A BRIEF HISTORY OF BRIDGEWATER STATE COLLEGE

Bridgewater State College was founded in 1840 and when school opened fall September the Principal an eastern West Point graduate named Nicholas Tillinghast greeted 7 men and 21 women, the first BSC students. The school was located in the basement of the Town Hall. In 1846 the school moved to its first permanent home, which was located on the present-day Quadrangle (a rock with a tablet noting the location). This was the very first building in America erected to train teachers.

In 1853 Tillinghast succeeded by Marshall Conant; who in turn, in 1860, was succeeded by Albert Gardner Boyden, an 1849 graduate of the school. Boyden would remain head of the school from 1860 to 1906, when his son, Arthur Clarke Boyden, was named to succeed him. Together, father and son Boyden would rule the destiny of Bridgewater for a grand total of 73 years.

In 1924, a disastrous fire destroyed half of the school, but rebuilding began immediately and students hardly missed a day. Two years later Boyden Hall was opened and so was the present-day Grove Street Building, replacing structures which had been lost in the 1924 fire.

In 1933 the school became Bridgewater State Teachers College. For all of those years the preparation of teachers was the sole objective. Beginning in 1960, however, when the word "Teachers" was dropped from the name and a multi-purpose, liberal arts curriculum was introduced, the College began expanding its programs.

During the past 21 years, during the Presidency of Dr. Adrian Rondileau, the number of students has more than quadrupled, the faculty has tripled, more than two dozen new academic programs have been introduced, and the number of buildings has climbed from 11 to 25. The Rondileau years have been the most dramatic in terms of growth in the College's long, distinguished history.

Today, more than 12,000 students are served annually in all programs by Bridgewater State College and new academic majors, such as Management Science, Aviation Science, and Computer Science, have helped broaden the liberal arts, career-oriented emphasis of the school.
The 1920's
November 1928 - The Comment's First Year

WILL THE SCHOOL SUPPORT A PAPER?

When the project of CAMPUS COMMENT was adopted by the students in 1928, little was realized that the program would grow into the large operation it is today. The idea was conceived in 1926 by Senator Donahue to provide a forum for students to express their views and to give the school an opportunity to benefit from the students' opinions.

The current editorial staff has the responsibility of maintaining the high standards of the paper and ensuring the continued success of the program.

The 1930's
February 17, 1938
Post-Depression Fun

Campus Staff Makes Plans For Unique Social on March 4

Do you want to recall the good old days when you were footloose and fancy free, and when marbles, skipping rope, and hop-scotch were your greatest problems? If so, you can! Then you will want to attend Campus Comment's Little Boy and Tgirl Social which will be held Friday evening, March 4, in the gymnasium.

Morch has been planned so that every little boy and girl will have fun.

The growl committee consists of Ma
goan, Dorothy Turner, Constance Sanderson. Other committee heads are Anne Leonard, tickets and publicity; Mary Connelly, entertainment; and Carol Logan, decorations; Marjorie Bentley, refreshments; Barbara Torrey, cleanup; and Carol Vollmer, hospitality.

Facility Member: Miss Elvira S. Park

The 1940's
February 20, 1942 - The War Years

National Defense at Bridgewater
Enlists Both Faculty And Students

With national defense taking its place all over the nation, Bridgewater is doing its part in many ways. The Bridgewater Daily, for example, has made up its program for the next year to meet this need, and students are being asked to contribute their ideas and resources to the war effort.

The Daily has a special section devoted to news of the war, and there are plans for additional sections to be added in the future. Students are encouraged to submit articles and photographs for publication, and the staff is working hard to ensure that the paper remains informative and up-to-date.

In addition, the Daily is working closely with other organizations on campus to ensure that all students are aware of the opportunities available to them. The staff is also working to ensure that the paper remains positive and inspiring, even in the face of difficult times.

Aviation Major Now Offered

A new undergraduate major in Aviation Science with concentrations in either Professional Flight Training or Aircraft Management is being added to the College's curriculum. This major is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in the aviation industry.

The Aviation Science major is interactive, engaging students in hands-on experiences and practical applications. Students will have the opportunity to work with professional instructors and gain valuable experience in the field.

The major in Aviation Science is being offered in conjunction with the Department of Aerospace Engineering and the College's Aviation Program. This collaborative effort ensures that students receive a well-rounded education that prepares them for success in the aviation industry.

All students in the major are required to take a course in Business Law, Public Administration, or Human Resource Management. Students may choose from electives in Human Factors and Cognitive Psychology, Business Law, and Aviation Law and Regulation.

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The 1950’s
February 18, 1950 - Carefree Days
Name Twelve Candidates for “Best-Dressed Girl” Contest
Elect Bridgewater Finalist Tomorrow;
Will Enter Nation-Wide Competition

GLAMOUR magazine’s 1950 “10 Best-Dressed College Girls in America” contest is now underway, and the magazine is soliciting the help of its readers in naming deserving students and in determining the winner. Several classmate suggestions have already been received by the Bridgewater committee and have been announced in the campus newspaper. Among the names announced are those of two students in the College of Business Administration; Miss Mary Lee Jones, a junior; and Miss Dorothy Turner, a senior. In addition, the committee is currently considering suggestions received from students in other departments.

Dining Houses
A significant feature of the competition is the selection of a “Best-Dressed Girl” from each of the four dining houses. These houses, located in different parts of the college campus, serve as dormitories for a large number of students. The selectors for these houses are usually members of the faculty, who are responsible for nominating candidates who are both attractive and academically successful. The final selection will be made from among the nominees by a panel of judges who will be announced soon.

Football Games
Another major event in the competition is the selection of a “Best-Dressed Student” for the football team. This selection is based on a combination of factors, including academic performance, leadership qualities, and physical appearance. The winner of this award will be announced soon, and the student will be given special recognition during the upcoming football season.

The 1940’s
February 20, 1942 - The War Years
National Defense at Bridgewater
Enlists Both Faculty and Students

With increasing emphasis on national defense, the Bridgewater College community has become increasingly involved in the war effort. Students and faculty members are playing key roles in supporting the war effort, and the campus has become a center for patriotic activities.

Military Training
The college has established a training program for students who wish to serve in the armed forces. This program includes basic training in military skills and provides an opportunity for students to fulfill their patriotic obligations while continuing their education.

Civilian Roles
In addition to military service, many students are taking on civilian roles that are critical to the war effort. These roles include factory work, farm labor, and clerical jobs. These students are contributing to the war effort by providing essential services to the nation.

The 1930’s
February 17, 1938 - Post-Depression Fun
Campus Staff Makes Plans For
Unique Social on March 4

Do you want to recall the good old days when you were footloose and fancy free, and when marbles, skipping rope, and hop-scotch were your greatest problems? Of course you do. Then you will want to attend Campus Staff’s Little Boy and Girl Social which will be held Friday evening, March 4, in the gymnasium.

The social will feature a variety of activities, including music, dancing, and games. There will be refreshments available, and all students are welcome to attend. The social will be an exciting opportunity to reunite with old friends and make new ones.

The 1920’s
November 1928 - The Comment’s First Year
WILL THE SCHOOL SUPPORT A PAPER?

When the project of CAMPUS was started last year, there was no paper, and the students who worked on it were to be commended for their efforts. This year, however, there seems to be enough enthusiasm in this student body to warrant a continued publication.

The paper has been very successful so far, and the students have shown a great deal of interest in its content. The staff has been working hard to ensure that the paper is of high quality, and the results have been quite promising.

The 1910’s
September 25, 1910 - The “Me” Decade
“The memory lane”

Mary was a little hoy and girl to whom the world was new. She was eager to learn and explore, and her curiosity was boundless. She loved to play and to make friends, and her social life was just beginning.

The world was changing, and Mary was living through a time of great change and transformation. The United States was entering a new century, and the world was on the brink of a major war.

The 1900’s
March 4, 1900 - The Editorial

The University has just announced that it will be closed for spring break this year. While this may be a disappointment for some, it will provide an opportunity for students to take a break and recharge.

The break will be a welcome respite from the academic rigors of the semester, and it will allow students to focus on their personal and social lives. It will also give them a chance to reflect on their goals and aspirations.

The bridge between the past and the future, the spring break is a time of transition and renewal. Let us make the most of this opportunity and return to our studies with renewed energy and enthusiasm.
A Time To Remember

Heritage Week Calendar of Events

Sunday, April 24th

"As We Were..."

Heritage Week officially begins on Sunday evening, April 24, with an 8:00 p.m. talk by Dr. Jordan D. Pierce, Professor of History, in the Library Lecture Hall. Dr. Pierce will address his audiences with reflections on the venerable history of Bridgewater State College. A reception follows in the Library's Heritage Room, sponsored by the Alumni Association.

Monday, April 25th

Poet David McCord

Noted poet David McCord, '85, twice nominated for the National Book Award for his volumes of children's poetry and the first recipient of the honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities Letters from Harvard University, will read selections from his own poems and critique student works at 11:00 a.m. in Burnett Campus School. All are most welcome to attend. Sponsored by the Clement C. Maxwell Library.

Tuesday, April 26th

Heritage Day Parade

May the sun shine brightly on this year's Heritage Day Parade! Precisely at 11:00 a.m., the parade steps off and heads down Burrill Avenue toward the main campus. Four marching bands, a fleet of antique automobiles, horses and buggies, and more than a dozen student groups are scheduled to be in the gala parade. Following the parade, there will be a ceremony on the College Quadrangle honoring the memory of Shupe Isawa, Class of 1877, who is revered in Japan, his homeland, for his contributions to education. The College General of Japan will attend the ceremony.

Wednesday, April 27th

Heritage Week Triathlon

Athletic competitions at Bridgewater pre-date the Big Ten. As is only fitting that among the Heritage Week events this week, a grueling test of stamina which began at the Maxwell Gymnasium. Three-person teams will compete in a 500 yard swim, followed by a 10.3 mile bike race and concluding with a 3.5 mile run.

Thursday, April 28th

Friends of the College Auction

Many useful and valuable goods and services will go to the highest bidder at the annual "Friends of Bridge­ water State College Auction," which will take place starting at 11:00 a.m. behind the Student Union and continuing until all items are gone. Come early or come late, but don't miss this unique opportunity to capture some of the most unusual goods and services available anywhere.

W.E.B. DuBois Lecture

The Clement C. Maxwell Library presents a lecture on black scholar W.E.B. DuBois by Professor John H. Bracey, Jr., at 3:00 p.m. in Room 304 of the Library. Professor Bracey, of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, is a specialist in Afro-American Studies, and chairman of the W.E.B. DuBois Department of Afro-American Studies at U. Mass. Amherst. Accompanying the lecture will be an exhibit of materials from the collected DuBois papers.

Mardi Gras

Costumes, laughter, music, and dancing will mark the revival of Mardi Gras at Bridgewater State College. Once the highlights of the College's social season, Mardi Gras returns with all the fun and color of years past, thanks to the effort and imagination of the Student Union Program Committee and the Student Government Association. Time is 8:00 p.m.; place is the Student Union Ballroom. Be there when the magic begins!

Saturday, April 29th

Political Science Road Race

Each year the Political Science Club sponsors a road race in April, and this year it is the culminating event of Heritage Week at Bridgewater. All those who are drawn to the challenge of the pursuit, be they fleet of foot or not, are invited to enter this 3-mile run.

Heritage Exhibit

Documents, photographs, and artifacts from the College archives dating back to 1847, are on exhibit in the Heritage Room on the main floor of the Maxwell Library. The exhibit, sponsored by the Office of Special Collections, Librarian, and Dr. Owen McGowan, Librarian of the College, traces the history of the College through 147 years. The Heritage Room (previously the Borrowing Room) is open during the hours the Library is open and all are welcome to come and see this most interesting exhibit.

A Brief History of Bridgewater State College

Bridgewater State College was founded in 1847 and when school opened two September the Principal, an eastern West Point graduate named Nicholas Tillghman, greeted seven men and 21 women, the first BSC students. The school was located in the basement of the Town Hall. In 1848 the school moved to its permanent home, which was located on the present day Quadrangle (now called the Heritage Room). The site was the very first building in America erected to train teachers.

In 1883 Tillghman was succeeded by Marshall Conant, who in turn, in 1903, was succeeded by Albert Gorton Suydam, who in 1949 left the school. Suydam would remain head of the school from 1903 to 1906; when he was Arthur Clarke Suydam, was named to succeed him. Together, father and son Suydam would rule the destiny of Bridgewater for a grand total of 37 years.

In 1924, a disastrous fire destroyed half of the school, but rebuilding began immediately and students barely missed a day. Two years later Bridge Hall was opened and was the present day Grove Street Building, replacing structures which had been lost in the 1894 fire.

In 1928 the school became Bridgewater State Teachers College.

For all of these years the preparation of teachers was the sole objective. Beginning in 1965, however, when the word "Teacher" was dropped from the name and a multi-purpose, liberal arts curriculum was introduced, the College began expanding its programs.

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