Inspired Research Reveals College’s Pioneering Past.

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For up-to-date information on college news, activities and events, please refer to Bridgewater State College’s Web site, www.bridgew.edu.
Dear Friends,

Not only does the past influence the present, it also offers us historical perspective that helps shape the very course and character of our future. Though ours is an institution growing more dynamic and complex with each passing day, I am proud to say that the defining features of today’s Bridgewater – accessibility, quality and an overarching commitment to serve others – are as fundamental to our contemporary vision for the college as they were at the time of our founding.

In this issue of Bridgewater, we delve deeper into our storied past through the ground-breaking efforts of our faculty, librarians and students. More than an initiative to document and savor the past, theirs is a journey of new revelations, as evidenced by the recent discovery of Fall River native Sarah Lewis as the earliest known African-American graduate of the college.

In the stories they tell and the secrets these researchers uncover, we begin to understand how, through its enduring pursuit of excellence, Bridgewater State College became the cradle of public higher education in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and had a major influence on its development at the national and even international level.

Our institution has been, and will forever be, a pioneer. We have been the gateway to success for tens of thousands of graduates who were the first in their families to go to college. We have surrounded them with some of the most dedicated and innovative faculty anywhere in the country. We have built a campus environment that is among the most idyllic, technologically sophisticated and beautiful of any in New England. And we continue to challenge our students by prolferating the ideas of great thinkers, humanitarians, literary scholars, scientists, musicians and artists.

The stories of our past, however, foster a heightened sense of collective consciousness and help to carry our noble mission even further. They remind us all that today’s flourishing institution – to say nothing of the overwhelming success of the great experiment of public higher education – is the proud legacy of countless generations.

To put it another way, we are standing on the shoulders of giants – and the view couldn’t be more breathtaking.

Sincerely,

Dana Mohler-Faria
President
Why don’t more people know about this?” That was the question on the mind of Casey Rekowski, ’08, as she combed through the college archives, uncovering fascinating fact after fact. “Bridgewater Normal School had students from Chile, Mexico, Japan and even Jamaica,” she said. “The fact that individuals such as Arthur Schlesinger, Margaret Mead and Robert Frost, and performers like Blood, Sweat and Tears; B.B. King; and even the Beach Boys, came to campus is nothing short of amazing.

Ms. Rekowski made these discoveries in her year as an undergraduate research assistant with Dr. Margaret Lowe, professor of history. Helping Dr. Lowe with her project, Telling Stories, Transforming Lives: College Archives and the History of American Education, Ms. Rekowski sifted through the college archives, an experience she called priceless. “The opportunity to explore the rich history of Bridgewater State College was not only intellectually stimulating, it was also an opportunity for me to get a better understanding of the legacy of the institution I attended,” she said. “This has given me a sense of real pride.”

That pride will likely increase – and spread – as more people learn about the college’s storied past. And they will, thanks to the efforts of scholars like Dr. Lowe and Dr. Thomas Turner, professor of history, who’s writing the first modern history of the college, and students like Ms. Rekowski.

Uncovering the Past

Dr. Turner started down the path of this project after a chance encounter with Dr. Dana Mohler-Faria. In fall 2005, Dr. Turner stood in line in the Rondileau Campus Center waiting for his cup of coffee. He felt a tap on his shoulder and turned to see President Mohler-Faria. “I have a proposition for you,” said the president, who holds a bachelor’s and master’s degree in history. President Mohler-Faria asked Dr. Turner, one of the nation’s leading Abraham Lincoln scholars, to pen the first comprehensive history of the college. “I have a proposition for you,” said the president, who holds a bachelor’s and master’s degree in history. President Mohler-Faria asked Dr. Turner, one of the nation’s leading Abraham Lincoln scholars, to pen the first comprehensive history of the college.

There have been histories written on different topics: Dr. Jordan Fiore, ’40, published a brief history in the 1940s, and David Wilson, ’71, published a pictorial history in 1976, but there’s been nothing scholarly with footnotes or a bibliography,” said Dr.
Turner. He accepted the challenge, began researching in spring 2006 and writing in fall 2007. “The hope is that the book will be published in 2009,” he said.

Dr. Turner’s research took him to places Bridgewater historians hadn’t gone before. He uncovered new sources at the Massachusetts Historical Society and in the special collections at the Statehouse library. Dr. Turner combed the papers of Horace Mann, the influential educational reformer who was secretary of education of the commonwealth from 1837 to 1848, and is considered the father of American public education.

Through his meticulous study, Dr. Turner discovered many interesting facts. “The first principal, Nicholas Tillinghast, corresponded extensively with Mr. Mann. I found some 30 letters between the two that gave real insight into the principal’s struggles.” With the slow pace of communication in that age, Dr. Turner

Dr. Margaret Lowe

Dr. Thomas Turner

Boyden Park was the name given to the land where the Adrian Rondileau Campus Center now stands. This photo, taken in 1895, shows the campus pond. Albert G. Boyden, Class of 1849, and principal of the school since 1860, had purchased the land in 1886 and later sold it back to the state of Massachusetts for $1.00. This was the first land purchased for the college that was not part of the main college quadrangle, the home of the college since 1846. The campus center stands where the ice house (next to the pond) stood.
found letters asking, "Has our budget passed? How much money do we have?" The board of education recommended that Principal Tillinghast, a bachelor, marry, in a letter that hinted, "We don't like unmarried principals." Then there were more personal exchanges, such as the one between Mr. Mann and Principal Tillinghast after the principal's wife died. "These letters give a much fuller picture of Principal Tillinghast," said Dr. Turner.

The documents also turned up information about Bridgewater's influential visitors. "These were advisers of sorts, on par with a modern day board of trustees," he explained. "Visitors included Wendell Phillips, Episcopal bishop of Massachusetts; Thomas Wentworth Higginson, who commanded one of the first black regiments in the Civil War; and Alice Freeman Palmer, the first woman president of Wellesley College."

In the college's archives, Dr. Turner uncovered rich materials assembled by the Boydens, father and son, who both served as principal. The elder, Albert Boyden, headed the institution from 1860-1906; Arthur Clarke Boyden served in the top post from 1906-1933. Both were avid collectors and record keepers: Dr. Turner found condolence letters the college sent to families of graduates who died in the Civil War, as well as details on one of the first international students in the late 1800s.

"People the world over had heard of Bridgewater and its reputation," he said. "If you said to someone, 'I studied at Bridgewater,' they knew what you meant. The Bridgewater curriculum was very well known."

In his research, Dr. Turner discovered that Bridgewater produced the country's first female public grammar school principal, and that the first African-American graduated from Bridgewater much earlier than anyone had known. Her name was Sarah Anna Lewis.

Finding a New First
By Maura King Scully

Recent research into the college's history revealed a new first: the first African-American graduated from Bridgewater not in the late 1880s, as previously thought, but two decades earlier, in 1869.

"Her name was Sarah Anna Lewis, and she was a remarkable woman," said Dr. Philip Silvia, professor of history and author of a biographical pamphlet on Ms. Lewis. Dr. Silvia has made the study of Fall River, his hometown, his life's work. And it was that city that brought Dr. Silvia and Ms. Lewis together.

Dr. Silvia tells the story: "I was working in my office, when President Mohler-Faria poked his head in. He had just been meeting with Tom Turner, who's writing a new history of the college. 'Phil,' he said, 'Tom just discovered that the first African-American graduate may have been earlier than anyone thought. Her name is Sarah Lewis, and she's from Fall River.'"

The rest, as they say, is history. Dr. Silvia set to work researching Sarah Lewis, using the college archives, Fall River city records and the U.S. Census from that period. He discovered Ms. Lewis was one of two daughters born to a seamstress and a waiter. "One can speculate that there was a great deal of family sacrifice involved in her attending high school," said Dr. Silvia.

Ms. Lewis' Bridgewater career coincided with Reconstruction down South. Based on the tense racial climate at the time, "It was pretty inspiring to find out that this woman graduated from Bridgewater and then went on to teach in the public school system in Fall River," he said, adding that the city was likely more tolerant than most contemporary American communities. "There was a strong abolitionist movement in Fall River; it was home to several underground railway stations." And, Dr. Silvia discovered that "the most prominent person in the underground railroad was on the school committee when Sarah was hired."

Thanks to Dr. Silvia's efforts, Ms. Lewis was inducted into the college's Hall of Black Achievement as part of its 20th anniversary celebration last spring. His paper, "Sarah Anna Lewis," was produced as a booklet and disseminated as part of the festivities.

"Initially, I wasn't hopeful about the project because I thought there would be a paucity of records," he said. "I was delighted to find there was so much out there. This project gave me the ability to fuse my knowledge of Fall River history with that of the college. It was such a pleasure to merge my research interests with this spectacular woman."

To see the full text of the booklet Dr. Silvia produced on Ms. Lewis, visit www.bridgew.edu/magazine/archives/2008/38700slewis.pdf.
Lewis, a native of Fall River, and she graduated in 1869. “She was really incredible,” said Dr. Philip Silvia, professor of history and expert on Fall River who produced a booklet about Ms. Lewis (see story at left).

Dr. Turner’s study revealed the drama surrounding the campus fire in 1924 that destroyed the academic building and two dormitories. “It was a real catastrophe, but, luckily, no one was killed,” he said. “There were, however, plenty of fingers pointed.” Apparently, there wasn’t sufficient water pressure for the fire hoses, and the source of the blaze was never definitely determined.

What was most surprising – at least to modern sensibilities – was that the state had opted not to insure the buildings, which meant that rebuilding was going to require a major outlay of state funds. “There was quite a bit of rivalry between towns as to where the normal school should be situated,” said Dr. Turner. Plymouth had long wanted the school and lobbied hard. But Bridgewater proved entrepreneurial. “One dorm survived. After a couple of weeks, faculty began holding classes there, in the gymnasium, at some of the churches and at the town’s McElwain School,” he said. Within two years, the school opened two brand-new buildings: Boyden Hall and the new campus school, eventually designated the Martha Burnell Campus School, now known as Harrington Hall.

Dr. Turner said that the early history came easily, “because those principals kept excellent records.” The later history – from 1930 almost to the present – “is much more challenging because there’s much less information. You can find things on Adrian Tinsley, Gerry Indelicato and Adrian Rondileau, but several presidents, including Scott, Kelly and Maxwell, left no papers.” Luckily, and fortuitously, however, Dr. Lowe’s project has filled some of the gaps.

Celebrating History
Meanwhile – and separately – Dr. Lowe had embarked on her BSC history project, thanks to a presidential fellowship that provided a research stipend and a full year of release time. Telling Stories, Transforming Lives combined her scholarly and professional interests, focusing on two interrelated goals: exploratory research for her next book, tentatively titled, Gender, Race, Education and Life Meaning, 1875–1920; and initiating a campus-wide conversation about how to highlight Bridgewater’s legacy as one of the country’s first normal schools.
Dr. Lowe knew that a variety of people on campus were interested in the college’s history. “Through fellowship, I wanted to find a way that would bring us together to share ideas and collaborate,” she said. Dr. Lowe did just that by forming the Friends of Bridgewater State College’s History, “an informal working group composed of various campus and community members who have a passion for the history of the college,” she said. “Our monthly lunch meetings culminated in a one-day symposium, ‘Bridgewater, State College, Now and Then.’” Faculty, students and alumni presented papers on a variety of topics, including notable alumni, the legacy of international education, Bridgewater faculty and the Town of Bridgewater. The day concluded with a historical walking tour of the campus, led by Dr. Turner and Dr. Benjamin Spence, professor emeritus of history.

“It was a wonderful way to celebrate Bridgewater’s history, help the college consider its past, document it and make it more alive,” said Dr. Lowe. “This institution, after all, has a very powerful history connected to the history of the country. Bridgewater was at the forefront of designing and creating a curriculum for teacher education. Its mission was to get highly skilled teachers into public schools to impact student lives. Most people did not finish high school until well into the 20th century so to train expert teachers was very forward thinking, and, in turn, a truly transformative experience.”

Along with the Friends and the support of Mrs. Mabell Bates, special collections librarian, Dr. Lowe said that she enjoyed training and supervising four undergraduate research assistants. In addition to Ms. Rekowski, they were Andrew Higgs, ’07, Leon Nowicki, ’08, and Melanie Byam, ’08. “They were all outstanding and gained considerable research, archival and writing skills,” she said. “In addition, as I had hoped, they all remarked on how this research enhanced their relationship to the college.”

Mr. Nowicki, for example, reviewed the student newspaper from 1970–1980. “Reading through The Comment … has been a wonderful experience for me,” he said. “I find it extremely fascinating to see the changes that the campus has undertaken, and by learning more about the history of the college, I feel much more connected to it. It’s incredible to think that the current discussion on university status had already taken place once before in the history of the college. It has been a pleasure to work in the archives, and by doing this research, I have become more interested in many of these themes.”

Dr. Lowe is hopeful that this project will lead to more student interest in and involvement with the college’s archives. “I hope we build on these efforts to find substantial and cross-disciplinary opportunities for our students to work directly in the college archives and also to expand other ways for them to connect with the college history,” she said.

Dr. Lowe would like to see the Friends continue in its role as both preserver and promoter of Bridgewater State College history. “We’ve talked about creating a standing committee that could work on historic building markers and other such projects,” she said. And all of this work, she points out, has implications that far exceed campus boundaries. “Because BSC played such a central role in the history of American education, particularly in the history of teacher training, our history is significant not just to the BSC campus and Southeastern Massachusetts, but also to the nation,” Dr. Lowe said. “It’s our responsibility as a community of scholars to do the necessary work to make this history known and, as importantly, to make the documents accessible and available to all. Through this process, the campus community has the opportunity to engage in a number of critical questions, including: How might we best bring this history into our own and the greater public’s awareness? How do we want to recollect, preserve and, most importantly, use our archival resources? And how can we create a sense of connection between today’s campus community and the rich traditions of BSC’s past?”

Maura King Scully is a freelance writer from Walpole specializing in higher education.
Student Researchers Triple in Numbers
More than 250 Bridgewater State College students presented their work at the annual undergraduate symposium. The daylong event reflected a tripling in the number of participants from last year. Presenters from all majors were given the chance to showcase their research to the BSC community through both panel discussions and poster presentations. The work ranged from scientific inquiries to creative works and was funded through the Adrian Tinsley Program for Undergraduate Research.

Workshop Dedicated to Service Learning
Members of the Bridgewater State College community got a day’s worth of information and inspiration during the college’s first Service-Learning Workshop. The event was sponsored by the Service Learning Advisory Board and featured workshops geared to helping faculty and students learn about the different aspects of incorporating service in the classroom. The title for the event was “Service-Learning: Classroom to Community to Classroom.” Television journalist and humanitarian Liz Walker delivered the keynote address on the genocide in the Sudan.

Bridgewater Students Commit to Mentorship
Twenty-five Bridgewater State College students are mentoring 25 Brockton eighth-graders who have faced challenges in their school performance, but who have the potential to excel academically. The mentors will work with the students throughout their high school years. Students who stay in the program, graduate high school and get accepted into Bridgewater will receive free tuition for four years. Beginning in September, the Bridgewater mentors and Brockton students will participate in weekly get-togethers on campus and at the high school to engage in positive educational and social activities. A week-long retreat will be held during summers to allow the students and mentors to bond.

College Enters into Second China Exchange Agreement
Two Chinese scholars were on campus to mark the signing of an exchange agreement with their home institution, Beijing Jiaotong University (BJTU). Dr. Liping Dai and Dr. Xiaoyan Liu spent part of their time at Bridgewater State College visiting classes and made a presentation to the president’s cabinet. The new agreement marks the second Chinese university to enter into an exchange arrangement with Bridgewater. Plans are being made to have five students from BJTU spend a semester in Bridgewater, said Professor Wing-kai To, chairman of BSC’s Asian Studies Program, who has forged exchange agreements with institutions across Asia.

Program Continues in New Bedford
Bridgewater State College’s flight-training program will return to its former home at the New Bedford Airport as the college has entered into a five-year lease of the Plumbers Building, which is on airport property. The college is renovating the space over the summer for use by its roughly 150 aviation students. Eleven leased aircraft will be stationed at the facility, as will the program’s soon-to-be-hired chief flight instructor and a number of part-time instructors. President Mohler-Faria said the rejuvenated flight-training program at New Bedford will result in better control and coordination of the program, specialized academic counseling for aviation students and access to facilities and aircraft.
Renovations With an Eye Towards Preservation

By Clare Leschin-Hoar

If Bridgewater State College were to create a construction sign that best describes the on-campus changes planned for this summer, it would very likely read: Improvements Ahead.

While most Bridgewater students and faculty are away for summer, the warm weather means more than just a break from studies, it signals the start of construction season. More than a dozen building improvement projects are being launched, revamping everything from a dining hall to an auditorium, upgrading the on-campus life in very real ways.

Here’s a look at what’s in store:

The Monday following spring commencement meant the start of a $2 million face-lift for the Horace Mann Auditorium in Boyden Hall. While the space boasts terrific acoustics for events, the 500-seat auditorium was in dire need of some sprucing.

“There was work done in the auditorium in 1978,” said Karen Jason, director of planning and construction, “but it wasn’t done with an eye towards preservation.”

Now, 30 years later, updates include expanding the size of the stage, installing additional air conditioning units and repainting the space in historically appropriate colors. Plans also include new theatrical rigging, drapery, lighting and controls, and a new sound system.

“The newly renovated Horace Mann Auditorium is going to present a tremendous boost to our various performances,” said Dr. Salil Sachdev, associate professor and chair of the Department of Music. “We’ve been working with torn curtains, electrical wires going all over the stage and an inadequate sound system. A renovated auditorium will give the Department of Music the opportunity to present their performances in a more professional and elegant environment, and is a great morale booster for both our faculty and students.”

Burnell School will be undergoing a transformation. The Town of Bridgewater has vacated the building, which has been used as a laboratory school for grades K-6, and work to modify the building is taking place this summer. That includes the addition of eight classrooms and common space for faculty and students.

“We’re going to start with an initial $750,000 towards improvements there, but ultimately, we’ll be seeking money from the state to do a complete renovation of the 70,000-square-foot space. To do that would cost between $12 and 13 million, but it will be a complete renovation of Burnell and Hart Hall,” said Miguel Gomes Jr., associate vice president for facilities management and planning.

The Rondileau Campus Center dining hall will be more appetizing too, once $3 million in renovations are completed this fall. Plans for the space include six different food stations that will serve college favorites such as pizza, Mexican and deli foods, a grab-and-go area for salads and soups, a flat top grill and a Dunkin’ Donuts. The brighter, more modern layout
will encompass a variety of seating options, including booths, countertops, cluster seating and soft seating, where students can plug in computers and access Wi-Fi while they refuel.

“Another large project is Burrill Avenue, which is the main East Campus street,” said Ms. Jason. “We’ll be improving the entire length of the road, and it will have a significant impact on pedestrian and vehicular traffic.”

Changes in the Burrill Avenue area will include all new granite curbing, coordinated crosswalks, a walkway from Shea/Durgin to the Tinsley Center and landscaping to improve its overall appearance.

Less noticeable, but just as important, plenty of infrastructure work will be underway. Projects include a new roof for Hart Hall and a partial new roof for Boyden Hall; replacement of compressors and condensers responsible for air conditioning units in Hart classrooms and an upgraded electrical transformer at Tillinghast Hall. That may not sound glamorous, but it’s important for student safety and maintenance of the buildings.

Not everything will be completed when classes resume in the fall. Ongoing projects include additions to Pope and Scott residence halls, which will add 300 beds and introduce new facades and entryways that are in keeping with the appearance of West Campus buildings. Future improvements to campus, pending passage of a capital bond bill, include the renovation and expansion of the Marshall Conant Science Building.

“There’s been an effort in the last three to five years in looking at capital projects and how they impact the strategic plan of the college,” said Mr. Gomes. “The work that’s being done here really dovetails with that overall plan.”

Clare Leschin-Hoar writes for magazines and newspapers, covering such topics as environmental issues, social enterprise, food, agriculture, health and business.
Harris Named ACE Fellow
Dr. Andrew Harris, executive assistant to the president, has been named an American Council on Education Fellow for the 2008-2009 academic year. The program is designed to strengthen institutions and leadership in American higher education by identifying and preparing promising senior faculty and administrators for responsible positions in college and university administration. Dr. Harris was one of 32 fellows selected in this year’s national competition. He will be on leave from BSC, working directly with the president and senior officers of a host institution. Dr. Brenda Molife, assistant professor and chair of the Department of Art, will serve as the president’s executive assistant in his absence.

Bridgewater Project Earns State Award
Framingham-based Ameresco, Inc. and Bridgewater State College were presented with a state award in the energy conservation category reducing the college’s annual energy use by 25 to 27 percent and saving about $900,000 annually in energy costs. The conservation project cost $10.4 million and involved nearly two-dozen measures, including new plumbing, enhanced air ventilation control and general upgrades to older buildings on campus. Not only does the plan promote energy savings, it also helps reduce toxic emissions produced by the college’s power plants. The award was presented by the Department of Capital Asset Management, the state office that oversees energy use in state facilities.

Graduate Research Symposium a Success at BSC
 Nearly 30 Bridgewater State College graduate students were accepted this year to the annual Massachusetts State Colleges’ Graduate Research Symposium, hosted by Westfield State College.

Continuing a tradition that includes last year’s symposium hosted by Bridgewater, as well as past events hosted by Salem State College and Worcester State College, the 2008 symposium offered presenters from within the Massachusetts state college system an opportunity to demonstrate the quality and originality of their research by sharing their findings before an audience.

Congressman Lynch Talks to Students
Students, members of the BSC community and area residents had a chance to hear from U.S. Congressman Stephen Lynch, who visited the Moakley Center to share his thoughts on a variety of issues in the news, from the ever-expanding housing and mortgage crisis to the war in Iraq. The representative of the 9th Massachusetts District began by talking about his background and his mentor, Joseph Moakley, before moving into a description of his duties in Congress. Rep. Lynch said he spends four or five days a week in Washington D.C. Much of that time is devoted to his work on the Committee on Financial Services and the Government Oversight and Reform Committee, as well as a newer committee that investigates possible sources of money that finance terrorism.

Educational Struggles in Kenya Discussed
Students got an overview of Kenya’s educational system and its inherent disparities during a keynote address that was one of many events held to mark Africa Awareness Week. Dr. Agnes Wakesho Mwang’ombe is the principal of the University of Nairobi College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, founder and director of the Kenya-based Arid and Semi-Arid Lands Foundation, and an expert in the areas of education and gender discrimination. She outlined the history of public education in Kenya, which dates to the east African nation’s independence in 1963. Other challenges to education include the AIDS epidemic, difficulty in extending education to the country’s nomadic population and the dangers students face walking long distances to school.
Rebecca (Becky) Field, ’99, Rising Star on October Road, Had Her Start on BSC Stage

By Lori Kershner

Rebecca (Becky) Field, ’99, portrayed Janet Meadows, a supporting actress and bartender – what she calls the role of a lifetime – on the prime-time ABC series, October Road.

“Janet is as close to who I am as any role I’ve played,” Ms. Field said.

Originally cast as a recurring character, Janet impressed the show’s creators so much that they wrote her into the script as a regular and launched an unconventional romance between her and the heartbreak kid, handsome Eddie.

The show is extremely popular among teenagers; all you have to do is check out Ms. Field’s MySpace page to see how many young women relate to her as a role model. October Road was nominated for a 2007 Teen Choice Award.

Ms. Field’s popularity has led to many more roles, both on television and outside the acting arena. She signed on as spokeswoman for MEDA, the Multiservice Eating Disorders Association. She welcomed the opportunity to serve as an attainable role model for young girls, although she doesn’t have an eating disorder.

Although she has appeared in television shows such as Monk, ER, Mind of Mencia, and in Trapped in the Closet, R. Kelly’s series of “hip-hopera” music videos, her big break came when she played the part of the girlfriend in The Jamie Kennedy Experiment.

Ms. Field, who hails from the small town Lenox, has become a hit in Hollywood, but she still likes to come home for the holidays. A friend’s wedding in Boston brought her to the East Coast recently, where she took time to catch up with one of her biggest fans, the drama professor who gave the actress her start on stage.

“She’s still the same ‘Becky’ we know,” said her mentor, Bridgewater State College drama professor Henry Shaffer, now the chairperson of the Department of Theater and Dance. “Rebecca is finding her way in tinsel town.”

Although just starting out, the actress sees Hollywood for what it is … the glamour and glitter are part of the ‘business.’

“Becky has managed to keep her head about her; she hasn’t been dazzled by it,” said Professor Shaffer.

Ms. Field, a communications and theater arts major, impressed Professor Shaffer with her clear sense of self and power as an actress while a student at BSC.

“At Bridgewater, Becky was free to be herself,” he said. “She developed a clear sense of who she was by exercising her imagination fully in her theater classes.

“She was fearless about trying any role, and not afraid to go out on a limb or to fail. How else can we know true success, unless we have had a failure to gauge it against?”

Ms. Field grew and matured as an actress by playing parts that were a stretch, including the queen of the Gods, Fricka, in a three-hour dramatic adaptation of Wagner’s 16-hour opera cycle, The Ring of the Nibelung.

She credits her former professor with her first big break when he cast her in this powerful role. “Professor Shaffer let everyone have a chance to play the big parts, even unlikely leading ladies like me,” she said.

Professor Shaffer was one of the driving forces who encouraged Ms. Field during college. He helped her believe that she could make it as an actress and, even now, inspires her to continue to pursue her dream, as do her friends and family, she said.

“Professor Shaffer was unbelievably supportive – he certainly influenced me to pursue this dream. He inspired me and all his students to really believe that we could do this. He made you want to make yourself a better person.”

Lori Kershner is a freelance journalist and communications consultant.
Betsy Witt-Powers, ’08, Pursues Her Dream

By Clare Leschin-Hoar

What sets Betsy Witt-Powers, ’08, apart from many of the students at Bridgewater State College isn’t her age, which is 53. It isn’t that she’s already had a successful career as a tax specialist that spanned more than two decades. And it isn’t that she’s returned to school as an adult to set the foundation for a career change.

What makes Ms. Witt-Powers unique is her unquenchable thirst for knowledge. “Betsy doesn’t just want to know the right answer. She wants to know why that answer is right,” said Dr. Jeffery Bowen, associate professor of biology and research mentor for Ms. Witt-Powers.

Ms. Witt-Powers describes herself as “animal crazy,” and she’s got a Blood Hound, a Bassett Hound, a Beagle, a Jack Russell Terrier and a Red Foot Savannah Tortoise to prove it. After the last of her four daughters left home, she began asking herself a series of soul-searching questions. “I don’t want to say I was bored, but I just wasn’t fulfilled anymore,” she said.

Encouraged by her husband, James, Ms. Witt-Powers was ready to make a change, and felt that the time was right to pursue her lifelong dream of becoming a veterinarian. With no previous education or background in science, she quickly realized she’d be starting her training nearly from scratch, and living in Centerville, meant she’d be starting her training nearly from scratch, and living in Centerville, meant her choices for higher education were somewhat limited. She looked into commuting into Boston and checked out programs at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, but it was with Bridgewater State College that she fell in love.

“It was so accessible and accommodating, and the price was right. I could not have made a better decision,” she said.

She began full-time classes in September 2005 and graduated in May with a degree in biomedical and molecular biology, complemented by a minor in chemistry – all while maintaining a 3.9 GPA. Ms. Witt-Powers made the dean’s list every semester and was recognized with the William J. Wall Memorial Award in Biological Sciences, which is given to the top student in the senior class, chosen by BSC faculty.

But graduation was only one milestone in Ms. Witt-Powers’ journey. “A lot of people don’t realize this, but it’s tougher to get into vet school than medical school,” said Dr. Bowen.

According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, there are 28 schools of veterinary medicine in the United States. That means stiff competition. As an example of how difficult it can be, Tufts University has 80 slots, and they get more than 1,000 applications, said Ms. Witt-Powers.

Daunting to be sure, stats like those didn’t prevent Ms. Witt-Powers from trying. She submitted her application to a number of schools, including the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University, University of Pennsylvania, The Royal Veterinary College at the University of London and Ross University in St. Kitts.

“No matter where I went, I’d have to leave home to do it. A year ago, when I put in the applications, I thought I’d shoot for the stars and apply to schools that were really well known or were in great locations.”

First to throw her an acceptance bone was the prestigious The Royal Veterinary College in London. Two weeks later, she received an offer from Ross University in St. Kitt’s as well. Overwhelmed, she sat down and looked closely at the programs to determine which would be the best fit. Living expenses, the focus on agriculture or non-agriculture animals, whether it was a four-year or five-year program, as well as the amount of hands-on practical experience she’d be getting, swayed Ms. Witt-Powers to choose Ross University, where she’ll begin studies this fall.

“I’m very excited and can’t wait to go, but St. Kitt’s is only 64 square miles. It will take getting used to the island life, the heat and having to bathe in insecticide every day because of the bugs. The hardest part will be the distance away from my husband. We’ve had the type of relationship where we were together 24 hours a day. We worked together and did everything together, so that will be the worst of it,” she said.

After spending a considerable amount of time doing undergraduate research with her, Dr. Bowen says he’s confident Ms. Witt-Powers will succeed.

“My advice for her is to keep doing what she’s doing. She was a stellar student who was engaged in the classroom. And she’s got very good people skills, and that’s at least half of veterinary medicine – dealing with the people, not just animals. I have no doubts about her ability to do well,” he said.

Clare Leschin-Hoar of Mansfield writes for magazines and newspapers, covering such topics as environmental issues, social enterprise, food, agriculture, health and business.
Business Graduate Invents Product in Baby Cribs

By Rob Matheson, ’08

Last year, Rheanon Romero, ’08, noticed her infant son, Adrian, was spending a lot of time chewing the railings of his crib. She thought: “There must be a way to remedy this.”

So, the School of Business student proved there’s still meaning in that old saying, “necessity is the mother of invention.”

The Brockton resident bought a sewing machine, taught herself how to use it and created a decorative padding to cover the railings using fiberfill from quilts, vinyl and a flannel cotton slipcover. This became the working model for what Ms. Romero would eventually dub the Bite Me Bumper.

“The idea for the product wouldn’t leave my head,” she said. “I had to do something.”

Creating this first prototype took two weeks of manual labor, and the process transformed her family’s condominium into a veritable workspace/office. Even now, materials are still scattered everywhere.

“My living room doesn’t even look like a living room anymore,” she said.

After perfecting the prototype, Ms. Romero found a manufacturing plant, Rapster, in Fall River, to fill orders of up to 100 Bite Me Bumpers at a time. At that point, financial sacrifices had to be made, which was a big risk, she said. Luckily, through it all, her family has been supportive and helpful.

“They’re all on board completely,” she said.

Her fiancé, Tony, and his aunt helped with construction of one of the prototypes, and some members of the family have even been given “cool titles,” mostly for fun. For example, her fiancé’s father is assisting with product sales and has been given the title of director of marketing, while her 11-year-old daughter, Alicia, is the office assistant.

She received assistance from her professors at Bridgewater. She first confided her idea to Dr. Joe Rizzo, a professor of business law, who gave her legal advice about patenting and encouraged her to go through with her innovation. Dr. Jon Bryan, a professor of management, offered advice about the manufacturing process.

“They were so excited to help out and get people involved,” said Ms. Romero.

Last November, she made important contacts at the American Baby Faire, a trade show in Atlanta for all things baby-related. After a mere week of preparation, she and her fiancé drove the 19 hours to get there, equipped with only a large banner for show, and set up a booth merely hoping for the best.

“We didn’t know what to expect, but in the end we had a good turnout,” she said. “Everyone loved it.”

Her innovation so impressed a reporter from The Atlanta Journal-Constitution that he included Ms. Romero in the lead of his story the next day. That only drummed up more business before they packed up and left the show.

“The problem is that no one knows about the product,” she said. “It needs to get out there.”

That type of publicity is what Ms. Romero needs, but it is a struggle to get. Ms. Romero was nominated for the Metro South Chamber of Commerce Entrepreneur Award in May. She is hoping to have her story featured on Oprah. She said not only has she invented an innovative product, but also that her story could be instructive to other young women. Ms. Romero, 27, was a teen mother, having her first child at 16, and hopes to be an inspiration to others in the same position.

Her product is available in 15 boutiques across the United States, including several U.S.A. Baby locations.

Since the beginning of December, more than 400 Bite Me Bumpers have been sold through the stores and amazon.com sales. Ms. Romero plans to expand on her business venture and shares the vision of every newly minted entrepreneur.

“It’s all so exciting and scary,” she said.

She has decided to start a company of child products, RT Kids Works, and has created a Web site, with help from her friend Jennifer Zahl, who also helped design the cover of the Bite Me Bumper. Ms. Romero says that is just another big step in the business process.

“There are so many hurdles,” she said, “but it’s a learning experience.”

So what’s the next step? Ms. Romero plans to create more products for RT Kids Works, and since graduating in May, she’s begun working with top accounting firm, KAP Financial Group, in Braintree. She remains optimistic about her options.

“I am very excited to see what the future is going to bring,” she said. “I hope my business flourishes, but if not, I have a backup plan.”
It’s easy to miss the forest for the trees in the technological age. State-of-the-art computing is so dazzling that its raw power can sidetrack users. It takes wisdom to remember that computers are tools and that their value to humanity is created by what people do with them.

“We have all this technology, and the question is, how can we use it to disseminate relevant information to the public?” said Dr. Uma Shama, professor of mathematics and computer science.

The desire to disseminate useful information as widely as possible is what has motivated much of Dr. Shama’s teaching over her 21 years at Bridgewater. And, from the recognition she’s garnered lately, it appears that she’s been successful.

At this year’s commencement ceremony, she formally accepted the honor of becoming Bridgewater’s new college marshal, taking the reins from Dr. Janice Harris, who retired this year. On July 1, Dr. Shama begins a three-year term as chairperson of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, and late last year, she received BSC’s Presidential Award for Distinguished Teaching.

Google and Microsoft’s research organizations have recognized the work she, her colleague Mr. Lawrence Harman, and her students have accomplished to improve public transportation at BSC’s GeoGraphics laboratory. Key to this effort, has been their projects using geospatial analysis to integrate and map diverse information within various regional transportation areas across the country. The end product allows users to input starting and ending points and find not only all the available public bus routes and schedules, but also such factors as the location of nearby child care centers. Dr. Shama co-directs the lab, which is funded through grants from the public sector.

“There are about 550 public bus route systems — like the MBTA — in the country. On Earth Day, Google Transit included two of the Massachusetts RTA bus route systems we’ve done in Google Transit — Metro West and Cape Cod. If you give point A to point B, it’ll plan your trip, including the bus routes. The best part is it also has real-time bus data,” said Dr. Shama.

It seems likely that Dr. Shama will bring her brand of public good to her role as college marshal.

“Being the marshal … is as ceremonial as it is about working behind the scenes with committees and groups,” said Dr. Shama. “The college marshal works with the committee on every move that happens from convocation to commencement — selecting honorary degree recipients, speakers and flowers. My goal is to make the students’ lives better. That’s one of the reasons I was honored and accepted this job.”

Dr. Shama’s focus on the public good is a clear extension of her early family life in Bangalore, India.

Although she was born into a Brahmin family, the highest caste in the Indian class system, her father so objected to the idea of privilege that he dropped the family name to avoid recognition as a Brahmin.

“He felt people should be treated according to what they accomplish in their lives rather than what they inherit from their parents and never take it for granted,” said Dr. Shama, whose family took her father’s first name as their surname.

In 1981, after earning bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Bangalore University, Dr. Shama moved to the United States to get her doctorate at the University of Connecticut. After teaching at there for a while, she applied for other positions and was offered professorships at five institutions. She chose Bridgewater State College because she was impressed with its emphasis on undergraduate teaching and its philosophy of education.

“We are bringing back public service learning,” said Dr. Shama. “It is something we are promoting here at the college. It is a college mission, especially after Dr. Dana Mohler-Faria became president. We are strongly encouraging this generation to think about how to share. My colleagues talk about it often and the college also has an excellent and active service learning office.”

When Dr. Shama isn’t teaching, working with students in the GeoGraphics lab, or spending time with her 16-year-old son and musician husband, she works on a math problem she’s been pondering since her University of Connecticut days. She still collaborates with her PhD thesis adviser and mentor, Dr. Dominé Eberle Spencer, working on the fundamental mathematical research of electrodynamics and other fields, revisiting the work done by great scientists like Gauss, Weber and Einstein.

Joan Wilder is a Boston-based freelance journalist and writer.
“Yeah, I’m left-handed,” he said, with a characteristic laugh.

It’s not that Mr. Logan is going for a career in professional hockey. Although he’d love that, “it’s an unrealistic dream. If you haven’t made it by college, you never will,” he said. But, that hasn’t stopped him from planning a life that will keep him close to the sport he loves.

In April, Mr. Logan skated in the World Championship tournament with the U.S. National Amputee Hockey Team, scoring a goal and helping lift the squad to a silver medal.

“I want to be a history teacher and coach hockey and baseball,” said Mr. Logan, who will be a junior in the fall. With a part-time job coaching freshman baseball at Pembroke High School, the history major isn’t all that far from his goal. (Excuse the pun.) He enjoys coaching. He also enjoys American history.

“He’s a very solid player, a physical player,” said his coach and history professor, Dr. Andrew Holman, who thinks of Mr. Logan as a defensive skater who can also score, if given the chance.

“He excels on the forecheck – that is, at disrupting other teams’ abilities to break the puck out of their own zone. He’s a smart player, and he rarely gets caught out of position. He’s also got a pretty deft touch. He played a lot on power play situations – five-on-four situations – too, on which normally only the team’s top scorers are selected to play,” said Dr. Holman. “And, he’s always, always upbeat – great sense of humor and a guy his teammates really enjoy being around.”

Mr. Logan transferred to Bridgewater after his freshman year at Curry College, where he played hockey and baseball. He chose history as the subject to teach with the same easy-going attitude that he uses to approach most things.

“I’m good at it. I’m better at it than I am at math or science, so I figured why not,” said Mr. Logan, who took the class U.S. History and Constitutions to 1865 with Dr. Holman.

“He’s quite a diligent student,” said Dr. Holman, who is co-writing a scholarly history on ice hockey and also teaches a course titled, What’s in a Game? Ice Hockey and Identity.

The course explores the way hockey (and to a great extent other sports) serves both to bring people together in many ways – by sex, race, language – and also split them apart.

Mr. Logan, who has a younger brother and sister, sees sports as a unifying force. “In my life, hockey’s brought people together. My whole family played, even my sister played. Almost all my friends are hockey players. Everyone I hang out with plays hockey, all we really do is play hockey. Now that it’s summer, we play pick-up games four nights a week.”

Since it’s the off-season for baseball and his coaching job, Mr. Logan’s working construction for the summer. Last year, he did the same thing, working on the renovation of the international terminal at Logan Airport.

When asked about his philosophy of life, Mr. Logan stepped up to the bat. “Philosophy of life? Don’t quit, I guess,” he said. “Nothing’s ever as bad as it seems. You can always get through things.”
15th Annual Chairmen’s Dinner Celebrates Service

The 15th annual Chairmen’s Dinner honored one of Bridgewater State College’s most treasured core values with its theme, “A Salute to Public Service.” However it is framed – public service, community service, service learning, student activism – the bottom line is abundantly clear: a large number of Bridgewater students, faculty and staff participate in dozens, if not hundreds, of service-related projects and initiatives throughout the year. Three hundred and fifty community members and supporters of the college gathered in a wondrously transformed East Campus Commons to celebrate the many accomplishments.

The Chairmen’s Dinner is not only a very successful fundraiser with support from the community, it is also the social highlight of the year. The 15th annual dinner was no exception. During an elegant pre-dinner reception, friends and neighbors, businessmen and women mingled with students, faculty and administrators, enjoying the music of two student performers, vocalist Tracy Nadolny, ’08, and Gabrielle Heath, ’08, on keyboard.

Once seated, Vice President of Institutional Advancement and Executive Director of the Foundation Molly Fannon Williams welcomed guests on behalf of the Bridgewater State College Foundation, sponsor of the gala. She honored President Dana Mohler-Faria for his very “demanding and highly visible period of public service as adviser to the governor on education in the commonwealth.” She spoke of the universality of the theme of service as its mission touches every academic discipline and professional center on campus, and of its importance in promoting “constructive action to combat the social and economic injustices” that exist in the world today.

Finally, she spoke of the theme’s appropriateness, “because as a public institution, we literally have a mandate to serve the best interests of the broadest segment of the population.”

Echoing the same sentiments with respect to service, BSC Chairman of the Board of Trustees Louis Ricciardi, ’81, and Foundation Chairman E. Dennis Kelly Jr. addressed the guests, thanking them for their support. Ms. Williams introduced a video greeting from Gov. Deval Patrick, who emphasized the importance of both public service and private giving for the public good.

The governor’s greeting was followed by presentations by two faculty/student pairs who spoke about their ongoing service initiatives. Sociology Professor Michele Wakin and graduating student Jillian Miceli, ’08, discussed a local initiative to end homelessness in Massachusetts. Criminal Justice Professor Jo-Ann Della Giustina and Scott Regan, ’07, presented information on the Alternative to Violence...
Program, weekend workshops held in the Old Colony Prison in Bridgewater with the purpose of creating a nonviolent community both inside and outside of the prison.

In his remarks, President Mohler-Faria thanked the speakers for all they do on behalf of the college and the community, saying, “You embody everything that is wonderful about this institution – excellence in academics, commitment to the public, dedication to serving others.” The president also recognized Community Service Center Director Diane Bell and two students, Tikola Russell, ’09, and Richard Henderson, ’11, for their contributions. He spoke eloquently about service as the mission of public higher education and its tremendous focus at BSC.

A slide show featuring various service-related projects and initiatives spearheaded by BSC students, faculty and staff looped continuously during dinner.

Charitable Gift Annuities: Wonderful Income for You, Excellent Support for BSC

A charitable gift annuity is “the gift that gives back.” Bridgewater State College Foundation’s charitable gift annuity program offers a range of benefits: dependable income for you and your family, current and future tax savings, and a way to make a lasting contribution that will strengthen Bridgewater State College.

A charitable gift annuity is a simple contract between you and the college. In exchange for your gift of cash or appreciated securities, the BSC Foundation agrees to pay you – or one or two other individuals you name – a fixed dollar amount each year for life. The payments are made quarterly, secured by the assets of the Foundation, and are actively managed by Rockland Trust.

Bridgewater State College’s gift annuity program appeals to many donors for several reasons:

- The payment rates are a fixed dollar amount and unaffected by the ups and downs of financial market conditions.
- The income payment rates are attractive, especially at a time when certificate of deposit (CDs) rates are in the 2.8–4 percent range, and Dow Jones Industrial stocks such as ExxonMobil, IBM, Pfizer, and Proctor & Gamble provide dividend yields from 1.3–1.8 percent. Refer to the box above for the current gift annuity rates being offered to Bridgewater State College donors of various ages.
- Part of the income payment is tax free. This tax-free benefit lasts until you reach the normal age of life expectancy.
- You receive an income tax deduction when you obtain the annuity, and your estate may benefit from having the asset removed from possible estate taxes.
- A charitable gift annuity provides you with immense satisfaction, knowing that you have made a significant gift to Bridgewater State College. You are creating your own legacy for the college’s bright future.

To learn how you can establish a charitable gift annuity for yourself or a loved one, call Alice Tobin Zaff, assistant vice president for institutional advancement. Ms. Zaff will put together a confidential example for you based on your personal circumstances. Or, if you prefer, she will come to your home and discuss this charitable option in person. To discuss charitable giving with no cost, pressure or obligation, contact Ms. Zaff by phone at 508.531.2700 or e-mail at alice.zaff@bridgew.edu.
John B. “Bertie” Cruz Jr.: One Man’s Legacy

By Karen Booth

In 1948, with a background in carpentry, drafting and engineering, John B. “Bertie” Cruz Jr. established a small construction company in Roxbury. Hard work, a sense of pride in a job well done and a promise of sustained excellence led to one business success after another. A couple of his more well-known projects include the Boston Police Department headquarters and the Reggie Lewis athletic facility at Roxbury Community College.

Mr. Cruz’s commitment to the betterment of his own community and others throughout Southeastern Massachusetts earned him his long-standing position as a role model and leader. Cruz Companies is now the oldest, 100-percent minority-owned construction firm in the commonwealth, and Mr. Cruz’s six decades of service to numerous civic and industry organizations throughout the region is well known and highly respected.

Today, 60 years later, his son, John B. Cruz III, together with family, friends, colleagues and members of the community, honored Mr. Cruz’s lifetime accomplishments with the establishment of the John B. “Bertie” Cruz Jr. Scholarship, which will benefit a Bridgewater State College undergraduate student. In keeping with the Cruz family’s sense of local community, preference will be given to an applicant of Cape Shore and Cape Cod. Plus, the college has established his company. “I think Dana, along with other Cape Verdean youth, were proud of having a Cape Verdean as a positive role model. What better way for me, then, to foster my father’s legacy than to help educate minority students from the South Shore/Cape Cod region of Massachusetts.

“Higher education is the second most important thing in building a better quality of life for yourself and your family. The first is a work ethic, which my father instilled in me. But all things being equal, a hard-working, educated person will advance farther up the economic or social ladder.”

Through the years, Mr. Cruz has been recognized with numerous civic and industry honors, including awards from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, National Urban League, Small Business Association, Minority Business Development Agency, National Association of Home Builders, the Boston Urban Bankers’ Forum, the National Association for Minority Contractors and the WLVI-TV (WB56) Unsung Heroes Award. In May 2003, Mr. Cruz was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the Board of Trustees of Bridgewater State College, conferred to him by President Dana Mohler-Faria.

Beyond that, Mr. Cruz III cites his father’s relationship with President Dana Mohler-Faria, who grew up in the Onset section of Wareham where his father established his company. “I hope that the story of my father’s accomplishments will serve as a role model to minority students and inspire them to be an example of what you can achieve if you believe in yourself and work hard.”
Afro-American Alumni Association

The Afro-American Alumni Association hosted a fundraising dinner in April to honor Arthur Cox, ’98, who passed away suddenly in 2006. On behalf of her family, Mrs. Joetta Cox, Mr. Cox’s mother, presented the college with $6,000 toward the establishment of a scholarship in Mr. Cox’s memory. Mr. Louis Ricciardi, ’81, chairman of the BSC Board of Trustees, and his wife, Dr. Cynthia Booth Ricciardi, ’81, presented the college with a $5,000 gift, which served as a matching gift for all donations received from Feb. 1-April 1, 2008. The audience enjoyed a video presentation of Mr. Cox’s life at BSC while Dr. Alan Comedy and Ms. Dorie AuCoin spoke about the impact that Mr. Cox had on his fellow BSC students and how he continued his involvement with students as an alumnus.

To make a donation to the Arthur Cox Memorial Scholarship, please send a gift made payable to the Bridgewater State College Foundation (with a notation that it is for the Arthur Cox Memorial Scholarship Fund) to Candace Maguire, Davis Alumni Center, 25 Park Terrace, Bridgewater, MA 02325.

Alumni Association Gives Major Awards

Five alumni and a member of the college’s Department of English were honored at the annual Alumni Association’s Major Awards ceremony held in April in the ballroom of the Rondileau Campus Center.

President Dana Mohler-Faria delivered welcoming remarks to open the program and an announcement was made that the first annual Graduate Alumni Achievement Award will be made at the 2009 Major Awards Dinner.

The new award was established by the Bridgewater Alumni Association to honor Dr. Marilyn Barry’s, ’58, commitment to the college and to the association. Dr. Barry and her husband, Dennis, are longtime benefactors of Bridgewater, and her class celebrated the 50th anniversary of its graduation in June. The Barry family, including Dennis and Marilyn’s two sons and their wives, and their grandchildren, were present at the alumni ceremony for the announcement of the new award.

Ms. Molly Fannon Williams, vice president for institutional advancement, and Ms. Carolyn VanBuskirk Turchon, ’62, president of the alumni association, acted as co-hosts and introduced this year’s honorees.

Mr. John P. Hackett, ’55, G’60, received the Dr. George A. Weygand Award for Outstanding Service to the Bridgewater Alumni Association.

Dr. Weygand, ’53, G’56, a former president of the alumni association, was on hand to present the award, and Mr. F. Scott Longo, ’89, past president of the association, introduced Mr. Hackett, who served as BAA president from 2004 to 2006.
“Jack Hackett graduated from Bridgewater in 1955 and very wisely married his high school and college classmate, Patricia St. John, in 1956. They are the proud parents of Julie, John Jr. and Jane Hackett as well as proud grandparents,” said Mr. Longo. “Jack returned to Bridgewater and earned a master’s degree in 1960. At Weymouth High School, he was a teacher, principal and associate superintendent from 1955 to 1999, interrupted only by two years of active duty in the U.S. Army.”

In accepting the award, Mr. Hackett said, “Receiving the Dr. George Weygand Award is a great honor for me. It’s been truly rewarding and enjoyable to work with the college administration and, in particular, the staff of the Davis Alumni Center.”

**Dr. Jerald Walker**, assistant professor in the Department of English, received the Martha D. Jones Award for Outstanding Dedication to Students.

The award was presented by Ms. Michelle Lombardo Poor, ’87, G’97, a member of the association’s major awards committee. Dean Emerita Martha Jones, ’64, for whom the award is named, joined Dr. Walker at the podium.

“Jerald Walker is a prolific writer with more than 10 publications in the last five years,” said Ms. Poor. “Dr. Walker came to Bridgewater in 2002 . . . his achievements outside the classroom and his dedication to students year after year are evidenced in the award-winning publication he founded, *The Bridge*, which has won more than 40 prestigious national awards for excellence in rigorous competition – including a Pacemaker Award, the college equivalent of a Pulitzer Prize. He has brought great credit to the college and to the undergraduates who, under his guidance, solicit creative writing from students throughout the college and edit every aspect of each edition.”

In accepting the award, Dr. Walker shared with the audience the story of his journey from being a community college student in Chicago with little hope for obtaining a college degree to the holder of a doctorate in English and a career as a college professor.

“I’d like to begin by acknowledging my wife, Brenda, and my children, who are the core of my life, and to my co-editor, Professor Mary Dondero of the Department of Art, who will one day be here accepting this award as I am this evening,” he said.

Dr. Walker shared the history of *The Bridge*, and told how he and Professor Mercedes Nunez of the Department of Art first approached President Mohler-Faria seeking college support for the project, which he gave readily. “What I learned was that Mercedes and the president were old pals, and much of the conversation was about them catching up with each other’s lives,” he said. “But, in the end, the president said ‘yes’ to *The Bridge* and we were on our way.”

The idea for a student creative journal had come from his experience while a community college student in inner-city Chicago, he said, when a professor who
later became a lifelong friend encouraged him to become a member of the staff of the school’s creative writing journal.

“He brought me on board, and I joined several other students in doing everything associated with assembling and producing a creative writing journal. That publication would later become the model for The Bridge,” said Dr. Walker.

“I learned so much from Professor Homewood,” said Dr. Walker. “And the first lesson I learned from him was that he didn’t want us to make a journal; he wanted us to make ourselves. The one thing he would say to us, constantly, was, ‘You cannot be outworked if you don’t want to. There are only 24 hours in a day. No one can give 25. Someone can work as hard as you do, but they can’t work harder.’ My confidence rose as I worked beside him, and I went to finish my associate degree, a goal that at one time seemed like it would be impossible to achieve.”

Professor Homewood became Dr. Walker’s mentor, guiding him through his work for a bachelor’s degree and providing direction and financial support that enabled Dr. Walker to earn his master’s and doctoral degrees. “He mapped out everything for me. He gave me books and had me and other students come to his house to help us study. Over the years, as I made progress through my various degrees, and I was appointed to the faculty at Bridgewater, I asked him many times, ‘How can I ever repay you for everything that you’ve done for me?’ and he would say, ‘You will.’”

Dr. Walker said when he received the call he would be awarded the Martha Jones Award, the first person he called was Professor Homewood. “Have I repaid you now?” Dr. Walker said he asked. “Yes you have,” said the professor.

The award will not go on his office wall, said Dr. Walker. “When Professor Homewood comes to visit me this summer, as he has done every summer for the past 25 years that I’ve known him, you will please understand that I have to give this award to him. And I know that 25 years from now, one of my students will receive a similar award, and I suspect that student will give the award to me.”

Dr. Walker’s remarks drew a loud ovation from the audience.

Ms. Adrienne Grant, ’58, received the Dr. Adrian Tinsley Award for Achievement in the Arts.

Ms. Kathleen Moore Flaherty, ’91, secretary of the association’s board of directors, introduced Ms. Grant.

“Adrienne Grant received her Bachelor of Science in Education degree in 1958,” said Ms. Flaherty. “She exemplifies the qualifications for this award for her work in managing the Arundel Barn Playhouse in Arundel, ME, and she has provided numerous opportunities for many men and women in theater through her support of and dedication to aspiring actors.”

In accepting the award, Ms. Grant said, “It is a privilege to be back here, 50 years after I graduated. When I came to Bridgewater in 1954, tuition was $400 a year and room and board was $600, and most of the beautiful buildings on the campus today weren’t here then.”

Ms. Grant spent more than 30 years as a teacher, and upon retirement, “I followed a dream, a dream to establish a summer theatre,” she said.

During her years at Bridgewater, Ms. Grant said, “we had a motto – and that motto was ‘We learn by doing,’ and that’s what motivated me to open the summer theatre. I knew that with the help and support and encouragement of good people, I could achieve my dream of life in the theater, and I did.”

Rep. Patricia Smith Haddad, ’72, was this year’s recipient of the Dr. Adrian Rondileau Award for Professional Achievement and Community Service.

Mr. William Walker, ’72, and a member of the association’s Major Awards Committee, introduced Ms. Haddad, who is the Massachusetts state representative for the Fifth Bristol District and chair of the House Education Committee.

“In May 1972, President Rondileau presented Patricia Smith with her Bachelor of Science degree in physical education, as I was receiving my bachelor’s degree in elementary education,” said Mr. Walker. “I’m sure we were not thinking of an awards presentation 36 years later. The award, named for Dr. Rondileau, specifies that the recipient must demonstrate exceptional competence and accomplishments within his or her chosen field, as well as exceptional service to his or her community, and I
stand here this evening to introduce a person who has fulfilled completely those qualifications as a mother, teacher and legislator."

In her remarks, Rep. Haddad said, "I am humbled by this award because to be recognized by your alma mater is amazing. As I travel around the state, I have the pleasure to meet so many Bridgewater State College alumni from every walk of life. This is my third career, and I am so honored to have the opportunity to represent in the legislature the people of my district. My work on Beacon Hill allows me to give back to the community, and I'm enormously grateful that I'm able to do so."

President Mohler-Faria offered this testimonial to Rep. Haddad: "We at Bridgewater deserve to be so proud of Pat. I spend a lot of time on Beacon Hill, and I know the enormous respect in which she is held by the other members of the legislature, by the staff, and by the governor of the commonwealth," he said.

"When I went recently to meet with Gov. Patrick to discuss proposals related to education reform, his first question to me was, 'What does Pat think about this?' That's the kind of impact Rep. Haddad has on Beacon Hill," the president said.

Dr. Lois Haslam, '53, received the Nicholas Tillinghast Award for Achievement in the Field of Education, and the award was presented by her classmate, Dr. George Weygand, '53, G'56, who called her "an outstanding leader in public education." Dr. Haslam spent her 40-year career teaching at the elementary, secondary and college levels and was also a principal and school superintendent in several communities.

In receiving the award, Dr. Haslam said, "I spent $100 a year on tuition when I attended Bridgewater, and look at the life that it gave me. I am deeply honored to accept this award and to thank my family, my friends, my Bridgewater classmates, and all of the students and colleagues with whom I came in contact over the course of my career. I could not have chosen a better career than I did."

Ms. Kathleen E. McSweeney, '81, received the Dr. Catherine E. Comeau Award for Outstanding Leadership and Professional Achievement.

The award was presented by Ms. Sheila Tunstall McKenna, '62, president of the Hyannis-Bridgewater Physical Education Alumni Association, and Dr. Comeau, for whom the award is named, was present as the award was given.

"Kathleen received her bachelor's degree in health and physical education in 1981, and after graduation, she became a teacher and coach of basketball, field hockey, gymnastics, lacrosse and soccer," said Ms. McKenna. "Kathleen is the principal of Gateway Regional High School in Huntington. She has been, consistently, an influential role model and has provided outstanding service, leadership and achievement. She has earned two master's degrees, has been a classroom teacher and a coach in both public and private school settings and has had key roles in community activities that support and advance excellence in public education."

In accepting the award, Ms. McSweeney said, "Thirty-one years ago, I entered Bridgewater State College as a very wide-eyed freshman. I recall in particular 'The Freshman Follies,' an annual event for freshmen women held in the Kelly Gymnasium on a Friday evening, which required us to perform skits about our introduction to college life," she said. "I must admit that we 'phys ed' majors 'rocked the place' with our skits."

“But just a week later, I was with several friends near Shea-Durgin Hall watching a field hockey practice, and suddenly standing in front of me was Dr. Catherine Comeau. I was introduced to Dr. Comeau and informed that she was the head of the physical education department. I felt honored to be in her presence. Then Dr. Comeau fixed me with a long stare. 'So you're Kathy McSweeney,' she said. I answered, 'Yes, that's me.' She looked me over from head to toe and said, 'What in the heck were you doing at 'Freshman Follies' last Friday night?' I put on my best Irish smile. 'Was something wrong?' I asked, fearing I was about to be dismissed from the college. 'Kathy, welcome to Bridgewater State College,' said Dr. Comeau. 'But remember, I'm going to keep my eye on you!' And keep her eye on me she did, all four years. To receive an honor named for Dr. Catherine Comeau is truly, truly the most wonderful award I could ever receive."
Alumni Chamber Choir

The Alumni Chamber Choir (ACC) performed its spring concert, “Journeys,” to a full crowd on May 4 at the Central Square Congregational Church in Bridgewater. The ACC also performed at Alumni Day on June 7.

Please mark your calendar for upcoming ACC performances:

- **Saturday, Dec. 6, 6:30-7:30 PM**
  Breakers Mansion, Newport, RI
- **Sunday, Dec. 7, 3-4:30 PM**
  Central Square Congregational Church, Bridgewater.

For more information, visit the ACC Web site at www.bscacc.org.

Please join us as a guest or as a performer. The ACC rehearses at BSC every Wednesday night during the school year from 7:30-9:30 PM. New members are always welcome. If you want to be part of our choral group, contact John Goulart at john.goulart.jr@comcast.net.

Crimson Ambassadors

Crimson Ambassador Scholarship

The Crimson Ambassadors funded the first scholarship endowed by a student organization at Bridgewater State College. A number of qualified students apply for this generous scholarship every year. This year’s recipient is Kate Dlugosinski, a special education and history major from Mattapoisett. A member of the Class of 2010, Ms. Dlugosinski has volunteered countless hours to BSC organizations such as Jumpstart and Circle K, and has supported community organizations such as Meals on Wheels and area schools.

Crimson Ambassador Tuition Raffle

Each spring, the ambassadors sell raffle tickets with the prize of free in-state fall tuition. The proceeds from the raffle support the Crimson Ambassador Scholarship fund and student programs. Due to the overwhelming response, the ambassadors were able to draw two winners. Thanks to all those who supported the raffle and congratulations to winners Joseph Donnelly and Albert Esposti, both members of the Class of 2010.

Florida Alumni Receptions

Bradenton/Sarasota

More than 60 alumni and friends of the college attended the annual Sunday brunch reception at the IMG Country Club in Bradenton. Dr. Thomas Turner, professor of history at BSC, was the guest speaker and discussed research about the history of Bridgewater State College.

Venice

Several BSC graduates gathered at the Crow’s Nest restaurant in Venice to have lunch with Candace Maguire, director of alumni and development programs, and Christine Regan, assistant director. Those in attendance included Constance Bielecki, ’57; Jeanette Kelleher, ’50; and Betsey Clark, ’47.
Naples
Dr. Paul Hobaica, ’88, and his wife, MaiLea, met with Candace Maguire and Christine Regan in Naples. Dr. Hobaica has a private medical practice in Naples where he resides with his wife and two children. Dr. Hobaica’s mother, Roberta Hobaica, is also a BSC graduate. She and her husband split their time between their homes in Naples and Easton, MA.

Hyannis Bridgewater Physical Education Alumni Association
The annual Moriarty Lecture was held April 16 in the Moakley Auditorium. Professor Robert Colandreo, ’95, a faculty member in the Department of Movement Arts, Health Promotion and Leisure Studies; Anthony LaCourse, ’91; and Brian Whidden, ’90, discussed wellness topics, including sports injury prevention and management, diabetes problems and solutions, and the benefits of acupuncture and herbal medicine.

If you are interested in becoming part of this very active group, please e-mail Candace Maguire, director of alumni relations at cmaguire@bridgew.edu

Recent Graduate Association
The Recent Graduate Association continues to provide opportunities for education, networking, community involvement and keeping in touch with classmates. The RGA will be hosting several fall events this year. Check the online community at www.alumni.bridgew.edu for details. If you are interested in being a member of the committee, please contact Christine Regan at cregan@bridgew.edu.

Pictured from top to bottom, Patricia Hawley Walls, ’73, G’75, and her husband, Richard, attend the Sarasota/Bradenton reception. Janet Aderson Gutteron, ’61, here with her husband, Pete, was the lucky winner of the BSC throw at the Sarasota/Bradenton reception. June Foss Samuels, ’64, joins her classmate, Susan Libby Thevenin, ’64, at the Sarasota/Bradenton reception. From left, outside the Crew’s Nest restaurant in Venice are, Constance Baldyga Bielecki, ’57, Jeannette LaBelle Kelleher, ’50; and Betsey McCosh Clark, ’47.

Hyannis Bridgewater board members and Moriarty Lecture panelists gather at the Moakley Center after the Moriarty Lecture.
Summer 2008
2928
Summer 2008
25

A L U M N I  U P D A T E

Shea Scholar Presentation
Ms. Amy Gracia, the recipient of the 2008 Shea Scholarship, was honored at a reception at the Davis Alumni Center. She and her faculty mentor, Dr. Anne Kaufman, a visiting lecturer in the Department of English, met with members of the selection committee to share an overview of the proposed project.

Ms. Gracia spoke about her planned research into the literary techniques of John Okada, author of *No No Boy*. First published in 1957, Mr. Okada's novel focuses on the aftermath of the Japanese internment in America during World War II as seen through the eyes of one young man. Ms. Gracia’s summer of research will culminate in a formal presentation on Sept. 25.

The prestigious Shea Scholarship provides students with funding to pursue a summer research project under the guidance of a faculty mentor. It was established by friends and students of Dr. Ellen M. Shea, dean of students from 1955-1974.

Senior Ball
More than 300 seniors and their guests attended the senior ball at The Lantana in Randolph. Hosted by the BSC Alumni Association and the Class of 2008, the senior ball is an annual event that celebrates the accomplishments of the graduating class and welcomes the seniors into the alumni association. The student committee chose the theme, “It’s Our Time Now,” to reflect the memories they have of their years at BSC and the exciting times ahead. The event was held May 2.

Upcoming Events
New Bedford Sunday Brunch and Zeiterion Theater Performance
Aug. 3
Join alumni, emeriti faculty and friends of BSC for a Sunday brunch at the Wamsutta Club, followed by a matinee performance of *Les Miserables*. To reserve tickets for brunch and theatre at $40 per person, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 508.531.2695. A chartered bus will leave from BSC in the morning and return immediately following the performance. Seating for the bus is limited and will be reserved on a first-come basis.

Homecoming
Oct. 18
Come home to cheer on the Bridgewater Bears, run in the Carol Mulloy Cuttle 5K Race, enjoy a hearty breakfast prior to the annual Homecoming parade and take part in so much more. Details will be available in early September at alumni.bridgew.edu

The Bridge Now Accepts Literature and Art Submissions From ALL ALUMNI!

The Bridge is a student-run publication that began in 2003 under the guidance of Dr. Jerald Walker, assistant professor of English. Professor Mary Dondoro, assistant professor of art, joined Dr. Walker in 2004 as co-adviser.

Students are selected for intensive two-semester internships based on established records of outstanding academic performance. The interns are responsible for all aspects of the journal’s production, including the collection of submissions, design and layout, and editing. This engaged-learning experience has served as a gateway for BSC students to careers in publishing.

Since its inception, *The Bridge* has established itself as one of the top student-produced literary arts journals in the nation. In just five years, it has received approximately 50 national awards including five Crowns Awards, the highest honor granted by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association and, from the Associated Collegiate Press, a “Pacemaker,” widely regarded as “the Pulitzer Prize of Student Publications.”

For submission guidelines, please visit thebridgejournal.com, send inquiries to thebridgejournal@bridgew.edu, or call 508.531.2983.
Ann Ulett, ’92, didn’t have much time to be involved as an undergraduate. “I was a non-traditional college student – I already had two kids when I started Bridgewater,” said the former accounting major. As an alumna, however, Ms. Ulett has more than made up: a recruiting manager for Pricewaterhouse-Coopers, she’s on campus regularly, interacting with students as a volunteer for the Office of Career Services.

“I do on-campus recruiting, mock interviews, career fairs, networking events,” she recounted. “Anywhere they need help, I’m available. I love it. It’s a way for me to give back, to share my experience with someone else.”

Ms. Ulett is one of approximately 175 active alumni career services volunteers. “We try to involve alumni as much as possible,” said Christine Tetreault, director of the Office of Career Services. “It’s very beneficial for students to talk with alumni. As graduates, they understand the value of a Bridgewater education, and they’ve applied it in the workforce. It’s also a great way for students to practice networking; these are alumni, after all, who’ve agreed to come back and help.”

Experience Talks

One of the most valuable contributions alumni make is sharing their stories – the twists and turns of their own career paths. Take Norman Chipman, ’93, for example.

“I was a communications major with a minor in TV/radio production,” Mr. Chipman said. “I started in radio after graduation, but found out it wasn’t any fun.” To pay the bills, he took a job at a local bank, working his way up to assistant manager. With all the banking mergers, he hit a plateau in 2001 and started looking for other financial services jobs. He landed at New York Life as an agent and was promoted to partner in 2004.

Like Ms. Ulett, Mr. Chipman is a frequent on-campus visitor to career services. “I do anything they ask me to do: career fairs, mock interviews, Meet the Pros or other networking events. I feel like this is my opportunity to pay Bridgewater back,” he said.

“We’re very fortunate to have such great alumni support,” said Ms. Tetreault. “People like Ann and Norman are so generous with their time. But alumni don’t have to come to campus in order to volunteer. There are many ways alumni can help students from wherever they are.”

Opportunities Abound

Career Link, Career Services’ career management site, has an online alumni mentor program and is the best first step for interested volunteers. Alumni fill out an electronic form with basic information about their majors and careers, agreeing to serve as a resource for students. “To date, we have about 130 Career Link alumni mentors,” Ms. Tetreault said. “Mentoring

The BSC Career Link Alumni Mentor Program consists of a group of alumni who volunteer to share their experiences with students and other alumni. We are looking for alumni in all career fields. Join the program and share your professional experience – from how you got started in your field to what you have learned on the job – with a BSC student.

To become an alumni mentor, visit: www.bridgew.edu/careerservices/careerlink.cfm
can be done by e-mail, telephone or in person – whatever works best for volunteers.”

Job Shadow volunteers agree to host an underclassman at their workplace for a day over winter break to give them a peek into a particular career. Career profiles are another easy way to get involved. “We have nearly 40 graduates who have posted online career profiles, and we're always looking for more,” said Ms. Tetreault. Profiles give students a glimpse into specific jobs: everything from regional sales director to qualitative research manager, from elementary school principal to assistant director for media relations.

“We ask everyone to fill out the same questionnaire so students can compare responses to questions like, ‘What do you find most challenging about your job?’ ‘Describe your typical work week,’” Ms. Tetreault said.

Being active has its benefits. Mr. Chipman and Ms. Ulett both recruit for their organizations, so they often get leads on promising candidates. But beyond the professional perks, the two report that they just enjoy connecting with students. “My favorite part is any opportunity to talk to students one-on-one, to be a mentor to them, advise them, guide them,” Ms. Ulett said.

Mr. Chipman counsels students to consider their first job offers carefully. “Graduating from school and taking that first job is a once in a lifetime opportunity. Don’t grab the first job that comes along. Consider different options and take your time. Once you get into the working world, you get locked into a career track, and it’s harder to change,” he said.

Interested in getting involved? Career Services would love to hear from you. “We’re very open and interested in having alumni participate in all our programs,” said Ms. Tetreault. Call 508.531.1328 or visit the Web site at www.bridgew.edu/careerservices.

Maura King Scully is a freelance writer from Walpole specializing in higher education.

### CAREER SERVICES MENTORING OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO BSC ALUMNI

- **Career Link Alumni Mentor Program**
  Volunteer to share your experiences with students and other alumni.

- **Mock Interview Program**
  Interview and evaluate seniors preparing for interviews.

- **Career Panels**
  Bring your expertise to a panel discussion.

- **Workplace Protocol Dinner**
  Provide a professional presence for students learning workplace etiquette.

- **Internship Program**
  Provide internship opportunities for BSC students in your workplace.

- **Job Shadow Program**
  Offer students a one-day shadow opportunity at your workplace during winter break.

Call the Office of Career Services at 508.531.1328 to inquire about participating in any of these opportunities.

### CELEBRATE A LIFELONG CONNECTION TO YOUR ALMA MATER WITH THE GIFT OF A LIFETIME

**Buy a Brick and Give the Gift that Lasts a Lifetime.**

The Bridgewater State College Alumni Association invites you to celebrate your lifelong connection to your alma mater by purchasing a personalized engraved brick that will be placed in the Alumni Courtyard in front of Horace Mann Auditorium. Your tax-deductible gift of $100 entitles you to a 4 x 8 inch personalized brick that will become a lasting part of Bridgewater State College’s history. An 8 x 8 inch brick paver is available for a tax-deductible gift of $250. Every time you come to campus, you will be able to stroll the courtyard, see your engraved brick or paver, and be reminded of your commitment to and support of Bridgewater State College and its students.

You may choose to purchase a brick to honor or memorialize a special BSC graduate. A gift card will be sent to that person or to the family of the graduate you are memorializing.

All proceeds will benefit BSC students through enhanced scholarship funds. **Place your order today**, and become a part of Bridgewater State College’s legacy. You may order online at http://alumni.bridgew.edu or call 508.531.2682.

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**Norman Chipman, ’93**

CAREER SERVICES MENTORING OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO BSC ALUMNI

CAREER SERVICES MENTORING OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO BSC ALUMNI
Entrepreneur Trains Diplomats in Public Speaking

By Karen Booth

For Gary Genard, ’74, founder and president of Public Speaking International, everything ties together neatly, beginning with his graduation from Bridgewater with a Bachelor of Arts degree in speech and theater. “I believe that Bridgewater provides an education second to none, as fine as any public institution of education anywhere in the United States. Clearly, the education I received in both speech and theatre has been instrumental in everything I’ve done since,” he said.

Fast-forward 33 years – after Dr. Genard earned his Master of Arts degree in theatre from the University of Illinois; after he completed acting training at the Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art in London; after he acted professionally in New York; and yes, after he earned his doctorate in theatre from Tufts University. Fast forward through several years of teaching and advising at

To anyone familiar with Dr. Genard’s accomplishments, the next step would come as no surprise. He decided to establish his own company focusing on executive coaching and group training in public speaking, media appearance and speech improvement, plus a course called Women Voices of Leadership.

Today, Dr. Genard’s reputation as an expert in public speaking, particularly as it relates to the training of diplomats, is well established. He trains U.S. diplomats in public speaking and media at the U.S. State Department. He is trainer-in-residence in public speaking at the United Nations. He founded his own publishing company, Cedar & Maitland Press, and published his first book: How to Give a Speech: Easy-to-Learn Skills for More Successful & Profitable Presentations, Speeches, Meetings, Sales and More!

And when he’s not working, he’s enjoying time in Arlington with his wife, Janice Flammia, and the couple’s 11-year-old daughter, Lydia.

1958

David Flynn, a fifth term Democrat State Representative representing the Eighth Plymouth District, was a featured speaker at a recent government affairs meeting.

1959

The Class of 1959 reunion committee is hosting a Sunday Brunch at New Bedford’s Wamsutta Club on Sunday, Sept. 21. More details will be mailed in early August.

1961

Jim Argir and his wife, Lana Steele Argir, ’62, are hosting an event for both classes at their Harwich home on Aug. 13 …

William F. Nixon, G’61, was honored by The Campaign for Oliver Ames High School and the “Friends of Bill Nixon” committees as the namesake of the new OAHS gymnasium.

1962

Judith Murphy DeFilippo was named to the Bridgewater Alumni Association Board of Directors at the Association’s Annual Meeting in June.

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Jeanne Tucker was selected by the Maine Principals Association as the 2008 High School Principal of the Year …

Philip Riviere is enjoying retirement with his wife, Joanne, and their four grandchildren after a 36-year career teaching fifth and sixth grade in New Bedford and Lakeville.

1969

Judy Smith Hickey was named Teacher of the Week by The Patriot Ledger … Dale Erickson, ’69, G’74, retired in June 2007 from the Easton Public Schools after 38 years of service.

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Jack Aylmer, G’70, and his wife, Ann Aylmer, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Oct. 13, 2007 …

Leo Sciarappa, ’70, G’79, retired in 2005 from his position as co-principal of the Jordan/Jackson Elementary School in Mansfield. He earned his doctorate in leadership in schooling from the University of Massachusetts Lowell in 2007 and now resides with his wife on the Long Island Sound in Connecticut.

1950

The Class of 1950 Distinguished Faculty Research Award was created through an endowment established by the class on the occasion of its 50th reunion. The 2008 recipient is Dr. Leonid Heretz, associate professor and chairperson of the Department of History at BSC.

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1972
State Rep. Patricia Smith Haddad was awarded the Presidential Citation for her support of daily physical education in schools at the Massachusetts Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Honor Awards Banquet on March 16.

1973
Janel Lafond-Paquin is the president of the Massachusetts Foreign Language Association … Carol Galvin Benson retired in June 2008 after 35 years at Millis High School as a special needs teacher, chairperson and facilitator.

1976
Joan Pastuszak joined the Raveis Real Estate office in Hingham.

1977
Shirley Ann Howard, G’77, published her first book, Tales Out of School … After spending most of her career at the National Cancer Institute, Dorothy Tisevich Foellmer left her position as the NCI’s chief of staff and moved to the Food and Drug Administration as special assistant to the commissioner. Recently, she became acting director of the FDA Office of the Executive Secretariat. She shares her life with husband John, dog Rudy and two cats.

1978
Robin Napolitan Fielding’s mixed media works, “A Glimpse of My Life,” were featured at the Great Ponds Gallery at the Lakeville public library. A self-taught artist, Ms. Fielding has taken photographs all of her adult life. She also displayed needle-felted figures and woodcarvings.

1980
John Bernier was promoted to the rank of Colonel in the U.S. Air Force … Former Capt. Michael Young was promoted to battalion chief after serving on Plymouth’s Fire Department for 28 years … In November 2007 Debbie Drago celebrated 20 years as a teacher at the BSC Children’s Center.

Have Bicycle Will Travel
By Karen Booth

Retirement – it’s all perspective. Take travel, for example. Paris in the springtime … the Caribbean in winter … all the time in the world to relax, anywhere in the world. Do nothing for the first time in your life. Or, do what Marie Baroni Allen, ’65, and her husband, Jim, do – bicycle all around the world.

England, Sweden, Denmark, France, Italy, New Zealand, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Hungary, Czech Republic and, of course, America – it’s called Adventure Cycling, and it’s not for the faint of heart.

“We cycle an average of 30 miles a day,” said Ms. Allen. “We carry all our own gear, though we don’t camp. It’s B&Bs for us. Bicycling is a wonderful way to travel. You see and smell things and get a completely different feel for a place than when you’re traveling in a car, bus or train.”

Ms. Allen graduated from Bridgewater with a Bachelor of Science in Education degree. She enjoyed an eclectic career teaching high school mathematics and chemistry and was appointed head of the science department at Needham High School. After earning her Master of Science degree in chemistry from Notre Dame, Ms. Allen started her second career, this time in pharmaceuticals and biotechnology, eventually retiring in 1993 as director of operations for Genzyme’s diagnostic division. In 2001, she decided to go for another stint at teaching and returned to Needham High School as head of the mathematics department, retiring for the second time in 2007.

Now Ms. Baroni and her husband really do have all the time in the world to go anywhere in the world – and that’s the plan. “We recently bought bikes that fold into a hard suitcase. It’s a neat system and makes it easy to transport our bikes on airplanes. After you remove the bike, you attach an axle and wheel set to the case, and it becomes a bike trailer.”

To learn more, Ms. Baroni recommends the Adventure Cycling Association’s Website, www.adventurecycling.org.
### Screenwriting Becomes Passion

*By Karen Booth*

As a youngster, Jennifer Grunin, ’03, knew she wanted to be a novelist, though not a starving one. So she developed a plan. She would teach as her primary profession, and write as time and energy allowed. After graduating from BSC in 2003 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English with a minor in secondary education, she taught English at Whitman-Hanson Regional High School for four years. She then earned a Master in Fine Arts degree in creative writing with a concentration in screenwriting from Emerson College. And a new plan was born – screenwriting.

The transition was relatively seamless. Her self-published screenplay, *Chameleon*, began as a novel, written in the summer between her tenth and eleventh grades at Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School. Her characters, were inspired by her experiences as a then high school student.

Her education in screenwriting – brevity, action, drama with the same characters – launched her new approach. She reworked her novel into a feature-length psychological thriller. "*Chameleon* is about a vindictive, mask-making English teacher who channels a modern day Iago in order to reek havoc on an all-American teenage, who raped and murdered his daughter," said Ms. Grunin. It's all there: the action, the drama . . . ideal for the big screen.

Ms. Grunin lives in New York and is in search of a producer, who will bring her story to life. Crediting Bridgewater for preparing her for a successful career, she now teaches Cinematic Literature at the Life Academy High School of Film and Music, New York’s first and only film high school.

*Chameleon* is available online at Amazon.com.

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### 1981

**Mike Doyle** is president of the Association of Biomolecular Resource Facilities. Mr. Doyle is a group leader of protein biochemistry at Bristol-Meyers Squibb Research and Development in Princeton.

### 1982

**Marianne Cheryl Inglis Rudis** was named Teacher of the Year for the third time during her 21-year teaching career with the Chesapeake public school system in Chesapeake, VA. Ms. Rudis is a fifth grade elementary school teacher and grade level chairperson at D.H. Truitt Intermediate School. She resides in the city of Chesapeake with her husband, Steven, a retired firefighter, and her 17-year-old son, Daniel.

### 1987


### 1990

**Michele Ranese Redding** and her husband, **Chris, ’91**, celebrated the ninth anniversary of the opening of their restaurant, Cuckoo’s Chicken House & Watering Hole, in Durango, CO. They encourage all BSC alumni and students to stop by when in the area.

### 1992

**Ken Pickering** is president of the Foster Corporation in Putnam, CT … **Dennis Braun** is director of graduate and continuing education at Anna Maria College … **Shawn Rickan** is principal of Narragansett Regional High School, following three years of service as the vice principal.

### 1994

**Thomas E. Ross** is the superintendent of Sagamore Hill National Historic Site, the home of President Theodore Roosevelt … **Matthew D’Andrea, G’94**, is principal of Old Hammondtown School in Mattapoisett.

### 1995

**Sheila Haskins, G’95, G’03**, is principal of Old Rochester Regional High School in Mattapoisett.

### 1996

**J. Stephen Nekervis** is head athletic trainer and strength conditioning coach at Framingham State College … **Thomas J. Yelverton, ’96, G’01**, is proud to announce the establishment of The Law Office of Thomas J. Yelverton, a general practice law firm, at 462 Plain Street in Marshfield.

### 1997

**Daniel McHugh, ’97, G’99**, is director of conference and event services at BSC … **Songwriter Shawn Lopes** co-wrote five songs for the soundtrack of the Warner Brothers movie, *The Utopian Society*.

### 1998

**Eric Santos** was appointed to the three-member Licensing Board in Fall River … **Stacey Ludwig Stratton** is a childbirth educator at Caritas Norwood Hospital and at Isis Maternity in Needham.

### 1999

**Lee Charpentier** is starting to plan the Class of 1999’s 10th reunion. Those interested in helping can contact him by e-mail at BSC_1999@comcast.net, by phone at 508.735.5949 or by mail at 23 Upstone Drive, Nashua, NH 03063 … **Carrol Hardy** is working in the news division for the New England Patriots.
2000

Todd Castro is an assistant to Taunton’s Mayor Charles Crowley … Sandra daCosta is a supervisor in the assurance and advisory practice section for Rosenfield Raymon Pieleck P.C. … Daniel “Obie” Obernesser is living in Golden, CO, and is working for Intermap Technologies, a 3D mapping company. Mr. Obernesser is the business application manager and specializes in business intelligence strategy and implementations.

2002

Officer Kevin Borges, ’02, G’04, graduated from the Police Academy and is working for the Somerset Police Department … Annette Bailey, G’02, is principal of William G. Vinal Elementary School in Norwell … Daniel Flores is a residential loan officer for East Boston Savings Bank … Stephanie DeLucia DeBaggis, G’02, is taking a break from her softball career to concentrate on being a wife, mother and guidance counselor.

2004

Matthew Mantalos is an associate with Gibson & Behman, P.C., a law firm in Burlington … Amy Chandler was certified by the RealNet Learning Services of McLean, VA, as a CBR (certified buyer representative). Ms. Chandler is a realtor/office manager with Optimum Real Estate Inc., in Whitman and has been professionally trained in the representation of home purchasers … Heather Baylies-Grigoreas is pursuing her degree in early childhood education and care at BSC.

2005

Patrick J. Morrison is a police officer for the town of Foxboro … Judith Kuehn, G’05, was named Hull’s director of student services … Brendan VanNatter was accepted to Palmer College of Chiropractic in Florida.

2006

Derek Sulc, G’06, is principal of Norwell Middle School … Jill Pasquini-Torchia, G’06, is principal of Mosier Elementary School in South Hadley … Eric Litchfield graduated from the University of Central Florida with a master’s degree in educational leadership with a focus in student personnel services.

2007

Selectman Joseph Pacheco has joined the office of state Rep. David R. Flynn, D-Bridgewater, as the director of community and constituent affairs … Army Spec. Renee Avilla graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, SC … Korie Ferris has been accepted to serve in the Peace Corps in Tanzania … Teah Mazzoni joined the staff of the Marion Art Center as instructor of dance. She is also teaching second grade at Rochester Memorial School … Ronald Groves Jr., an agent from the Boston general office of New York Life Insurance, is a registered representative of NYLIFE … Suzanne Moquin is the town accountant for Freetown.

ALUMNI ONLINE COMMUNITY

WANT TO RECONNECT WITH CLASSMATES with whom you have lost touch? Then visit Bridgewater State College’s online community at alumni.bridgew.edu.

THERE IS SO MUCH WAITING FOR YOU, and there is no fee to join. Take the time to register and see what awaits you. To join, simply log in using the six-digit constituent identification number that appears above the name on the mailing label of this magazine.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, please feel free to contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 888.272.9555 and ask for Candace.
## NOTA BENE

### Deaths

Margaret Pearl Clark Dickey, ’29, in Dec. 2007
Margaret Froeberg Dowell, ’30, on Nov. 11, 2007
Helen M. Castro DeSilvia, ’33, on Nov. 29, 2007
Louise West Reid, ’34, on Jan. 19, 2008
Sylvia Ann Pentikainen Patrick, ’36, on Dec. 10, 2007
Agnes Richardson, ’41, on Feb. 22, 2008
Velma M. Shorey Stillson, ’41, on Jan. 3, 2008
Catherine Kula Bentley, ’44, on Jan. 12, 2008
Georgette McNamee, ’44, on Jan. 21, 2008
Mary Driscoll Murphy, ’44, on Feb. 27, 2008
Pasquale Morano, G’55, on Jan. 13, 2008
Ann McAuliffe Botelho, ’57, on March 31, 2008
Ann McAuliffe Botelho, ’57, on Jan. 22, 2008
Alexander “Sandy” Carnathan, G’67, on Jan. 16, 2008
James L. Moruzzi, ’67, on Dec. 5, 2007
Helen Edith Vanderhoop Manning Murray, G’68, on Jan. 25, 2008
Mary Souza Talbot, ’69, on Feb. 25, 2008
Sara Osborne, G’07, on Nov. 17, 2007
Nicole Williams, G’07, on Salu Salum on June 23, 2007

### Marriages

Geraldine Amaral, ’72, to James Hudson on Oct. 14, 2007
Debra Henry, ’92, to Craig Herman on Oct. 13, 2007
Heather Young, ’95, to Alexander DeQuattro on June 7, 2007
Julie Goodsell to Karl Marsiglio, ’96, on Sept. 8, 2007
Tamara Rachelle Pizer to Michael William McDonald, ’97, on Aug. 18, 2007
Suzanne Prall, ’00, to Lucas Giguer on Oct. 6, 2007
Sara Marie Dombrosky, ’01, to Paul Joseph Baroncelli
Jennifer Hibbert, ’01, to Charles Stamaris, ’03, on June 23, 2007
Berta Dias, ’02, to Steven Coelho on May 26, 2007
Teresa Garcia, ’02, G’06, to Jason Fras on Nov. 7, 2007
Jamie Liddell, ’02, to Adam Allsopp on Sept. 22, 2007
Lauren Murphy, ’02, to Thomas Clive, ’01, on Oct. 12, 2007
Amy Courtois, ’03, to Earl Queenan, ’04, on March 31, 2007
Heather Baylies, ’04, to Scott Grigores on Dec. 1, 2007
Alyssa Daniels, ’04, to Shawn Marucci, ’04, on Sept. 8, 2007
Joyce doCouto, ’04, to Chad Buchanan on Sept. 22, 2007
Kristena Patton to John Henry Flood III, ’05, on May 18, 2007

### Births

To Christine Rogers Curtis, ’95, and Allen Curtis, a son, Andrew Joseph, on Feb. 24, 2008. He joins big sister, Abigail, and big brother, Aidan.

To Deirdre C. Yelverton and Thomas J. Yelverton, ’96, G’01, a son, Bear Thomas, on Dec. 2, 2007
He joins big brothers Danny and Tommy.
To Kerry Robitaille Tasting, ’00, and Anthony Tasting, a daughter, on Feb. 14, 2007

To Deirdre C. Yelverton and Thomas J. Yelverton, ’96, G’01, a son, Bear Thomas, on Dec. 2, 2007
He joins big brothers Danny and Tommy.
To Kerry Robitaille Tasting, ’00, and Anthony Tasting, a daughter, on Feb. 14, 2007
The commencement ceremony for graduate students was held May 14 in the Campus Center auditorium. Awarded were more than 475 master’s degrees and certificates of advanced graduate study. Above are scenes from the ceremony; at right is the evening’s platform party: President Dana Mohler-Faria, (from left); Mr. Louis Ricciardi, ’81, chairman of the Bridgewater State College Board of Trustees; Dr. William Smith, dean of the School of Graduate Studies; Dr. Wendy Haynes, associate professor of political science, who delivered the keynote address; and student speaker Paul McConville.
The skies cleared just in time for this year’s spring commencement ceremony, where nearly 900 students were awarded degrees on the Boyden quadrangle.

Photos (clockwise from upper left): Commencement this year had a new look, including banners draped between the columns of Boyden Hall; honorary degree recipient, Dr. Ann duCille, ’71, is recognized by President Dana Mohler-Faria for her scholarship in African-American literature and academic leadership; the platform party (from left) Trustee Chairman Louis Ricciardi, ’81, Distinguished Service Award recipient David Jenkins, keynote speaker and Massachusetts Secretary of Education Paul Reville, and President Dana Mohler-Faria; the president congratulates a graduating student; and Mr. Jenkins is presented the Distinguished Service Award by Dr. David Ostroth, vice president for the Division of Student Affairs.