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Editor's Notebook: A Legacy of Distinction

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Editor's Notebook

A Legacy of Distinction

by Michael Kryzanek

The *Bridgewater Review* has now entered a new era, the A.B. era. A.B. stands for After Barbara, meaning that Barbara Apstein, the associate editor of the magazine for twenty-two years, is retiring. During these twenty-two years I have been privileged to have Barbara as the associate editor. Her skill at spotting all those awkward sentences, her patience in working with anxious authors, her calming presence dealing with a hyperactive editor, and most of all her commitment to highlight the fine work of the Bridgewater State College faculty will be sorely missed and difficult to replace.

Over the years Barbara has written some wonderful articles for the *Review* on student writing, literary analysis, travels to Italy, and insights into campus life. Her writing "voice" was always clear, precise and thoughtful. She had a keen eye for educational trends and how students were changing both in the classroom and away from campus. My fondest memories of Barbara will be the working lunches where we mulled over the next issue and too often got a little loud as we would laugh heartily about our own foibles and idiosyncrasies. Those twenty two years were filled with collegial joy and respect with never a harsh word spoken.

One of our proudest accomplishments at the *Review* has been to keep the magazine going through budget crises, changes in administration and just the wear and tear of turning out two editions every year that are unique and maintain a standard of quality. The secret to the success of the *Bridgewater Review* was Barbara Apstein, who never wavered from demanding and then producing a quality magazine.

Barbara Apstein's success as an associate editor was based on her firm belief that the faculty at Bridgewater State College was indeed special and was making contributions to the advancement of knowledge that some did not expect from a small state school. Barbara wanted to help tell the story of a fine and distinguished faculty through the *Bridgewater Review*, and after twenty-two years her legacy is contained in all those issues that she helped publish.

Barbara, like many of us senior faculty who have given much to public higher education, realizes that there is indeed " life after Bridgewater." Barbara will likely play tennis, attend the opera, travel to Italy and enjoy life with her husband Carl. But Barbara will never leave Bridgewater because there is a body of work published in the faculty magazine that she was so influential in shaping. When people retire they leave behind fond memories and many friendships. When Barbara retires she leaves behind all those wonderful articles and commentaries that made people think and broadened their understanding of the world. That's quite an accomplishment.

I can only wish Barbara the best as she enters the next stage of her career. The *Review* will miss her kind editing, her clear thinking and her commitment to the thousands of students she touched over the years. What I will miss most is Barbara's generous heart and her human dignity. Sadly, the *Bridgewater Review* will never be the same.