Editor's Note: A New Road to Travel

Michael J. Kryzanek
Bridgewater State College, mkryzanek@bridgew.edu
A New Road To Travel

by Michael J. Kryzanek
Department of Political Science
Section Editor

If the last year in Massachusetts public higher education could be described in song, one might refer to Bob Dylan's classic 1960's refrain, "the times, they are a changin'." Public education in Massachusetts and Bridgewater State have entered into a period of uncertain transition in which funding is insecure, planning is impossible, and that spirit of participating in the noble pursuit of knowledge is subject to constant distraction.

After nearly ten years of publishing the Bridgewater Review as an autonomous magazine of the faculty, we too have become part of this transition process. Starting with this edition, the Review will be incorporated into Bridgewater — a publication for alumni, parents, and friends of Bridgewater State College. Considering the severity of the budget cuts that the college has endured, to be able to save the Review and continue publication is indeed a blessing.

In this issue, Professor Margaret Landman of the Economics Department explains the causes and the possible outcomes of the savings and loan crisis; Professor Charles Angell, the chair of the English Department, writes on the vision of the American family in current literature; and Professor Thomas Turner of the History Department condenses his presidential lecture on the myths surrounding President Abraham Lincoln. As in the past, the other members of the editorial staff, Barbara Apstein and William Levin, offer their thoughts on a wide range of issues of American life. In this issue Barbara and Bill comment on some recent developments in higher education and the way our culture views educators. In the profile section, we will highlight the professional pursuits of the vice-president of Academic Affairs, Dr. John Bardo. He is interviewed in connection with his work in the field of community satisfaction and symbolic interactionism. The Review will also introduce a special section on the current research of our faculty by providing brief summaries of their work.

Despite the problems that transition often brings, most institutions survive because they have elements of their structure that provide a solid foundation on which to weather the storm. At Bridgewater, that solid foundation is the faculty who, despite the seemingly endless crises in the Commonwealth, go about their work of teaching, research, and community service.

In the future, the Bridgewater Review section of Bridgewater will appear in the Winter and Summer editions and provide you with a regular glimpse of our faculty. As you read about them and their work, keep in mind that quality education is best achieved in an atmosphere where there is a strong bond between teacher and student and a dedication to make learning an experience of enrichment and enlightenment. Although much in Massachusetts higher education is "a changin'," the Bridgewater faculty remains committed to maintaining that bond and broadening that experience.