Jun-2006

Editor's Notebook: 25 Years of Publishing the Bridgewater Review

Michael Kryzanek
Bridgewater State College, mkryzanek@bridgew.edu

Recommended Citation
Available at: http://vc.bridgew.edu/br_rev/vol25/iss1/5

This item is available as part of Virtual Commons, the open-access institutional repository of Bridgewater State University, Bridgewater, Massachusetts.
Dear Friends,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 25th anniversary edition of The Bridgewater Review, and to offer my sincere congratulations to the hundreds of talented faculty writers, researchers, artists and commentators who have made it such a fine publication since its first printing in 1982.

While many colleges and universities across Massachusetts and New England support quality journals, very few are produced with an eye towards highlighting the adventures, insights and advancements of faculty as captured in their own words and pictures. It is a wonderful testament to the commitment, energy and drive of Bridgewater’s faculty that The Bridgewater Review is celebrating its silver anniversary on such a high note.

More than 7,500 individuals and institutions receive the journal twice per year. This eclectic group includes alumni, legislators, business people, media representatives, parents, prospective students, guidance counselors and local libraries. Throughout my fifteen years as BSC President, many readers have personally taken the time to thank the college for making such a fine publication available to so wide an audience. Needless to say, it is an endeavor we are proud to support.

Enthusiasts enjoy the scholarly articles, artwork, poetry, faculty profiles and socio-political perspectives contained within the journal. At the same time, many alumni have used it as a way to reconnect with their former professors and to join in the conversations of the institution. Here’s hoping his byline adorns the opening pages for many years to come!

I hope you’ll join me both in enjoying the latest issue and in congratulating our faculty contributors on a job exceedingly well done.

Lastly, my hat goes off to Dr. Michael Kryzanek, The Review’s longtime editor and a staple of our Political Science department, for his unwavering dedication to the journal and the institution. Here’s hoping his byline adorns the opening pages for many years to come!

Sincerely,

Dana Mohler-Faria
President

Dana Mohler-Faria
President

25 years of publishing the Bridgewater Review is indeed a milestone worth celebrating. Also 25 years of continuous publication is also worth a celebratory cheer. But what is most important to celebrate is the faculty of Bridgewater State College, who for the last 25 years have given their research, their artwork, their poetry, their short stories, their innovations in teaching and their social commentary to the Review, thus helping to make this magazine both unique and a shining example of academic excellence.

When the Bridgewater Review first appeared in May of 1982 the vision was to produce a magazine that highlighted the work of the faculty. That vision has never changed, nor has the commitment of the faculty to blend their teaching and advising responsibilities with a broad range of professional, creative, scientific and literary pursuits.

As Editor of the Review over these 25 years I constantly marvel at the productivity of the faculty. Despite substantial instructional duties and the ever-growing opportunities to mentor students, the faculty continues to remain at the cutting edge of their academic disciplines. Each issue of the Review shows clearly the intellectual vitality that the faculty brings to the Bridgewater State College community.

A magazine like the Bridgewater Review could never last 25 years without the support of college presidents, provosts and deans. Fortunately the Review has been blessed with Presidents who believed in the magazine and its mission. Drs. Andrian Rondileau, Gerard Inelikato, Robert Dillman, Adrian Tinsley and now Dana Mohler-Faria have all been enormously supportive of the Review, not just in terms of budget allocations, but in taking pride in the magazine and recognizing its special place in public higher education in Massachusetts.

And of course the Review’s success over the years has also been the result of faculty colleagues who joined me as associate editors and regular contributors to the magazine. Dr. Don Johnson worked with me during the early years of the Review as Associate Editor. Don’s love of poetry, sports and the outdoors often provided the Review with insightful and thought provoking writing that elevated the quality of the Review. Don is now at East Tennessee State University and once again is being published in the commemorative issue of the magazine. Don’s poetry remains beautiful and uplifting.

Barbara Apstein has been with the Review the longest as Associate Editor. Barbara recently retired, but she has left a long legacy of commentaries on teaching English, working with students and analyzing works of literature. Barbara has been the quality control expert on the Review lending her editing skills and her critical insights into each article that she has worked on. In this issue we are publishing what I think is one of her best articles, a discussion of racism in Mark Twain’s Huckleberry Finn.

Bill Levin of the Sociology Department has been an associate editor for over fifteen years and during that time he has produced some of the most read and talked about commentaries that we have published. Bill, a true renaissance man, has written on everything from late bloomers in education to sailing on Cape Cod to the aging process. Each commentary is based on meticulous research and reveals a keen ability to write for a general audience.

And to make sure that The Bridgewater Review is celebrating its silver anniversary on such a high note, Dr. Michael Jones’ (Economics) research on non-profit organizations, Dr. William Lover’s (Sociology) observations of France, Dr. Patricia Fanning’s (Sociology) account of the charitable work of Boston’s Catholic women baking at Lausat Square, and Dr. Charles Angell’s (English) review of American V ertigo.

When the Bridgewater Review first appeared in May of 1982 the vision was to produce a magazine that highlighted the work of the faculty. That vision has never changed, nor has the commitment of the faculty to blend their teaching and advising responsibilities with a broad range of professional, creative, scientific and literary pursuits.Each issue of the Review shows clearly the intellectual vitality that the faculty brings to the Bridgewater State College community.

A magazine like the Bridgewater Review could never last 25 years without the support of college presidents, provosts and deans. Fortunately the Review has been blessed with Presidents who believed in the magazine and its mission. Drs. Andrian Rondileau, Gerard Inelikato, Robert Dillman, Adrian Tinsley and now Dana Mohler-Faria have all been enormously supportive of the Review, not just in terms of budget allocations, but in taking pride in the magazine and recognizing its special place in public higher education in Massachusetts.

And of course the Review’s success over the years has also been the result of faculty colleagues who joined me as associate editors and regular contributors to the magazine. Dr. Don Johnson worked with me during the early years of the Review as Associate Editor. Don’s love of poetry, sports and the outdoors often provided the Review with insightful and thought provoking writing that elevated the quality of the Review. Don is now at East Tennessee State University and once again is being published in the commemorative issue of the magazine. Don’s poetry remains beautiful and uplifting.

Barbara Apstein has been with the Review the longest as Associate Editor. Barbara recently retired, but she has left a long legacy of commentaries on teaching English, working with students and analyzing works of literature. Barbara has been the quality control expert on the Review lending her editing skills and her critical insights into each article that she has worked on. In this issue we are publishing what I think is one of her best articles, a discussion of racism in Mark Twain’s Huckleberry Finn.

Bill Levin of the Sociology Department has been an associate editor for over fifteen years and during that time he has produced some of the most read and talked about commentaries that we have published. Bill, a true renaissance man, has written on everything from late bloomers in education to sailing on Cape Cod to the aging process. Each commentary is based on meticulous research and reveals a keen ability to write for a general audience.

And to make sure that The Bridgewater Review is celebrating its silver anniversary on such a high note, Dr. Michael Jones’ (Economics) research on non-profit organizations, Dr. William Lover’s (Sociology) observations of France, Dr. Patricia Fanning’s (Sociology) account of the charitable work of Boston’s Catholic women baking at Lausat Square, and Dr. Charles Angell’s (English) review of American V ertigo.

When the Bridgewater Review first appeared in May of 1982 the vision was to produce a magazine that highlighted the work of the faculty. That vision has never changed, nor has the commitment of the faculty to blend their teaching and advising responsibilities with a broad range of professional, creative, scientific and literary pursuits. Each issue of the Review shows clearly the intellectual vitality that the faculty brings to the Bridgewater State College community.

A magazine like the Bridgewater Review could never last 25 years without the support of college presidents, provosts and deans. Fortunately the Review has been blessed with Presidents who believed in the magazine and its mission. Drs. Andrian Rondileau, Gerard Inelikato, Robert Dillman, Adrian Tinsley and now Dana Mohler-Faria have all been enormously supportive of the Review, not just in terms of budget allocations, but in taking pride in the magazine and recognizing its special place in public higher education in Massachusetts.

And of course the Review’s success over the years has also been the result of faculty colleagues who joined me as associate editors and regular contributors to the magazine. Dr. Don Johnson worked with me during the early years of the Review as Associate Editor. Don’s love of poetry, sports and the outdoors often provided the Review with insightful and thought provoking writing that elevated the quality of the Review. Don is now at East Tennessee State University and once again is being published in the commemorative issue of the magazine. Don’s poetry remains beautiful and uplifting.

Barbara Apstein has been with the Review the longest as Associate Editor. Barbara recently retired, but she has left a long legacy of commentaries on teaching English, working with students and analyzing works of literature. Barbara has been the quality control expert on the Review lending her editing skills and her critical insights into each article that she has worked on. In this issue we are publishing what I think is one of her best articles, a discussion of racism in Mark Twain’s Huckleberry Finn.

Bill Levin of the Sociology Department has been an associate editor for over fifteen years and during that time he has produced some of the most read and talked about commentaries that we have published. Bill, a true renaissance man, has written on everything from late bloomers in education to sailing on Cape Cod to the aging process. Each commentary is based on meticulous research and reveals a keen ability to write for a general audience.

And to make sure that The Bridgewater Review is celebrating its silver anniversary on such a high note, Dr. Michael Jones’ (Economics) research on non-profit organizations, Dr. William Lover’s (Sociology) observations of France, Dr. Patricia Fanning’s (Sociology) account of the charitable work of Boston’s Catholic women baking at Lausat Square, and Dr. Charles Angell’s (English) review of American V ertigo.
Elections, Violence and Democracy in Iraq
Shaheen Mozaffar

In 2005, Iraq held three successful national elections that were largely free and credible by accepted international standards. On January 30, 58% of registered voters went to the polls to elect the Transitional National Assembly (TNA), which wrote the new Constitution. On October 15, 65% of registered voters turned out for the constitutional referendum to approve the new Constitution by an overwhelming margin of 79% to 21%. And on December 15, 76% of registered voters cast ballots to elect the 275-seat Council of Representatives (COR), Iraq’s national legislature.

Holding three elections in one year is a daunting task even for established democracies, but it is an extraordinary feat for a country that is trying to establish a new democracy after three decades of tyranny while being wrecked by terrorist bombings and violent insurgency. The overall incidence and intensity of terrorist and insurgent attacks declined progressively on each Election Day, but the terrorists and insurgents posed an ever-present threat, intimidating, kidnapping and occasionally killing political candidates, voters, poll workers and election officials in the lead up to all three elections. The elections were important components of a larger political process designed to establish the institutional and political foundations for democracy in Iraq. In the aftermath of the American-led invasion that overthrew Saddam Hussein in March 2003, the COR elections represented the final step in the formation of a democratic government. But as Iraqi leaders wrangled unsuccessfully over the choice of a new Prime Minister and the composition of the new government two months after the COR elections, a terrorist bomb ripped through one of Iraq’s holiest Shiite mosques in Samarra on February 22, 2006, unleashing a paroxysm of retaliatory sectarian attacks and pushing the country to the brink of an all-out civil war.

Iraq thus confronts a central challenge today: will its political future be determined by the three resoundingly successful elections held in 2005, or by the brutality and violence of terrorism, insurgency and sectarian conflict? This article answers this question through a systematic analysis and pragmatic assessment of the relationship between elections and violence and its impact on the prospects for democracy in Iraq.

The Three Elections

Given the precarious security conditions caused by militant insurgency and terrorist bombings, the three Iraqi elections in 2005 were a resounding success. One factor contributing to this success was a rare manifestation of sound political judgment by the US when it relented on its initial refusal to accept a substantial role for the UN in Iraq and agreed to an exclusive UN role in assisting the newly-established Independent Election Commission of Iraq (IECI) in the organization and management of the three elections. This change in US policy, however, was due largely to the steadfast opposition of Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, Iraq’s most revered Shiite religious leader and an astute political strategist, to any US involvement in the elections because it would diminish the legitimacy of the elections in the eyes of the Iraqis and the international community, and to his uncompromising insistence on an exclusive UN role in overseeing the elections.

The IECI, whose seven members and the Chief Electoral Officer were selected by the United Nations (UN), received the full range of organizational, technical and logistical assistance that is now commonplace in democracy promotion strategies from an International