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Fall 2022

### Bridgewater Magazine, Volume 32, Number 2, Fall 2022

Bridgewater State University

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## From Grieving to Giving

After his son's death in action in Afghanistan, the late Paul Monti, '70, dedicated his life to ensuring no soldier is forgotten



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

**Joshua Joseph, '22**, described himself as a middling student during his early years at BSU. Then something happened: He got a glimpse into the world of finance.

Not long after, he opted for a double major in finance and economics with a minor in management. He ultimately founded the Bridgewater Collegiate Investors (BCI), a student-run equity investment fund whose 25 members meet weekly to analyze the stock market and brainstorm investment strategies. While the million dollars that members can invest may be virtual, the hands-on experience they gain has played a critical part in their success landing both internships and jobs. (Accounting and Finance Professor Yihong Xiao works with the group, and other faculty members offer lectures on a wide range of market-related topics.)

Joshua, a Dedham native, was selected in the spring by the Massachusetts Department of Education as one of its "29 Who Shine," an honor bestowed on top-achieving students from the state's public colleges and universities. The 23-year-old was also selected to participate in this year's Goldman Sachs Black Possibilities Summit, a professional development program held virtually for three weeks in February where he cultivated top industry skills.

Joshua will graduate at the end of this semester and has accepted an offer to become an investment banking analyst at Harris Williams in Richmond, Virginia, beginning in June 2023. Recently, we discussed with him his life and work.

## **What prompted you to investigate a career in finance and investing?**

During COVID, when everyone was locked down and the stock market was fluctuating, I asked my family if they had any money in the stock market. They didn't, and I figured there's something I'm missing here.

## **What is it about finance that drives your passion?**

What's interesting about it is that it's never stale, there are always new updates and reports, and so many things can affect the market.

## **Can you talk about the Bridgewater Collegiate Investors?**

When I started taking finance classes, I wanted to join an investment club to gain some experience, and I noticed that BSU didn't have one. I took the initiative and created one.

## **How does it work?**

Each board member follows a specific sector and leads a group of analysts. We look at company filings and sell-side equity research to come up with our own conclusion and build valuation models. At the end of each semester, we present to faculty, staff and members of the BSU Foundation about the stocks we believe we should invest in. The point is to develop students to prepare them for internships and jobs.

## **And membership can pay big dividends, so to speak, after graduation?**

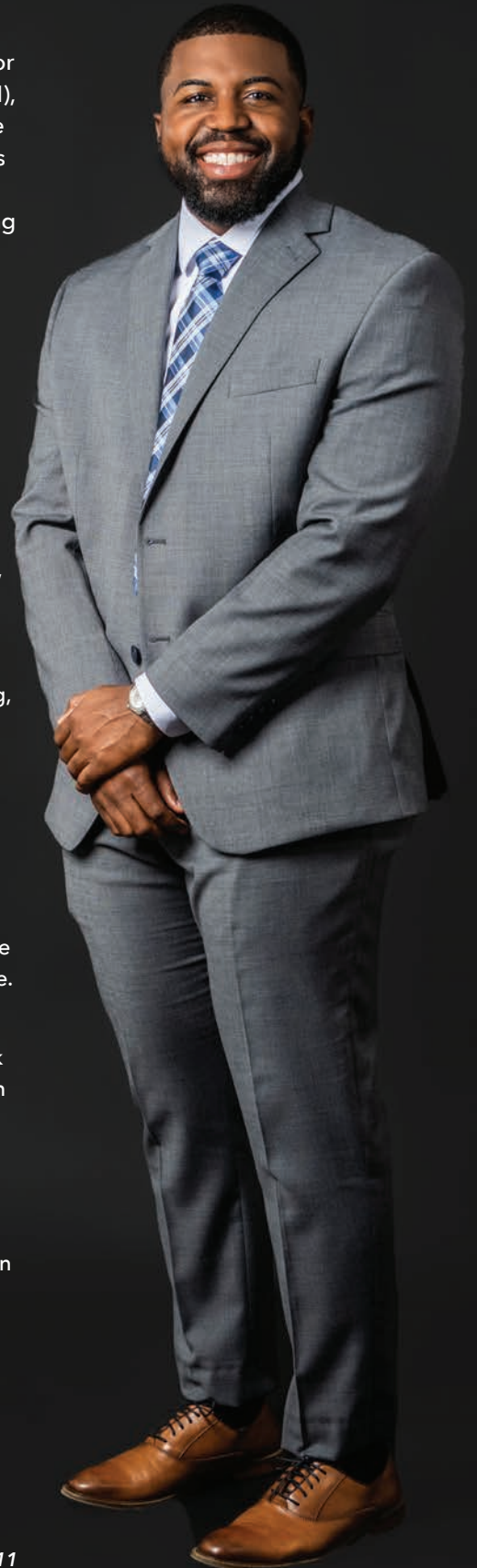
Yes. Some members go to job interviews, and the interviewers ask what happened in BCI and how they contributed. It's great to know that it's benefitting other students.

## **In a nutshell, what have you learned about investing?**

That you have to look at both sides of any decision. People have their own view of why a stock should be bought or sold.

## **What would you say to a student nervous about contemplating a future in finance?**

Don't be intimidated. Reach out to a faculty member because they'd love to discuss the different career paths and the skill sets needed to succeed in each.



*Interview by John Winters, G'11*



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## CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Brian Benson, G'23

Heather Harris Michonski

John Winters, G'11

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Zachary Allen, '24

Brian Benson, G'23

Karen Callan

Bailey Cormier, '22

Daniela Gonzalez

Ben Hollis

Ashley McCabe

Charlie Peters, G'20

Mackenzie Rubitschung, '21

## DESIGN

Karen Callan

Ken Davidson, '96

(inside and outside back covers)

*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 university news, activities and events, and to view past issues of the magazine, visit <http://bridgew.edu/news-events>.

## ADDRESS MAIL TO:

*Bridgewater*

Creative Services and Publications

Bridgewater State University

Bridgewater, MA 02325

508.531.1335

Email class notes to:

[alumni@bridgew.edu](mailto:alumni@bridgew.edu)

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# Bridgewater

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The late Paul Monti, '70, visits the grave of his son Jared, a Medal of Honor recipient, at the Massachusetts National Cemetery in Bourne.

photo by Craig F. Walker/The Boston Globe via Getty Images





# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

PRESIDENT FREDERICK W. CLARK JR., ESQ., '83

Service has long been at the heart of what I call the Bridgewater Way. While proof of this lives on in the university's motto, "Not to be ministered unto, but to minister," it does likewise in the actions of today's Bears. In these pages, you will learn about alumni and students who exemplify the words of BSU's heartfelt creed.

Paul Monti, '70, is a prime example. We were saddened to learn of the passing of this Gold Star Father, whose son Jared was killed in Afghanistan attempting to save members of his battalion during a hellacious firefight. Jared Monti is a certifiable American hero, awarded the Medal of Honor by President Barack Obama in 2009. Paul Monti became well known in his own right following his son's death, advocating on behalf of veterans on a variety of fronts. It is with great pride that we share the story of this great American dad, especially during the same month we celebrate Veterans Day.



Kellie Irvin, '23, also exemplifies the university's motto. Knowing that the one-two punch of the pandemic and inflation have left many wanting, she started her own food pantry in her hometown of Medford. Meanwhile, we celebrate more than a dozen years of the Bridgewater Scholars program, a groundbreaking initiative through which the university provides free tuition and room and board for young people experiencing homelessness. We check in with a trio of the program's 13 graduates, who have now embarked on successful lives of their own and are certain to help others along the way, just as they were helped.

These stories resonate particularly in times like these. While the daily news keeps up its dismal drumbeat of depressing headlines, it's good to know that these beacons of hope and light are out there. Their actions remind us that in challenging times making a difference can be difficult, but the dividends are all the greater.

This issue also features stories about faculty research, STEM-related outreach, and news about the many people and programs that make BSU the unique place it is.

Along with these compelling stories, what also lifts my spirits is seeing the students return to campus each September. I look out my office window across the quadrangle and see their eager faces as they make their way to class for the first time, or as they gather in the Bear's Den with the new friends they've made. It's hard to feel anything but joy when one is constantly surrounded by young people so full of hope, so full of promise, and so eager to change this world for the better.

This is also part of the Bridgewater Way, and it's wonderful to see the students of today continuing the tradition.

With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F. W. Clark Jr.", written in a cursive style.

President Frederick W. Clark Jr.

# CAMPUS CONNECTION

## NEWS AND NEWSMAKERS

### Trustee Changes

Long-serving Board of Trustees Chairman Eugene Durgin retired earlier this year after more than 30 years of service to Bridgewater State University. Dr. Jean F. MacCormack, the retired chancellor of the University of Massachusetts, was named as the board's new chair.

Mr. Durgin served as a trustee under three presidents: Dr. Adrian Tinsley, Dr. Dana Mohler-Faria and Frederick W. Clark Jr., Esq., '83. During his tenure, the institution grew exponentially on many fronts, and in 2010, Bridgewater State College became a university.

President Clark said he owes a great deal to Mr. Durgin, both personally and professionally. "I know I speak for all of us when I say we are so grateful for everything that Gene has done for us," he said. "Gene has always put the best interests of our students first, and their lives have been forever changed because of that commitment."

Mr. Durgin said he was humbled by the praise, noting that it was always important to not micromanage, but rather to support. "You should never be bigger than the institution that you are serving," he said. "It's been a blessing to see what happens on this campus and how students are transformed from freshmen beginners to confident graduates ... it's a feather in the cap to everyone on this campus."

His tenure began in 1991, when a friend casually asked Mr. Durgin – a Boston College graduate with a degree in political science – if he'd be interested in joining Bridgewater State's Board of Trustees. "It was an off-handed remark," Mr. Durgin recalled. "I said, 'Sure, I'd be delighted,' and a few days later then-President Adrian Tinsley asked to meet with me." He joined the board in September of that year.

Dr. MacCormack spent more than 30 years with the University of Massachusetts – 20 of them at the Boston campus where she rose from faculty ranks to serve as vice chancellor of administration and finance to deputy chancellor and interim chancellor. In 1999, she became interim chancellor at the Dartmouth campus, and within 18 months was named the third chancellor in that institution's history.



President Clark is flanked by Dr. Jean MacCormack, the new chair of BSU's Board of Directors, and Gene Durgin, former chair of the board.



Dr. Lisa Battaglino, '79, former BSU professor and dean, is the newest member of BSU's Board of Trustees.

In another significant change, joining the board is someone well-known to the BSU community, Dr. Lisa Battaglino, '79. She joined BSU's Department of Special Education in 1992 and was appointed acting dean of the College of Education and Allied Studies in 2011. She was named dean shortly thereafter.

# FACULTY FOCUS

## DR. SARAH FAWN MONTGOMERY / ENGLISH

It was a safe bet that after she wrote her own version of *Charlotte's Web* at age 6, that it would be a writer's life for Dr. Sarah Fawn Montgomery. When she got to high school and a teacher required her to read stacks of contemporary books and keep a creative nonfiction journal, her career path was settled once and for all.

"I always liked to write," Dr. Montgomery said. "I didn't know you could make a living as a writer until graduate school."

She earned a Master of Fine Arts degree from California State University-Fresno and a PhD from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, both in creative writing. In graduate school she also took part in a directed study with U.S. Poet Laureate Ted Kooser. "I learned a lot from his approach to poetry, that it should be accessible," Dr. Montgomery said. "I figured, 'I could do that.'"

Dr. Montgomery, who came to BSU five years ago, said that since the start of her career, teaching and writing have gone hand in hand. Her fifth book, an essay collection titled *Halfway from Home*, was published in November. She's also been a regular contributor to distinguished journals and collections from around the country.

Dr. Montgomery grew up along the central coast of California, one of eight children. It was not a home full of books, she recalled, but she had the drive and aptitude to become the first of her family to attend and finish college.

When she took up the pen, she did so with intent. Dr. Montgomery first published three poetry collections, and by this time, she'd also published more than 50 essays. Plaudits followed: Her second chapbook, *Leaving Tracks*, was a semi-finalist for that year's Black River Chapbook Competition and Gold Line Press Chapbook Contest, and earned an honorable mention for the 2015 Concrete Wolf Chapbook Prize. Her third collection, 2017's *Regenerate: Poems of Mad Women*, was featured on Boston's Books on the T program. (Books on the T is a traveling library that introduces books to the Greater Boston community, with books available on MBTA trains, in MBTA stations and nearby locations.)

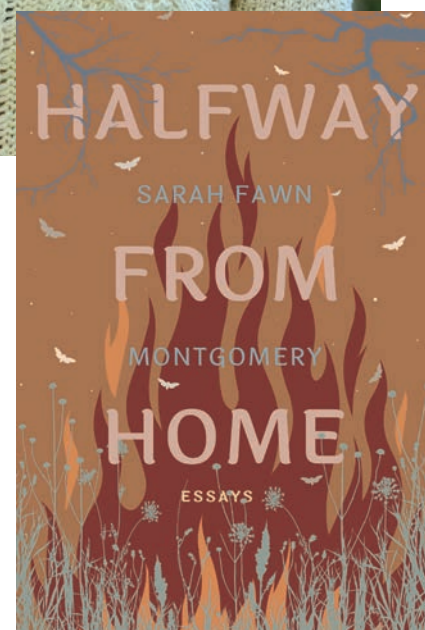
In the pages of her poetry, readers can locate some of Dr. Montgomery's primary themes: the idea of home; a sense of place; and the ways in which people are shaped by their environment, gender and identity.



Though Dr. Montgomery writes in several genres, poetry remains central to her life. Her biggest influences, she said, are contemporary queer poets and poets of color. She cites Chen Chen and Dorothy Chan as favorites. Poetry also informs her prose style; especially with her more recent pieces.

"I consider what I write lyric essays," Dr. Montgomery said. "They look like prose on the page, but have the cadence, sound and reliance on image that poetry does."

She turned next to memoir and literary journalism with 2018's *Quite Mad: An American Pharma Memoir*, in which she chronicled the anxiety she dealt with during her years at graduate school. The book also serves as a heavily researched account of the history of mental illness treatments in the United States.





# CAMPUS CONNECTION

## NEWS AND NEWSMAKERS

Her expertise in these areas has helped her assist students who may be dealing with their own challenges.

When the pandemic hit, Dr. Montgomery changed gears again. "Everyone was baking bread in 2020. I began to play around with fiction," she said. "It frightened me at first, but now it's my new love."

The result was a young adult novel and about a dozen published short stories.

*Halfway from Home*, her latest, is a return to nonfiction, a form Dr. Montgomery says gives her the courage to say what she feels needs to be said. "I'm a very shy person, and nonfiction allows me to share things," she said. "I'm a lot braver in my nonfiction than in life."

Blending lyric memoir with lamenting cultural critique, Dr. Montgomery examines nostalgia and contemporary grief, searching for how to build a home when human connection is disappearing and how to live meaningfully when our sense of self is uncertain in a fractured world. Taking readers from the tide pools and monarch groves of California to the fossil beds and grass prairies of Nebraska, to the scrimshaw shops and tangled forests of Massachusetts, Dr. Montgomery holds a mirror up to America and asks us to reflect on our past before we run out of time to save our future.

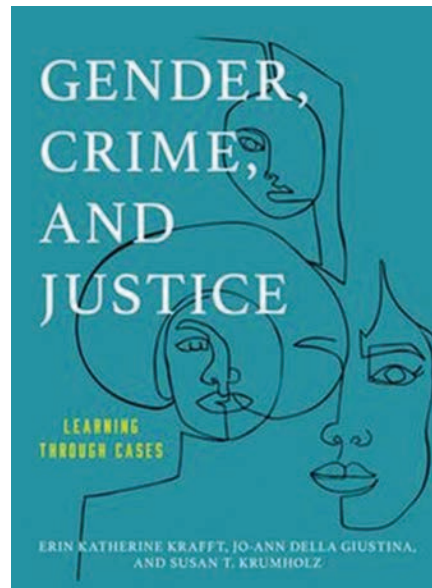
Place is a central concern of the collection. Pitching the book in a sentence, she said, "It's about searching for home amidst emotional and environmental collapse."

"I tend to write a lot about place," she said. "I'm interested in how place shapes a person. I believe we're created by the places where we live."

While her writing life is flourishing, of equal importance is her work teaching BSU undergraduates and graduates. Each part of her professional life feeds the others, Dr. Montgomery said.

"I get energy and inspiration from my students," she said. "And I hope I give them the same. I can't imagine working as a writer without teaching."

## Faculty Bookshelf



### ***Gender, Crime, and Justice: Learning through Cases*** Erin Katherine Krafft, Jo-Ann Della Giustina, Susan T. Krumholz

Dr. Jo-Ann Della Giustina, professor of criminal justice, has co-authored a textbook that introduces key concepts in the ways that gender relates to crime and justice.

Each chapter opens with a case study that illustrates these concepts, followed by a narrative chapter that builds on the case study to introduce essential elements.

Throughout, the book features pedagogical elements, such as learning objectives, key terms, review and study questions, and suggestions for further learning and exploration.

In addition to the unique case study approach, this book is distinctive in its inclusion of LGBTQ experiences in crime, victimization, processing and punishment.

*Gender, Crime, and Justice* also addresses masculinity and the role it plays in defining offenders and victims, as well as challenges posed by the gender gap in offending.

# CAMPUS CONNECTION

## NEWS AND NEWSMAKERS

### Strong Foundation

More than 430 students collectively received \$1.3 million worth of scholarships last year from the Bridgewater State University Foundation. This marks the first time in the Foundation's 38-year history that it disbursed more than \$1 million worth of scholarships.

The unprecedented level of student support comes as the Foundation received a record \$7.3 million in commitments, more than double the \$3 million raised in the prior year. In addition to scholarships, the Foundation provided more than \$500,000 for paid internships, and funded athletic, academic and faculty initiatives.

The year's highlights included a \$2 million gift from BSU's largest benefactors, Bruce, '68, and Patricia Quinn, '67, Bartlett. Their donation funds the Patricia Quinn, '67, and Bruce, '68, Bartlett Endowed Chair in Free Speech and Expression.

Meanwhile, Mass General Brigham provided \$1 million to help the School of Social Work prepare a diverse cohort of students to address the state's behavioral and mental health crisis.

Students like Jen Francois, G'24, who is pursuing a Master of Social Work degree, say they are thankful for the extra support the Foundation provides. She received a scholarship supported by a donation from the Accelerate the Future Foundation, which also aims to diversify the social work field. The scholarship eases the financial burden for students of color and those who are bilingual by providing \$20,000 over two years to 20 graduate students with financial need. Recipients are committed to working in the mental and behavioral health field, particularly at community health centers and organizations serving youths and families.

"These donations and these scholarships that they are making available to students really make a huge difference in our lives," Jen said. "Thank you for believing in us and what we can do."

The Bridgewater State University Foundation is a nonprofit organization structurally separate from BSU but focused on meeting the needs of the university and its students.

Visit [bridgew.edu/alumni/about/bsu-foundation](https://bridgew.edu/alumni/about/bsu-foundation) to learn more.



### Bear-ing Lessons: Sam Cushman, '19, G'23, Turns Campus Art Into Teachable Moment

Sam Cushman had quite the back-to-school tale for her Rockland elementary school art students: She spent her summer working with a giant bear.

Sam painted one of the fiberglass bear statues placed around campus.

"It was a really cool opportunity that I couldn't pass up," said Sam, who earned a bachelor's degree in fine arts and secondary education, and is pursuing a Master of Arts degree in teaching visual arts. "It's very surreal to walk on campus and see my own work not just in a classroom but in the wild."

BSU chose Sam to repaint the bear near East Campus Commons after it was damaged. She drew inspiration from the array of Massachusetts' native plants and worked in black and white as an homage to printmaking, her artistic medium of choice. "I wanted to highlight the biodiversity of Massachusetts, which correlates to the diversity we can find on the BSU campus," she said.

Her budding elementary school artists were amazed to learn their teacher not only instructs them about making art, but also creates art herself. Sam told them her success shows how hard work and dedication to her craft pays off. She hopes that same message rings true for BSU students who see the statue.

"Hopefully seeing a student paint a bear like that is cool," Sam said. "They'll realize students just like them can have opportunities like that."

### Instructor Helps Uncover Mysteries of a Centuries-Old Shipwreck

Nearly 160 years ago, a storm exposed the timbers of a shipwreck buried in the mud on Cape Cod. But the intrigue surrounding this vessel had only just begun.

In recent years, Dr. Calvin Mires, a maritime archaeologist who teaches in BSU's Department of Anthropology, sought evidence to confirm the long-held belief that it's a ship that ran aground in 1626. That would make the 40-foot vessel, named Sparrow-Hawk after the storm unearthed it, the oldest known surviving wreck in the original 13 colonies.

"The challenge was there had never been any archeological studies to determine if the ship is from 1626 or is some other sailing vessel," Dr. Mires said, noting there are thousands of wrecks off Cape Cod. "So, we needed to figure out how to start scientifically determining if it was from 1626 or thereabouts."

Researchers are confident the 1626 wreck occurred because Governor William Bradford documented it in his journal. Bound for Virginia with tobacco farmers (including Irish indentured servants), the ship ran aground in Orleans, which is where Sparrow-Hawk was found. Nauset tribe members aided passengers and crew of the vessel. Natives guided two survivors to Plymouth, where Governor Bradford sent a shallop to rescue others who were stranded. The Indigenous people displayed "lifesaving kindness and hospitality," Dr. Mires said.

Dr. Mires worked with a team that included Dr. Donna Curtin of Plymouth's Pilgrim Hall Museum, maritime expert Fred Hocker and timber specialist Aoife Daly in the search for evidence.

The first clue came when Dr. Hocker recognized a timber from the ship's bilge pump. He had also seen that part on the Swedish warship Vasa, which sank in 1628. In addition, the team used radioactive dating and dendrochronology, which uses the pattern of tree rings that form as the tree grows to help determine when and where loggers felled the tree from which the timber was cut.



**Dr. Calvin Mires and a group of high school students study a piece of timber assumed to be from the Sparrow-Hawk shipwreck off Cape Cod.**

Their research indicated that timbers used to make the Sparrow-Hawk were from English trees cut in the late 16<sup>th</sup> or early 17<sup>th</sup> century, providing evidence that Sparrow-Hawk could be the 1626 wreck. "We'll probably never be 100 percent certain," said Dr. Mires, whose research was published in the *Journal of Archaeological Science*. "It just increased the likelihood it is."

The surviving timbers are housed at Pilgrim Hall Museum, which plans to create an exhibit with the wood and 3D imagery to better tell this relatively unknown part of American history.

"You have historic significance right there," Dr. Mires said of the ship's potential age. "It perhaps brought some of the first Irish immigrants to the colonies."



### Celebrating a Two-Decade Partnership

Cape Verde President José Maria Pereira Neves returned to campus in September to commemorate 20 years of collaboration between BSU and his homeland. "We discovered that through education we could build this bridge," President Neves told faculty, staff, students, lawmakers and other guests at a luncheon held in his honor. Pictured here (from left) are retired BSU administrator Mike Gomes, President Neves, BSU President Emeritus Dr. Dana Mohler-Faria and President Clark. Mr. Gomes, who is Cape Verdean and played a key role in developing and sustaining the partnership between BSU and Cape Verde, was presented by President Neves with a special medallion that is one of the highest honors Cape Verde awards. Mr. Gomes was also recognized by President Clark who announced two new endowed funds named for him that will support Cape Verdean students attending BSU.



# STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

BY PAULINA AGUILAR DELGADO, '23

*Paulina Aguilar Delgado is a senior criminal justice major with an interest in victimology. She was born and raised in Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, México. We asked her to share the details of her recent research and discuss its potential impact.*

During the 2021 spring semester, in the midst of the pandemic, my mentor introduced me to the Adrian Tinsley Program for Undergraduate Research (ATP), from which I obtained a summer research grant. I remember looking at the requirements and the application process, and vividly remember feeling overwhelmed by the idea of conducting research. Even though it felt as if it was too much for me, I decided to embark on the adventure. My project involved virtually interviewing homeless female trauma victims who resided in a shelter in Phoenix, Arizona, with the purpose of analyzing the care provided at the shelter through a gender-specific and trauma-informed-care approach.

Previously, my education at BSU had been focused on the classroom environment: understanding concepts and engaging in thorough and deep discussions with my classmates and professors. These things have always been key to my learning process. However, formulating my own questions and having the chance to ask them directly to participants of a study has been the highlight of my college career. Doing research as an undergraduate taught me to empathize with the vulnerable population I interviewed, to understand their life stories and the struggles they encounter in a shelter, and allowed me to give them a microphone so that their voices could be heard.

ATP opened its doors for me in the summer of 2021, and it allowed me to prove to myself how much I can contribute to my field of study, as well as defeating the fears that come with the idea of doing research. I discovered myself enjoying every step of the process and finding that as a society, we need to prioritize the needs of trauma victims who live both in shelters and on the streets, especially by acknowledging their obstacles and providing them mental health support and resources. Being part of the project also brought with it the responsibility to communicate and advocate for these vulnerable populations. Additionally, I had the pleasure of working as a peer student-mentor for another group of student researchers



who conducted further research on homeless women in summer 2022. I published my research article in BSU's *Undergraduate Review*, and I am continuing this important work as the foundation of my honors thesis.

I am certain that my research will open many doors for me as I move forward in my career. Likewise, I'm sure it will provide a strong foundation as I pursue my career in law. BSU has made me realize the rewards of hard and engaging work. As a student, doing research represented a door-opening opportunity. As a person, I feel that interviewing homeless female trauma victims was a privilege.

# CAMPUS CONNECTION

## NEWS AND NEWSMAKERS

### Alumna Named Head Softball Coach

BSU Athletics Hall of Famer and former softball standout Carrie (Kuprycz) Consalvi, '01, has been named head coach of the Bears' softball team. She replaces Lindsey Couturier who stepped down following the 2022 season.

"We are so excited to have Carrie come back home to BSU to lead our Bears," said Dr. Marybeth Lamb, associate vice president for athletics and student wellness. "Carrie not only has the expertise, she is a member of the family and understands what being a Bear means to our students, our faculty, staff and alumni. This will be an exciting time for Bears softball."

Ms. Consalvi was an outstanding catcher and designated player for the Bears from 1998-2000. She ranks fifth all-time in batting average, and her .535 on-base percentage in 1999 ranks fourth.

She helped the Bears capture three straight MASCAC championships and make three consecutive NCAA Division III Tournament appearances. The team won the New England Regional championship and advanced to the Division III World Series in both 1998 and 1999. Ms. Consalvi garnered All-MASCAC First Team accolades and was named to the NFCA All-New England First Team in each of her three seasons. She was also selected to the ECAC Division III New England All-Star Team and was an NFCA Division III Second Team All-American in 1998 and 1999.



Ms. Consalvi, who earned a Master of Science degree in nursing from UMass Dartmouth, is a certified nurse practitioner in cardiology on Cape Cod where she lives with her husband, Dave, '00, and daughter, Mia.

"To come home and represent the Bear family once again is a longtime dream come true," said Ms. Consalvi.

### Martin Richard Institute to Occupy Newly Renovated Summer Street Building



Taking part in the ribbon-cutting for the new home for the Martin Richard Institute for Social Justice are (from left) President Clark; Joseph St. Laurent, '88; Bill, '93, Jane and Denise, '93, Richard; President Emeritus Dr. Dana Mohler-Faria; Ellen Cuttle Oliver, '82, G'89; and Jill Beckwith.

During Homecoming weekend, BSU officials cut the ribbon on the newly renovated building just off the Boyden Quadrangle that will house the Martin Richard Institute for Social Justice.

The BSU Foundation purchased the home at 161 Summer St., located next to Woodward Hall, and work is nearly complete on an extensive renovation that included upgrading HVAC and electrical systems, installing new landscaping and parking, and restoring historic pillars that adorn the front of the building.

"Yes, we're dedicating the home, but more importantly we're dedicating the cause," said President Clark. "Advancing social justice means getting involved. It means taking action. It means making a difference."

Martin's sister, Jane, cut the ribbon with their parents, Bill and Denise, both members of the Class of 1993, by her side. The home, Mr. Richard said, provides a prominent physical location for this essential work of helping and standing up for others.

"We love you," he said. "We appreciate you. We thank you. ... Having a home matters."



# CAMPUS CONNECTION

## FROM THE ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

### Archived Scrapbooks Tell of Bridgewater Normal School's Role in Fraternity's Founding

BY DR. ORSON KINGSLEY

"Fourteen specimens of the genus homo, banded together by the sacred ties of fraternal brotherhood, met in [the] dining hall at 7:00 p.m. sharp...a number of [speeches] were made all expatiating on the desirability of perpetuating this secret band of brothers. Suffice it to be said, that an organization was effected [sic] which we hope may be as lasting as the university itself."

This entry in the diary/scrapbook of Nahum Leonard from April 14, 1900, depicts the setting of the first official meeting of what would soon be known as the Kappa Delta Phi fraternity.

BSU's Archives and Special Collections is home to two of Mr. Leonard's scrapbooks. He studied at what was then the Bridgewater Normal School, beginning in 1899 and graduating in 1902. The scrapbooks offer a glimpse into the earliest days of the fraternity when it was a fledgling idea yet to take root.

The books also feature Mr. Leonard's thoughts on a variety of matters, as his diary entries are mixed in throughout, a rarity for scrapbooks from this time. He and his fraternity brothers had on their minds the usual college-boy stuff – sports, girls, friends, and groups and organizations to join.

Today, more than a century after the fraternity's founding, there are approximately 30 Kappa Delta Phi chapters from



Nahum Leonard (standing, far left) poses with his classmates in 1899.

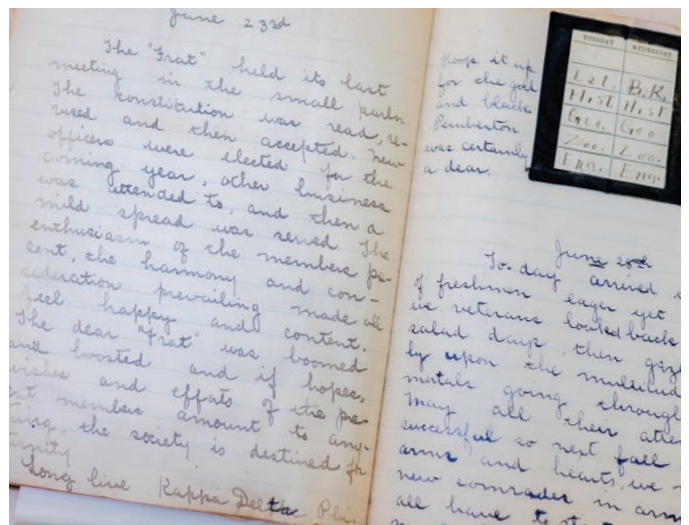
New England to Pennsylvania. BSU's is still in existence, though at times membership has dwindled, and efforts have been made to boost its numbers.

Nahum Leonard had an inkling that the fraternity would last. On June 23, 1900, he wrote in his scrapbook, "the society is destined for eternity. Long live Kappa Delta Phi."

Dr. Orson Kingsley is senior librarian, head of Archives and Special Collections



A scrapbook belonging to Nahum Leonard, Class of 1902



The June 23, 1900, entry from Nahum Leonard's scrapbook includes his notation "Long live Kappa Delta Phi."



# CAMPUS CONNECTION

## NEWS AND NEWSMAKERS

### Turning the Page

Professors often hear that the out-of-pocket costs of textbooks create a financial burden for their students, which is why some BSU faculty members are using Open Educational Resources (OER), a public digital library that provides educational materials for free, or at a very low cost. BSU was recently awarded a \$192,555 grant from the Davis Educational Foundation to support the expansion and impact of OER at the university.

Dr. Cindy Kane, assistant provost for strategic initiatives, and Dean of Library Services Kevin Kidd worked together to co-lead the grant. Dr. Kane said the grant will be utilized over the next three years and, among other benefits, will offer new course transformation grants for faculty looking to expand OER use.

Since 2016, Dr. Susan Eliason, associate professor of elementary and early childhood education, has co-chaired BSU's OER committee. She wanted to find a way to help ease the financial burden textbooks create for her students. "I had students that couldn't purchase the book until three weeks into the semester. This means they missed assignments, and it put them at a disadvantage right away," she said.



Aside from the cost savings, Dr. Eliason said having access to more content can make things more equitable. "I really feel strongly about representing and looking at other voices ... how can I create course content that is more equitable all around? OER helps with that," she said.

### California Street Artist Brightens Campus With Latest Mural



There's a place on campus that's bursting with color that's sure to draw attention and be the next hot spot for selfies.

An internationally recognized artist, who goes by the name Free Humanity, is the latest painter to create a mural inside BSU's Turchon Tunnel, which connects the West and East campuses. It is named for Carolyn (Van Buskirk) Turchon, '62, a member of BSU's Board of Trustees and a former member of the Foundation.

This marks the fifth year BSU has commissioned an artist to create a mural inside the tunnel.

For his design, Free Humanity used his trademark hearts and vibrant colors to cover not only the walls of the tunnel, but also the ceiling. "Colors make people feel things, it's always my goal to uplift people. There is enough suffering in the world, and I believe art can play a major role in uplifting people and the community," the California-based street artist said.

Jay Block, associate director of collections and exhibitions, knew he wanted to hire Free Humanity for this project because in many ways this fall represents the first "normal" semester since COVID-19 hit three years ago. "After the darkness that we experienced, it's really important to have a bright, welcoming ray of hope," Mr. Block said.

As for having their artwork painted over every year, Mr. Block said, for street artists, that's often par for the course. "All of these artists understand that the pieces become tired and have a life, that a new piece comes in, and it's part of a tradition," he said.

Free Humanity said there is a certain beauty in knowing that his artwork has a shelf life. "You have to learn to make things and let them go, that's part of life. Change is not necessarily a negative thing, change can be good," he said. "I also think when you see something that might not be there tomorrow, you appreciate it more," he said. "That's the nature of life. You might not be here the next day. I try to be like that in my art."







# Giving His All

*Remembering the sacrifice and devotion to veterans embodied by the late Paul Monti, '70*

BY JOHN WINTERS, G'11

IT'S A WELL-KNOWN STORY in these parts. Paul Monti, '70, was at the Massachusetts National Cemetery in Bourne on Veterans Day 2006, when he noticed there were no flags marking the graves of the nearly 80,000 veterans buried there. He was told flags were not allowed – they interfered with the upkeep of the 750-acre site.

Mr. Monti decided this wasn't right and proceeded to do something about it.



It took more than four years, but he persuaded state officials to change the policy. He also founded Operation Flags for Vets. Now, every Veterans Day and Memorial Day the cemetery becomes a sea of red, white and blue.

This is only part of the legacy left behind by Mr. Monti, who died of cancer on August 26.

Mr. Monti's work led him to becoming something of a local celebrity, the face of patriotism and a die-hard supporter of all U.S. veterans.

As Governor Charlie Baker said to *The Boston Globe*: "The thing that was truly remarkable about him was his decency and his desire to try to find something positive in such a terrible loss."

That loss was the reason Mr. Monti was at the cemetery on that Veterans Day 16 years ago. Earlier that year, on June 21, his son, Army Sergeant First Class Jared C. Monti, had been killed in action in Nuristan Province, Afghanistan. He was 30 years old. Mr. Monti also had two other children, Niccole and Timothy, who both survive him.

The fact that Sergeant Monti died of injuries from a rocket-propelled grenade while attempting to rescue a fellow soldier would, in 2009, earn him the Medal of Honor. As then-President Barack Obama told the story during the award ceremony, "[W]hen these American soldiers saw one of their own – wounded, lying in the open, some 20 yards away, exposed to the approaching enemy – Jared Monti did something no amount of training can instill. His patrol

leader said he'd go, but Jared said, 'No, he is my soldier, I'm going to get him.' It was written long ago that 'the bravest are surely those who have the clearest vision of what is before them, glory and danger alike, and yet, notwithstanding, go out to meet it.' Jared Monti saw the danger before him. And he went out to meet it."

Before Paul Monti became a proud Gold Star Father, he was an educator. He taught earth science at Stoughton High School for 35 years, retiring in 2005.

"He had students everywhere," recalled his sister, Jean Monti. A teacher in Brockton herself, sitting in the dining room of her home about a mile from campus, she recounted her brother's love of teaching and devotion to his students. "No matter where we went, people came up and said, 'I had Mr. Monti ...' He was always so proud of his students."

Ms. Monti said her brother was driven by a desire to minister to others; it's the family way. Her parents, Joseph and Mary Monti, were active in the church and community in Braintree, where Paul was the fifth child of 13. The list of the family's charitable endeavors would fill a full page.

"Paul was humble, Jared was humble. I guess it's the way we are," Ms. Monti said. "My father was like that. You do the right thing, that's what Paul lived by."

With the death of his son, the focus of Mr. Monti's life understandably shifted. "Paul's life mission after Jared passed was to make sure no soldier is forgotten," his sister said.



Jared Monti was known for his friendships with members of the local Afghan community. In an August 2021 interview with WCVB, Paul Monti said his son cared deeply about his fellow soldiers and the Afghan people, and when his family sent him care packages, Jared would distribute the contents to local children.

PJF Military Collection/Alamy Stock Photo



UPI/Roger L. Wollenberg

In September 2009, President Barack Obama presented Paul Monti with the Medal of Honor, the United States' highest award for military valor in combat, in recognition of his son Jared's service and ultimate sacrifice on behalf of his country.

Along with founding Operation Flags for Vets, Mr. Monti developed the fundraising ventures Monti's Run, and the SFC Jared C. Monti Charitable Foundation.

Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School also offers a scholarship in Jared's name, started by his father.

Much of Paul Monti's time in recent years was spent giving speeches and supporting organizations that benefit veterans. He earned national attention after mentioning in a radio interview that in order to stay close to his late son he continued to drive his truck around his adopted hometown of Raynham. Country songwriter Connie Harrington heard the interview and was inspired to co-write the hit song, "I Drive Your Truck." It became a number one hit on country radio for singer Lee Brice, and earned Song of the Year honors at the 47<sup>th</sup> annual Country Music Association Awards, as well as Song of the Year at the 49<sup>th</sup> annual Academy of Country Music Awards.

Even after he was severely weakened by the cancer that would take his life, Mr. Monti continued to make appearances on behalf of veterans and his son's memory. His message, especially to young people, always involved the three maxims he himself lived by: Always try your hardest, never give up, and do the right thing.

"Paul just gave and gave, and he wanted the veterans to be taken care of," Jean Monti said.

His message clearly resonated. As Governor Baker told *The Globe* following Mr. Monti's death: "The guy had a huge following because of who he was and what he meant to so many people. He was so unassuming, too. He had no idea, I don't think, of the sort of influence he had on people, just by being who he was."

It's true that Paul Monti exemplified the motto of his alma mater, Not to be ministered unto, but to minister." However, there's little doubt that he would want the last words here to focus not on himself, but on his heroic son. As President Obama said on that day during the September 2009 ceremony when Jared Monti was honored with the Medal of Honor: "Compassion. Perseverance. Strength. A love for his fellow soldiers. Those are the values that defined Jared Monti's life – and the values he displayed in the actions that we recognize here today."

Truly, the apple did not fall far from the tree. ♦

Learn about BSU's Office of Military and Veteran Student Services at [www.bridgew.edu/office/military-veteran-student-services](http://www.bridgew.edu/office/military-veteran-student-services).

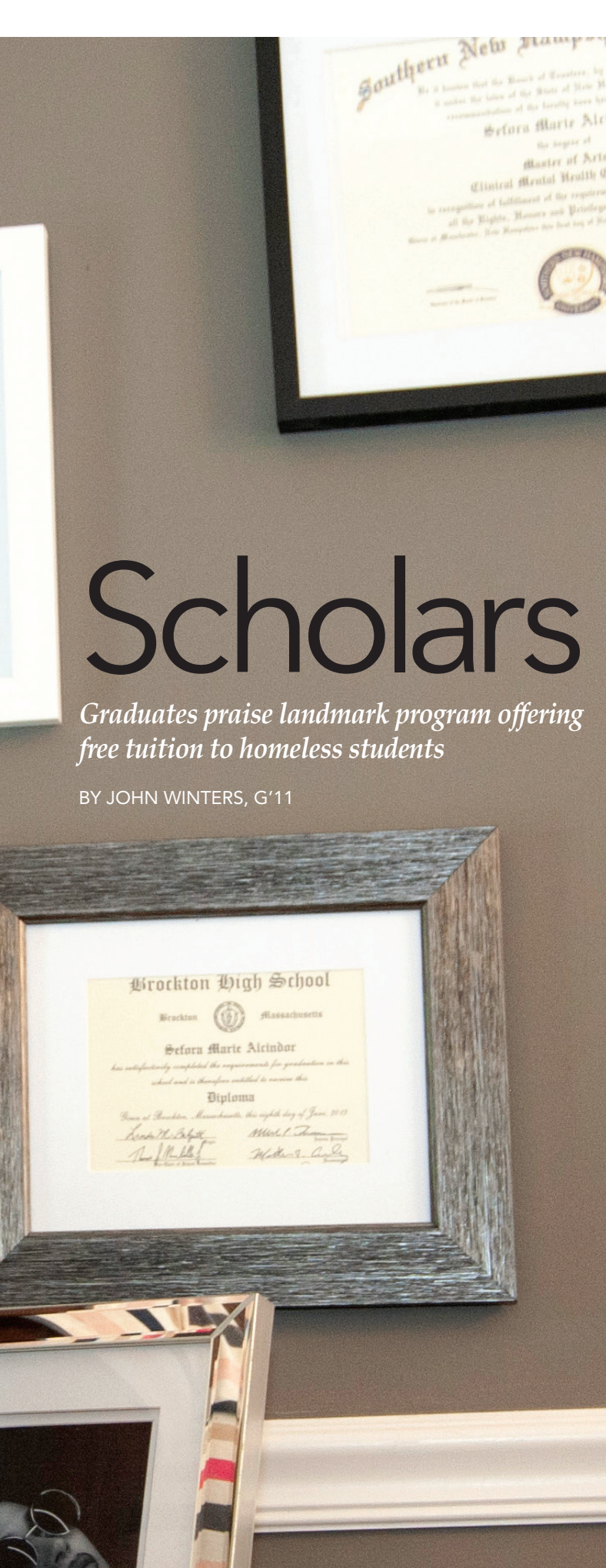
Visit <https://sfcjaredcmonti.org/operation-flags-for-vets/> to learn more about Operation Flags for Vets.





Sefora Alcindor, '18





# Scholars for Life

*Graduates praise landmark program offering free tuition to homeless students*

BY JOHN WINTERS, G'11

VISITORS TO THE PAWTUCKET, RHODE ISLAND, home of Sefora Alcindor, '18, can tell immediately what's most important to her. First and foremost, there are wall-to-wall photos of her husband, immediate family members and friends. Happy, loving faces and good times dominate. Adjacent to the photos is a section of the wall devoted to her collection of diplomas. "I look at them every time I enter this room," Ms. Alcindor said.

As she should. These framed documents represent the long, winding road she's taken to get to where she is today – a successful mental health counselor.

Indeed, Ms. Alcindor has come a long way from her native Haiti. And, she's come an even longer way from her

days living in Brockton, to where her family immigrated when she was 12 years old. It was in the City of Champions where she lived for a time in a family shelter with her father and younger sister that she began attending Massasoit Community College. After a couple years there, she learned about a program at Bridgewater State University for students struggling with homelessness. She applied and was accepted.

Today, Ms. Alcindor not only is a mental health therapist for Northeast Health Services in Fall River and a first-time homeowner, but also has set her sights on obtaining a PhD in human behavior. An important link between her old life and current life is the Bridgewater Scholars program, which for the past dozen years has been giving select students who have experienced homelessness a four-year, full scholarship to Bridgewater State University.

While both her parents had college degrees, the idea of visiting a university at first made Ms. Alcindor nervous. "When I came to campus for the interview, I was completely in shock," she said. "I'd never been to a four-year university. And then I went into a room with a bunch of faculty members, and I thought they would see me as a homeless girl. I didn't want to feel like that."

Ultimately, members of the BSU community put her at ease. "They didn't make me feel different from the other students at BSU," she recalled. "I think that's one

of the things I appreciate. You don't feel like a statistic. I have felt like that elsewhere, and it's not pleasant."

The Bridgewater Scholars program has a growing list of more than a dozen graduates, each of whom has gone on to a successful career.

What started as an initiative of BSU's Task Force to End Homelessness has become an important component of the institution's commitment to social and racial justice. The program works with a coalition of regional high schools, homeless shelters and youth service providers to identify potential Bridgewater Scholars.

Each academic year, two students are generally accepted into the program. Those chosen have the cost of their tuition and room and board covered, and in addition to classes and educational opportunities such as study abroad, undergraduate research and internships, they participate in work study and community service projects.

Dr. Michele Wakin, professor of sociology, founded this program in 2011 while working in the Office of the President. "Creating the Bridgewater Scholars program will always be one of the highlights of my career at BSU," she said. Dr. Wakin has written three books on the subject of homelessness and enjoys putting research into practice to assist BSU students.

"Since the program began, it has successfully recruited, retained and graduated 13 scholars, who remain actively engaged as mentors for incoming students," Dr. Wakin said. "This program demonstrates the transformative power of academic mentorship and the importance of building generational wealth as keys to a successful future."

Looking over her assortment of diplomas – one each from Brockton High School, BSU and the University of Southern New Hampshire, where she earned a master's degree – Ms. Alcindor talks of her plans to obtain a PhD.

"It's a goal of mine," she said. "My mother was a math professor in Haiti, and my father was a lawyer. I think I need to clear that bar in order to feel better about myself. Obtaining an education is indeed important to me," she added. "I want my future children to have someone to look up to."

They certainly will.



**Lorenz Marcellus, '17, G'22**

LORENZ MARCELLUS, '17, G'22, is chasing his dream of working in higher education. Another native of Haiti who grew up primarily in Brockton, he dealt with homelessness as a high school senior.

He was nominated to become a Bridgewater Scholar and ultimately became the first male student in the program. His sister Rubie, '20, is also a Bridgewater Scholar and BSU graduate. He remembers holding the envelope





from BSU, the envelope he believed held the key to his future. “I opened it, and it said ‘Congratulations.’ I’d been accepted into the program,” he recalled. “I was so excited. I knew I wanted to go to school but couldn’t afford it.”

Mr. Marcellus earned not one, but two degrees from BSU. During his undergraduate years, as a communication

studies major, he took part in an internship in the nation’s capital through The Washington Center, which provides immersive internships and academic seminars to students from hundreds of colleges and universities and young professionals from across the United States and more than 25 countries. He also traveled to Morocco and Philadelphia, and volunteered at a school in Belize.



After earning his first degree, he served with City Year as a member of AmeriCorps, after which he returned to BSU to pursue a master's degree in school counseling.

At first, Mr. Marcellus wanted to be a filmmaker, but participating in the annual student film competition, Campus Movie Fest, gave him a close-up look at the industry. It wasn't as he'd imagined. And, it's a longshot to make it in that business without some pre-existing connections. "I didn't want to be a starving filmmaker," he said.

Thinking about what else he enjoyed doing, Mr. Marcellus decided to pursue a career working with students. At BSU

he'd served as a mentor for young students through a special program held in conjunction with the town of Randolph. "I found that working with students was something I had a passion for," he said.

Ultimately, he found that he preferred working with college-aged students.

Today, he's doing just that, as a part-time employee in BSU's Office of Student Success and Equity Interventions. It's a job that's in keeping with his life's mission. "So many others have helped me, and I want to pave the way for someone else," he said.

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ZACHARY WRIGHT, '18, lost his mother to melanoma when he was 16 years old, leaving him designated as an unaccompanied minor. Living in Brockton at the time, he was lucky that Gloria Rubilar, a guidance counselor at the city's high school, connected him with Schools on Wheels.

The Bridgewater Scholars program was an immense help to Mr. Wright, allowing him to continue to focus on his education despite technically being homeless. It provided the full support he needed to graduate in 2018 with a degree in mathematics.

The Scholars program was a gamechanger, Mr. Wright said. "No longer did I need to worry about a place to sleep or food to eat," he said. "It allowed me to focus on my studies."

Eventually, he busted out of his comfort zone, he said, signing on for a transformative yearlong study tour in South Korea.

"BSU really encourages you to find out what you want to do, and supports you all the way," he said.

Eventually, Mr. Wright earned a master's degree in finance at the University of Houston. Today he lives in the city and works as an investment associate at a financial services company, Avidian Wealth Solutions. He supports the company's advisors – a role he sees himself one day graduating into. He's already completed the highly challenging Chartered Financial Analyst Program.

"I really like it," Mr. Wright said of the work. "The way I see it is I'm helping people become more financially secure. As someone who's experienced homelessness before, I like to think about how to build wealth, and it feels good knowing I'm helping others do just that."

Each of the three Bridgewater Scholars expressed gratitude to BSU. They see a direct link between who they've become and the wide-open future awaiting them.

"Bridgewater Scholars really changed my life," Mr. Wright said. "I can't say that enough. I've been able to realize my full potential because of this program. It provided a fantastic foundation for me." ♦



Zachary Wright, '18

# Serving Others

Student establishes "micro food pantry"  
in her hometown to help those in need

BY BRIAN BENSON, G'23

KELLIE IRVIN, '23, dreams of someday opening a day care center. However, she's not waiting for her college degree before setting out to improve the lives of others.

The Bridgewater State University student started a micro food pantry in her hometown of Medford. People can take food for free and leave donations to stock the shelves of the wooden shed-like structure.

"With everything I do, I make sure I'm able to involve children in some way," said Kellie, who is majoring in early childhood education and minoring in special education. "My passion is children, especially children with disabilities because I'm able to connect with them."

Kellie, who is deaf but can hear with assistance from an electronic device called a cochlear implant, found vocational students to build the structure and discussed her project and food insecurity with middle schoolers. She presented at many meetings before gaining city support for the pantry, which is located along Riverside Avenue near a senior center and affordable housing.

Kellie first attended Mount Ida College. After it permanently closed, she transferred to BSU and found a program that is preparing her to start that day care center. "I love it," she said. "I suggest Bridgewater to everyone thinking of applying to college. It's a great campus with great people and a lot of support in any field you're in."

In addition to education classes, Kellie studies Arabic and Spanish so she can converse with children of diverse backgrounds whom she hopes to one day serve. She already knows American Sign Language. "My overall goal is to create a day care where everyone is welcome," she said.

For now, she's succeeded at helping meet other community needs. Kellie launched a clothing brand called LOPH (Love OverPowers Hate) in 2017. She uses a portion of the profits to buy food for the micro pantry and support causes such as the American Society for Deaf Children.

Decorated with paintings of fruits and vegetables, the pantry includes a refrigerator with a carrot-shaped handle for perishable products. Kellie checks on it daily and is amazed at the plethora of donations.

"The support from the community has been great," she said. "I feel like a pantry fridge in every town would just make things easier for everyone, and it helps the town come together."

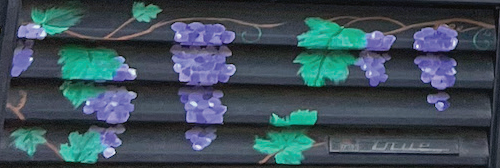
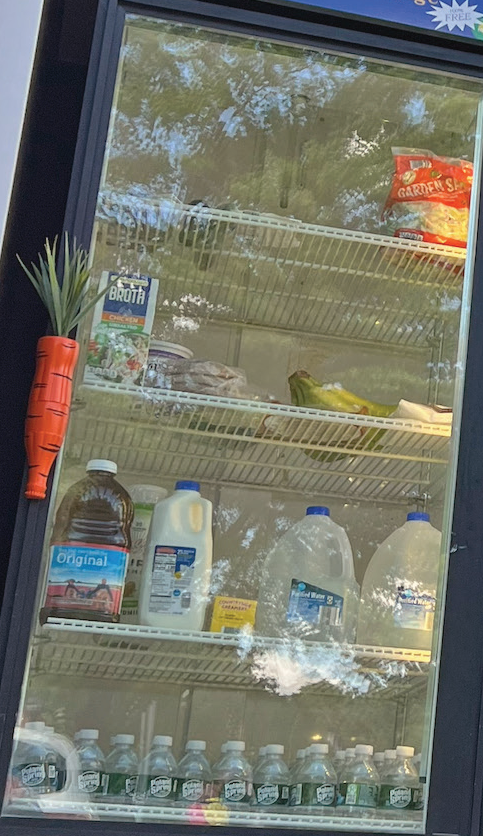
The pantry's Facebook group has 400 followers. And WBZ radio, the *Medford Transcript* newspaper and the popular Only in Boston Twitter account featured the project, which is a success because of Kellie's drive to make a difference.

"Throughout my entire life, I've been told you can't do that," she said. "Now, I feel I have to prove as a deaf person I can do these things." ♦



# COMMUNITY FRIDGE

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# Say It Loud

*Benefactors Bruce, '68, and Patricia Quinn, '67, Bartlett discuss the importance of supporting free speech on campus and beyond*

BY JOHN WINTERS, G'11

WE LIVE IN A SOCIETY known both for rampant disinformation, as well as information overload. Ideas, good and bad, fly freely across the internet and traditional media. Meanwhile, many complain cancel culture and political correctness are dangerously limiting free expression.

Americans still strongly support the rights granted under the First Amendment. A January poll by the Knight Foundation showed that roughly 90 percent of Americans agree that protecting free speech is an important part of American democracy, and that people

should be allowed to express unpopular opinions. Almost as many, 86 percent, believe free speech helps marginalized groups be heard, and 77 percent go so far as to agree that ideas that are deemed by some to be “bad” or “offensive” should still be heard, as this promotes healthy debate in society.

Problems begin to show when one digs a little deeper. The same study found that less than half of Americans, 45 percent, believe that free speech is secure these days. Ask about free speech on college campuses, and some fear that in American academia, freedom of speech is an endangered species.



In a July 25 piece in *The Boston Globe*, lawyer and journalist Harvey Silverglate, co-founder of the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression (FIRE), put it plainly, “[I]t is no secret that academic freedom, a long revered and honored principle, has come under serious attack.”

He cites among many examples an October 2021 lecture cancelled by host institution MIT. The speaker, according to Mr. Silverglate, was “a scholar who had the temerity to criticize the campus mantra extolling diversity, equity and inclusion.”

Stories like this are legion across the nation.

As anyone can see, in 2022 even a cherished right like freedom of speech has become a contested and controversial topic.

BSU’s most generous benefactors, Bruce and Patricia Bartlett, have taken the cause of free speech to heart, and are providing meaningful support for this most basic of American rights.

“Bruce and I are excited and humbled to be able to help support courses in free speech and expression at Bridgewater State University,” Mrs. Bartlett said.

Indeed, the couple earlier this year established at BSU the Patricia Quinn, ’67, and Bruce, ’68, Bartlett Endowed Chair in Free Speech and Expression.

“We are so deeply grateful to Bruce and Pat for their love and commitment to their alma mater and to our country,” said President Clark when announcing the new chair. “They are proud Americans with a deep appreciation for and knowledge of the founding of our nation and the enduring values on which our democracy is built.”

Professor of Philosophy Dr. Aeon J. Skoble has been appointed as the inaugural Bartlett Endowed Chair in Free Speech and Expression. In his research, scholarship and teaching, Dr. Skoble has been a lucid and forceful exponent of the inherent value of free speech and its foundational role in democracy. As chair, he will focus on four areas: teaching, scholarship, campus engagement and outreach, and mentoring and advising.

The endowed chair is not the first time the Bartletts have sought to reinforce the most critical of lessons pertaining to our so-called American experiment. In December 2021, BSU announced the establishment of the Bartlett Endowed Professorship for Civic Education and Engagement, which is currently held by Dr. Jo Hoffman. The couple also addressed the importance of free speech in the pages of a 2020 textbook they were instrumental in developing,

*The Massachusetts Chronicles: The History of Massachusetts from Earliest Times to the Present Day*. The statement the Bartletts included in the publication made the point that “free speech is the freedom that protects all the other freedoms ... Free speech not only protects our liberties but also helps advance science and all aspects of our lives.”

The Bartletts point to historical examples where scientists, such as Galileo, as well as Drs. Barry Marshall and Robin Warren, pioneers in rethinking our understanding of the cause of ulcers, were silenced or scorned.

“I fear today some universities would not even allow them to speak and would charge them with spreading disinformation,” Mrs. Bartlett said. “Fortunately, Marshall and Warren’s research finding that ulcers were caused by microbes, instead of the prevailing wisdom that they were caused by stress, were validated, and they went on to receive the 2005 Nobel Prize in physiology. However, in the interim period, how many patients suffered needlessly, especially those that had part of their stomachs removed?”

Promoting free speech is one thing, but measuring any resultant progress is another. Fortunately, the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression now rates colleges and universities on their support and protection of free speech. Schools are rated green if they have the highest support, yellow signifies partial support, and red signifies institutions that do not do a good job of recognizing and guaranteeing First Amendment rights.

Even in blue-state Massachusetts, there are institutions that earn FIRE’s lowest grade of red, including Boston College, Boston University, Framingham State University and Northeastern University. BSU, along with several other universities, including Harvard and Salem State, is ranked as “yellow.” No Massachusetts college or university has yet earned a green rating.

The Bartletts are hoping that a renewed campuswide focus on the importance of the First Amendment will soon lift BSU into FIRE’s green category.

They are confident that members of the BSU community also will embrace this challenge.

“Thanks to the courage and foresight of President Fred Clark, Bridgewater State University may become the first university in Massachusetts to be rated in the top green tier for free speech and expression,” Mrs. Bartlett said. “Bruce and I hope FIRE will take notice of Bridgewater State University’s leadership in this important area.” ♦

# Boosting STEM

Several initiatives address diversity and the future needs of in-demand fields

BY JOHN WINTERS, G'11

STEM SELLS. These days more than ever.

Workers are in great demand in the various fields that fall under the rubric of science, technology, engineering and math.

During the pandemic, scientists of all stripes were celebrated for their work and breakthroughs. While these workers helped millions survive and ultimately brought an end to the pandemic, science itself has been on trial in the debates over everything from climate change to the safety and efficacy of vaccines.

The pandemic provided a triumphant moment for science, but the flip side was that it exacerbated an existing manpower problem in the sciences. As the employment firm Randstad puts it, “When it comes to hiring and retention in 2022, STEM employers will once again have their work cut out for them. The shortage of qualified candidates that existed before the pandemic still rages on, worsened, even, by 2021’s record-high employee quit rates.”







Antu Stettler, '23, who received a NASA Space Grant Summer Fellowship, conducts research in BSU's observatory.

In 2019, there were nearly 10.8 million workers in STEM occupations, according to U.S. Census Bureau estimates. An estimated 3.5 million jobs in STEM fields will need to be filled by 2025, according to some estimates.

In addition, a lack of diversity in STEM is well-documented. While women make up half of this country's workforce, 73 percent of all STEM workers are men, and 27 percent women, according to the Census Bureau. That latter number has increased in recent years, but the diversity gap remains.

As for people of color, women in particular, the disparity continues, with no perceived relief in sight. The Pew Research Center reports that in 2018, Black students

earned only 7 percent of STEM degrees awarded in the United States.

Eight in 10 Americans say it is at least somewhat important to have racial and ethnic diversity in today's workplaces, including around half who categorize this as "extremely" (26 percent) or "very" important (27 percent), according to Pew.

The Bartlett College of Science and Mathematics at BSU has, through a number of initiatives, been doing its part in addressing issues of diversity and shortages in STEM employment. Four such programs are detailed in the following pages.

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## Girl Power

### *Grant funds program to promote STEM careers*

BY HEATHER HARRIS MICHONSKI

A new program will soon be offered at BSU to encourage girls to pursue an education in STEM subjects and demonstrate that opportunities exist for women in what have traditionally been male-dominated fields.

Dr. Jennifer Aizenman, director of the Center for the Advancement of STEM Education (CASE), was recently awarded a Community Action Grant from the American Association of University Women to fund the project. "This is an opportunity for us to get funding to improve STEM education for students who are underserved," Dr. Aizenman said.

The new program, Engineering a Better World, will invite students from Our Sisters' School, an all-girls school in New Bedford, to work with BSU faculty and undergraduates to learn more about STEM subjects and careers in the field, as well as all BSU has to offer.

Together with BSU faculty, CASE is in the planning stages of the program, which will be geared toward students in grades seven and eight. As part of the program, set to launch next semester, students will use engineering

concepts to better understand how to respond to natural disasters.

They will explore what considerations are important following natural disasters, such as an earthquake and accompanying building collapse, investigating ways people can still communicate when power is lost and the kinds of public health issues that can result from large-scale events. The program will also investigate preventative measures of such disasters.

It includes two campus visits, where students will get a glimpse of what college life is like. "We won't just be doing STEM content and hands-on activities; we also give the students a chance to come and see themselves on a college campus, particularly at BSU where math and science are so strong," Dr. Aizenman said.

A recent survey indicated that CASE outreach programs, such as science fairs and open lab nights, have drawn students to enroll at BSU. "We kept hearing back from students that the reason they came here was because they attended one of our programs," Dr. Aizenman said.





Two young girls take part in the Greenlight For Girls program on campus.

# Aiming High

## *NASA grants to fund a number of student projects*

BY BRIAN BENSON, G'23

With financial support from NASA, BSU undergraduate researchers spent their summer searching for new planets, exploring the next wave of technology and unraveling the mysteries of black holes.

Three students received NASA Space Grant Summer Fellowships, which pay them \$6,000 for 10 weeks of research. BSU has participated in the grant program since 2012 and to date has received \$186,000 to support student research.

"It was extremely helpful to not have to worry about working through the summer," said Antu Stettler, '23, recipient of one of the fellowships. "I'm focusing on research instead of having to work a different job not related to the field I'm interested in."

Growing up, Antu was engrossed in *Star Wars* and *Star Trek* and their depiction of planets like Tatooine in galaxies far, far away.

"It fascinates me that there are other worlds outside the solar system," said Antu, a physics major with an astrophysics concentration and a math minor. "I want to help in the science of finding more exoplanets."

NASA reports more than 5,000 confirmed exoplanets, which are planets outside our solar system, and more than 8,000 possibilities awaiting confirmation from researchers like Antu.

Using the observatory atop the Dana Mohler-Faria Science and Mathematics Center, Antu looks for a telltale dimming of a star's light that signals a planet orbiting the star. The potential planets are too far away to be seen, even with a telescope. In collaboration with mentor and Observatory Manager Jamie Kern, Antu is searching in the constellation Cygnus the Swan. "I want to learn about the universe and help discover things," he said. "We're in a golden age of exploration."

NASA's new James Webb Space Telescope is peering deep into the universe, producing awe-inspiring images of celestial objects never seen before. Back on Earth, Shannon Harding, '24, another fellowship recipient, is tackling a project that can help scientists interpret those types of images.

Shannon, a physics and mathematics major, is developing computer coding based on a mathematical model related to how light rays bend as they interact with black holes, regions of space where gravity is so strong that not even light escapes. When her code is completed, Shannon will be able to display what a field of objects behind a black hole will look like to observers near Earth.

"I love math and fell in love with physics quickly," said Shannon, who is working with her mentor, Dr. Thomas Kling of the Department of Physics, Photonics and Optical Engineering. "I think it's interesting to have something out in space that has so much mass and see how that works."

Photonics has applications that range from telecommunications to autonomous vehicles, and Peyton Brown, '24, is using a NASA Space Grant to contribute to this budding field.

"We're trying to see the small ways light interacts with certain materials and certain photonic devices to study what would work best," said Peyton, a physics major with an astrophysics concentration.

Peyton is learning new software and working hands-on in the lab as part of a project with mentor Dr. Samuel Serna, an assistant professor in the Department of Physics, Photonics and Optical Engineering. It's also a preview of the type of work Peyton hopes to tackle after graduation.

"This looks great on your resume," Peyton said. "It's getting me the real experience that I will need before actually heading out into the field."





Marissa Exama, '24, helps fifth graders code a robot at Hanscom Air Force Base's STARBASE Academy.

## Sharing STEM

*BSU education majors gain experience while teaching*

BY BRIAN BENSON, G'23

Hanscom Air Force Base's STARBASE Academy has long focused on building children's confidence in STEM fields. Now BSU students are bringing the learning to new heights.

Twenty education majors recently helped teach science, technology, engineering and math to fifth-grade English learners while improving their own skills as budding teachers.

"I love the hands-on aspects and learning alongside the kids," said Marissa Exama, '24, an early childhood education and English major. "I just wanted to step out of my comfort zone."

The experience, which will involve a second group of students next summer, is funded by a \$300,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF).





A BSU student reads with fifth-graders at the STARBASE Academy.

Students took two free courses about teaching English learners and incorporating STEM topics such as viscosity, force, motion and coding in their lessons. Then they used their new skills during weeklong internships at STARBASE.

"They've blown us away with their enthusiasm and passion for this," said Dr. Jeanne Carey Ingle, of the Department of Elementary and Early Childhood Education, who is coordinating the program with colleague Dr. Nicole Glen.

The students developed and taught lessons using books featuring scientists of color and mentored children during challenges, such as building bridges from sticks.

As part of the NSF grant, Dr. Ingle and Dr. Glen are researching how to prepare future educators to teach STEM to students who are not native English speakers. "There are a lot of opportunities to do STEM where language doesn't need to be a barrier," Dr. Glen said.

In one such activity, children from Boston's Josiah Quincy Elementary School excitedly watched as a robot they coded drove on an oval track. When it veered off course, BSU students helped the children discover why the robot failed.

"They bring inquisitiveness and energy, and I think they bring a fresh perspective," Dr. Peter Holden, director of STARBASE Academy, said of involving BSU students.



# Advance Work

*A shared grant promotes the advancing of early-career faculty of color to full-time positions in STEM*

BY JOHN WINTERS, G'11

Studies show that only 9 percent of STEM workers in the United States are Black, and only 7 percent Hispanic. This is reflected in the academy nationwide, where these workers make up 10 percent of faculty.

The National Science Foundation, seeking to address this imbalance, provides grants to promote and support the development of a model for advancing early-career faculty of color to full-time positions in STEM. BSU is sharing such a grant with Framingham and Worcester state universities.

The first sum to reach BSU is \$65,000. The initiative kicked off in July, according to Dr. Martina Arndt, acting dean of the Bartlett College of Science and Mathematics.

“The goal is to recruit and retain a specific subset of minoritized people in STEM,” she said. “The numbers are unbelievably low.”

The planned changes begin with the recruiting process itself. How a position is defined can influence who applies and who does not, Dr. Arndt said.

“One of the big things during recruitment is to really target these populations, and trying to include language in the job descriptions that lets candidates know that if they do meet these criteria for this population that they will be eligible,” she said.

Once faculty of color are hired, BSU and its two partner institutions will hold workshops, offer mentoring,

professional development, and assistance with the pursuit of advancement and/or tenure. It’s all part of a multi-pronged approach, Dr. Arndt said.

“The goal is to provide all the components that you need to progress at your institution,” she said.

The definition of STEM used in the context of the grant is highly inclusive, which means faculty hired in many of the humanities subjects can participate.

Likewise, many administrative divisions from across the institution have a role, including Human Resources and Talent Management, the Office of Teaching and Learning, Academic Affairs, and the Office of Student Success and Diversity.

“It’s a really nice mix of people working together on this, and I think it shows great cross-divisional collaboration,” Dr. Arndt said.

This academic year, the focus has been on recruitment practices, with five faculty openings to be filled. Once enough new faculty members of color are onboard, that cohort will benefit from the subsequent roll out of the program’s offerings.

“The idea is to create a sense of community,” Dr. Arndt said. “That’s been shown to help with retention.” ♦

DR. SIDITA KUSHI'S GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH on U.S. military interventions is more than a scholarly project. It's also a tool to help her students understand foreign policy and international relations.

Under the leadership of Dr. Monica Toft of Tufts University, Dr. Kushi directed a team that developed the first comprehensive database of U.S. military actions abroad, dating back to the country's founding.

"This data allows me to show students a snapshot of how the U.S. has relied on military interventions," said Dr. Kushi, an assistant professor of political science at BSU. "It helps them see why social scientists know what they know."

Dr. Kushi, who began teaching at BSU in 2020, worked on the database over the past four years through Tufts University's Center for Strategic Studies, where she continues to serve as a non-resident fellow.

The project shows more military actions in recent decades, with more than a quarter of all interventions occurring since the end of the Cold War. That is surprising because "it appeared we were in a relative era of stability," she said. "We assumed the U.S. would possibly intervene less."

The project goes beyond revealing the frequency of military interventions. It covers the motivations and outcomes of actions, as well as human and economic costs. Dr. Kushi hopes it becomes a tool for scholars, policymakers and the public. "I want to use the dataset to see when U.S. interventions have the greatest humanitarian outcomes," she said. "When do these interventions create positive outcomes as opposed to negative outcomes?"

Assembling the data involved pouring over historical records, some of which were handwritten. Newer government documents are more readily available, but they lump military actions together in a way that forced Dr. Kushi and her team to disentangle one action from another.

"It feels like all those years have finally led to something concrete we can show to the general public," said Dr. Kushi, who co-wrote an academic article in the *Journal of Conflict Resolution* to introduce the project. "I'm very glad to see the article out there. I'm even more happy to see it being accessed by a wide variety of people."

The team hopes to update the data every few years. Dr. Kushi also aims to build a similar dataset for other countries, allowing researchers to make comparisons with the United States.

In the meantime, she's excited to continue discussing her work with BSU students. "It's a main reason I became an academic," she said. "I really love ... being able to share my knowledge through teaching." ♦



# Battle

*Political science professor's project*

BY BRIAN BENSON, G'23





# Tested

*tracks U.S. military interventions*







# Under African Skies

Social work professor forges connections with Kenyan people and officials

BY JOHN WINTERS, G'11

DR. JIBRIL SOLOMON has always viewed social work as a community-based enterprise. This summer, he greatly expanded that idea of community.

It now stretches to Kenya and beyond.

Dr. Solomon, an assistant professor of social work, spent six days of his summer break in the East African nation. It was nothing short of transformative, he said.

“Personally, this was a proud moment that recognized my skills and talents as a social scientist as well as satisfied my ongoing curiosity and interest in people and communities outside of our own country,” he said.

Dr. Solomon came to Bridgewater State University in 2017, and it didn’t take him long to get involved in international affairs. When he saw an announcement that the Global Studies Program was looking for faculty members interested in participating in the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, he jumped at the opportunity.

He was asked to develop a proposal detailing what he could contribute to this landmark BSU program that is funded by the U.S. State Department and has been hosted by the university each summer since 2016. The program brings to campus roughly 25 young men and women from Africa for a six-week institute focused on public leadership.

Dr. Solomon was selected to be a presenter in the summer of 2018, and the following year he was asked to contribute a week’s worth of programming. “That involved taking the principles we teach in social work and figuring out how they can be useful for tomorrow’s leaders,” he said.

Dr. Solomon’s role continued to grow with BSU’s Mandela program, when in 2020 he became one of its academic directors. However, COVID caused the cancellation of that summer’s program, and in 2021 it was held virtually.



Dr. Solomon (second from left) meets with officials in Bondo County in Western Kenya.

“That was a heavy lift, but we pulled it off,” he said.

The summer of 2022 saw a successful return of the program to campus.

Not everyone knows that the U.S. State International Research & Exchanges Program, or IREX, the organization behind the Mandela Fellowships, also provides research and exchange grants to allow U.S.-based scholars to travel to Africa. It was highly competitive, but BSU Global Studies faculty leaders Dr. Jabbar Al-Obaidi and Dr. Wing-kai To encouraged Dr. Solomon to apply. He made the cut.

“It was just a chance I took, and I was really surprised,” Dr. Solomon said.

He spent six days in Kenya, driving across the country, stopping for interviews and site-specific research in Nairobi, Siaya and Bondo Towns.

Dr. Solomon met with local officials and security experts, as well as children’s and women’s groups, and spent time at the University of Nairobi, where he met with students.

As it happens in Africa, these meetings took place “in fancy offices and under trees,” Dr. Solomon recalled. “You name them, I met with them,” he said, reflecting the comprehensive nature of his fully packed schedule.

As a bonus, Dr. Solomon also met an aunt of Barack Obama, and visited the grave of the former president’s father.

His work in-country led to a report, “Develop Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution Strategies in Siaya County, Kenya, for Good Governance and Public Participation.”

Knowing that Kenya has had its share of tribal wars and instability, Dr. Solomon sought to learn the causes.

“I was curious about that,” he said. “Where is the breakdown coming from, and what are the issues? Is there anything we can learn, and is there anything we can do to support this young democracy?”

Kenyan officials will benefit from Dr. Solomon’s report, as will BSU students. He’d like to make the country a regular study tour destination for his students.



“So not only will they develop some cultural knowledge, they can bring back these skills when working with the immigrant community here at home,” he said. “Such trips will help the students have a different perspective that will help them have a deeper understanding of how they will approach the immigrants from these countries, who we need to serve.”

Dr. Solomon’s research in Kenya is part of his role as an educator in what he sees is an ever-shrinking world. He plans to go back next summer to continue his work.

On campus, meanwhile, he will give presentations, host workshops and incorporate aspects of his personal fact-finding mission into his classroom teaching.

“As a scholar, the trip was an opportunity to continue to develop my field research work, expertise and skills, especially at a global level, to broaden my competencies in teaching and learning in a more diverse and globalized world,” he said.

“Education in this century must have a global aspect to it, which is why it’s important to me to always have this larger perspective,” Dr. Solomon added. ♦

#### PHOTOS, RIGHT, FROM TOP:

In Siaya County, Western Kenya, Dr. Solomon (seated, center) meets and works with youth leadership and advocacy groups.

Dr. Solomon (standing) speaks at a Western Kenya regional training session for county commissioners, women, youth and political advocacy groups on community-engaged leadership.

At a village outdoor meeting place in rural Western Kenya’s Bondo Sub-County, Dr. Solomon (second from left) meets with a women’s mental health intervention group, “Duond Mine” or “Voice of Women,” whose members aspire to tackle mental health issues. *(photos courtesy of Dr. Solomon)*





# Art Matters

From Shakespeare's birthplace, to Columbia University, to BSU, the work of sculptor Greg Wyatt mixes the real and the magical

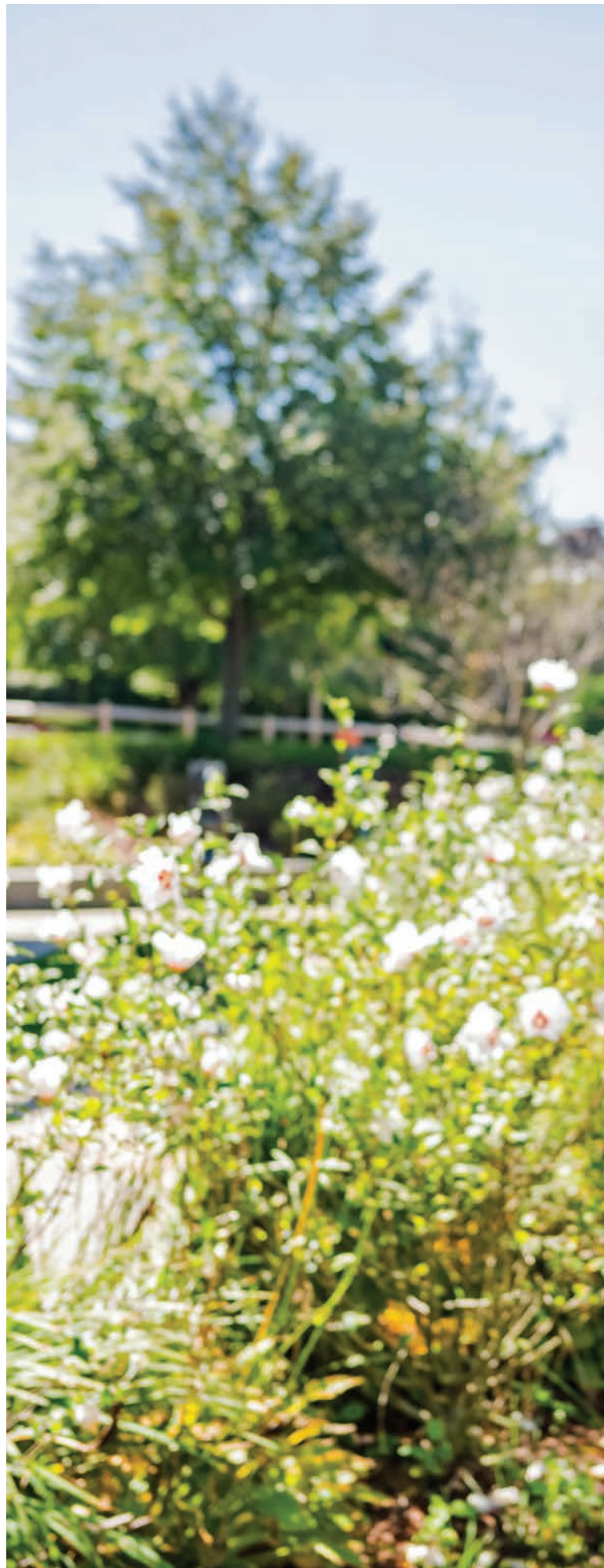
BY JOHN WINTERS, G'11

SEVEN YEARS AGO, when local resident, art collector and Bridgewater State University benefactor Lawrence Doherty moved three sculptures from Harvard University to a studio in upstate New York, he had no idea he was forging a connection that would soon transform BSU's campus.

The sculptures were the work of Hudson Valley artist Greg Wyatt. They had been displayed since 1990 in Harvard University's Winthrop House Courtyard. However, upcoming renovations meant that in 2016 the art had to go back to its creator. During the move, Mr. Wyatt and Mr. Doherty struck up a friendship. At some point, Mr. Doherty asked the artist what he planned to do with the returning sculptures. "He asked me if I had any leads yet," Mr. Wyatt recalled during a Zoom call over the summer. "Then he asked, 'How about Bridgewater State University?'"

The following April, with the help of Jay Block, BSU's associate director of collections and exhibitions, the courtyard between Maxwell Library and the student union became home to one of the works: a life-size bronze sculpture of the legendary ballet dancer and actor Mikhail Baryshnikov captured in flight, as it were.

This September, what began with that one statue has evolved into the Greg and Fay Wyatt Sculpture Garden, a beautiful site full of works by Mr. Wyatt. Along with the Baryshnikov sculpture are 15 bas reliefs devoted to







**The Greg and Fay Wyatt Sculpture Garden**



poets and their relationships to dance, and four ancient river goddesses.

"The idea was to exhibit the poetry of women, and these goddesses each have different symbols, from Italy, China and India, and that is what we've attached to the beautiful feminine figure."

The 72-year-old artist learned how to draw and paint from his father. That alone was life altering. But in the mid-1960s, when the Wyatt family traveled to Mexico and visited the region once occupied by the Mayans, a young Greg Wyatt was surveying the Palenque Ruins and realized that art wasn't limited to just two dimensions.

"That planted the seeds for my career," he said.

He went on to combine a love of the Great Books (especially Shakespeare) and elements of ancient mythology with a sculpting style that at least one fan has compared to Rodin. "Wyatt emulates the sculpture of the Western world with contemporary vision," said Sir Stanley Wells, former chairman of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, who was instrumental in acquiring eight large pieces by Mr. Wyatt that are now on display at the playwright's birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon in England. Indeed, much of Mr. Wyatt's sculpture finds its roots in the best the Western hemisphere has to offer in drama, poetry, philosophy and fables.

The artist's other big-time credits include the Peace Fountain and children's garden at The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, New York City (Mr. Wyatt is its artist-in-residence), and several high-profile pieces at his alma mater, Columbia University, as well as works in national parks and in museums around the country. His sculptures can also be found in the halls of Congress, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and on countless campuses.

Mr. Wyatt would no doubt count among his many achievements his work as an educator at the Newington-Cropsey Foundation Academy of Art in his native Hastings-on-Hudson, New York. His goal is to equip his students with the skills they need, but then let them find their own inspiration and style. "Here at the academy, we teach individual originality," he said.



"It's their choice as to which path they go on. The one thing I can't teach is creativity."

Through his connection with BSU, Mr. Wyatt plans to host student interns from the university who will work with him in his studio and at the foundry where his bronze castings are fired. He's also been invited to speak to BSU classes; an invitation he is happy to accept.

Mr. Block, whose work over the past decade has made the campus a showcase of interesting and impactful artwork, places a high value on Mr. Wyatt's work, as well as his approach to art in general.





**Greg Wyatt at work in his studio**

photo by Christian Balmer

“He is an amazing individual who really places front and center his belief in art as a tool to better humanity,” he said. “Education, art, culture are essentials to making a healthier environment for all of us, and he is one of my favorite people and has been an excellent partner in building a cultural center for our campus. His generosity and belief in our little community is humbling.”

The final pieces of BSU’s sculpture garden are expected to be put in place in the spring. It tops off what is easily one of the most unique collections of public art in the area.

“Some people will like the sculpture, and some will not and that’s fine,” Mr. Block said. “I think that’s the democratic way. My hope is that they’ll find the beauty of nature in the garden and that they will take away what they will from the sculptures. And maybe some of them will be inspired to be artists. ♦

*For more information about Mr. Wyatt and his work, log on to <https://gregwyattsculpture.com>. The Newington-Cropsey Foundation is the donor of the sculptures.*

# ALUMNI UPDATE

## CLASS NOTES

**STAY CONNECTED.** 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 St., Bridgewater State University, Bridgewater, MA 02325.

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

### 1962

**Sheila Tunstall McKenna** was presented with a game ball at the conclusion of this year's girls basketball season at Attleboro High School, which was opened in 1962 and where Ms. McKenna was the first girls basketball coach. In September, a new \$250 million school opened, replacing the 1962 building.

### 1971

**Jean Ciborowski Fahey** took part in a signing event for her book, *I'll Build You a Bookcase*, in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, in June.

### 1973

**Susan Flint** was appointed vice president of clinical operations at Alzheon, Inc., a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company.

### 1978

**Gayle Cameron**, last of the five original Massachusetts Gaming Commission commissioners, left her position after 10 years.

### 1979

**Linda D. Midland** joined The Registry for College and University Presidents as an administrator to Registry Advisory Services (RAS). In her new role as director of marketing and RAS operations, she will be looking to expand her responsibilities in marketing through media relations, direct marketing programs and the continued branding of The Registry while managing the ongoing operations function of RAS.

### 1981

**Craig Kesselheim, G'81**, who graduated with a Master of Arts in Teaching degree in biology, spent his career in education wearing many hats, primarily in Wyoming and Maine. He retired two years ago and lives happily in coastal Maine. He is grateful for the graduate education he received at Bridgewater State and remembers some favorite professors, in particular, Dr. Elizabeth Cirino, who taught ecology, and Dr. Walter

Hewitson, whose real-time chalk board illustrations of plant morphology are artistically legendary in Mr. Kesselheim's mind's eye. He said he admires the growth and impact of BSU since his years as a student.

**Dr. Mary E. Yakimowski**, professor and director of the Educational and Organization Leadership Doctoral Program at Samford University in Alabama, was elected chair of the 25,000-member American Educational Research Association's Classroom Assessment Special Interest Group. The theme of her tenure with the group is "Refresh, Rebuild, and Extend."

### 1991

**Paul Lambert** was elected vice president of the New England Historical Association for 2022-2023, effective May 31. He is a member of the history faculty at Nichols College in Dudley, where he began teaching in 1995.

### 1994

**Jenn Grunzweig Alvarez** traded in shovels and snow-blowers for sweet tea and barbeque and now lives in Georgia. She is an athletic trainer/physician extender and clinical manager for Emory Healthcare in Atlanta.

### 1995

**Nicholas M. Garofolo** played the role of Dave Slade in the film *Feeding on the Living*, which won best Sci-Fi Film at the Hollywood Monthly Film Festival.

### 1997

**Jonathan Harper** was named director of athletics at Rivier University, located in Nashua, New Hampshire. He will provide leadership for the Department of Athletics and oversee all aspects of inter-collegiate athletics for the university's 15 NCAA Division III programs.

## ALUMNI SERVICES

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

### WEBSITE

Visit the BSU alumni website, [www.bridgew.edu/alumni](http://www.bridgew.edu/alumni), to learn more about events, services and the activities of alumni affinity groups.

### FACEBOOK

Follow us on Facebook (@BSUAlum) or search "Bridgewater State Alumni."

### 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.





photo by Matthew Cavanaugh

# ALUMNI PROFILE

## DAVE HARDING, '62, G'65

and history at Randolph High School) they had summers off. The couple lived in Braintree then, but eventually bought a second home in Egremont, not far from Tanglewood. (They now live in Pittsfield and split their time between that Western Massachusetts city and St. Petersburg, Florida.)

Mr. Harding has fond memories of his time at Bridgewater State, where he majored in math and chemistry. "I knew I was going to have to commute and had to pay for my education myself," he recalled. "Bridgewater was reasonably priced, and I had a few friends going there I could commute with." Classmate Bob Eaton was the friend he rode and studied with back then.

The school laid the foundation for the rest of his life, Mr. Harding said. "Going to Bridgewater really opened up a lot of doors and opportunities for me," he said. "The education at Bridgewater was excellent, and the preparation we got was top-notch."

While Mr. Harding listened to rock music in his student days, he was, in time, drawn to the finer strains of classical. It all began many years ago, after he and his wife traveled to Boston to see a Metropolitan Opera production of *Don Giovanni*. "We loved it and started investigating classical music and opera. We were soon hooked. I can't imagine life without it now," he said.

Next came regular visits to see the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and eventually to summers in Western Massachusetts. At Tanglewood in 1980 during a presentation the couple attended, then-head usher, Harry Steadman, asked if anyone in the crowd would like to volunteer. The Hardings stepped forward and have never looked back.

Their time volunteering at Tanglewood gave the couple the chance to see such classical music legends as Leonard Bernstein and Yo-Yo Ma, among many others. No less important, through their Tanglewood connection they began making interesting friends. "Once we got involved with Tanglewood, there were retired teachers and businessmen and lawyers, and we found that when we worked with them, we had a lot in common, and we made so many lifelong friends. We just became one big family," Mr. Harding said.

Indeed, the couple is so much a part of the fabric of Tanglewood, they've even raised money to sponsor two Tanglewood Music Center fellowships.

The Hardings may have just wrapped up another season at Tanglewood, but they are already looking forward to next summer. After more than four decades, the charm of the bucolic surroundings, the world-class music and all the friends they've made still provide a powerful draw. "My wife is already talking about hitting the 50-year mark," Mr. Harding said. ♦

—BY JOHN WINTERS, G'11

IF YOU ASKED DAVE HARDING about what he loves, there would be, of course, Lynne, his wife of 57 years. He also looks back fondly over a long career as a well-respected math teacher at Milton High School. And then there's classical music, and his favorite place to hear it: Tanglewood, a world-class outdoor venue located in the towns of Lenox and Stockbridge that is the summer home of the Boston Pops and the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

That latter passion is what led Mr. Harding, along with his wife, to devote more than four decades of summers to volunteering at Tanglewood, often logging more than 100 hours per season.

The Hardings began volunteering as ushers in 1980. The summer gig provided complete immersion in the world of classical music – for free, no less (of course their work as ushers counts as something). The experience must have been to their liking, for they've been back every summer since, except for the COVID summer of 2020.

"When we started, we knew very little about classical music, but we learned gradually," Mr. Harding said.

That learning has taken place every summer as the couple returned to the famed music shed. They became regulars that Tanglewood came to count on. And in 1984, when there was an opening, the venue hired Mr. Harding as assistant head usher. "They were looking for someone who was there a lot, and my wife and I were there for every single concert," he said. Eventually, the more physical aspects of the job became too much, and he returned, in 2015, to the ranks of volunteer usher.

The Brockton native graduated from the city's high school in 1958. He earned two degrees from Bridgewater State and spent most of his career at Milton High, retiring in 1999. His last decade on the job, Mr. Harding served as the math department chair.

As for the Tanglewood connection, it was simply a byproduct of the Harding's burgeoning love of classical music and the fact that, as public school teachers (Lynne Harding taught French

# ALUMNI UPDATE

## CLASS NOTES

### 1999

**Frances Sharon** graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree at the age of 72. Since then, five books of her poetry have been published, and now at 95, she is excited her sixth book of poetry is now in the hands of her publisher. Her books are available at the Turner Free Library in Randolph.

### 2008

**Mark Climo**, after teaching at a middle school, last year began teaching math at Palm Beach Gardens High School in Florida and also serves as the school's varsity basketball

team's head coach. When he arrived at his new classroom and introduced himself to his colleagues, he learned that four of the 10 math teachers are BSU graduates.

### 2011

**Alicen McGowan, G'11**, who earned a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in mental health, has published two books under the name AJ McGowan. Titled *We Hid Under the Table* and *We Survived in Spite of the Systems*, they were described by a University of Chicago professor as seminal works in the field of child maltreatment.

### 2012

**Missouri "Lila" Bethel** was accepted into the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

### 2016

**Eric Derenski** is serving in the U.S. Navy after graduating from the Naval Nuclear Power program.

### 2017

**Stephen Natola, G'21**, was hired right after graduating from BSU by the Walpole Zoning Board of Appeals, where he deals with 40B housing developments, zoning and land use.

### 2019

**Thomas "Tommy" Southern**, who earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice at BSU, graduated from the Northern Essex Community College Police Academy and is a full-time police officer in Peabody.

### 2021

**Eric Santos**, better known as Ewreckage, had his song "Crystal Blue" debut at number one on the iTunes Portugal Singles Chart, while also staying in the top five for the week of April 18.

## CAREER SERVICES

Help lead Bridgewater State University students to success

## ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### HANDSHAKE

Handshake is BSU's recruiting database connecting students and alumni to employers across the country looking to fill jobs and internships. Alumni are welcome to create an account to access position postings, networking opportunities and career event information: <https://bridgew.joinhandshake.com/login>. Make sure your company posts on Handshake as well.

### CAREER FAIRS

Career Services hosts several career fairs each year that alumni are welcome to attend to search for positions or to register as an employer looking to hire our students.

#### Spring Job and Internship Fair

Thursday, April 6, 2023, 11 AM-2 PM  
Tinsley Athletic Center Gymnasium

#### Education Career Fair

Wednesday, May 3, 2023, 4-6 PM  
Rondileau Student Union Ballroom

### COLLABORATIVE UNIVERSITY BUSINESS EXPERIENCES (CUBE<sub>s</sub>)

The CUBE<sub>s</sub> program connects organizations with students taking courses across the university's academic majors solving problems through in-class project work. We welcome opportunities to

collaborate with alumni/employers, such as guest speakers in the classroom, facility tours, networking events and more. Visit <https://www.bridgew.edu/academics/cubes> for information.

### BSU STUDENT AND ALUMNI NETWORKING GROUP

Join the Bridgewater State University 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.

### PRACTICE INTERVIEW PROGRAM

Career Services offers students the chance to practice and enhance their interview skills in preparation for internship and/or job searches. Practice interviews are conducted by BSU alumni and/or employer partners who offer feedback and advice on how to effectively market your skills and experiences as a candidate.

### CAMPUS ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

Many opportunities are available for alumni to engage with BSU students throughout the academic year. Career Services coordinates several programs, including career panels, information sessions, networking events, and career fairs where alumni get the chance to represent their employers and interact with students.

For more information, visit : <https://www.bridgew.edu/office/career-services>  
or contact the Office of Career Services at 508.531.1328 or [careerservices@bridgew.edu](mailto:careerservices@bridgew.edu)



# ALUMNI UPDATE

## NOTA BENE

### MARRIAGES

The university celebrates the wedding of the following alumnus:

Mary Ziomek to **Timothy J. Howe**, '84, on July 4, 2022

### IN MEMORIAM

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

James Nolan, '43, on May 23, 2022  
Atherleen Hanson Brady, '47, on May 16, 2022  
Ann Walsh McGowan, '47, on May 25, 2022  
Frances Burbank Nesmith, '48, G'52, on June 12, 2022  
Claire Murphy Murray, '49, on March 30, 2022  
Jean Cappelluzzo Egan, '51, on May 3, 2022  
Evelyn Newell Junkin, '51, on June 17, 2022  
Shirley V. Deknes, '52, G'54, on July 18, 2022  
Helen Boucher Duquette, '52, on May 28, 2022  
Janet B. Kane, '52, on September 23, 2021  
Joan Rand Giardello, '53, on April 16, 2022  
Robert M. Barrows, '54, on November 5, 2021  
Ellen Sharpe Binney, '54, on March 7, 2022  
Natalie Rogers Cambra, '54, G'65, on June 19, 2022  
Janice Bluestein Longone, '54, on August 3, 2022  
Edward M. Smith, G'55, on May 7, 2022  
Laura Batista Crocco, '56, G'61, on November 26, 2021  
Sarah S. Hoyle, G'57, on May 4, 2022  
Ellen Bowen Kilbridge, '57, on May 29, 2022  
Elaine Pepi Ambroszewski, '58, on August 8, 2022  
George H. Galvin, G'59, on May 4, 2022  
Walter H. Kaetzer, '59, G'61, on June 30, 2022  
Carolyn Madden Millard, '59, on May 6, 2022  
Barbara Dennis Roscoe, '59, on May 3, 2022  
Mary Hoyle Mahan, '60, on July 6, 2022  
John J. Mollica, '60, on March 25, 2022  
Mary Jane Cashman Walsh, '60, on June 13, 2022  
Georgina Phelps Gaebel, '61, on May 7, 2022  
Lloyd H. Hill, G'61, on April 15, 2022  
Valorie Rand, '61, in May 2022  
Patricia Johnson Coombs, '62, on March 14, 2022  
Charles Menard, G'62, on June 26, 2022  
David T. Sullivan, G'62, on March 31, 2022  
Milton R. Barnes Jr., '65, on July 16, 2022  
Dennis A. Gonsalves, '66, on February 28, 2021  
Edward W. Knight Jr., G'66, on June 27, 2022  
Fred P. LaChapelle, '66, on May 1, 2022  
Robert L. Guthrie, G'67, on May 28, 2022

John R. Pavao, G'67, on January 9, 2022  
Nancy Oliveira Ford, '68, on July 14, 2022  
Malcolm D. Reese, '68, on April 16, 2022  
John B. McNamara, '69, on May 10, 2022  
Nancy Needham Burns, '71, on August 3, 2022  
Ernest Carreiro Jr., G'71, on April 16, 2022  
Ronald L. Emmons, G'72, on March 20, 2022  
Lillian LaPoint, G'74, on March 22, 2022  
Richard D. Mahoney Jr., '74, on July 27, 2022  
Roberta Thompson, G'74, on June 1, 2022  
Steven G. McClain, '75, on June 6, 2022  
Richard T. Murphy, G'75, on April 15, 2022  
Michele L. Pelletier, '75, on April 10, 2022  
Robert E. Field, '76, on July 31, 2021  
Debra Tomeo Chapman, '77, on January 18, 2022  
Dennis Coffey, '77, on April 10, 2022  
Thomas M. Feltman Jr., '77, on October 10, 2020  
Martie F. McDonald, '77, on May 23, 2022  
Michael J. Murphy, '77, on July 22, 2022  
Marla Harrington Sohegan, '78, on March 22, 2022  
Colleen Goldrick Kinney, '79, on June 21, 2022  
Cheryl Ann Hesketh Williams, '80, on May 5, 2022  
Leslie Kane Boyce, '81, on July 21, 2022  
Janet Barbelle, G'82, on June 16, 2022  
John R. Duxbury Jr., '83, on March 25, 2022  
Nina S. Roberts, '83, on March 28, 2022  
Niles P. Berry, '85, on June 29, 2022  
Lisa Longval, '87, on January 4, 2022  
Kenneth Fraser, '88, on June 26, 2022  
G. J. (George Jason) Santos, '91, on February 20, 2022  
Sheila Kelly-Chace, '92, on August 2, 2022  
Eleanor J. Finlayson, G'94, on June 5, 2022  
Luanne Guglielmo, '94, on July 13, 2022  
David R. Snelgrove Jr., '97, on November 10, 2021  
Clare D. McAuliffe, G'03, on May 23, 2022  
Michele Demers Bauer, '04, G'05, on June 11, 2022  
Laura A. Pladsen, '10, on June 15, 2022  
Taylor M. Lahiff, '17, on March 26, 2022

BSU pays its respects to the following members of the campus community who recently passed away:

Dr. Robert C. Arruda, professor emeritus, Department of Foreign Languages, on April 14, 2022

Reverend Dr. Milton L. Boyle Jr., professor emeritus, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, on March 8, 2022

# PARTING SHOT




When Lesly Freed, G'22, last crossed a commencement stage, Richard Nixon was president, "American Pie" and "Lean on Me" were among the songs that topped the Billboard charts and a gallon of gas cost just 36 cents. Fifty years after earning her undergraduate degree, Lesly again proudly donned a cap and gown in June during BSU's graduate school commencement ceremony, a testament to the fact that it is never too late to further one's education.

"I always want to be a lifelong learner," said Lesly, who earned a master's degree in teaching English to speakers of other languages (TESOL). "I always want to set another goal for myself." Lesly, who has an undergraduate degree in sociology from Boston University, works as an adjunct TESOL professor at Quincy College and teaches adult English as a Second Language at Wellspring Multi-Service Centers in Weymouth. Clearly, when it comes to learning, she leads by example.

PHOTO BY MACKENZIE RUBITSCHUNG, '21





While many aspects of how we educate and engage students are continually evolving, one thing remains the same: the impact friends like you have on the future of our students.

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