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Editor's Notebook: Ten Years and Still Running

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Ten Years and Still Running

The year is 1982. In that year Ronald Reagan cut budgets and proposed cutting taxes, Barney Clark got an artificial heart and seven people were killed in the Tylenol scandal; the Marines landed in Beirut and the Equal Rights Amendment went down to defeat. 1982 was also the year that Epcot Center opened and USA Today hit the stands; E.T. was the number one box office smash, John Updike won the Pulitzer Prize for Rabbit Rich and my beloved Milwaukee Brewers lost to the St. Louis Cardinals in the World Series. 1982 was also the year that the *Bridgewater Review* was published for the first time.



I am told that ten years publishing a magazine, especially a specialized magazine like the *Review*, is a feat to be celebrated. In this age when support for higher education is drying up, the commitment of this college to provide the resources so that the faculty can present their work is astounding. Moreover, the willingness of the faculty to contribute to the *Review*, many times only because a persistent editor keeps making phone calls, is a testament to their dedication and professionalism. There are many ingredients in a successful magazine and Bridgewater seems to have been following the right recipe for the last ten years.

But now ten years later in 1992 a new *Bridgewater Review* appears on the scene. With this issue the *Review* enters another era with a different mission and a more clearly defined target readership. The *Bridgewater Review* will be committed to the goal of lifelong learning in which the magazine serves as one means of keeping our readers in touch with the current research, opinions, grants and community service of those individuals who teach at the college. Through this magazine alumni will be able to see how the faculty are continuing to make Bridgewater a center for educational excellence in Massachusetts.

What makes putting together a new *Bridgewater Review* an exciting experience is that higher education in the United States and certainly in Massachusetts is changing at such a rapid pace. Faculty members at the college are quickly adapting to the challenges of a global economy, high technology, and career options that were not even thought of ten years ago. Bridgewater remains committed to providing its students with a sound and vigorous liberal arts education, but that education is now being pushed to uncharted frontiers by computerization, telecommunications and classroom and research techniques that require special skills. In the coming issues of the *Review*

we will be showing you how the Bridgewater faculty are meshing the traditional liberal arts with the demands of a new age.

As the *Review* goes to press, the world that the Bridgewater student will be entering demands graduates with greater career flexibility, strong critical thinking skills, the capacity to absorb an endless stream of information, and perhaps most of all, the drive to compete in an increasingly competitive world. It is this ever changing world with its demands, its dilemmas and its downturns that the Bridgewater faculty of the 1990s must explain and help students prepare for. The job of an educator in a college like Bridgewater is now more difficult than in 1982, primarily because the college is seen as critical to the economic life of our state and our region. Faculty have become more than just instructors and researchers, they are now also community resources and agents of development as the college evolves into what is termed "interactive" with the world outside the boundaries of Bridgewater.

Developing a magazine like the *Bridgewater Review* which highlights how the faculty at the college are leading the students and our region into the twenty-first century is a task we undertake with pride and satisfaction. By presenting the work of our faculty, whether a scholarly article or an art exhibit or an educational grant or a joint business-college initiative, the *Review* is committed to showing its readers that our faculty are not sitting by the sidelines while the world we live in changes, but rather are helping to change that world.