmare; they expected me to do everything."

Of course Stephen couldn't read or write. When he failed to record his lessons on the board as directed, the teachers and headmasters hit him. The frustration – and the welts he was regularly collecting – caused him to quit. Stephen then worked with his mother on a local plantation and tried to teach himself to read using the Bible. This only got him so far, so at the age of 14, he left his homeland for Barbados hoping a change of scenery would bring new opportunities. "I was alone and had two dollars in my pocket," he said. "I didn't know where I was going."

Family friends met Stephen when he got off the bus and helped him land a job. He enrolled in a reading and writing program. Again, he found himself hopelessly behind his

classmates. He also learned he was dyslexic. Once again, he quit his studies. But this time he returned to the program, stuck with it and began to learn.

While in Barbados in his early 20s, Stephen built an eclectic resume that included work as a singer, dancer and fire-eater in the island's hotels. He even started his own small hotel, but the attacks of September 11, 2001, the subsequent drop in travel and the slumping economy put an end to that venture. So, he headed to America.

He landed in Taunton, and by 2003 he had enrolled in Bristol Community College's Adult Education Partnership program, which is cosponsored by the city's schools and the Taunton Literacy Council. Though he barely knew how to hold a pencil, there he found people willing to put in the time and effort to help him fulfill his goal of learning to read and write. "Basically, I learned on my own until I got here to Taunton," Stephen said. "I'm grateful for the people I met here."

When he began taking higher education seriously, around 2009, he began cautiously, but quickly caught the bug. "How far can I go?" he remembered thinking.

After that, there was no looking back.

Still, Stephen faced a long road ahead, but in 2013, he earned a GED and was asked to be the graduation speaker for his class. He then began working toward an associate degree at Bristol Community College. He was selected in 2017 by the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education as one of the 29 Who Shine, a program that honors a student from each of the state's public colleges and universities for their academic achievements, leadership and community service work. He graduated in 2017 with degrees in communication and paralegal. "Oh, man, it was like moving a mountain. But I didn't stop," he said.

Next up was Bridgewater State University and a bachelor's degree in political science.

Along the way, Stephen served an internship at Fall River's South Coastal Counties Legal Services. "I liked it very much, and I think I have a knack for it," he said. Law school may be his next stop.

In the meantime, he is working at Walmart, volunteering with youth programs at BSU and Southeastern Regional Vocational Technical High School in Easton, and writing his life story. He also stays in touch with his two children; one is studying law, the other culinary arts. It's clear their father's drive to improve himself has been passed along.

On a gray winter afternoon, Stephen, sitting in his Taunton apartment alongside a computer he uses for homework and online classes, and surrounded by piles of schoolbooks, said he hopes his story will inspire others. ■





# New territory

BY JOHN WINTERS, G'11

Ensuring first-generation students feel at home and succeed on campus

IT'S CLEAR THAT TYLER CZYRAS, '22, is thriving on campus. He's earned excellent grades and will serve this upcoming academic year as senator-at-large with the Student Government Association (SGA).

But as the first in his family to attend a four-year college or university, the Canton native felt alone when it came to dealing with some of the issues he had upon arriving at BSU.

"I only really experienced a little bit of apprehension, but that was just because I was scared of this new thing about to happen in my life," he said. "For example, I thought I was going to be an average or below-average student. Since I am a first-gen, no one could comfort my anxieties about college life and classes. So, I did what I did in high school and ended up doing so well the first semester that I got on the dean's list."

Many first-generation students face challenges stemming from an unfamiliarity with what to expect once they arrive on campus and a lack of knowledge about where to turn

for help. The fact that no one else in their families before them held a college degree not only leaves them flying solo as they navigate their new lives on campus, but also creates other challenges.

First-generation students can often feel like they're hitting a wall, or encountering things on campus everyone expects all students to be familiar with. In the old days, these students were left to their own devices. "'Figure it out' moments like these are part of higher education's hidden curriculum, a collection of undefined cultural norms, processes and assumptions essential to navigating the academic, social and administrative elements of college life,'" wrote Ed Venit of the research firm Education Advisor Board (known now as EAB).

Research shows that nationally 32 percent of American undergraduate students are categorized as first generation. A study by Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce reveals that only 40 percent of these

**First-generation students Anna Rice, '21, and Tyler Czyras, '22, take a break on the steps of Boyden Hall between their classes and jobs.**

students achieve a degree within six years, compared with 55 percent of students whose parents hold degrees.

Since more than half of BSU's student population falls into the first-gen category, faculty members and a group of students have developed a set of initiatives to address these challenges. Likewise, across the country, researchers and academic institutions are paying more attention to the hurdles that first-gen students often face.

Dr. Colby King, assistant professor of sociology, who studies the first-gen experience of today's students, was the first in his family to attend college.

"Working-class and first-generation status can be both invisible and stigmatized on college campuses, and these statuses can make success more difficult for students, as well as faculty and staff," Dr. King said. Students from these backgrounds "are also more likely to represent other marginalized groups on campus." While some Ivy League and private colleges and universities have taken steps to address these issues, they tend to have fewer first-generation/working-class students. BSU, as a public institution, is, necessarily, on the forefront of recognizing and addressing the needs particular to first-gen students since there are so many enrolled at the university.

The issues some first-gen students face include a phenomenon called "imposterism," or a feeling that even if you totally earned your place in the classroom, you have a sense that someone is going to find you out.

Some first-gen students also deal with a unique type of guilt, Dr. King said, where they're concerned about how they get to spend their time – learning and improving themselves – while their families remain skeptical of the educational enterprise.

Dr. King himself encountered a disconnect between his home life and his new life on campus. "It was sometimes hard to explain to my family what I was learning at college," he said.

Anna Rice, '21, is a first-gen student from Medway and president of the SGA for the upcoming academic year. She said her coming to college also meant educating the folks back home.

"I have introduced my family to many things that we didn't have access to in the past, including sorority life, residence life and the overall college experience," she said. "Though it is tough sometimes, I love every moment of this experience."

As for his family, Tyler Czyras said not everyone was ready for him to leave the nest. In fact, he still gets "I miss you" texts from his mother. "In reality, she and my father are my biggest supporters, and I wouldn't want it any other way," he said.

Knowing well the challenges facing many first-generation students, Dr. King began discussing the issue with other BSU faculty members. It turns out that many, like him, had been first-gen students themselves. The result was an ongoing program of activities launched under the rubric "Class Beyond the Classroom" to address the special circumstances faced by these students. Out of the initiative grew "Our Stories" events, where first-gen faculty and administrators share their own experiences; related lectures; special mentoring; participation in an annual First-Gen College Student Summit; and resources, both printed and online. BSU also has a group called I Am First!

"The goal is to make it possible that more students can succeed, no matter their background," Dr. King said.

Another faculty member who was a first-generation student is Dr. Sean McPherson, assistant professor of art. His resume includes extracurricular stints as a driver, translator, research assistant, cook, construction worker, architect and English teacher. Some of that work paid for his education at Williams College. As a result of his own experience, he has developed a strong connection with first-gen students in his classes. He also sees admirable traits in these young people who have been forged by their background and experiences.

"There's a reluctance to make excuses," Dr. McPherson said. "And they're too embarrassed to talk about the troubles they're having. They also tend to be very resourceful and more self-reliant," which is why he's been involved for years with first-gen programming on campus, along with Dr. King and the recently enjoined Dr. Inkyoung Kim of the Department of Political Science.

Drs. King and McPherson agree that first-generation students need help building social and cultural capital. Social capital refers to the number of friends, colleagues and supporters one has, to provide everything from job references to emotional support. Cultural capital is all about knowing how to dress and behave for different events.

In short, as Dr. McPherson puts it, "The vast number of these students sort of need exposure to the broader world. It's amazing what they can do if you help them connect a few of the dots."

Or, just take the advice Anna Rice would share with fellow first-generation students: "Don't sweat it! Just because you are a first-gen college student does not mean your experience will be drastically different from anyone else's. It's a scary thing to go into, especially when no one in the family has gone through it, but you get out of it what you put into it. Go after every opportunity that presents itself, and you will be just fine!" ■



# From homeless to helping others

**Alumna's personal experiences inform her career path**

BY BRIAN BENSON

WHEN JACKSON'S CENTER for Leadership, Advocacy, and Supportive Services, Inc., helps people facing homelessness, CEO Sasha Heggie-Jackson, '16, can relate to what they are experiencing. She overcame homelessness herself about six years ago.

"I know what it's like to need help and not know where to go," she said. "A lot of what I've been through has helped me want to give back and educate others. ... Being able to help someone else who may be experiencing something similar is really rewarding."

That goal of assisting others inspired Ms. Heggie-Jackson to start the nonprofit center with her wife, Patricia Jackson.

"My wife and I last summer were thinking about the Brockton community and saw a gap in services," said Ms. Heggie-Jackson, who began her higher education journey at Massasoit Community College. "There's an overwhelming amount of families that are in need."

The multi-faceted organization, which focuses on the Brockton area, collects school supplies for children and runs programs to educate people on topics such as eviction prevention. It also strives to provide a safe space for people of varying genders and sexualities. She hopes her organization expands elsewhere in Southeastern Massachusetts.

Ms. Heggie-Jackson, who spent much of her youth in Brockton, earned a bachelor's degree in social work from BSU and is attending graduate school at Wheelock College in Boston. She is also an LGBTQ sexual assault counselor for Health Imperatives, a nonprofit community-based agency that provides vital health and human services to nearly 30,000 families and individuals each year from communities in Southeastern Massachusetts and also works with BSU.

She praised professors in BSU's School of Social Work and the Pride Center for supporting her. "I had some pretty remarkable professors in the social work department who let me know the possibilities were endless," the Providence, Rhode Island, resident recalled. Even when she thought she couldn't do something, she said, "They continued to push me and challenge me."

While BSU faculty supported and encouraged Ms. Heggie-Jackson, she has always had a desire to help others. "It's almost like social work is in your blood," she said. "You don't choose it. It chooses you." ■





# Good business

**Kamelia Lechani, G'20, is working to spread the word about social entrepreneurship**

BY JOHN WINTERS, G'11

WHEN KAMELIA LECHANI WAS 17, she co-founded a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of social entrepreneurship among young people in her native Morocco.

Now 26, and pursuing a Master of Business Administration degree at BSU, Kamelia is seeking to continue her work in this emerging field.

Social entrepreneurship involves start-up companies that are designed to address or fund possible solutions to social, cultural or environmental issues.

"I look at social entrepreneurship as a means of helping people help themselves and to bring positive change that impacts one's community," Kamelia said.

These goals can be accomplished through education, art, activism and other methods, she added. "I'm not looking for one specific area, but it must fall under the umbrella of entrepreneurship."

The globetrotting student spent her first two high school years in Morocco, but earned her diploma from a South African school.

Kamelia, who speaks four languages, has been involved with several international organizations, and at 19, was selected to travel to Canada to attend the inaugural Mastercard Foundation Youth Think Tank, a research group that trains and mentors young people to conduct research, collect evidence, and document youth needs, challenges, and aspirations. She was also the youngest person chosen to take part in the professional entrepreneurship fellowship at Michigan State University.

These opportunities took Kamelia to several countries, allowing her to see up close how people interested in helping others can do so by founding a nonprofit organization or starting a business where altruism is more important than the bottom line.

Her travels brought her to Massachusetts, and when it was time to select a graduate school, she chose BSU. Kamelia is also studying finance, along with her MBA. "I'm really interested in business, including analytics and investment in general," she said.

Spreading the word about social entrepreneurship isn't easy, and it doesn't happen overnight. "You can train people, but a week is not enough. It's all about finding the needs, designing a solution and trying to have that solution bring about real change for a whole community," she said.

After earning her MBA, Kamelia hopes to find a post abroad where she can put to work all that she's learned so far in her busy, productive life. ■







# Tuned in

**Making a difference one story at a time**

BY JOHN WINTERS, G'11

WATCHING QUEEN BUTAHE, '15, LIGHT UP WHEN SHE STEPS BEFORE THE CAMERA makes it clear that the Tanzanian native has found her passion. Journalism, storytelling, investigative reporting and serving as a watchdog over the powerful are all part of the job she's held now for more than two years as producer, writer, editor and multimedia journalist for Wareham Community Television.

"I want to use my skills in an activist role," she said.

Her biggest story to date did not happen on the local beat, but stretches back to the East African country she hails from. Born in 1993 in the small town of Sinza Makaburini, Ms. Butahe was dealt a childhood filled with adversity nearly from the beginning.

When Ms. Butahe was just 5 years old, her mother died, and her father left with her brother, leaving her to be raised by the maternal side of her family. Before she was 7 years old, she began experiencing physical and sexual abuse at the hands of a household servant, a family member and complete strangers. Once, she reports being touched improperly while riding a public bus. "Nobody saw anything or said anything, and that showed me that I was all alone," she said. "I also knew that if I spoke up, I was going to be labeled and stigmatized."

But speak up she has.

In Tanzania, almost three-quarters of girls and boys have experienced physical violence prior to the age of 18, according to a national survey conducted in 2011 by the nation's Ministry of Community Development. Ms. Butahe believes it's a cultural problem, and, indeed, some scholars say the country's patriarchal system contributes to the problem.

Ms. Butahe has shared her story both in a book and a TEDx talk. She says some members of her family are not happy with her speaking out.

"I don't do it for me. I'm a grown woman, I'm independent," she said. "I'm no longer a victim, but I tell my story because

I know mine is not a single case. I have to tell these things because it happens to so many people every single day."

Ms. Butahe remembers the exact date she landed in the United States: October 23, 2007. "It was a big deal," she said. "It really was a dream come true. I knew this would be my chance to be the woman I always wanted to be. I was reborn."

Ms. Butahe was taken in by the Carberry family of Franklin and first attended nearby Dean College, thanks to a full scholarship, but eventually found her way to BSU. "I loved it," she said.

Always harboring an idea of what college would be like, she said Bridgewater State University met those expectations and then some. "What I most enjoyed about BSU is that in my last year I took 10 classes per semester. They placed no restrictions on me. They gave me the room to make my own path," she said.

Ms. Butahe, known professionally as Queen Banda, is hoping to find an agent and further her career in the media so she can continue telling the difficult stories that need to be told, including about the abuse she underwent back home. "The least I can do is to say, 'It happened to me, and this is my story,'" she said. "I love my country, but this is a problem." ■

*To hear Queen Butahe's TEDx talk, No Longer Silent, visit <https://binged.it/2JVHPP>*



# Live and learn

## Two post-traditional students make the most of their Alternative Break Trips

BY BRIAN BENSON

STANDING ATOP A LEVEE THAT FAILED during Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Tanya Muldoon, '20, imagined the horror of water flooding countless homes and businesses.

"It was emotional just walking through the neighborhoods," said Tanya, who visited New Orleans on a winter Alternative Break Trip with BSU's Community Service Center. "It really opened my eyes. ... Primarily white neighborhoods are already rebuilt. You go to primarily black neighborhoods and you still have houses that are abandoned."

Tanya, 38, canvassed for affordable housing and environmental improvements, and gardened while serving with The Center for Ethical Living and Social Justice Renewal, a New Orleans organization that promotes social, economic, environmental and racial justice.

She is among a growing number of post-traditional learners participating in BSU's Alternative Break Trip (ABT) Program, where students take part in meaningful, direct service and explore social issues through a weeklong community engagement experience. Five post-traditional learners traveled in the past two academic years. They, like their younger peers, aimed to learn more about how to work for justice and plan to take action upon returning.

"What I find with post-traditional learners is they know how to intentionally connect their professional goals with the ABT program," said Jennifer Thibodeau, the Community Service Center's director. "They bring a variety of life experiences to the teams and the justice issues they're exploring during these trips, which deepens the learning for all participants."

Older students don't become de facto parents, although Tanya sometimes assumed that role as she bonded with younger peers.

"The whole stigma around that generation right now is that they don't care about stuff, and that's totally wrong," said Tanya, a single parent from Taunton majoring in social work and minoring in studio art. "Every person I went with on that trip was very compassionate."



**Marissa Morganelli, '19, along with fellow seniors Parker Smith (left) and Jason Silva, help prepare meals for the homeless in Washington, D.C., during a spring Alternative Break Trip.**

Younger students often view their older peers in a new light after spending a week living together. "They see themselves engaging with someone they didn't necessarily think they would relate to and being more comfortable participating in the learning process," Ms. Thibodeau said.

The age barrier disappeared for Stephanie Garcia, '20, as she served with Tanya. Stephanie met Tanya's 12-year-old son, JT Muldoon-Bagian, at pre- and post-travel service events and cheered when he FaceTimed his mom during the trip to say he earned a good grade.

"It shows how inclusive the university is and how they really are there for their students no matter what age they are," Stephanie, 22, said of having students like Tanya at BSU. "The goal is to get an education and degree no matter how it comes."

Tanya went to college after high school but wasn't ready. She decided to try again, initially at Bristol Community College (BCC) and now at BSU.

Marissa Morganelli, '19, also wasn't prepared when she spent a year at Framingham State after high school. She left, eventually enrolling at BCC and coming to BSU.

Marissa, 25, of Stoughton, traveled to South Dakota in 2018 to work with children at Sioux YMCA and learn

about injustices Native Americans face, such as social isolation and concentrated poverty. During the 2019 spring break, she helped lead a trip to Washington, D.C. Working with the Steinbruck Center at Luther Place, which provides programs that address homelessness and poverty in the nation's capital, students learned about the very different face of urban poverty by serving meals to people experiencing homelessness and assisting at a shelter.

Marissa, who helped plan the ABT post-trip reflection dinner, once couldn't have imagined herself as a leader. "Ten years ago in high school, I was the person who, if we had a presentation, would say 'I'm sick.' I'd leave my group holding the bag," she said. "That was a huge area of personal growth for me."

Regardless of age, trip participants agree the journeys inspire them to change their own communities.

"Once you are aware of things, it's very hard to ignore them," said Marissa, who is majoring in communication sciences and disorders, and psychology. "You can't go into this experience and come out with the same mindset."

Tanya now discusses racial inequality with her son. She also encourages older students to apply for service trips. "It broadens your perspective on things," she said. "Age is not a concern." ■

**Tanya Muldoon, '20, (left) works in a community garden during her New Orleans service trip.**







# Playing for keeps

**Henry Tran, '19, beat back obstacles to graduate in May**

BY JOHN WINTERS, G'11

MENTION TO HENRY TRAN A FAVORITE SONG OF HIS, and he lights up and reaches for his guitar.

He's only been playing a short time, but he already has the skills necessary to play a complex song like the Beatles' "Blackbird."

"I'm into the guitar more now," he said. "It's a coping mechanism."

Henry is not a music major. That's just one of his pleasures. He's a physics major with a post-graduation dream of attending the U.S. Navy's Officer Candidate School and becoming a nuclear engineer.

The soft-spoken Worcester native, who grew up in Boston's Dorchester neighborhood, found his way to Bridgewater State University after being treated for depression, including time at the famed McLean Hospital in Belmont. Between the ages of 16 and 22, he lived in foster homes due to family issues.

Henry's roots reach back to Vietnam on his mother's side, and he recalls visiting the Asian country and loving the spaciousness and the ample greenery – qualities he also found when visiting BSU after high school. "The scenery was beautiful, and so much of the campus was new," he recalled.

Asked what drew him to physics, he's honest about the challenges the discipline requires. "It's great fun, but torturous at times," he said. "At least once a semester I have to ask myself why am I doing this." He spends lots of time in BSU's laser lab and is excited about the opportunities in the growing field of photonics.

On campus, Henry has been involved with the Society of Physics Students and the Asian Student Union, and he works with the Bear Team doing outreach for the university's observatory.

He views graduation as "one of the big turning points in life."

Henry's dream of joining the Navy is noble unto itself, but this ambitious young man views it, like everything else he undertakes, as a chance to better himself as well. "I feel grateful to this country, but feel the Navy could also help me grow as a person." ■



# Never too late

**Art major reenters classroom  
after four decades away**

BY HEATHER HARRIS MICHONSKI

“I MIGHT BE 64, but I feel 19 in my head,” said an enthusiastic Mary Reilly Callahan, ’21.

It’s been more than 40 years since the grandmother of seven has set foot in a classroom, yet Mary isn’t fazed at the age gap between her and the majority of her fellow students.

Better known as “Nana Mimi,” she has no intention of slowing down in retirement. Instead, she is enrolled this semester as a full-time student at BSU, determined to finally complete her college degree.

In 1976, Mary enlisted in the Massachusetts Army National Guard and was deployed to Iraq and Kuwait.

She also raised three children, worked as a food server at South Shore Hospital, got divorced, started her own cleaning business, remarried, was employed as a home health aide and fulfilled her duties with the Massachusetts National Guard.

Some days Mary didn’t have a car and “thumbed” to work.

“I was never without a job,” she said.

Mary also endured the loss of her parents, helped nurse her husband, George, back to health after heart bypass surgery, and, today, when not spending time with her grandchildren, can be found working on her furniture-restoration business.

Despite living such a full life, she plans to earn a bachelor’s degree in art from BSU.

During her younger days in school, Mary had difficulty concentrating, making learning a challenge, and she struggled to earn high marks. To cope, she found solace in art.



“I was always drawing,” she said.

After graduating from Rockland High School in 1974, Mary received a Basic Educational Opportunity Grant and enrolled at the New England School of Art.

She left after just one year, and then life took her in numerous directions. She’s now looking to pick up where she left off by earning a degree from BSU.

“When I first came here, it felt like coming home. I parked my car, walked up to the first building, and someone held the door for me,” she said. “I knew this was the place where I needed to be.”

Mary also recently discovered why school was so grueling back in the day: She was diagnosed with Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Armed with this knowledge, she has been working with Pamela Spillane and the

Academic Achievement Center and is finally attaining success in the classroom.

It’s never too late, she said, to go after what you want.

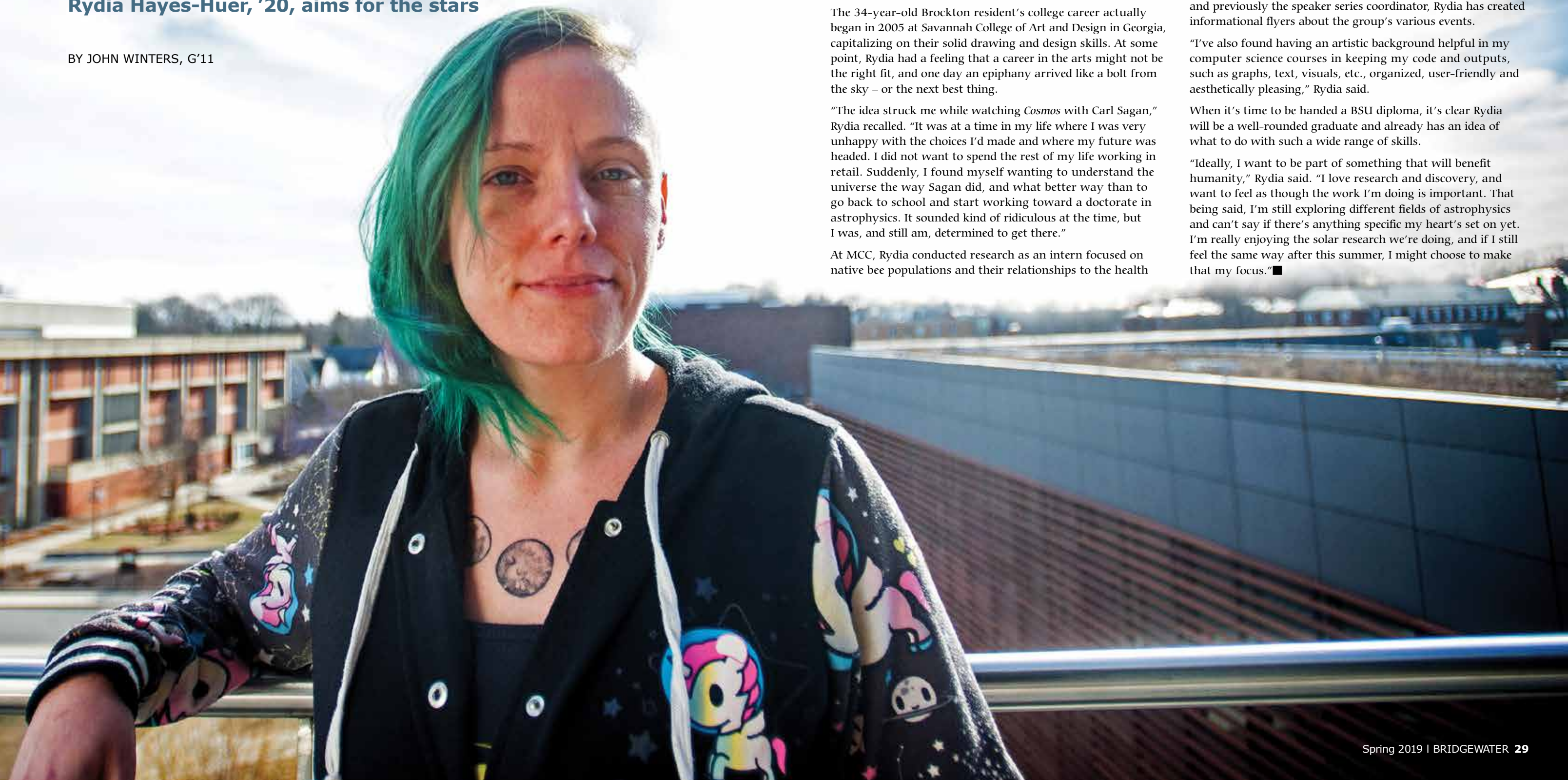
“I’m so happy I get to come to school. I never felt this way in high school, but now I feel it here,” she said. “I never in a million years thought I was going to do this. I just want to keep going.” ■



# Transferring skills

**Rydia Hayes-Huer, '20, aims for the stars**

BY JOHN WINTERS, G'11



IT WAS THE OBSERVATORY that did it for Rydia Hayes-Huer.

As a student at Massasoit Community College (MCC), Rydia visited Bridgewater State University, and as a math tutor for MCC's STEM Starter Academy, got to chaperone a tour of BSU. "I was very impressed with the science building, but it was definitely the observatory that won me over," Rydia said.

Through the MassTransfer program, which makes it easy and affordable for students enrolled in a Massachusetts community college to move to a four-year state institution, last year they became a full-time Bear.

The 34-year-old Brockton resident's college career actually began in 2005 at Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia, capitalizing on their solid drawing and design skills. At some point, Rydia had a feeling that a career in the arts might not be the right fit, and one day an epiphany arrived like a bolt from the sky – or the next best thing.

"The idea struck me while watching *Cosmos* with Carl Sagan," Rydia recalled. "It was at a time in my life where I was very unhappy with the choices I'd made and where my future was headed. I did not want to spend the rest of my life working in retail. Suddenly, I found myself wanting to understand the universe the way Sagan did, and what better way than to go back to school and start working toward a doctorate in astrophysics. It sounded kind of ridiculous at the time, but I was, and still am, determined to get there."

At MCC, Rydia conducted research as an intern focused on native bee populations and their relationships to the health

of ecosystems. After hearing about the BSU Experimental Astrophysics Research Team, Rydia became interested in transferring to the university.

These days, the physics major works with Professor Martina Arndt, trying to create a program that will allow scientists to better analyze solar eclipse images. Rydia will accompany Dr. Arndt, a national expert on solar eclipses, to Argentina this summer to gather data during a July 2 eclipse.

Rydia's inner artist, however, still gets a chance to shine. Currently president of the Society of Physics Students at BSU, and previously the speaker series coordinator, Rydia has created informational flyers about the group's various events.

"I've also found having an artistic background helpful in my computer science courses in keeping my code and outputs, such as graphs, text, visuals, etc., organized, user-friendly and aesthetically pleasing," Rydia said.

When it's time to be handed a BSU diploma, it's clear Rydia will be a well-rounded graduate and already has an idea of what to do with such a wide range of skills.

"Ideally, I want to be part of something that will benefit humanity," Rydia said. "I love research and discovery, and want to feel as though the work I'm doing is important. That being said, I'm still exploring different fields of astrophysics and can't say if there's anything specific my heart's set on yet. I'm really enjoying the solar research we're doing, and if I still feel the same way after this summer, I might choose to make that my focus." ■



# Circling back

**For some alumni, the best place to teach turns out to be someplace very familiar**

BY JOHN WINTERS, G'11

SINCE ITS INCEPTION, Bridgewater State University has been renowned for producing top educators, earning a reputation as the “Birthplace of teacher education in America.”

Today, the university educates more Massachusetts-based teachers than any other institution. These graduates can be found in schools across the state.

It turns out that a number of them can also be found right here on campus.

For these alumni, there’s no place like home. They’ve spent all or some of their careers back where it all began for them.

Here are stories of some faculty members and a librarian whose professional lives have come full circle.

## DR. LISA BATTAGLINO, '79

### A Bear-for-life retires after a 30-year career

It was a fainting spell that ultimately set Dr. Lisa Battaglini on the path to a career in higher education.

“I actually wanted to be a nurse when I was in high school,” she recalled. “But that summer my dad and sister were in the hospital. I visited each of them, and both times I fainted.” When she got home, her mother sat her down and suggested another career.

The better part of that career – three decades of it, in fact – has been spent at Bridgewater State.

Dr. Battaglini attended elementary school in Newton, graduating from Waltham High School in 1975. After reconsidering her childhood dream of becoming a nurse, she enrolled at what was then Bridgewater State College, majoring in special and elementary education. After graduating in 1979, she went to Boston College to teach part time and also got a job teaching special education classes at Waltham High School. Later, she’d also earn a master’s degree in special education and a doctorate in curriculum, education and administration, both from BC.

She met her husband, Dennis Rodrigues, '79, at Bridgewater State, and, after their marriage, the couple settled in town. Dr. Battaglini began teaching as an adjunct at Massasoit Community College, as well as at Leslie College, now Leslie University, in Cambridge. However, her alma mater was beckoning.

“I loved teaching at these colleges, but my goal was always to get back to Bridgewater,” Dr. Battaglini said. “I wanted to be a special education professor, Bridgewater State offered that, and I lived in town, so I thought that would be the ideal place to teach.”

Her chance came when Bridgewater State needed an adjunct psychology professor. Shortly after, in 1992, when a full-time spot opened in the Department of Special Education, Dr. Battaglini was hired. She was appointed acting dean in 2011, but soon the “acting” fell away, and what’s followed has been a busy schedule of leading the College of Education and Allied Studies, as well as the fulfillment of her passionate commitment to social justice at home and abroad.

The support she received from all quarters is what made her never want to leave BSU, she said.

“From the very beginning, I felt I had every conceivable support here for doing the scholarly work I wanted to do and the service I was interested in,” she said. “I consistently received support for any scholarly or service venture that I embarked upon. I just can’t imagine any place else offering all of that. I was always incredibly happy just to be here.”



The scholarly and service aspects of Dr. Battaglini’s time at BSU include an ongoing relationship with the Ministry of Education in Belize, where she spearheaded efforts by fellow faculty, administrators and students to volunteer in the country’s schools. When she earned a \$10,000 Presidential Fellowship Award from Bridgewater State, she used the funds to develop the partnership between BSU and the Ministry of Education in Belize. She had done similar work previously in Moscow with Russia’s Ministry of Education.

“My personal and academic goal has always been to improve the lives of people with disabilities throughout the world,” Dr. Battaglini said. “The places I focused on were ones that do not have special education as we know it.”

In the process, she’s passed on the same kind of compassion and need for inclusivity to BSU students. Through her international work, they’ve also learned about the importance of being global citizens.

After 30 years at the university, Dr. Battaglini retired this spring. She and her husband now live in Falmouth and spend time with their children, Andrew Rodrigues, '18; Ashley Rodrigues, G'07; Dennis Rodrigues III; their spouses; and four grandsons.

“I’m retiring from a job I adore,” she said. “The people I work with are amazing. I’m sad that I’ll be leaving, but happy about what I’m going toward.”■





**DR. JOHN MARVELLE, '72, G'76**  
**Around the world and back home again**

If there’s a hallmark of Dr. John Marvelle’s long and impressive career, it’s movement. That may sound strange describing a man who’s spent his college years and most of his career at the same place.

However, his wide-ranging interests and desire to deliver to his students life-shaping experiences means stasis isn’t an option. “I’ve been through a lot of changes,” said Dr. Marvelle, a professor in the Department of Elementary and Early Childhood Education. “Lots of it has to do with luck and spectacular mentors here at Bridgewater and other places,” he said.

Those mentors continuously pushed the Mansfield native to try new things and to be unafraid of change.

Growing up, Dr. Marvelle believed he’d never travel beyond the borders of his hometown. In fact, after earning the first of his two Bridgewater State degrees in 1972, he taught first grade in Mansfield for four years. Next up was a master’s degree from his alma mater in special education.

It was then that he became interested in helping parents to augment their children’s education beyond the classroom. This became a focus as he pursued his doctorate at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Then things began moving. And so did Dr. Marvelle. “My world changed because people pushed me to challenge myself,” he said.

His interest in parent involvement led him to take a job in the Town of Norton with Project Spoke, a regional special education program. The work he was doing there caught the attention of an up-and-coming company called Apple. From 1984-1988, he developed and ran Apple Computer Clubs, which taught computer literacy to young people here and around the world. In 1986, Dr. Marvelle spent two months in the Soviet Union on behalf of the company.

He was with Apple for the first whisperings about the Macintosh personal computer and still has a photo in his office in Hart Hall featuring him and a group of early Apple executives, including Stephen “Woz” Wozniak, co-founder of the company.

Yet, Dr. Marvelle felt the company was changing, and he didn’t like its new direction. So in 1990, he was hired full time at Bridgewater State, where he quickly became a popular professor and began teaching and shaping the lives of countless students who are now educators themselves. “I see my job as helping my students discover their passions and set lifelong goals,” he said. “It’s something I hope they will do with their future students.”

Over the years, Dr. Marvelle has co-founded a program where BSU education majors can student-teach internationally. He’s co-led social justice tours to Belize and is involved with the Minnock Center for International Engagement in bringing students to campus from China. As a special education teacher, he’s also fought for the

right of developmentally challenged students to have a place in traditional classrooms.

His inclusive philosophy was shaped in part due to his own experience. Dr. Marvelle and his wife, Elise, lost a son, Jason, at the age of 3. Had the child lived, he would have required special education and other services – things some members of society and politicians aren’t always willing to financially support.

“How much does it cost to educate a child with special needs?” Dr. Marvelle asked rhetorically, acknowledging that the tab can sometimes run into the millions of dollars for one student. “I believe that quality of life is important and

**CYNTHIA SVOBODA, '84**  
**Three decades of dedicated service at Maxwell Library**

Her initial dream had been to become a kindergarten teacher, but after Cynthia Svoboda, '84, took an after-school job at the Mansfield Public Library, that changed. Being surrounded by books, helping others with academic work and research, and always learning new things seemed like an interesting and fulfilling way to spend a career.

“Libraries and librarians are bridges,” she said. “We help people make academic and social connections beyond the classroom. Also, libraries provide spaces for users to engage with each other, with technology, with research materials and more.”

The 1980 Mansfield High School graduate was a first-generation student, and Bridgewater State was close by and affordable. She’d begun as an English major, but switched to history with a minor in library science. She graduated summa cum laude and went on to earn a master’s degree in library science and information studies from the University of Rhode Island in 1986.

Throughout her time as a student at Bridgewater State, Ms. Svoboda’s focus kept turning to libraries and their impact on individuals and society. Her honor’s thesis was an independent study on the history of women in academic libraries, and, during six of her semesters on campus, she held a work-study job in the circulation department of Maxwell Library. While attending Bridgewater State, she was also a substitute staff member of the Mansfield Public Library and one summer was a proctor for Project Contemporary Competitiveness on campus, during which she taught library skills. She stayed on at Mansfield’s library, working 27 hours per week as the technical services librarian, while commuting to URI.

In the summer of 1986, she was pleased to find an hourly position in the reference department at Maxwell Library, working nights and weekends. That September, she was

that means including all children is important,” he continued. “I teach not just the strategies of working with a student with special needs, I want my students to come to an emotional understanding that what kids need is to be with other kids and to grow up in an inclusive classroom.”

As he looks back on his nearly 30 years at BSU, Dr. Marvelle is impressed by the many changes at his alma mater. In short, he’s glad he returned. “The message of the story is I’m a really lucky guy,” he said. “I’ve had extraordinary mentors and extraordinary experiences that have made my life as a parent, teacher and spouse very special. I have no complaints.”■



hired for a full-time, hourly, trust-funded position. In February 1988, when a full-time state position opened, she got the job she had been hoping for.

Today, Ms. Svoboda is an associate librarian and head of access services. Meanwhile, BSU has become a sort of family tradition. Her sister Catherine Webber graduated in 1992, and her son Jonathan in 2016. Daughter Gabrielle is a sociology major (with a minor in psychology) set to graduate next year. A cousin, Sheri Parker, is also a Bridgewater State alumna from the Class of 1991.

Over the years at BSU, Ms. Svoboda has earned service awards, performed sabbatical research on library services for students with disabilities and continues to provide school supplies to students through a program she created called School Supplies 4 U.

“I stayed at Bridgewater because I enjoyed the setting, staff and students,” Ms. Svoboda said. “As a reference librarian, I learn while helping others. I’ve also had the opportunity to grow, increase my responsibility, publish articles and participate in committee work.”■





**DALE SMITH, '11**  
**Coming home again meant also returning to his alma mater**

Dale Smith moved his family back to Massachusetts after spending several years out of state while completing his University of Connecticut graduate degree. He and his wife had relatives in Massachusetts and wanted their young son to grow up knowing them.

When it came time to get a job, he found one at the same place he obtained his bachelor’s degree in physics and mathematics in 2011.

Some pretty significant factors led him back to Bridgewater State University to teach, said Professor Smith, who spent the spring semester at BSU as a temporary, full-time faculty member.

“The small classroom environment is appealing since you get to know the students in the class much better than in the large classrooms at many universities,” he said. “Also, the faculty in the BSU physics department are great.”

A Brockton native, Professor Smith served for more than seven years in the Air Force. That probably gave him some handy experience with physics. But it’s clear he had much to offer his old department, and when longtime BSU faculty members were looking for a new colleague, they knew where to turn.

“Dr. Edward Deveney has helped me with just about everything,” Professor Smith said. “Dr. Thomas Kling and Dr. Martina Arndt also had a large part in bringing me back to BSU.”

As for his first time leading a BSU classroom? “It was exciting,” he said. “I love physics and know the students here are good, so I was looking forward to a great semester, and it was.”■

**DR. MEGHAN MURPHY, '06**  
**Alumna believed from the first her future awaited back on campus**

When Dr. Meghan Murphy was thinking of a career in academia, she was given some advice.

Luckily, she chose to ignore it.

“All of my faculty advisors over the years encouraged me to conduct a nationwide search since jobs in academia are not always easy to come by,” the Walpole native recalled.

“I begrudgingly listened, but when the opportunity allowed me to come back to Bridgewater, it was a no-brainer,” she said. “I had such a positive experience as a BSU student that I knew I wanted to remain a part of this community.”

In fact, as soon as she’d decided on a career path, she knew it was Bridgewater State University where she wanted to teach. It became a reality beginning in spring 2015, when she was hired part time. In fall 2018, she became full time.

As an undergraduate, she majored in sociology with a minor in Spanish. She went on to graduate school at the University of Massachusetts Boston and earned a PhD from the University at Buffalo in New York.



Her students frequently hear firsthand all that a BSU degree can do for them. “I joke that I try to bring up the fact that my undergrad degree is from BSU as often as possible in the classroom,” Dr. Murphy said. “I want all of my students to understand the value of a degree from an institution like Bridgewater State. The decisions students make now will have a lasting impact on their lives. Bridgewater has so much to offer, and I encourage all students to take advantage of all of the resources here.”

Now an assistant professor, Dr. Murphy said returning to the Department of Sociology meant she had a built-in support system when she began her career as a faculty member.

She still recalls the excitement of returning to her old stomping grounds and leading that first class. “There was a bit of a parallel-universe moment of standing in front of the same classroom where I gained so much as a student,” she said. “That is a feeling that I hope never goes away!”■

**VIVI PIERCE, '11, G'14, CAGS'18**  
**Three times is a charm**

For Professor Vivi Pierce, Bridgewater State University is like a second home.

“That’s why I kept coming back for my graduate degrees as well,” she said. “When I decided that I wanted to teach at the college level, it was the natural place to apply. I also knew that there were so many excellent faculty members in the math department that I could learn from, and those are the kind of people I want to work with.”

Professor Pierce represents the many adjunct faculty members across the institution who hold degrees from Bridgewater State. They can be found in just about every department across campus. They bring into the classroom all they learned while attending the university as students; many also have real-world experience to share.

As for Professor Pierce (classmates may remember her by her maiden name of Lioukas), she’s an instructor in the Department of Mathematics. She also teaches math at Silver Lake Regional High School in Kingston.

She’s what’s known as a triple Bear – a graduate with three BSU degrees. As an undergraduate, she double majored in elementary education and mathematics with a minor in

art. Then she came back for a master’s degree in teaching, and after that, a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study.

Along with her classwork, she took advantage of many opportunities, including volunteering, student employment and undergraduate research. “My most valuable experience was my campus job as a tutor for Math Services,” she said. “That is where I honed my teaching skills and discovered that teaching math was a passion.”

There are many emotions alumni face when returning to campus to stand at the head of a classroom where they once sat as students. “It was terrifying!” Professor Pierce said. “Even though I taught the material to my high school students every day, it was scary teaching adults. However, after a couple of classes, we got into a good rhythm, and I was able to relax.”

Helping her along as a newly minted educator were her one-time professors – now her colleagues – as well as faculty members she’s met on the job. “I have been lucky to maintain great relationships with many faculty members here,” she said. “And now I feel really proud to return to BSU as a professor myself.”■







## DR. JERI KATZ, G'78

### Enjoying 'the small steps' of her profession

Dr. Jeri Katz was hooked early in life on her chosen profession.

She grew up in New London, Connecticut, where in eighth grade she began volunteering in her hometown's Headstart program. As a high school student, she served at a camp for students with disabilities and, in her junior year, tutored students each week at the Little Red Schoolhouse, a substantially separate public school program for students with severe disabilities. With that, her path was sealed. "I liked seeing the small steps the children made," Dr. Katz said.

It was later, at the Seaside Regional Center in nearby Waterford, that she witnessed firsthand the importance of special education teachers and therapists and the work they do. At the center was a young girl with Down Syndrome no one thought would walk independently. "After months of practice with me every Sunday, she finally took her first steps," Dr. Katz recalled. "It was amazing."

The most rewarding part of working in special education, she sums up simply, "You know you're making a better life for these individuals."

Dr. Katz received a master's degree from what was then Bridgewater State College in 1978 and came to work at the college at the start of the 1995 academic year. "And it's been a great run," she said with a smile.

She earned her undergraduate degree in special education and elementary education in 1974 from Rhode Island College.

Her first teaching job was at the Kennedy-Donovan Program in Foxboro, working with students ages 3-12 who had multiple disabilities. During this time, she decided to take a course in family therapy at Boston's Wheelock College because she was seeing the toll children with disabilities took on parents. "I had a parent who was suicidal," she said. "I decided I needed more background in this area."

Her interest in counseling sparked, Dr. Katz enrolled at Bridgewater State for a degree in the subject. She still speaks highly of her advisor and professor, the late Dr. Martha Drinkwater Jones, '64.

Dr. Katz became a special education teacher at Dedham High School, working with students with intellectual disabilities. Then in 1983, she was named the education director at Braintree's St. Coletta Day School. After leaving that role, she became the early childhood coordinator for a number of towns in the South Shore and helped open four integrated preschool programs. She also opened a special education advocacy practice and worked closely with parents around their children's needs in the schools.

Dr. Katz received a doctorate in special education from Boston College in 1992. She began teaching as an adjunct professor at Wheelock College in the special education department.

It was a summer position in 1995 that brought Dr. Katz to her alma mater. When a full-time position opened, she applied. "I interviewed for the position on one of those miserably hot days in June. I came back to teach that afternoon and was so exhausted from the heat, but my graduate students cheered me on as they knew how much I wanted the position," she said. "I got the job, and I was really, really happy to come back to BSC as a permanent faculty member."

Today, Dr. Katz is a professor of special education and department chairperson. She has imparted to countless BSU graduates the knowledge and compassion necessary to work in this challenging field.

"I want to get the message out that it's not just about teaching; it's about enhancing the quality of life of people with disabilities," she said. "I hope that I model for my students my passion for this field and how they can make a difference." ■



## DR. GREGORY KARAS, '98, G'03

### Good luck played a part in bringing this Bear back to campus

They say timing is everything. For Dr. Gregory Karas it certainly was.

He was working in Boston one summer several years ago, when out of the blue he decided to check out what was going on at his alma mater. He clicked on the Bridgewater State website and found a headline seemingly addressed directly to him.

"The main news item was about the launch of the new master's program in accounting. As luck, or fate, would have it, the information session was that same night," Dr. Karas recalled.

He attended the event, which was held in the Moakley Auditorium, and saw a familiar face from his undergraduate years – veteran accounting and finance Professor Carleton Donchess. Next thing Dr. Karas knew, he was a Bridgewater State student again.

The Brockton native, the seventh of nine children, served eight years in the Air Force before coming to Bridgewater State. He majored in accounting as an undergraduate, and after earning a master's degree in 2003, began working as an adjunct faculty member.

Dr. Karas earned a doctorate in higher education from Northeastern University in 2016. His doctoral thesis studied the success rate of first-generation students from

low-socioeconomic backgrounds. He conducted his research at BSU.

"The students who participated in my study reinforced for me why Bridgewater is a great university," he said. "Their stories of how Bridgewater transformed their lives, providing them with an outstanding education and opportunities to be better, personally as well as professionally, showed me that Bridgewater remained focused on its educational values."

As recent as last year, Dr. Karas was teaching at a handful of institutions – practically living in his car, he joked during a recent interview in his Harrington Hall office. When the chance came in fall 2018 to teach at BSU as an assistant professor of accounting and finance, he jumped at the offer.

"It was surreal," Dr. Karas said of coming back to his alma mater to teach. "I was honored to give back to the institution and its students," he added.

Nowadays, Dr. Karas teaches alongside Professor Donchess and other members of the Department of Accounting and Finance.

"I cannot express my gratitude to Professor Donchess for spending that time with me (at the information session). If not for him, I doubt I would have enrolled again." ■





# Life altering

**Student with disabilities thrives when her family moves to Massachusetts from Florida for special BSU program**

BY HEATHER HARRIS MICHONSKI

LOOKING AT HER TODAY, it doesn't seem possible that going to college was once an uncertainty for Gina Anderson.

High school seniors often don't think twice about continuing their education after graduating, but Gina had some perceived limitations that almost diverted her from doing so.

She is not only deaf in one ear, but also has intellectual disabilities that require medication.

"After Gina graduated from high school, she said she wanted to go to college. I thought, why shouldn't I let her go?" said her mother, Sarah Anderson.

Growing up in Florida, Gina was educated mostly in self-contained classrooms where she participated in special education programs. When she announced her desire to further her education, her mother did some research and discovered BSU's Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment Initiative (ICEI) program, a postsecondary program for young adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities.

Students share the same experiences as their college-aged peers in academics, socialization, career development and independent living. Peer mentors are also in place to help ICEI students whenever necessary.

Despite the fact that BSU was more than 1,000 miles away, Gina's mother's interest was piqued and the pair visited campus to learn more about the program.

"I didn't know what to expect, but after my interview, I thought this is really cool, it's a real college, and I knew I wanted to go," Gina said.

To fulfill Gina's college dream, her mother moved the family, including younger sister Elizabeth, 17, to Massachusetts. Sarah Anderson found work as a special education coordinator in the Quincy public schools, and Gina began her BSU journey.

For two years Gina has enrolled in classes, including American history, western civilization and anthropology,

and this year she opted to live in a residence hall, where she shares a room with another student. Gina is one of the first ICEI students who have chosen to live on campus.

"I don't feel like a student with a disability – I really don't. I know I am part of the ICEI program, but I don't see it as a program; I am an actual student," she said.

Much like many BSU students living away from home for the first time, Gina is learning how to do laundry, clean her room and is developing time-management skills.

"She has gotten so much more independent, more mature and is better able to advocate for herself," said Kate Jesson, Gina's ICEI educational coach. "She's doing amazing."

It was previously unthinkable that Gina would ever be capable of using public transportation by herself, but that is exactly what she learned to do last fall, and she often travels on a MBTA commuter train from Bridgewater to Quincy to visit her mother at work.

"This is helping give her the last push over the hump of things that I can't teach her at home as a mom. Through ICEI, Gina is able to have these experiences and get ready for what's next," her mother said. "This is good practice so she can later live on her own."

After completing the program, Gina plans to embark on a career as a paraprofessional, specifically with nonverbal students, a group of whom she worked with last summer during an internship at a special education preschool. "I feel a special connection to them; I see myself in them when I was little," Gina said.

Moving from Florida to Massachusetts to participate in BSU's ICEI program has proven to be a positive, life-altering decision.

"We changed our whole lives so Gina could come here and get this experience because I knew what it would do," her mother said. "People move for their jobs all the time. We moved so Gina could go to school, and now she will be working. The ICEI program has given her the independence piece. She has learned skills with natural supports to help her figure things out."

After mentoring Gina, Ms. Jesson is confident she will continue to achieve any goal she sets for herself. "Gina really is the shining example of what this program has to offer when you take advantage of it," Ms. Jesson said. ■

Visit [www.bridgew.edu/academics/ICEI-program](http://www.bridgew.edu/academics/ICEI-program) to learn more about the program.



# Forever young

**BSU employee and alumna  
Elizabeth Scarbrough, '12,  
earns an A for determination**

**BY JOHN WINTERS, G'11**



ALL ALONG, ELIZABETH SCARBROUGH BELIEVED GRADUATING from Bridgewater State was her destiny. She'd been accepted as a high school student living on Cape Cod, but life tossed a few curveballs her way.

The primary obstacle was the death of her father while she was attending Chatham High School.

Then life took over, and college was put on hold. She moved to Arizona in the late 1970s and got married. She began taking classes at Mohave Community College, majoring in English. Ms. Scarbrough put in a year and a half before life grew complicated again, with a divorce and the death of her sister.

While the dream of a college education still burned within, it would have to wait.

But things began looking up in the early 2000s when she was hired on campus as a part-time administrative assistant in the office of the Student Government Association. Her director at the time, Dr. Cindy Kane, encouraged Ms. Scarbrough to finish her long-held goal of earning a degree. So, in the spring of 2003, she enrolled part time at what was then Bridgewater State College as an English major, with a minor in art.

"I always had this sense that I was supposed to graduate from Bridgewater," Ms. Scarbrough said.

However, many years of hard work were ahead. Night classes, homework, final papers, exams, art projects and more comprised her days. Then, in 2005, she was hired as a full-time administrative assistant for the Master of Social Work program.

But, not long after, Ms. Scarbrough came to a realization. "I decided if I don't go to school full time, I'll never finish this degree," she said.

She was able to devote two years to being a full-time student, moving her ever closer to that diploma. She was a student worker in the Academic Achievement Center and a writing fellow with Dr. Lee Torda, of the Department of English. During this time, her college career overlapped that of her son, Gabe, who graduated in 2014 from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

When acquaintances learned that Ms. Scarbrough spent her nights and weekends cracking the books, often they would ask, "Why bother?" The answer was a no-brainer.

"The question made me think about whether or not we are worth investing in after we are past the standard college

age," she recalled. "I decided the answer was yes. As long as we are alive we should be learning and growing."

In fact, being a post-traditional student had many advantages, Ms. Scarbrough said.

"I think people who come back when they're older feel like they're investing in themselves," she said on a winter afternoon in her office in Harrington Hall, where she's now the administrative assistant for the dean of the Louis M. Ricciardi College of Business. She added that taking classes later in life forced her to challenge herself and beliefs she had long held.

"It was mind-blowing how much I was thinking about these things," she said. "It also helped me relate to the students I work with."

As for the BSU students she met in her classes over the years, Ms. Scarbrough is effusive. "I was also extremely impressed with the students I was in class with, and I remain friends with many of them to this day," she said.

In her office, Ms. Scarbrough is surrounded by the day-to-day elements of her job – memos, calendars, folders of work done and yet to be done. But you'll also see signs of her life's passions: artwork, photos of family and a handful of poetry books.

She graduated from BSU summa cum laude in 2012 and lives in Taunton with her husband, Mark. In addition to Gabe, the couple has another son, Luke.

The BSU diploma she received a half-dozen years ago represents more than just a lot of work and sacrifice. It signals a hard-won accomplishment Ms. Scarbrough can be proud of. "I wouldn't give that up for the world," she said. ■



## Upcoming ALUMNI EVENTS

**For up-to-date information about the following events and to see any additional events, visit [www.alumni.bridgew.edu](http://www.alumni.bridgew.edu) or call us at 508.531.2852.**

**NORTH SHORE SUMMER GATHERING**  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 17  
The Deck, Salisbury

**BRUNCH AND NEW BEDFORD FESTIVAL THEATRE PRESENTATION OF MAMMA MIA!**  
SUNDAY, JULY 28  
Brunch will be held at the Wamsutta Club and *Mamma Mia!* will be at the Zeiterion Performing Arts Center, both in New Bedford

**CAPE COD SUMMER GATHERING**  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 8  
Lure Raw Bar, New Seabury

**FOXBORO ALUMNI AND FRIENDS**  
SEPTEMBER (DATE AND LOCATION TBD)

**GOLDEN REUNION LUNCHEON**  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18  
Dunn Conference Suite  
Bridgewater State University

**50<sup>TH</sup> CLASS REUNION DINNER (1969)**  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18  
Dunn Conference Suite  
Bridgewater State University

**BSU ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME DINNER**  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 6:30 PM  
Rondileau Campus Center Ballroom  
Bridgewater State University

**HOMECOMING AND FAMILY DAY**  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19  
Bridgewater State University

Check our website for complete event list.

**STAY CONNECTED**  
Please update your contact information at [alumni.bridgew.edu/update](http://alumni.bridgew.edu/update).

Send your news to the Office of Alumni Relations via email to [alumni@bridgew.edu](mailto:alumni@bridgew.edu) or mail to Jones Alumni House, 26 Summer Street, 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.

# ClassNotes

**1954**  
**Dr. Claire Appling, G'57**, faculty emerita, was awarded a Red Apple by **Kathleen Smith, G'88**, Brockton superintendent of schools, for her dedication in giving above and beyond for students of Brockton Public Schools.

**Hazel Varella, G'56**, was awarded the Natural Resources Trust's 2018 Elise Ames Parker Friend of Conservation Award in recognition of her lifetime service to environmental and historical preservation.

**1968**  
**Bruce E. Taylor's** fourth full-length poetry collection, *Poetry Sex Love Music Booze & Death*, was published in 2018.

**1970**  
**John Bacon** retired from the active pastorate in 2014. In October 2018, he was appointed "Local Clergy Contact" for St. Mark's Orthodox Church in Kingston. He was awarded the Silver Antelope and the Outstanding Eagle Scout awards for his volunteer work in Scouts BSA.

**Leo Fanning**, former Bridgewater State football player and assistant coach, was honored for his long coaching career by the New England Football Writers with the George C. Carens Award for contributions to New England Football.

**1975**  
**Eveline Johnson, G'98**, a painter of portraits and landscapes, was recently the featured artist at the Easton Historical Society Open House.

**1976**  
**Elvoid Mayers, G'76**, was honored by the Norwell Democratic Town Committee for her dedication to freedom, justice and equality.

**1977**  
**Frederick "Rick" Battistini**, in his final season as a Division I swim coach in Haverhill, was named Coach of the Year by *The Boston Globe*. He recently medaled at the World Masters swim championships.

**1978**  
**Russell Clough** retired after 40 years as a middle school educator at the O'Donnell Middle School in Stoughton.

**Linda Garant** teaches art to first and second graders in an after-school program. She recently started a business with her sister, **Monica Dolan, '12**.

**Florine F. LeComte** earned a Doctor of Clinical Psychology degree, *summa cum laude*, in May 2018.

**1979**  
**Leslie Scott-Lysan's** paintings were exhibited at Beebe Estate in Melrose. She creates her oil and acrylic paintings both in the studio and en plein air during her travels across New England.

**1980**  
**Deborah Drago** received a service award in recognition of her 25 years of service at Bridgewater State University.

**1981**  
**John Parsons, Esq.**, was named executive director by the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission.

**Michael Pazzanese** was named assistant distribution superintendent by the Peabody Municipal Light Plant.

**1982**  
**Ellen Cuttle Oliver, G'89**, was named executive director of alumni relations at Bridgewater State University. (*See story on page 3.*)

**1983**  
**BSU President Frederick W. Clark, Jr., Esq.**, was elected chairman of the Board of Directors for the Metro South Chamber of Commerce.

**Ronda L. Facchini** presented a clinical research poster at the National Academy of Neuropsychology Conference.

**Manuel Jerome** was appointed project manager for client development for the southeastern region of Massachusetts by the Massachusetts Manufacturing Extension Partnership, or MassMEP.

**Marc Pelletier** is retiring after 30 years of coaching baseball at Central Catholic High School (CCHS) in Lawrence. His accomplishments include 11 Merrimack Valley Conference "Coach of the Year" awards, induction into the Massachusetts Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame in 2014, induction into the CCHS Athletic Hall of Fame in 2015 and, most recently, he was named the 2017 *Eagle Tribune* Coach of the Year.

Keep up with your classmates and get more in-depth coverage of alumni activities at [www.alumni.bridgew.edu](http://www.alumni.bridgew.edu).

**1985**  
**Andrew Maylor** was appointed comptroller of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts by Governor Charlie Baker.

**Christopher Parella** retired as police chief in East Providence, Rhode Island, after serving in the department for nearly 30 years.

**1988**  
**Mark Pumphrey** joined the faculty of Sacred Heart School in Kingston as a science instructor, teaching physics and physical science at the high-school level.

**1991**  
**Stephanie Miele, G'91**, performed the music of George Gershwin and Leonard Bernstein at the Cotuit Library, highlighting the composers' musical theater and film work.

**1993**  
**David Kiley** is an associate attorney with Patrick J. Kelleher and Associates, P.C., an Estate Planning and Elder Law firm with offices in Hanover and Quincy.

**Kris Monahan, G'99**, is director of sponsored projects and research compliance for Providence College.

**Doug Mullen** is vice president and deputy general counsel with Airlines for America, the industry organization representing the leading U.S. airlines.

**1996**  
**Jennifer Aradhya** of Groton is the vice president for marketing and programs for the Greater Lowell Community Foundation, a nonprofit philanthropic organization that serves Greater Lowell and the Merrimack Valley.

**1997**  
**Marie Kenniston Bruninghaus** of Plymouth was selected as recipient of the 2019 Caritas Award by the Sacred Heart School in Kingston in honor of her dedication as an alumna, teacher and friend to the school's community.

**1998**  
**Martha Jancaitis** was hired as principal at Great Oak Elementary School in Danvers after serving for five years as assistant principal at South Elementary School in Andover.

**2000**  
**Charles Mastrangelo** has had four great grand-children born in the last two years.

**Jennifer Staff** and her family recently acquired a restaurant, the Cockadoodle Cafe in Bethel, Vermont.

**2001**  
**Jennifer Parson, G'01**, was named assistant superintendent of Hopkinton Public Schools.

**Regina Wood** was named Barnstable County's Science Teacher of the Year by the Massachusetts Association of Science Teachers.

**2002**  
**Viktor Solorzano** joined Jack Conway Realtors as a realtor.

**2003**  
**Erica Flemming, G'05**, has accepted an appointment as the Town of Bourne's finance director.

**2004**  
**Erin Wortman, G'06**, director of planning and community development for the Town of Stoneham, was recognized for her service to the town by the American Planning Association-Massachusetts Chapter.



## WELCOME HOME Homecoming and Family Day

### Featured Alumni Events

- **NEW!** Alumni Champagne Brunch at Tilly
- Rathskeller Tailgate Tent at Swenson Field Lot
- Homecoming "Decades After Party" at Citizens Club, Hale Street, Bridgewater

### Featured Family Events

- Annual Family Appreciation Breakfast
- Homecoming Fair at University Park
- Homecoming Football Game – Followed by Fireworks
- Family Bingo

Save The Date!

SATURDAY,  
OCTOBER

19

Get Social with BSU Alumni

- @BSUalum
- @BSU\_Alumni
- @BSU\_Alumni

Visit [bridgew.edu/HomecomingFamilyDay](http://bridgew.edu/HomecomingFamilyDay) for a complete list of events.



## ALUMNI SERVICES

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

### 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](mailto:loanhelp@saltmoney.org).

For more information, visit [www.saltmoney.org/bridgew](http://www.saltmoney.org/bridgew).

### WEBSITE

Visit the Bridgewater Alumni Association website, [www.alumni.bridgew.edu](http://www.alumni.bridgew.edu), to learn more about events, services, and the activities of alumni committees.

### FACEBOOK

The Alumni Association is on Facebook under “Bridgewater State University Alumni” group on LinkedIn is more than 4,000 strong. Request to join the group today.

### 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.

#### 2005

**Allison Trowbridge** joined the Jack Conway Realtors Scituate office as a sales associate.

#### 2006

**Gregory D. Thomas, G’06**, was named principal of the Nichols Middle School in Middleboro.

#### 2007

**Louise L. Demas, G’07**, Cohasset superintendent of schools, will retire after 42 years in education.

**Benjamin Rabinovitch**, a history teacher and football coach at Upper Cape Cod Regional Technical School in Bourne, has been named the school’s athletic director.

#### 2008

**Daniel Dooley**, who served as a police officer in Norwell for eight years, was promoted to sergeant.

#### 2009

**Bruce Ballard** joined the Mansfield Fire Department as a firefighter and EMT.

#### 2010

**Stefani Daley** was promoted to operations officer for the Hayden, Idaho, branch of Idaho Independent Bank.

**Ryan Hergt** was named Officer of the Month for February by the Falmouth Police Department. This is the third time he has received the honor.

**Daniel Pellegrini** is the school resource officer at King Philip Regional High School in Wrentham.

#### 2011

**Daniel Carmichael** was promoted from sergeant to lieutenant by the Stoughton Police Department following six years of service. He is believed to be the youngest officer to achieve the rank of lieutenant in Stoughton.

**Melani A. Gerenia** joined New England Wellness Solutions as a licensed acupuncturist and herbalist.

**Ryan Hickey** was sworn in as an officer with the East Bridgewater Police Department.

**Haley Sabella**, singer-songwriter, will be on tour to promote her newest album, *Forgive the Birds*.

**Michael White** recently graduated from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy and will serve as a firefighter in Canton.

#### 2012

**Justin Kagan** was named commander of the New Bedford Police Department’s Organized Crime Intelligence Bureau.

#### 2013

**Ashleigh Chaves, G’14**, obtained her Doctor of Education degree from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia. For her dissertation, she studied novice elementary educators’ preparedness and mathematics.

**Christopher McLaughlin-Sniger** was sworn in as a police officer for the Dartmouth Police Department.

**Christopher Vesey** passed the Massachusetts real estate exam and joined Jack Conway Realtors as a sales associate.

#### 2014

**Patrick Kelly, G’14**, was named principal of Triton Regional High School in Byfield after serving as assistant principal at Holliston High School since 2014.

#### 2015

**Rachel Benson** has been named director of planning and economic development for the Town of Wrentham.

**Bryan Bjorkland** is a member of the Rollin’ Celtics team of the National Wheelchair Basketball Association. They train in Brockton and play games in Philadelphia, New York and New Jersey, among other places.

**Kevin C. Costa** was hired as an associate attorney for Wynn & Wynn, P.C., in Raynham.

**Germana Rodrigues, G’15**, was chosen as a recipient of the Juror’s Choice Art Award by the Grimshaw-Gudewicz Art Gallery at Bristol Community College in Fall River.

**Alena Sharamet, G’15**, joined the emerging business department of Rodman CPAs in Waltham as a senior associate.

#### 2017

**Troy Clarkson, G’17**, was appointed chief financial officer for the City of Brockton.

**Michael Soares** is a personal trainer at Equinox Fitness in Boston. His clients include men and women of all ages, Olympians and professional athletes.

#### 2018

**Evan Kotowski** was appointed a firefighter for the Town of Stoneham Fire Department.

# JOE HOGARTY, ’01

BY HEATHER HARRIS MICHONSKI

**IT TOOK A LOT OF PATIENCE** for Joe Hogarty to make it to the big leagues, but eventually he got his chance.

After graduating from Bridgewater State, he knew it could take time to reach his goal. “I had the mindset to push further, but maintained the patience to see what life could offer,” he said.

He eventually found a home with the Baltimore Orioles as the team’s strength and conditioning coach.

The Andover native was back in Massachusetts with the Orioles in September 2018 for a three-game series against the Red Sox. During his visit, Mr. Hogarty explained how making it into professional sports didn’t happen overnight.

“The biggest obstacle was trying to be patient at times,” he said. “When you graduate from college you want to go, go, go. You think things are going to fall into place, but it doesn’t work that way.”

With a physical education degree in hand, Mr. Hogarty first considered a career in physical therapy. Instead, he opted to become certified in athletic training, which led to positions at Brown and Salve Regina universities, among others.

“I never said, ‘I’m going to be in the big leagues by this time.’ I literally took it one year at a time, and as long as I was thriving, if I was able to take on the challenges and feel stronger from it, I kept going,” he said.

He landed his first major league gig in 2003 when the Red Sox hired him to help train their players. Working at Fenway Park, as it probably would for any New England sports fan, carried special meaning. “Fenway was the first stadium I went to as a kid,” Mr. Hogarty said.

He still has the baseball a police officer tossed up to him during that inaugural trip to the Boston ballpark. “My mom wrote my name on it,” he said.

After gaining valuable work experience in Boston, Mr. Hogarty was offered the position in Baltimore, where he’s been for 15 years. He described the work he does as maximizing players’ “force output,” creating power, and building and maintaining speed.

Dr. Kathleen Laquale, professor of movement arts, health promotion and leisure studies, remembers her former student well. “It’s been such a joy to follow his career and see him become so successful,” she said. “He always took an interest in class, was always on the pulse of



things. He asked out-of-the-park questions that you typically didn’t hear from most students, that’s what always impressed me.”

That curiosity and willingness to learn are just some of the reasons Mr. Hogarty has achieved such a high level of success, said Dr. Robert Colandreo, associate professor of movement arts, health promotion and leisure studies. “Joe was never one to shy away from a challenge. He is a perfect example of how to reach your goals through hard work and perseverance,” he said.

As Mr. Hogarty continues to make a name for himself in the majors, he offers advice for those hoping to follow in his footsteps. “Keeping life simple is what’s most important. I never got too far ahead of myself, and I had a good foundation of education,” he said. “Life isn’t linear, it’s got twists, turns and challenges. Be open to the possibilities.”■



## CAREER SERVICES

*Help lead Bridgewater State University students to success*

### FALL 2019 EVENTS

#### INTERNSHIP & JOB FAIR

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1-3 PM  
Rondileau Campus Center Ballroom

Attend BSU's fall career fair to network with more than 60 employers who will be 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.

#### STEM CAREER EXPO

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2-4 PM  
Mohler-Faria Science and Mathematics Center Atrium

Attention STEM candidates: This expo is an opportunity to network with approximately 30 organizations highlighting jobs, internships, research opportunities, job shadowing and projects at their organizations.

### ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

#### 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 Practice Interview Program.

*For information about these programs, call the Office of Career Services at 508.531.1328 or email the office at [careersrv@bridgew.edu](mailto:careersrv@bridgew.edu).*

# NotaBene



Gabriella A. Diniz, '14, and Kevin C. Costa, '15, (far left) were married August 17, 2018.

A number of BSU alumni attended the wedding, including President Frederick Clark Jr., '83, and Carrie Kulick-Clark, '85, G'98, (third row from front, third and fourth from left).



Attending the November 2018 wedding of Daniel, '10, and Shari Kent are (from left) Rachel Balboni, '08; Caitlyn Mullins, '11; Katie Mullins, '10; Bria Wilbur, '09; Shari and Daniel; Nathaniel Milbery, '10; Peter Balboni, '08; Anthony Wright, '08; Shaun Mullins, '09; and Marco Cobar, '18.

### MARRIAGES

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

**Tara A. Keating, '12**, to **Michael J. D'Alessandro, '12**, on October 7, 2017  
**Janelle M. Roberts, '14, G'15**, to Matthew Rei on July 28, 2018  
**Geena L. Bournazian, '14**, to Jon Savage on September 8, 2018  
**Julie A. Clerc, '12**, to **Andrew P. Sheflin, '16**, on September 29, 2018

### BIRTHS

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

Tommy Maher to **T.J. Maher, '98**, and Melissa Maher on July 6, 2018  
Daniel Henry Grady to **Megan Ryan Grady, '11**, and **Daniel P. Grady, '11**, on October 9, 2018

### IN MEMORIAM

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

Lena Nardoizzi Westgate, '37, on December 5, 2018  
Gertrude King Ramstrom, '40, January 28, 2019  
Harriet Noel Blanchard, '42, on January 12, 2019  
Loretta Kennedy Dexter, '42, on November 10, 2018  
Sarah Woodard Winchester, '44, on November 12, 2018  
Elizabeth Cate Johndrow, '46, on January 21, 2019  
Carol Clark Hunt, '47, on December 11, 2018  
E. Jeanne Moynihan Bombardier, '48, on March 18, 2019  
Hester Barnes Brooks, '48, on May 15, 2018  
Genevieve Radzukinas Haseltine, '48, on February 16, 2019  
Sarah Malina Keren, '48, on January 16, 2019  
Mary "Munya" Wisotsky Miller, '48, on October 20, 2018  
Grace Murphy Nelson, '49, on March 23, 2018  
Jeannette LaBelle Kelleher, '50, on November 4, 2018  
Lucille O'Byrne Peters, '50, on April 12, 2018  
Jane Mahony Gulla, '51, on December 20, 2018  
Lois Shea Kennedy, '51, on October 28, 2017  
Jean Oberlander Kent, '53, G'60, on February 20, 2019  
Antonietta Minerva Meier, '53, G'55, on December 3, 2018  
Jacqueline Frawley Fee, '54, on February 2, 2019  
Mary E. Keenan, G'54, on December 2, 2018  
Joseph R. Mailloux, '54, on September 30, 2018  
Elinor Pohl Along, '55, on November 25, 2018  
Mary Bottiggi Gagnon, '55, on October 25, 2018  
Frances Nicholson Sadek, '55, on January 28, 2019  
Barbara L. Perkins Dunbar, '56, on April 30, 2018  
Joseph Fratianni, '56, on March 23, 2017

Jane A. Hodnett, G'56, on September 15, 2018  
Virginia M. Kalaghan, '56, on September 9, 2018  
Eileen Ross Mandly, G'56, on December 22, 2018  
Maryan L. Nowak, G'56, on October 18, 2018  
William A. Orcutt, '57, G'60, on August 13, 2018  
Harriette Poole Otteson, '57, on October 20, 2018  
Doris Mooers Dennehy, '58, on September 15, 2018  
Elaine Kenney Gardner, '58, on November 5, 2017  
Priscilla Miller Hayward, '58, on November 29, 2018  
Allan R. McKinnon, G'58, on January 26, 2019  
Bernard F. Ryder, G'58, on April 27, 2018  
Joseph G. Camacho Jr., '59, on December 27, 2018  
Sandra Corey Gray, '59, on September 9, 2018  
Anne M. Hopp, '59, on June 11, 2018  
George A. Salvador, G'59, on December 14, 2018  
Gordon W. Bates, '60, on September 27, 2018  
James D. Bryant, G'60, on August 24, 2018  
Nancy A. Holt Ellis, '60 on August 12, 2018  
Patricia Borges Lincoln, G'60, on January 30, 2019  
John H. McDevitt, '60, G'64, on October 24, 2018  
Robert F. Reagan, G'60, on February 2, 2019  
John P. Collins, G'61, on January 31, 2019  
Lawrence W. Gibbs, G'61, on December 16, 2018  
Howard E. LaMountain, G'61, on January 30, 2019  
Eleanor J. Pontes, G'61, on September 1, 2018  
Agnes Mahony Dauphinais, '62, on November 26, 2018  
Warren R. Emerson, '62, on May 21, 2018  
Richard H. Gamble, G'62, on August 17, 2018  
Joan Matsen Lee, '62, on January 16, 2018  
Harold L. Pray, '62, on March 11, 2018  
Janice Ralph Bancroft, '63, on November 30, 2018  
Helen Gula Downing, '63, on December 18, 2018  
Robert A. Freeman, G'63, on October 15, 2018  
Ronald F. Hatch, '63, on March 12, 2019  
Heather Burbank Charles, '64, on November 10, 2018  
Philip P. Curry, '64, on January 21, 2019  
Thomas L. MacDonald Jr., G'64, on January 18, 2019  
Cynthia J. Messier, '64, G'69, on November 4, 2018  
Patricia Wrobel Govani, '65, G'72, on July 16, 2018  
Regina Brennan Griffin, '65, on November 13, 2018  
Doreen F. Harlow, '65, on October 24, 2018  
Charles B. Lindberg, G'65, on September 29, 2018  
Ramona M. Adler, G'66, on January 17, 2019  
Glenn R. Bryant, G'66, on January 1, 2019  
Frank L. Cotter, G'66, on September 23, 2018  
Susan Sherman Loneragan, '66, on April 17, 2017  
Ruth Guthrie McCartney, '66, G'66, on January 27, 2019  
Scoba F. Rhodes, G'66, on June 23, 2018  
Daniel J. Saunders, G'66, on October 21, 2018  
Basil F. Cronin, G'67, on August 6, 2018  
Geoffrey M. Fanning, '67, on January 25, 2019  
Robert T. Mercer, G'67, on December 11, 2018  
John H. Pacheco, G'67, on December 31, 2018  
Anne Byers, '68, on January 28, 2019  
Patricia Cerasuolo, '68, on June 24, 2017  
Philip E. Riviere, '68, on November 6, 2018  
George M. Rose, G'68, on March 15, 2019  
Lester E. Tomkinson, G'68, on August 16, 2018  
Susan Walsh King, '69, on December 6, 2018  
David L. Nevins, G'69, on May 14, 2018  
K. Gerald Smith, G'69, on October 27, 2018  
Anne Donnelly Golemme, '70, on November 19, 2018  
Marcella P. Benoit, '71, on November 9, 2018  
Michael J. Cowdrey, '71, on October 26, 2018

Mary Ann Voveris Doherty, G'71, on December 13, 2018  
Glen S. Robbins, '71, on January 22, 2019  
Linda J. Stafford, '71, on August 20, 2018  
Eileen E. Guiney, '72, on September 13, 2018  
Craig Potkay, G'72, on November 22, 2018  
Walter S. Thompson, G'72, on September 17, 2018  
Patricia S. Dooley, '73, on August 30, 2018  
Bernadine O'Rourke Hopkins, '73, on February 19, 2018  
Alan H. Rabouin, G'73, on February 1, 2019  
James M. Cronin, '74, on July 19, 2018  
Philip C. Fortin, G'74, on June 22, 2018  
Susan A. Katchpole, '74, on February 27, 2019  
Richard F. LaPointe, '74, on March 16, 2019  
Kevin P. Austin, '75, on November 4, 2017  
Marilyn DiPucchio, '76, on December 6, 2018  
Roberta S. Dodge, '76, G'88, on January 3, 2019  
Janet Hamburg Fortnam, '76, G'82, on February 13, 2019  
Alton F. Phillips, G'76, on January 16, 2019  
Donald E. Bernard, G'77, on August 10, 2017  
Kenneth R. Brown, G'77, on September 20, 2018  
Robert E. Francis, G'77, on March 4, 2019  
James C. Grady, '77, on August 19, 2018  
James Mark Haney, '77, on June 26, 2018  
Lucia A. Martino, '77, on January 27, 2018  
Mary Elizabeth McWilliams, G'77, on August 28, 2018  
Dean B. Meltzer, '77, on February 9, 2019  
Barbara D. Alexander, '78, on September 25, 2017  
Robert W. Dunn, '78, on October 23, 2018  
Pamela A. Elliott, G'78, on October 28, 2018  
Mary G. Hansen, '78, on January 20, 2018  
Joseph R. Lamothe, '78, on October 30, 2018  
Joseph P. Marchisio, '78, on February 14, 2019  
Marjorie C. Shing, G'78, on September 28, 2018  
Richard J. Ricciuti, '79, on February 23, 2019  
Cynthia Danahey Correia, '80, on September 25, 2018  
Marianne Leo Iozzino, '80, on November 25, 2018  
Emily M. Eddy, G'81, on May 6, 2018  
Matthew J. Dube, '82, on September 7, 2018  
John D. Holt Jr., '83, on September 13, 2018  
Paul B. Fitzsimmons, '85, on January 10, 2019  
Mildred L. Bowker, '86, on January 8, 2019  
James Colby, '86, on February 23, 2018  
Richard L. Davis, '86, on September 4, 2018  
Elinor C. Gallagher, '86, on September 21, 2018  
Barbara L. Kelso, '86, on April 24, 2018  
Jennifer L. Perone, '87, on March 2, 2015  
Veronica Maher, G'88, on February 22, 2019  
John H. Dunbar, '89, on November 26, 2018  
Andrew P. Gillis, '90, on January 8, 2019  
Dianne L. Mahoney, G'90, on November 22, 2018  
Ellen Carpenter, G'91, on April 6, 2018  
Owen F. Daley, '91, on October 8, 2018  
Jean Ann McLaughlin, '91, on August 13, 2017  
Donald Boucher, '92, on May 7, 2018  
Mary K. Dubois, G'92, on November 24, 2018  
Jodi Leigh Grenier, '93, on August 30, 2018  
Nancy B. Shultz, '93, on November 20, 2018  
Andrea McMullen Thrasher, G'94, on October 3, 2014  
Linda Whalen Hall, '95, on June 1, 2018  
Colleen Lavin Mento, '04, on December 15, 2018  
Erin C. O'Malley, '11, on October 11, 2018  
Ryan W. Fahey, '13, on October 21, 2018  
Tyler J. Leonard, '14, on October 17, 2018  
Donald S. Gillis, '17, on September 2, 2018

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

Dr. Delanye R. Connor, professor in the Department of Special Education and Communication Disorders, on March 4, 2019  
Pauline M. Harrington, professor emerita in the Department of Political Science, on November 8, 2018  
Marian E. Nelson, '56, G'62, professor emerita in the Department of Education, on October 12, 2018  
Dr. Chifuru "Chief" Noda, professor in the Department of Chemical Sciences, in December 2018





April was Autism Awareness Month, and BSU students held an event to promote understanding and acceptance. Autism Acceptance Night on April 2 was planned by BSU’s Best Buddies and the Program Council and was held in front of Boyden Hall, which was bathed in blue light. A moment of silence was held for Kyle Johnson, a BSU student and Best Buddies member who died last year.

Photo by Kelsea Marciarelli, '19

# The Difference You Make

“I was honored when I learned that there was a donor who felt the desire to help me, as my financial situation at this point is definitely in need of some help. I work between 14 - 20 hours at my part-time job at Shaw’s but even that isn’t enough to pay for school. As an honors student, I have really enjoyed my experience at Bridgewater, but it’s becoming difficult for me to pay for school, and so help from donors is vital for me. The scholarship I received may have saved my academic career at Bridgewater. One thing I have learned through this experience is that donors are more valuable than they know. I feel very blessed for the support I received, and I am committed to becoming the best that I can be, today and in the years to come. **Thank you for your help.**”

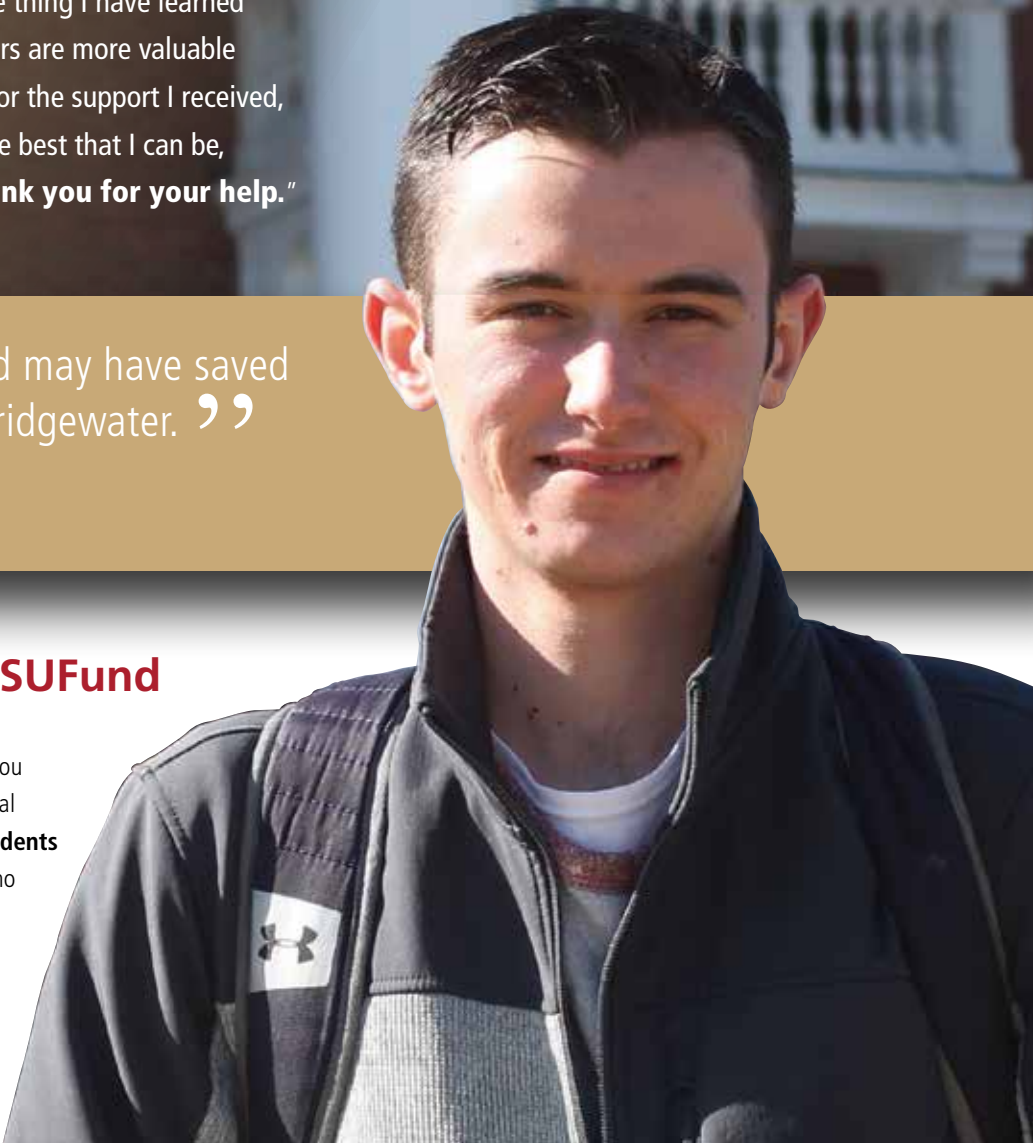
“ The scholarship I received may have saved my academic career at Bridgewater. ”

Troy Bryce, Junior  
Communications Studies major

 [give.bridgew.edu/BSUFund](https://give.bridgew.edu/BSUFund)

When you donate to the Bridgewater Fund you support students, like Troy, in need of financial assistance. **More than 80% of all BSU students rely on financial aid.** You help students who study hard and work several jobs make ends meet and dream big.

**Thank you!**







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