2009

Bridgewater Magazine, Volume 19, Number 2,
Summer 2009

Bridgewater State College

Recommended Citation

This item is available as part of Virtual Commons, the open-access institutional repository of Bridgewater State University, Bridgewater, Massachusetts.
Aviation program takes flight

INSIDE:
- Future chemists go green
- A circle of giving
- Forging partnerships
- Rallying against the recession
- Diversity matters
- Middle East connections
- Internship offers a capital opportunity
PHOTOS (clockwise, from top left):
A member of the undergraduate Class of 2009 shows off his diploma.
Taking part in undergraduate commencement (from left) are José Maria Pereira Neves, prime minister of the Republic of Cape Verde; Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick; and Bridgewater President Dana Mohler-Faria.
Graduate commencement student speaker Buthina Al Obidyeen of Jordan addresses the audience.
Dr. Sultan T. Abu-Orabi Al-Adwan, president of Jordan’s Yarmouk University, is the graduate commencement keynote speaker.
FEATURES

4 SEEING GREEN
Educating environmentally sensitive chemists; Alumnus works toward sustainability in his role with green chemistry firm

10 THE CIRCLE OF GIVING
From Bridgewater to New Orleans to Honduras, the campus community lends a hand to those in need; For one alumnus, philanthropy is a way of life on the job and at his alma mater

14 FORGING PARTNERSHIPS
College expands its role in the region: satellite campus, flight training center, assistance for the region’s homeless, high school mentoring program

22 FISCAL RESILIENCY
President Dana Mohler-Faria discusses the college’s future in troubling economy

24 TAKING WING
College celebrates new flight training center’s opening

26 INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE
Diversity initiatives on campus ensure equal opportunities for all

30 MIDDLE EAST CONNECTIONS
College initiatives promote cultural sharing and learning

34 THEY’VE GOT GAME
Bears’ athletes face challenges and play on

36 A CAPITAL OPPORTUNITY
Student explores government work and national arts’ groups with D.C. internship

DEPARTMENTS

2 BRIDGEWATER NEWS

38 ALUMNI NEWS
Alumni update / Events / Alumni services / Career services / Class notes / Nota bene

IN MEMORIAM: Remembering longtime employee Dorothy McGann, ’76, and Professor Henry Carter Shaffer

PROFILE: 1937 alumna’s bequest reaps benefits for today’s students

48 PARTING SHOT

Editorial Board
Bryan M. Baldwin
Karen A. Booth
Eva T. Gaffney, G’01
Robert W. Matheson Jr., ’08
Marie C. Murphy, ’86
John J. Winters

Photography
Karen D. Callan
Tom Croke/VISUAL image inc.
Erkan Gulturk/TG Imagery
Robert W. Matheson Jr., ’08
David K. Wilson, ’71
John J. Winters

Design
Karen D. Callan

Bridgewater keeps alumni, faculty, students and their families, staff and friends of Bridgewater State College informed about the college community and its impact on the region. This college magazine is written, designed and edited by the Office of Institutional Communications with the needs of its varied audiences at heart and in mind.

For up-to-date information on college news, activities and events, and to view past issues of Bridgewater, visit www.bridgew.edu

Correspondence
Address all mail to:
Bridgewater
Office of Institutional Communications
Bridgewater State College
Bridgewater, MA 02325
508.531.1335
E-mail class notes to:
cregan@bridgew.edu

ON THE COVER
Flight Instructor and Dispatcher Ken Downey, ’09, (left) and Chief Flight Instructor Loren Herren prepare to take off from the college’s new flight training center in New Bedford. 
Photo by Karen Callan
Bridgewater students attend national research conference

Twenty-three students representing a broad range of disciplines attended the 2009 National Undergraduate Research Conference in LaCrosse, WI, presenting mentored research on topics such as gravitational lensing, wrongful convictions, body image and dissatisfaction, and the Mississippi Democratic Freedom Party. Several of the students who graduated in May will pursue graduate study with Janelle Mapes and Louis Bianchini receiving graduate fellowships.

Dr. Leavitt honored by social work chapter

Dr. Rebecca Leavitt was named Social Work Educator of the Year in March by the Massachusetts chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. She came to Bridgewater in 1978 as one of two faculty who founded the Department of Social Work. She developed a full curriculum, hired full-time faculty and achieved accreditation for the program.

Dr. Fanning’s book nominated for award

Through an Uncommon Lens: The Life and Photography of F. Holland Day has been nominated for the Charles C. Eldredge Prize, given annually by the Smithsonian American Art Museum for outstanding scholarship in the field of American art.

The book, authored by Dr. Patricia Fanning, associate professor and chairperson of the Department of Sociology, was published by the University of Massachusetts Press. It details the life of the early avant-garde photographer, featuring more than 100 of his photographs.

Basketball team celebrates season

Coach Joe Farroba and the men’s basketball team were hosted by President Dana Mohler-Faria in celebration of the team’s record 22-win season. The president told the players he was impressed by their commitment and teamwork. The team was the first from the college to earn a Sweet 16 appearance.

Its run ended in Pomona, NJ, where the Bears dropped an 84-64 decision to Farmingdale State in the sectional semifinals. Senior center Roland Millien was named to the ECAC New England All-Star Team and the NABC All-Northeast District 2nd Team.

Older residence halls expanded, improved

Three-hundred new beds will be added to the available supply of residential space this fall with the renovation and expansion of Scott and Pope halls. The combined $28-million projects will provide greater opportunities for students on campus and beyond.

“This is another example, and another catalyst, of our commitment to deliver on our promise of the highest quality public education,” said President Dana Mohler-Faria.

Karen Jason, director of the Office of Facilities Management and Planning, said the additions are beneficial for several reasons. “Not only do they provide much needed, high-quality living space for our students, the impact of the additions in such high-visibility locations is tremendous,” she said. “Capital improvements to the older campus buildings reinforce the institution’s commitment to provide a physical environment that complements its academic excellence.”

Also involved in the construction projects were the Massachusetts State College Building Authority, Tishman Construction, Pfeiffer/Richardson Architects and Consigli Construction.

Ricciardi elected to state board

Mr. Louis M. Ricciardi, ‘81, chairman of the Bridgewater State College Board of Trustees, has been elected to a five-year term on the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education (BHE). Selected by his fellow board chairs, Mr. Ricciardi will represent the nine state colleges on the BHE, which is the governing board of the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education.

The Taunton businessman is the first Bridgewater representative elected to the BHE. “As a graduate of the system, longstanding member of a state college governing board and business owner, I am extremely energized to serve as an advocate for furthering the historically positive impact these institutions have had on the students, culture and economy of the commonwealth,” Mr. Ricciardi said.

A longtime supporter and benefactor of the college, Mr. Ricciardi holds the distinction of being the youngest person ever elected to chair a state college Board of Trustees, a feat he achieved in 1990 at the age of 30. He will continue to serve on the college’s Board of Trustees.
Same great stories, told in very different ways

Expanded magazine offers additional material online; Bridgewater officially joins Facebook nation.

BY JOHN WINTERS

You are holding in your hands a special edition of Bridgewater. That’s because it’s not just in your hands, it’s also on your computer.

Beginning with this issue, “Bridgewater Expanded” offers an online component to the magazine that features additional photos, audio and video from the stories you’ll find in these pages. Log on to www.bridgew.edu/magazine, and you’ll find an audio report filed from our flight training facility in New Bedford, as well as extra photos of our students taking wing; audio of an interview with President Mohler-Faria; and video of some of the people and programs featured in this magazine. The expanded material allows you to experience the stories in the words and actions of the students, alumni, faculty and administrators who are making things happen, on campus and off.

What’s behind this addition? Well, the staff of the Office of Institutional Communications (OIC) generates lots of great material while out reporting these stories, and Bridgewater Expanded allows us to share it with you, the magazine’s readers. We hope you’ll agree that it’s a great way to leverage this work and the available technology to tell these important stories.

On Facebook

Bridgewater Expanded is just one of the ways in which the college’s communications efforts are tapping into the great potential of cyberspace. Another is a new Facebook page, allowing members of the college community to gather online and find news about the institution and much more.

It didn’t take long to see that there was already a de facto Bridgewater State College community thriving there. From alumni groups to college departments and, of course, countless students, faculty and alumni, it seemed there were legions waiting for an official college page to appear.

In April it became a reality, built jointly by the Office of Institutional Communications and the Web Team. The college’s official Facebook page contains news by the OIC and area newspapers, events listings, rotating photo galleries, links to related groups and organizations, and, of course, a list of “fans.” To access the page, log on to www.bridgew.edu/facebook. Facebook members can become a “fan” of the page with a click. Non-members can open a free account and do likewise. Either way, you’ll be the first to know when exciting things happen at the site.

And stay tuned to the college’s official homepage, www.bridgew.edu, which will feature an increasing amount of audio and video, as well as any other new technology that will be of use in telling the stories of the Bridgewater State College community. The OIC has been working with the staff and students of the Moakley TV Studio, and the result is a growing stream of professionally produced video content that helps us tell the stories of the college community like never before.

John Winters is director of college news and media outreach at Bridgewater State College. Suggestions or feedback on the new online initiatives? Drop him a line at jwinters@bridgew.edu.

FISCAL FITNESS

On average, Bridgewater State College meets 70 percent of a student’s financial need, with 5,885 students receiving some type of financial assistance in the 2007-2008 academic year – up 10 percent from the previous year. Of the 1,309 students who took alternative loans in 2007-2008, about 80 percent did so to supplement financial aid offered by Bridgewater State College.

The average loan debt continues to rise with each graduating class. The Class of 2008 had an average loan debt of $21,399, up from $19,760 the previous year.

The Annual Fund supports The Bridge, a student journal highlighting creative talent, with an annual contribution of $20,000. The Bridge, Vol. V, earned the Pacemaker Award, the nation’s top prize in student journalism, and placed third for Best-in-Show at the National College Media Convention. These awards marked the 50th and 51st received by the journal since its inception five years ago.

Bridgewater State College supports the Center for Advancement of Research and Teaching (CART) through the Annual Fund with an annual contribution of $100,000 for faculty scholarship, research, creative work, teaching and travel.

The estimated economic impact of Bridgewater State College in Southeastern Massachusetts is in excess of $220 million annually.

Bridgewater State College has an annual budget of approximately $99 million. State appropriations account for approximately 38 percent of the overall institutional budget.


Summer 2009 | BRIDGEWATER 3
Color me SAFE.

Color me GREEN.

Bridgewater educates tomorrow’s green chemists to help preserve our ailing planet for future generations.

By Tiffany Bagby, ’09

“Imagine a world where consumer products are cheaper and better than products we use today, are derived from renewable resources and, at the end of their useful cycle, these products are completely biodegradable. Imagine cleaning products that no longer produce a pungent odor or sting the eyes. Imagine makeup that is so inherently safe that it doesn’t need to be tested on animals. Imagine living in a world where we sustain our natural resources for future generations,” said Dr. Edward Brush, hands folded and resting on the table top.

Dr. Brush, associate professor and chairperson of the Department of Chemical Sciences at Bridgewater State College, focuses much of his teaching and research on the study of green chemistry. He, along with his students and colleagues, is committed to developing and sharing green chemical methods and educational materials.
Many of today’s chemists are working harder than ever to create new, environmentally benign products that are not harmful to society. To achieve this goal, scientists must essentially create new methods and processes to replace harmful ones that have been around for generations.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines green chemistry as the “design of chemical products and processes that reduce or eliminate the use or generation of hazardous substances.” The “12 Principles of Green Chemistry” apply across the entire lifecycle of a given product, starting with its design and going through its manufacture and use.

“The purpose of green chemistry,” said Dr. Brush “is to create products that are safe to the environment and to society; in other words, truly ‘benign by design.’ But to accomplish that, green chemists first need to create a green toolbox.”

Metaphorically speaking, chemists have had access to only one toolbox that contains all the chemical methods and processes developed over time. Unfortunately, many of these “tried and true” methods use and produce chemical products that harm the environment. Color this toolbox red. An important goal of green chemistry is to develop new scientific methods that produce safer and better products for society’s needs, but do not harm the environment. Color this toolbox green. Eventually, chemists will be able to discard the red toolbox and replace it with a green one, filled with scientific methods focused on sustainability.

Green chemistry is in its early stages at Bridgewater State College. Many of the organic chemistry lab experiments at Bridgewater follow green chemistry principles, thanks to the lab development work done by Dr. Brush and Iana Mandravel-Hutchins, a lab instructor in the chemistry department.

Dr. Brush is committed to training tomorrow’s green chemists, primarily by collaborating with Bridgewater students on research projects that focus on developing greener therapeutic agents, producing biofuels from consumer waste and using naturally occurring organic materials to conduct electricity. As an
example, many of the materials used to develop plastics to conduct electricity are hazardous.

The goal of Dr. Brush and his students is to find a suitable electrical conductor that is derived from plants and not hazardous to the environment. Through funding from Bridgewater’s Adrian Tinsley Program (ATP) and the American Chemical Society’s Green Chemistry Institute, he has collaborated with more than 30 students on green chemistry research projects. Many of these students are in top graduate programs, pursuing doctoral degrees in green chemistry.

Given the growing need in the chemical enterprise for students trained in green chemistry, it is of no surprise that a major focus of Bridgewater’s chemistry curriculum is on research training. Dr. Brush and his colleagues strive to equip students with the tools they need to conduct their own independent research. As his students assume their teaching careers, they can pass the green chemistry principles on to others.

Two students involved in the green chemistry undergraduate research program are Amanda Bragan, ’09, and Julie Martell, ’09. Both attribute their interest and passion in the field to Dr. Brush and are conducting research in the development of purely safe and non-harmful methods to economically convert the college’s waste vegetable oil into biodiesel fuel.

“The goal of our research,” said Julie, “is to show the college the feasibility of building a reactor on campus to create large amounts of biodiesel fuel that Bridgewater State College can then use to run the college buses.”

“Right now,” said Amanda, “Bridgewater produces 3,000 gallons of waste oil per year. With this reactor, we believe that the college could turn this waste into fuel. It could generate about 15 percent of Bridgewater’s diesel fuel overall.”

Julie and Amanda were chosen to present their research at the American Chemical Society (ACS) National Conference in Salt Lake City, UT, this spring. Julie’s research focuses on generating new and more thorough methods to evaluate the quality of the biodiesel fuel they are making. Amanda, on the other hand, many of the materials used to develop plastics to conduct electricity are hazardous.

“The goal of our research,” says Julie Martell, ’09, (left) “is to show the college the feasibility of building a reactor on campus to create large amounts of biodiesel fuel that Bridgewater State College can then use to run the college buses.”

“Right now,” says Amanda Bragan, ’09, (right) “Bridgewater produces 3,000 gallons of waste oil per year. With this reactor, we believe that the college could turn this waste into fuel. It could generate about 15 percent of Bridgewater’s diesel fuel overall.”
hand, has focused her research on creating a cost-benefit analysis to detail why a biodiesel reactor would be beneficial to Bridgewater, and to justify funding and long-term support.

Alumni and faculty are also involved in green chemistry research. Dr. Cielito King, associate professor in chemical sciences, has developed a teaching module that focuses on green chemistry outreach to students in neighboring schools. The module is based on a number of chemistry experiments and demonstrations used by Dr. Brush in his organic chemistry outreach program and will be ready for implementation through the college’s CityLab program this spring. CityLab is an outreach program with the goal of generating awareness and excitement about the environment at the middle- and high-school levels.

Dr. King is co-coordinator of the Center for the Advancement of Science Exploration (CASE) at Bridgewater, which administers CityLab. “One of my major goals is to expand our offerings and add new chemistry modules to existing biotechnology modules,” said Dr. King.

One thing led to another, and the idea of creating chemistry experiments using easily obtainable materials was born. That, in turn, led to experimentation with some of the principles of green chemistry.

“I recruited a team of two students who worked with me to create green chemistry experiments using everyday-life materials,” said Dr. King. “For example, they were able to modify an existing ‘invisible ink’ lab using baking soda and red cabbage. The beauty of these materials is that they are safe to use, and they make a bright blue or green color when the invisible handwriting is exposed. The key is to tailor the experiments so middle school students can perform them safely on their own and at the same time have fun.

“Other experiments being developed produce color-changing products using ‘kitchen chemistry’ – orange juice, grape juice, cornstarch, food coloring, baking soda, etc. So 90 to 95 percent of our materials are ‘greener substitutes’ to traditional chemicals,” she said. Dr. King will coordinate these outreach efforts with Dr. Brush and his organic chemistry students, who play the role of ‘peer tutors’ or ‘partner scientists’ to CityLab’s visiting middle schoolers and their teachers.

Two alumni, Jesse Miller, ’05, and Bethany Masten, ’07, have gone on to further research green chemistry. Both are enrolled in the green chemistry PhD graduate program at Carnegie Mellon University and are working to discover catalysts produced from naturally occurring materials that safely react with hydrogen peroxide.

How does all of this affect the average consumer? Many green applications affect one’s health, wallet and environment. For example, the traditional method of producing ibuprofen creates an equal amount of waste for each tablet created. The pharmaceutical company must then pay for proper disposal of all the hazardous waste material, which drives up the cost of the product.

However, there is hope. Pfizer Pharmaceutical Co. in Connecticut has developed a new way of creating ibuprofen. A green way. The new method produces no waste, uses safer raw materials and recycles the catalysts used in synthesis. Ultimately, Pfizer has created the same ibuprofen tablet using a safer green chemistry process, and because the company does not have to pay for waste removal, its ibuprofen on the shelves is not only safer, but also cheaper.

From electric cars to reusable shopping bags, industry has been on the green chemistry bandwagon for years, even if only motivated for economic benefits. Green, after all, is the color of money. Companies, like Pfizer, can save money by adopting green chemistry principles – ultimately producing cheaper and safer goods for consumers – not to mention saving Mother Earth at the same time.

Thanks to the foresight and caring of Bridgewater’s professors and students, the college is proactive in the fight to save the planet. It has already taken its first steps toward becoming a “green” college. And given the efforts of Dr. Brush, Amanda Bragan and Julie Martell and others, it might not be too far-fetched to assume that Bridgewater could one day become a fully self-sustaining facility.
Justin Whitfield, ’02, envisioned his future as a forensic scientist. To that end, he enrolled at Bridgewater State College and pursued a degree in biology. As luck would have it, organic chemistry was a required subject. Enter Dr. Edward Brush, whose enthusiasm for green chemistry sparked a new vision for the budding scientist. It was the summer after his junior year when Mr. Whitfield heard a talk by Dr. John Warner, author of the first real textbook on green chemistry. In fact, it was Dr. Warner’s book that clearly articulated the “12 Principles of Green Chemistry” and defined a new direction for future generations of scientists.

Mr. Whitfield determined then and there he would be among the pioneers. “I was taken aback by his message. I thought if I got involved in green chemistry, I could really make a difference.”

Dr. Brush nurtured his protégé’s growing interest. “Dr. Brush’s explanation was simple,” said Mr. Whitfield. “Chemists can make anything they set their minds to make. But, generally, they’re not trained to consider the side effects. Little or no attention is paid to what pushing the frontiers of science might inadvertently be doing to our environment.”

As it happens, Mr. Whitfield’s biology background was the perfect complement to his new direction. “In order to develop nontoxic alternatives, you have to know toxicology and have some idea as to how chemicals interact with the environment and the body,” he said.

Simplistically stated, one idea behind green chemistry is to take a process with a negative impact on the environment and re-engineer it to make it safer. Mr. Whitfield explained: “You ask yourself, is it necessary to go back to the nuts and bolts? If a process uses a lot of flammable solvents, you ask ‘why.’ And then, ‘what can I substitute that might be a greener alternative?’” Or, alternatively, he said, simply ‘think safe’ at the start.

After graduating from Bridgewater with a Bachelor of Science in Biology with a biomedical concentration and a minor in chemistry, Mr. Whitfield pursued his PhD in green chemistry at the University of Massachusetts Boston. Today, he is a senior scientist with Warner Babcock Institute for Green Chemistry.

“Effectively, as a company, our job is to invent and develop sustainable environmental technologies that meet the needs of our customers,” said Mr. Whitfield. “For example, if a company has a potential environmental compliance issue, we go in and re-engineer the process to address the complaint. Or if a customer has an idea, we help them with the original concept and develop as green a process as technologically possible.”

Mr. Whitfield credits Dr. Brush’s green chemistry curriculum and the undergraduate research program at Bridgewater. “I still visit schools, and I’m still amazed at the caliber of undergraduate research and education at Bridgewater. More institutions need to incorporate green chemistry into their curriculum. It’s through green chemistry that we’ll find the solutions we need to move into a sustainable future.”

The birth of a green chemist

BY KAREN A. BOOTH

Summer 2009 | BRIDGEWATER 9
What does a student building a schoolhouse in Africa have in common with a grief counselor in New Orleans? And, for that matter, how does a Fulbright Scholar from Yemen factor into an equation that includes a Brockton high school student and her mentor, a selfless philanthropist, and a business that compensates employees who work for another institution during business hours? And, just to take it full circle, what does the employee who takes advantage of his employer’s offer have in common with that student in Africa? The answer – Bridgewater State College.

Bridgewater prides itself on the circle of giving by students, faculty and staff as a core value threaded through the very fabric of the college community. Its importance is woven into the institution’s dual mission of accessibility and service. Its substance plays out in places like Africa, New Orleans, Brockton and Bridgewater; in classrooms, when faculty emphasize service learning; in student organizations, when service constitutes the key reason for being; in alumni support, when graduates return to their alma mater to lend a helping hand; and in the community, when students contribute time and talent to help those in need.

The beauty of Bridgewater’s volunteer efforts lies also in its reciprocity – when others, including the business community, follow suit and lend considerable resources to help others without thought of financial or material gain. Often, two entities come together – college and community – in support of a worthy cause they share.

Scott Longo, ’89, personifies what can happen when a business encourages its employees to follow their own hearts. As it happens, Mr. Longo has been
following his heart ever since his undergraduate days as student trustee serving on the Bridgewater State College Board of Trustees. Since then, he has served the institution by assuming many volunteer roles, skillfully balancing work and family with his commitment to public higher education in general, and Bridgewater State College in particular. (See page 13.)

“Bridgewater is an outstanding school, delivering not only on its core promise of accessibility and excellence, but also raising the bar in terms of the quality of the whole college experience from academics to social justice to community service,” said Mr. Longo.

Following his graduation in 1989, Mr. Longo secured employment with State Street Bank, headquartered in Boston. In 2001, the bank launched its Global Outreach Program, a component of which offers employees two paid days per year to participate in volunteer activities of their choice.

“Active engagement with our communities is a priority for State Street,” said Joe McGrail, vice president of community affairs. “Not only is it the right thing to do, but our customers, shareholders and employees are all interested in how State Street has a positive impact on the communities in which we operate around the world.”

Over the years, Mr. Longo worked his way up the ranks at State Street from portfolio accountant to his current position, vice president of global services. During that time, not only has his commitment to Bridgewater remained steadfast, his volunteer activities have grown. Today, he is helping to spearhead the formation of the Bridgewater State College Student Philanthropy Council, working closely with Betsy Coon, assistant director of development, and Christine Regan, assistant director of alumni relations, at the college.

The Student Philanthropy Council is a grassroots effort designed to “educate, promote awareness and instill a greater appreciation for the philanthropic spirit” among students of the college. Mr. Longo said giving is a learned behavior and that, all too often, students don’t understand the cumulative impact of small efforts. He is committed to working with student groups to identify opportunities for them to engage in doable philanthropic activities. The stage thus set, successful alumni are more apt to return to their alma mater to help the next generation of students achieve their goals.

“Too often, fundraisers discount the potential contributions of students and recent grads, thinking that they cannot be counted on to give, nor should they be,” said Mr. Longo. “But the truth is we underestimate the heart of our students. They may not yet have accumulated the wealth of later life, but they are smart, capable and committed. Often, they have been recipients of someone else’s generosity. Student Philanthropy Council members believe that if we bring the case of giving to the students, they will respond.”

Ms. Coon agrees. “Our alumni volunteers don’t want to simply attend meetings where college administrators like me report numbers and plans. They want more. They want hands-on involvement so they can make a direct impact.”

The Student Philanthropy Council was founded on the basic premise that there is no better way for students to be hands-on than for them to speak directly to their peers.

“Scott is chair of the Annual Fund Committee and has been working with us on this program from the start,” said Ms. Coon. “The idea is to create an open dialogue with students now, so that they...”
understand the importance of giving back and the role philanthropy has played in giving them so many opportunities.”

The dialogue began early this year when Mr. Longo introduced the Student Philanthropy Council to a group of Crimson Ambassadors and Sigma Chi Fraternity. He explained that the council “is a way to help you understand the many ways each of you benefits from the Annual Fund.”

He listed, among many things, financial aid, scholarship, undergraduate research, travel abroad and paid internships. In both groups, each student had benefited from one or more things, yet not everyone understood that each initiative existed because of small and large donations to the Annual Fund by students, alumni and friends.

Tara Vensel, ’11, expressed surprise. “There’s a much higher possibility of students donating when they understand they’re giving to scholarships.” Stefania Simione, ’11, agreed and said, “It’s good to know the money goes back to the students.”

The misconception about where the donated money goes is the message organizers hope Student Philanthropy Council members will deliver. “We hope this is just the beginning,” said Ms. Regan. “Scott, along with other alumni volunteers from both the Annual Fund Committee and the Recent Graduate Committee, will present this program to student groups, speaking directly about the importance of philanthropy and how even a small donation goes a long way.”

Ms. Regan, pleased with the students’ enthusiasm, said, “In addition to meeting with students directly, we will be using social networking to get the message about the importance of philanthropy to students quickly and inexpensively.”
It was a quarter of a century or so ago that Scott Longo, ’89, served as student trustee on the Bridgewater State College Board of Trustees. A lot can happen in a quarter of a century. Then, he was single and fancy free; now, he’s a family man, married to Elizabeth Collins Longo and father to William, 10; Nicholas, 6; and Caroline, 4.

Some things, however, remain the same. Then, as now, Mr. Longo volunteered his time and talent to support Bridgewater’s mission of excellence and affordability. Then, as now, he embodied the true philanthropic spirit. Today’s twist is his focus on sharing his enthusiasm with students of the college.

Mr. Longo’s history with Bridgewater follows a relatively linear path of focus and commitment from his initial term as a senator in the Student Government Association to assuming the elective position of student trustee two years running.

Immediately following graduation, he was hired by State Street Bank, which, like the college, has a long history of investing in the community. The bank also supports its employees’ volunteer efforts through flex-time and formalized community giving. In 1977, the State Street Foundation was founded by then Chairman and CEO William Edgerly. Today, Ron Logue, State Street’s chairman and CEO, continues to name the community as one of the bank’s major stakeholders. Not surprisingly, the corporate culture of State Street was a natural fit for Mr. Longo.

Once settled in his new job, Mr. Longo volunteered on the College Investment Committee and then on the board of the Bridgewater Alumni Association (BAA), where he quickly rose to the position of president. After fulfilling his term limit, he was invited to join the Bridgewater State College Foundation and serves on the Foundation Investment Committee and as chair of the Annual Fund Committee. All of which leads to today and his involvement in launching the Student Philanthropy Council.

When asked about his intense level of involvement with the college, Mr. Longo is straightforward: “Bridgewater is a great college. When I was an undergraduate, I really appreciated the involvement of faculty and staff, pushing students along to be the best they could be. I was one of those students. The confidence I developed at Bridgewater served me well in my early career and helped me grow my career.

“I want to help today’s students understand and fully appreciate all Bridgewater has to offer,” he continued. “I want them to understand that they are part of the community and that they can help; and that their help will support future students, just like students in the past have helped them. It’s a continuum. But the students have to understand their place in that continuum in order to be a part of it.

“And in these trying economic times, Bridgewater State College is going to become more important as students look for schools that give them the most value. It’s called a ‘flight to quality,’ and Bridgewater has always been that place.”
From individualized to institutionalized ...  
Bridgewater expands its external efforts

BY EVA T. GAFFNEY, G’01

Sharing international connections across Southeastern Massachusetts ... operating an aviation program in New Bedford ... developing solutions to homelessness in Plymouth County ... mentoring high school students in Brockton ... forging an educational partnership in Attleboro ...

At first glance, all of these undertakings by Bridgewater State College over the past year seem radically disconnected. But the reality is that these relationships have been carefully cobbled together in the universe that’s beyond the 270-acre campus located in the geographic heart of Southeastern Massachusetts.

All of them and many others that have preceded them have created an external culture at Bridgewater, which is a strategic goal of the college.

“The people of the college have always been involved in the region,” said President Dana Mohler-Faria proudly of his students, faculty and staff. “But now we’re focused on connecting the pieces together. Individual efforts and passions underscore a powerful institutional agenda for positive social and economic change.”

Dr. Edward Minnock, vice president of the Division of External Affairs, said Bridgewater has woven its efforts with the external world “into the fabric of the college.” A direct beneficiary of these efforts has been Southeastern Massachusetts.

A robust example of this interwoven connectedness has been Bridgewater’s work with international scholars and students who come to the campus from countries in the Middle East, Asia, Africa and Europe. While the work of these visitors exposes the campus to global perspectives and other societies, the effort is not confined to Bridgewater classrooms. International students from Cape Verde and Brazil have visited schools in Brockton and New Bedford to talk with local students who share the same heritage. Likewise, academics and students from the Middle East have spent time in the Brockton school system, which has a number of Muslim students within its population.

“We have a Jordanian student majoring in management who visited women business leaders in the Brockton area to experience how women function in the business world in the United States in comparison to the Muslim world,” said Dr. Minnock. “In turn, she could share with them what her world is like.”

Meanwhile, the college has been involved in establishing a Sister Schools Program with two schools in Cape Verde – in Praia and Fogo – and has expanded that program to include Brockton public schools where an international exchange has been established at Davis School.

In the relationship, students from Cape Verde come to Bridgewater to become English teachers back home. Five of the students fulfilled some student teaching requirements in Brockton and New Bedford schools.

“In New Bedford, where a lot is known about Cape Verdean heritage, the international students served as mentors to students with Cape Verdean backgrounds,” said Dr. Minnock.

All of which proves Dr. Minnock’s assertion that “nothing is a stand-alone, one-shot effort” when it comes to the college’s external partnerships.

In the next several years, Bridgewater State College is looking to increase opportunities for the business community through workforce development and entrepreneurship, said Dr. Minnock. The college’s Center for Entrepreneurship Studies, housed in the School of Business, opened earlier this academic year to advance that work.
Northern Bristol County has a complete public higher education presence

Bridgewater offering courses at Attleboro Corporate Campus

A decision made during summer 2007 for Bridgewater State College to offer courses in Attleboro became a reality within 18 months, as a blossoming partnership with Bristol Community College led to the build out of the Attleboro Corporate Campus.

Located in a two-story brick building on the site of the former Texas Instruments at 11 Field Road, off Route 123 just outside downtown Attleboro, the facility has housed Bristol Community College classrooms and a cadre of administrative support services on the first floor since last fall.

Bridgewater State College moved into its newly renovated second floor and began offering courses in business, education, arts and sciences at the start of this spring semester in January. The Bridgewater space features six 24-seat classrooms, faculty offices, a conference room and a student lounge.

The goal is to create a true two-plus-two model of higher education in Northern Bristol County, a region of the state that has been traditionally underserved by public higher education, said Dr. Mary Fuller, director of the Office of Continuing and Distance Education at Bridgewater.

Together with her staff, a variety of support services at Bridgewater, such as the Office of Facilities Management and Planning, and their Bristol partner, significant challenges to begin course delivery in January were overcome, much to the delight of business and community leaders in the City of Attleboro, one of the four and the most geographically disconnected cities in Bristol County. Other cities in the county are Taunton, Fall River and New Bedford.

"Community reaction and interest has been high and positive," Dr. Fuller said. "Everyone worked very hard to get us in there. We’ve had good support from Bristol Community College."

Legislators representing Attleboro and its surrounding communities had been lobbying both Bristol Community College and Bridgewater State College heavily for years to expand their offerings into the city. Bristol, at the time, was operating a satellite campus for evening-only students at the former Attleboro High School.

As a result, Bristol was provided space at the former Attleboro High School and began day and evening course delivery to degree-seeking students in fall 2004.

Approximately 200 students took courses at the old high school that year. With its move to the Attleboro Corporate Campus last fall, Bristol’s student population in Attleboro has swelled to more than a thousand.

Bridgewater, in the meantime, delivered courses in social work in Attleboro during the 2007-2008 academic year before returning this January to offer nine evening classes. While Bridgewater is meeting a need of part-time students from the Attleboro area who work full time or of traditional students who are trying to supplement their educational goals, the college ultimately plans to offer some degree completion opportunities in Attleboro on the undergraduate and graduate levels based on market need and demand. Bridgewater alone could accommodate 1,200 evening students in its space Monday through Thursday.

Nearly 200 area residents attended Bridgewater information sessions in Attleboro last December and January, said George Darmody, associate director of continuing and distance education. “Individuals from the community and Bristol students expressed a lot of interest and had a number of questions,” he said.

Bristol offers 100- and 200-level courses leading to an associate’s degree, while Bridgewater offers 300- and 400-level courses or 200-level courses not offered by Bristol, leading to a bachelor’s degree. The two-plus-two model envisioned by President Mohler-Faria would not only benefit Bristol students, it would have application to all community college graduates.

Representing Bridgewater’s sentiment about its move into Attleboro, Dr. Fuller said, “It’s a good market there, and we have a great deal of confidence for its success.”

Richard Hauzinger, visiting lecturer in the criminal justice department, at the Attleboro campus.
Delta Connection Academy’s decision to close its flight training business could have been a fatal blow to Bridgewater State College’s 30-plus-year aviation program, which experienced significant increases in enrollment when the airline delivered flight training to its students.

Instead, the program took a bold leap forward when President Dana Mohler-Faria decided the college should operate its own flight training program to better serve the interests of Bridgewater aviation majors.

That program literally took flight early this year, when Bridgewater moved into a refurbished building at the New Bedford Regional Airport in January and began training its own students with its own flight instructors and its own flight curricula in its new Bridgewater Aviation Training Center.

Frank A. Sargent, Esq., associate dean of the School of Business and a former member of the Department of Aviation Science faculty, recalled the work conducted after the 2007 announcement from Delta.

“We put together a series of proposals on the sustainability of Bridgewater State College having its own flight school,” he said. “We presented a number of options of what it would cost and what the benefits would be to our students.”

President Mohler-Faria, in a December 2007 meeting with aviation faculty, committed to developing a flight training component offered by the college for the first time in the history of the major. Prior to the Delta partnership, Bridgewater students went to several airports in the region for their flight training.

While the college is grateful to the regional airports, it was determined that “it was not in the best interests of the college or the students to go back,” Mr. Sargent said. “The control we are enjoying over the program is not the same for faculty when the program is contracted out. It is truly the faculty’s program now.”

The Aviation Training Center in New Bedford, housed in a building leased from the New Bedford Airport Commission, contains a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)-approved classroom and two advanced aviation training simulators. Students can quickly access the facility via adjacent parking, meet with flight instructors, conduct flight simulator training, have direct access to the ramp and to aircraft, taxi, take off and land, all without interacting with ground traffic at the busy regional airport.

“They have their own operations center,” Mr. Sargent said of the facility. “Students are all there for the same reason – to take flight training – and this facility offers no distractions. It is a comprehensive flight operations
facility that provides learning support, flight support, administrative support and flight training.”

The college leases eight new aircraft as well as two Piper Arrows for more complex training maneuvers, which means standardized flight training for all Bridgewater aviation students. It also allows the college to control associated costs.

“Test standards set by the FAA are the same for everyone,” Mr. Sargent said, “but the Bridgewater State College standard is to exceed FAA standards. Our students need to do more than just pass the test,” adding that there’s a strong safety component to the Bridgewater program.

Bridgewater is establishing internships and job opportunities for its aviation students with regional and national airlines, Mr. Sargent said. Gregory M. Bongiorno has joined the aviation team as manager of aviation affairs to build solid relationships with regional and national airlines to benefit students in the major.

The college has offered a four-year aviation degree program since the 1970s, graduating its first student in 1979. By operating a flight school of its own, Mr. Sargent said the aviation program should become more attractive to potential students. The program has 191 students majoring in its two concentrations – aviation management and flight training.

The cost of the program is significantly lower than potential competitors on the East Coast, largely because aviation majors pay the same tuition and fees as all full-time, undergraduate Bridgewater students. Additional fees are assessed for flight training – $95 an hour for 11-E aircraft and $130 for the complex aircraft – which are competitive rates, Mr. Sargent said.

The proverbial sky’s the limit for the potential of the aviation program, and Mr. Sargent is hopeful about its future. “With exceptional flight instructors, training curriculum, potential AABI (Aviation Accreditation Board International) accreditation and solid relationships with the airlines, our numbers should return” to enrollments during the Delta Academy years, he said.

“By fall, we hope to have all of our students back into the program (from local airports where they received flight training while the New Bedford facility was brought online),” he added. “Along with the facilities and new equipment … we are very optimistic about the future of the program – more so than ever.”
Homelessness, the state or condition of having no home, is a societal condition that evokes powerfully strong and highly negative emotions ... fear ... despair ... misery ... desperation ... panic ...

But Dr. Michele Wakin, assistant professor of sociology at Bridgewater State College, is finding the hope through the work that she, her students and the college have undertaken in the region to understand and combat homelessness.

“The amazing news is that there are so many plans to end homelessness, which was not the story before,” said Dr. Wakin. “We need to find the hope – the positive – to inspire the college community to get involved in regional efforts that could go a long way to help people out of homelessness.”

While Dr. Wakin, in her fourth year at Bridgewater, expresses hope for the future of homelessness, the reality is that the faltering economy has heavily impacted the ability of individuals and of families, in particular, to maintain a household. The number of homeless families has “skyrocketed,” Dr. Wakin said, as has their population in homeless shelters.

The number of homeless households with dependent children (usually two-plus children) in Plymouth County has nearly doubled over the past three years, from 130 in 2006 to 258 this year, representing a total of 722 people. At the same time, the number of homeless individuals and the chronically homeless has experienced a slight decrease, according to the census.

More families are being housed in emergency shelters – 202 of the 258, representing 586 people. The shelters, admitted Dr. Wakin, are “not really the best place for them to get to the core of the problem.” The remainder, 56 households or 136 individuals, were placed in transitional facilities.

Dr. Wakin’s deep understanding of the region’s homeless population has been gained from her frontline efforts over the years. She has volunteered at the annual point-in-time census of the homeless in Brockton and Plymouth, assisted in the formulation of a 10-year plan to combat homelessness, and involved her students in interviewing homeless people to collect qualitative data that cannot be gleaned through the numbers-only census.

She is particularly proud of the students in her “Homelessness in U.S. Society” class who interviewed individuals living in homeless shelters during the annual January census, which this year fell on a snow day at the college. The count is taken from 9:30 PM to midnight, when the majority of those living on the streets return to shelters for the night.

Undaunted, the students visited Family Life Center and Father Bills & MainSpring in Brockton to talk to those seeking shelter from the winter weather.
Dr. Michele Wakin, assistant professor of sociology, stands amidst beds used by the homeless at Father Bills & MainSpring in Brockton.

Awareness training was provided to the students by Carolyn Masshardt, administrator of field education for the college’s Department of Social Work, as they prepared for the interviews.

The work of the students was made possible through a research grant from the American Sociological Association’s Community Action Research Initiative, which supported collaboration in the external community with a partner, in this case Father Bills & MainSpring. Later, the students presented their findings to the Plymouth County Housing Alliance, Father Bills & MainSpring and at the college’s Mid-Year Symposium.

The annual census is used by social service agencies to apply for federal funding through the Department of Housing and Urban Development to support their efforts to serve the homeless. The homeless population in Plymouth and Brockton, according to this year’s point-in-time census stood at 958. Those interviewed by the students received small gifts such as hats, gloves, socks and gift cards to coffee shops, Dr. Wakin said.

Through these regional and campus-based efforts and initiatives, Dr. Wakin’s lofty goals such as improved coordination of services, increased support, prevention, outreach and integration may yet be realized. “We are beginning to implement a triage approach to assess the homeless as soon as possible to get them into appropriate services, Dr. Wakin said.

The chronic homeless population, which stood at nearly 100 in January, presents significant challenges for remediation as nearly a quarter of that population remains unsheltered. Subpopulations of the overall homeless population include: severely mentally ill, 87; chronic substance abuse, 161; veterans, 50; persons with HIV/AIDS, two; victims of domestic violence, 80; unaccompanied youth, one.

“Students are very interested in giving back to their communities,” Dr. Wakin said. “In volunteering their time, they are gaining valuable research skills in the process, such as data analysis and interviewing skills.”

While the efforts of her students represent a significant component of the college’s commitment to address homelessness in the region in addition to engaging its students in service learning, it is among a growing inventory of undertakings on the issue.

Major initiatives have included the creation of the Taskforce to End Homelessness, Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, Annual Spring Forum on Homelessness and participation in the One Family Foundation’s One Family Scholars Program. “Institutional resources and student researchers have been invaluable,” Dr. Wakin said.

The college has reached out to the Bridgewater Senior Center, Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School, as well as schools in Brockton, and members of the Bridgewater State College-Brockton High School program, Friends and Mentors for Change, to participate. Dr. Wakin is a member of the Quincy Weymouth Council, a regional council charged with creating a 10-year plan to end family homelessness, and the Plymouth County Housing Alliance.

A number of individuals within those populations are also unsheltered.

“There is a diversity of needs for the homeless population, and the trend to address these issues has been growing in the region,” Dr. Wakin said. “Determining why they are homeless can also help determine how quickly they can transition out of it. Some can go rapidly while others require more assistance.”

As the spring turns into summer, a number of the homeless often leave shelters and opt for living outdoors and in tent cities that pop up in remote areas of the region’s cities and towns or as squatters in the growing number of foreclosed houses and abandoned buildings in the region.

Integration “into” the community, rather than dwelling on its fringes, is vital for the homeless, Dr. Wakin said. “We need to provide a true path out of homelessness – especially since there are so many dead ends.”

Students are very interested in giving back to their communities,” Dr. Wakin said. “In volunteering their time, they are gaining valuable research skills in the process, such as data analysis and interviewing skills.”

Integration “into” the community, rather than dwelling on its fringes, is vital for the homeless, Dr. Wakin said. “We need to provide a true path out of homelessness – especially since there are so many dead ends.”
All 25 have not missed an opportunity to participate thus far, said Susan McCombe, ‘01, G’06, director of the Office of College and Community Partnerships, which oversees the FAM for Change Mentoring Program.

“It feels like we are making a difference,” Ms. McCombe said. “We are learning a lot from the students themselves. Everyone is very, very dedicated to this program.”

In his work during the first year of the Patrick administration, Dr. Dana Mohler-Faria, president of the college, would often speak to at-risk students during his numerous visits to PreK-12 school systems throughout the state.

It was from these conversations that he realized Bridgewater State College could have a positive impact on these students, and with one of the largest cities in the state – Brockton – next door to the college, he set about doing something at home.

During the 2007-2008 academic year, a committee composed of Bridgewater State College faculty and administrators, and Brockton school officials agreed upon the foundations of what would become known as the FAM for Change Mentoring Program.

Their grades haven’t been that great. Their school attendance is generally low. And their behavior hasn’t been without issue.

Why, then, were these 25 rising Brockton High School freshmen identified as good candidates for Bridgewater State College’s inaugural year of its Friends and Mentors for Change Mentoring Program?

In a word – potential. In two words – great potential.

Last May, the students were invited to campus to meet and greet their Bridgewater State College-trained student mentors, learn about the expectations of FAM for Change and discover the life-changing opportunities they will be afforded. In August, they lived on campus during a four-day Summer Institute.

In the end, after four years of participation in the program and realizing heightened expectations for improvement in their grades, attendance and behavior – a full scholarship at Bridgewater awaits them.

Until then, a rigorous schedule that includes three-hour sessions every Friday at the college, meeting with their Bridgewater State College mentors and monitoring their activities at Brockton High, has become their new reality.

Their grades haven’t been that great. Their school attendance is generally low. And their behavior hasn’t been without issue.

Last May, the students were invited to campus to meet and greet their Bridgewater State College-trained student mentors, learn about the expectations of FAM for Change and discover the life-changing opportunities they will be afforded. In August, they lived on campus during a four-day Summer Institute.

In the end, after four years of participation in the program and realizing heightened expectations for improvement in their grades, attendance and behavior – a full scholarship at Bridgewater awaits them.

Until then, a rigorous schedule that includes three-hour sessions every Friday at the college, meeting with their Bridgewater State College mentors and monitoring their activities at Brockton High, has become their new reality.
Applications for the program were made available to Brockton eighth-graders; a program manager, Kenny Monteiro, was appointed last June; Bridgewater mentors were identified; planning for the Summer Institute in August began in earnest; and there was no looking back, said Ms. McCombe.

In addition to the Summer Institute, the program has hosted parents of the Brockton students during the holiday season. The students have also spent time with President Mohler-Faria throughout the year at small-group dinners. Meanwhile, contact with their mentors from the college occurs every Friday night, as well as during the week, Ms. McCombe said.

The 10 Bridgewater student mentors were chosen after successfully completing the course “Mentoring and Leadership for Social Change,” offered by Dr. Jonathan White, assistant professor in the Department of Sociology, faculty associate for service learning and consultant for the program. The course is a prerequisite for becoming a mentor as is a Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) check.

“Mentoring in this program is time consuming and can be emotionally draining,” Ms. McCombe said, adding that “the Brockton High School students can really open up to their mentors.” For example, a Brockton student confided in the Bridgewater mentor, saying, “This is the only place I feel safe.”

On Fridays after school, from 3 to 6 PM, the mentees come to Bridgewater where they hear guest speakers present a variety of topics, including academic development, life skills, social justice, community service, self-esteem issues and one-on-one mentoring. During dinnertime, everyone hangs out, like a family.

Often, Bridgewater mentors will bring Brockton students to campus to take advantage of cultural events, provide their mentees with mini-goals, or just go to the movies for fun and relaxation. Bridgewater students write weekly reports on their interactions with their mentees and are required to attend bi-weekly mentor meetings conducted by Mr. Monteiro.

Even though the Brockton students are from the same age group and have shared issues in school, the group is ethnically and religiously diverse, Mr. Monteiro said. “Students come from a variety of ethnic backgrounds – African-American, Caucasian, Latino, Cape Verdean, Haitian; there’s a good male-female ratio,” he said. “They have bonded with each other and with their mentors. They have broken their cliques. There is a brother-to-sister feeling, a family atmosphere.”

As the academic year winds down, so will the first year of FAM for Change as it will likely have a culminating activity for the year, Ms. McCombe said. Bridgewater will then prepare to greet its second group of Brockton High School freshmen at the Summer Institute, which will feature presentations from the first cohort.

For the second year, the college will accept 15 students into the program. Meanwhile, the original group of 25 will head into their second year of FAM for Change. The program will develop and require training on new skill sets such as financial literacy and responsibility for the second-year participants, said Ms. McCombe.

The positive results President Mohler-Faria believed would happen are coming to fruition for the first group as all 25 have persisted in the program with some having perfect attendance at Brockton High School, others making the honor roll and some taking advanced-level courses.

“If they do come to Bridgewater State College after high school,” said Ms. McCombe, “hopefully they will become FAM for Change mentors.”

That would be potential achieved.
Q: In your 35-year career working in the commonwealth’s public colleges, you’ve experienced economic crises, but have you ever seen one such as this?

A: No. The previous downturns were part of normal economic cycles. In the present situation, this is not the case. Instead we have seen a profound contraction of the financial institutions – a major correction in the way business is done not only in America but throughout the world. We certainly haven’t seen anything like this in a very long time. The issue for us is the inability to predict how long this will last. Further, we don’t know what the economy will look like at the end of this recession. What we do know is that a new economic model will emerge because it’s clear that even when this severe recession is over that we’re not going back to the way things were.

Q: You’ve emphasized several times this year that Bridgewater is in good health and have committed to avoid layoffs. How?

A: When I became president, the country was in the middle of an economic downturn. I began to explore ways in which we could begin to build a better financial structure to see sustained growth. So we began building reserves. We’ve been able to use those structural reserves to avoid layoffs and major reductions in operating expenditures.

Q: How much of the budget gap will the increase in student fees account for, and how are Bridgewater students responding?

A: Students are responding very well. They understand that a 6 percent increase in this environment is modest and one of the lowest in the commonwealth.
“... as I look at this financial situation and how we deal with it, Bridgewater will emerge from this fiscal crisis in a much stronger leadership position.”

Dr. Dana Mohler-Faria, president of Bridgewater State College

The increase accounts for about one-third of the shortfall ... With the fee increase, we’ll also add nearly half a million dollars to financial aid.

Q: What are some of the reductions being discussed to close the budget gap?

A: We’re looking closely for efficiencies within the current budget. We also see some opportunities with energy, with purchasing, and we won’t be filling positions that are vacated unless they are critical to the college.

Q: What has been the response from the campus in tackling the budget shortfall?

A: People have been very frugal spending departmental budgets, resulting in a substantial amount of revenue that we’ll be able to roll into next year. I’m very grateful to everyone who has made a contribution to this effort.

Q: How will federal stimulus money be used by the college?

A: I will not recommend putting any of those dollars into the operating budget. I’ve suggested three uses for this money: first, to use the money for one-time critical expenditures; second, to invest the money into initiatives that will generate revenue; and third, to invest the money into initiatives that will reduce our long-term costs, specifically energy.

Q: Will the new science center proceed on schedule?

A: Absolutely. We are proceeding on schedule and moving as planned. The Division of Capital Asset Management is working diligently to get this project done. Capital funds are in place so I see no reason why this facility won’t be completed on time.

Q: What did you learn about Bridgewater in your time as Gov. Patrick’s chief education adviser?

A: It certainly helped me realize how strong an institution Bridgewater is ... We’ve been a leader, and as I look at this financial situation and how we deal with it, Bridgewater will emerge from this fiscal crisis in a much stronger leadership position.

Q: How is Bridgewater going to take advantage of the economic environment?

A: Two ways ... One involves positioning ourselves to develop better efficiencies that will enable us to re-engineer the institution so that it operates as efficiently as it possibly can. The other is to concentrate our energy on determining what opportunities exist right now and which should be part of our longer-term strategies.

Q: What is the admission cap at Bridgewater, and how has high demand for an education here impacted the college’s public mission?

A: In terms of total undergraduate and graduate enrollment, our aim is to reach approximately 10,600 ... we’re at 10,200 students. Ultimately, we see Bridgewater capping out at around 11,500. Bridgewater has a clear mission about who we serve. While we admit students based on their ability to perform well academically, we also have to maintain access to the college to a broad range of talented people.

Q: You’ve had very attractive offers to go elsewhere – why do you stay?

A: I came in the middle of a major financial downturn, and there was a need for the college to rebuild itself ... We’ve done a lot of growing. In the middle of my presidency, I was asked to step away for a period of time to serve with Gov. Patrick. Now we’re facing the most significant economic challenge that any of us has ever seen. We, at Bridgewater, have a vision, and we’ve marched forward toward that vision without pause. Whether times are good or bad, the question is, “are we making the decisions that are right for the students of this region and this state?” I believe that we are. I made the decision to remain at Bridgewater because my heart is here. I can see clearly that our faculty and staff are providing our students every day with the most superb learning experiences, and to be president of that kind of institution is to me both an honor and a privilege.
Officials from the college and the City of New Bedford were on hand April 9 at the city’s regional airport for the official ribbon-cutting ceremony launching the college’s flight training center. The facility houses training aircraft, flight simulators and classrooms.

President Dana Mohler-Faria said the college having its own flight training center has “created the opportunity for our students and faculty to experience the aviation program in a totally different way.” He added that it “ensures that the quality of what we do here in our aviation program will continue to grow and develop.”

New Bedford Mayor Scott Lang said the facility presented “a great opportunity for the young people of this region to be trained in a field that we believe has tremendous growth potential.”

PHOTOS:
President Dana Mohler-Faria and New Bedford Mayor Scott Lang (third and fourth from left) cut the ribbon. Looking on (from left) are Louis M. Ricciardi, ’81, chairman of the college’s Board of Trustees; Ward 1 City councilor Linda Morad; Councilor at Large Debra Coelho; and Congressman Barney Frank.

Patrick Leger, ’09, checks a plane’s fuel quantity before guests at the ceremony are taken for a flight.

President Mohler-Faria and Mayor Lang talk after the ceremony.
Bridgewater State College has long provided programs and services for diverse populations. In recent years, however, the institution has revised its definition of diversity while continuing to provide the greatest amount of assistance to as many students as possible.

The historic definition of diversity has evolved into a paradigm that better serves 21st century society. Dr. William Lewis Sr., director of the Office of Institutional Diversity, describes the college’s approach to diversity as “inclusive excellence.”

“When we look at our policies, our strategic plan and our core curriculum, inclusion has the support of this administration at its highest level,” he said.

The institution launched its Strategic Plan for Diversity in early 2008 with the aim of creating an inclusive campus environment where all populations can benefit equally. The introduction states: “BSC works to create a climate where people of all races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, ages, religions, nationalities, gender identities, disability statuses, and other social identities learn from and with each other, and gain a better understanding and mutual respect for similarities and differences.”

The diversity plan is just one result of several years’ worth of renewed commitment to maintaining an inclusive campus atmosphere.

Bridgewater State College’s Diversity Task Force, established in 2003, was charged with assessing the progress in making a Bridgewater education accessible and welcoming to all. Based on the task force’s findings, the institution created the Diversity Council in 2006.
“Diversity is the intersection of core precepts: democracy – where everyone has a voice; inclusion – where it’s about who should be at the table, rather than who is not at the table; equity – where everyone is treated fairly; and excellence – without naming a specific group.”

Dr. William Lewis Sr., director of the Office of Institutional Diversity

Serving on the council are 15 faculty, staff and administrators, including Dr. Michael Kocet, chairperson of the counselor education department.

He said the council comprises members from all walks of life who meet regularly, discuss the state of Bridgewater’s diversity initiatives and offer suggestions on improvement. An inclusive membership gives the council optimal results in “fulfilling the president’s vision of diversity,” said Dr. Kocet.

A Student Diversity Council was founded this semester to provide students with an opportunity to voice their thoughts on initiative and policy. “Everyone has a stake in the future of this institution,” said Dr. Kocet.

Through recommendations of the Diversity Council, in 2007 the institution founded the Office of Institutional Diversity and welcomed Dr. Lewis as its director. The office would later hire its first faculty associate, Dr. Sabrina Gentlewarrior of the Department of Social Work, to work on faculty diversity issues.

Dr. Lewis said his office serves as an information center for diversity resources. Essentially, it “brings more cohesion to Bridgewater’s established work,” he said. The Web page for his office lists dozens of initiatives dedicated to celebrating and advocating for Bridgewater’s underrepresented populations.

Some, such as the Center for Multicultural Affairs (CMA) and the Office of Disabilities Resources, have been around for years. Others, including the GLBTA (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Ally) Pride Center, are more recent additions. All advocate for underrepresented populations and have seen significant growth.

The CMA is dedicated to promoting cultural pluralism by providing programs and services that assist and support underrepresented students. Examples are the Cape Verdean Student Association, the United Caribbean Culture organization, events celebrating various world heritages and the LINKS program (an acronym for Linking Individuals to Networks, Knowledge and Scholarship), which provides academic assistance to first-year students of color.

Lending support to the CMA is an advisory board comprising members from campus and beyond who are dedicated to the promotion of inclusion. A student advisory board has also been formed.

As a member of the Diversity Council, Andrea Garr-Barnes, director of the CMA, said listening to the advice of diverse populations of faculty, staff and students is beneficial for shaping policy. “One voice alone cannot represent the college community,” she said. “Those voices enrich the diversity mission of the college.”

Lending her voice and support to the cause is Lisa Forest who was brought to Bridgewater to develop and serve as coordinator for the institution’s first GLBTA Pride Center in 2006. The focus of the center, said Ms. Forest, is to provide “support, advocacy and educational resources to foster a campus climate of equality. Our vision is one where all people are free from oppression and are provided equal access to resources to realize their full potential.”
“BSC works to create a climate where people of all ages, religions, nationalities, gender other social identities learn from and with mutual respect for similarities and differences.” – from

In its short history, the Pride Center has seen progress. Last year, Ms. Forest received 2,900 requests for services, doubling the prior year’s number, and the center sponsored more than 75 GLBTA-related events. Ms. Forest has provided nearly 100 confidential social support sessions on coming out, learning how to support a friend or loved one, and other issues.

A student ambassador program has been initiated where students provide leadership on a variety of issues, as well as advocate for equity on campus.

Serving on the Diversity Council and volunteering time to other diversity initiatives, Ms. Forest said she notices campus-wide engagement in reaching Bridgewater’s goal of inclusion. “It’s really exciting to see cooperation and collaboration from all people from all backgrounds,” she said.

The CMA and the Pride Center have collaborated on events. In February, the two offices, along with institutional diversity, brought to campus Dr. E. Patrick Johnson, a scholar and performer who presented his one man show, “Pouring Tea: Black Gay Men.”

The integration of the offices is aimed to bring the populations together and “break down barriers.”

When speaking of maintaining campus inclusion, Ms. Forest recalled a transgender student who enrolled at Bridgewater, possibly, she said, because of the institution’s reputation as GLBT-friendly, as well as new policies in place and various projects the center instituted.

“It seems like we’re really progressing,” she said.

Progression seems to be a key word at the Office of Disability Resources where Patricia Connolly serves as coordinator. Doubling in number over the past decade, there are nearly 600 students on campus identified as disabled, which includes medical conditions, or physical, emotional or learning disabilities.

Although the office was established in the early 1990s, Ms. Connolly said that the notion to identify students with disabilities as a diverse population is a recent phenomenon, an idea that saw its roots on campus in 2003.

“The Diversity Task Force was the first to really involve disabilities” with the diversity mission, said Pamela Spillane, a learning disabilities specialist who was a member of the task force. More discourse and education on diversity issues may result from this integration, said Ms. Spillane.

A peer mentoring program has been implemented involving upperclassmen with disabilities assisting first-year students. Initiated in 2006, the program is continuously expanding, helpful to all involved and offered at few institutions, Ms. Connolly said.

There’s also a student-run organization, Students Accepting A Challenge, which provides both support for students with disabilities and education on disability issues to the campus. Each semester, 10 to 15 interns, graduate assistants and student employees help around the office. This provides two professional staffers with some much-needed assistance and the students with experience, said Ms. Connolly.

“This center is as an outlet for anyone who has an interest in working with the disabled,” she said. The center has a newsletter, The Challenger, published each semester and available on its Web page.

Efforts of the college community to provide resources for underrepresented students have been generously acknowledged with funding from the Nellie Mae Education Foundation.

Bridgewater was one of six New England public, post-secondary institutions to earn a $100,000 grant in 2007 as part of the Foundation’s Project Compass, a multiyear initiative aimed to increase the number of students from underserved populations graduating
with four-year degrees. This year, the college was awarded nearly $150,000 in additional funds based on its success with various initiatives last year.

“These investments will be invaluable in helping the college advance its long-standing mission to promote diversity and ensure accessibility for all who seek a college education,” said President Mohler-Faria.

Other scholarships are available for underrepresented populations. The Barney Frank Equality Scholarship funds students who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender and have lost financial assistance from their parents upon disclosing their sexual orientation or gender identity.

In 2007, the John “Bertie” Cruz Scholarship Fund was established to provide financial assistance to undergraduates of Cape Verdean descent.

In the 21st century, and with technological advances globally connecting people, Dr. Lewis said students need more interactions with diverse people and places. And the idea sets a clear path for Bridgewater. “Our goal is to provide students with the tools they need to understand the global community and to interact successfully with people different from themselves,” he said.

Collaboration by the GLBTA Pride Center, the Center for Multicultural Affairs and the Office of Institutional Diversity brought to campus Dr. E. Patrick Johnson, of Northwestern University, who performed “Pouring Tea: Black Gay Men.”

The GLBTA Pride Center, formed in 2006, last year received 2,900 requests for services, doubling the prior year’s number, and sponsored more than 75 GLBTA-related events.

The Office of Disability Resources, created in the early 1990s, offers an array of services available to the nearly 600 students on campus identified as disabled, which includes medical conditions, or physical, emotional or learning disabilities.

races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, identities, disability statuses, and each other, and gain a better understanding and

the college’s Strategic Plan for Diversity
Bridging the cultural gap

Middle Eastern connections promote cultural understanding and provide opportunities

BY ROBERT W. MATHESON JR., ’08

Strong initiatives with the Middle East have helped bridge cultural divides between that region of the world and Bridgewater State College.

On- and off-campus associations have shed light on the Middle East – “one of the most misunderstood regions of the world,” said Dr. Jabbar Al-Obaidi, professor of communication studies and a key organizer of the initiatives.

Growing in popularity and continuously expanding, the college’s Middle East connections promote cultural sharing and learning, and have drawn support from the Bridgewater campus and abroad.

Bridgewater State College representatives visited Jordan in 2006–2007 and formed institutional partnerships with five of the country’s universities – Al-Ahliyya Amman, Amman Private University, Al-Hussein Bin Talal, Tafila Technical University (TTU) and Yarmouk.

The alliances have paved the way for introducing more in-depth study of the Middle East to the Bridgewater curriculum, said Dr. Al-Obaidi, a native of Iraq. For instance, a course in elementary Arabic was offered shortly after the partnership was formed. Initially taught by TTU professor, Dr. Attalla Alroud, it was later taken over by Dr. Khalil Qatawneh from TTU, a visiting scholar who came to Bridgewater as a result of the institutional partnership.

“This was a great accomplishment,” said Dr. Al-Obaidi. Once the course was offered, the professor said he received e-mails from a local military base asking for assistance in teaching the language to its staff.

That was only the beginning. Fast forward a couple years, and Bridgewater has a complete Middle Eastern Studies program, visiting scholars and lecturers, as well as exchange students, a couple of whom lead Arabic courses.

After the terrorist attacks of 9/11, some in the United States began to view the Middle East as a dangerous place that should be forever avoided, said Dr. Al-Obaidi. For some, that view persists, and refuting it is just one reason the professor helped implement the Middle Eastern Studies program last fall.

“It’s time to say goodbye to old clichés,” said Dr. Al-Obaidi, who coordinates the program. After one semester, the interdisciplinary minor already boasts significant enrollment and offers 18 courses on Middle Eastern culture, literature, language and history, among others topics.

Approved by the U.S. government, the program aims to enhance student awareness of geo-political complexities and student sensitivity to Middle Eastern cultures while honing their media literacy and cross-disciplinary analytical skills.

Playing important roles in the program’s success are Dr. Edward Minnock, vice president, Division of External Affairs; Dr. William Smith, dean, School of Graduate Studies; Dr. Curtiss Hoffman, chairperson, Department of Anthropology; Dr. Fernanda L. Ferreira, chairperson, Department of Foreign Languages; Dr. Beatrice St. Laurent, assistant professor, Department of Art; and Dr. Keith Lewinstein, associate professor, Department of History.
The Office of Academic Affairs provides funds for the program, while faculty from nearly all departments provide ideas and assistance, with some teaching courses for the minor. Dr. Al-Obaidi said he can’t overemphasize the importance of faculty members’ help. “They really ran that extra mile,” he said.

More books, films and, potentially, art exhibits on the Middle East will soon be available, and more courses are in the works, as well, said Dr. Al-Obaidi. With all this information on the culture available, he said he has seen students becoming more open toward learning about the region. “This program works to break the ice for acceptance,” he said.

While the ever-expanding program serves to diffuse negative stereotypes and misconceptions of the Middle East, Dr. Al-Obaidi said it provides students with more opportunities for potential careers. For instance, it promotes bilingualism, a sought-after skill in today’s job market that could open up job opportunities overseas.

Study abroad is a large part of the program, said Dr. Al-Obaidi, as it offers students an integrated learning experience of culture, religion and history. “It becomes more than learning through books,” he said.

In summer 2007, several students from the spring semester Arabic I course visited Jordan with Dr. Al-Obaidi. They toured Petra and other historic locations and had the opportunity to practice their newly acquired language skills with Jordanian students. Previous tours included Turkey and Morocco and future tours in the planning stages will take students to Egypt, Israel, the West Bank, Lebanon and Yemen.

Last semester, Nadav Tamir, Israel’s consul general to New England, gave the program’s inaugural lecture on the conflict and peace agreements in the Middle East. This semester, Dr. Riyad Mansour, the Palestinian ambassador and permanent observer to the United Nations, delivered his lecture, “The Road to Peace: A Palestinian Perspective.”

In introducing Mr. Tamir, Dr. Al-Obaidi said such lectures offer a different view on global issues, “crucial for all of us to become better informed citizens, not just citizens of a particular nation, but citizens of the world.”

Providing a world view on campus this semester was Fulbright Scholar Dr. Amatalrauf Al-Sharki, a human rights activist and native of Yemen. Invited by friend Dr. Al-Obaidi, a goal of her six-week visit was to stress the positive results of cultural understanding.

While participating in an international panel on world terrorism issues alongside Bridgewater faculty members, Dr. Sharki commented on the importance of
maintaining a dialogue with people from areas that can be viewed as threatening.

“We can’t stop talking to people because we decide that they are the enemy,” she said. “Open dialogue leads to negotiation and understanding. We must understand the argument of others and maybe, then, we can get to the middle.”

Her words epitomize Bridgewater’s efforts to maintain strong Middle Eastern connections. “We’re really looking to build a cultural bridge,” said Dr. Minnock.

Last year, he and other Bridgewater representatives visited Jordan where they strengthened ties with TTU and entered conversations about future endeavors between the institutions.

The institutional alliances promote cultural understanding between the United States and the Middle East through open discourse and other initiatives, said Dr. Minnock.

This July, Bridgewater will reinforce the foundation of its cultural bridge when the institution hosts Education in the Global Era: International Conference for Teaching and Learning. The conference aims to bring together educators from disparate countries and backgrounds for the shared exploration of teaching and learning across cultures. Presidents Mohler-Faria and Dr. Sultan Abu-Orabi of TTU will serve as conference presidents, and organizers and participants will come from both institutions, as well as other countries.

It’s all about cultural sharing. And Dr. Al-Obaidi said it is important to note that the Middle Eastern connections are reciprocal relationships. “With the complete cooperation from all involved, it really becomes a mutual exchange,” he said.

Seizing the opportunities offered through the institutional partnership are the graduate students from TTU enrolling at Bridgewater.

Anas Altweijer began his graduate studies in management in January 2008. After completing two semesters, he has already accepted a position teaching an intermediate Arabic course this spring as a means of showing gratitude. “It’s one way for me to give back to the institution,” he said.

Apart from providing students with a gateway to becoming fluent in the language, he said the course serves as a means of engaging in cultural exchanges with American students.

Darea Nesraleh, a management major, has completed two semesters on campus and said his experience has been a positive one for a couple reasons. “It helped...
I was born in Kuwait in 1977 and came to the United States in January 2008 from an Islamic, conservative, semi-urban community in Jordan. Now I am a graduate student with a technology management major and am in my final semester here. Since fall 2008, I have been an instructor in foreign languages teaching Arabic 101 and 102 to BSC students. Many events in the States have impacted my perspective as an international female student.

I found there is a big difference between Jordanian and American classrooms and teaching methods. The classrooms here have all of the educational tools and technology needed, and the professors use different informational programs such as Blackboard. In addition, leaving one’s own culture can be traumatic, especially since I came from a culture that is radically different. And, as English is a second language for me, I have faced many challenges. However, these challenges help me to develop my skills, and I learn a new lesson every day.

I found a wonderful relationship between the professors and students, which I think is very important and effective in developing students’ skills. Day by day it has become easier to communicate with others and to make friends. Also, after seven months working as an assistant in the School of Graduate Studies, I can say I have learned many lessons by observing the teamwork of the highly organized staff.

Before I began teaching Arabic, I could not imagine one day I would teach my language to American students. Now, it is really the best thing and a wonderful feeling. It is a great opportunity for me to prove to the world that Arab women have the skills to teach. I spent wonderful times with my students in the classroom, and they are learning the language and learning about my culture and country.

I have learned that there are no barriers between us; we just need to open the communication channels and learn to understand each other. Exchange programs are the best way to achieve this. I recall a quote from Dr. Raymond Guillette, assistant dean in the School of Graduate Studies: “In order to succeed in your life, you need to understand others and help them to understand you.”

All this leads me to celebrate my experiences.
In three years, Kaitlin Lamothe’s 2-year-old daughter, Addisyn, will be the age Kaitlin was when she started playing in a toddler soccer league in her hometown of Wrentham.

Fast forward to 2007, and Kaitlin is still playing soccer – and excelling. She has broken a Bears’ single-season record, logging 22 goals and 52 points for the best offensive season in 16 years for Bridgewater’s women’s soccer team. She was named Player of the Year by the Massachusetts State College Athletic Association and chosen for the ESPN All-Academic Third Team. All while earning a 3.52 grade-point average, student teaching – and raising her daughter.

After two commendable seasons with the team, this soccer mom continues to pursue her academic goals, while enjoying the sport she loves. It’s all about choices, commitment and balance.

“I went to Syracuse University in 2005, and it was an amazing experience. I was named 2005 New Mexico Classic All-Classic Team and 2005-06 Big East Academic All-Star. After having my daughter in the winter of 2006, I wasn’t sure I was going to return to soccer, but I’m very glad I did,” she said.

That’s where balance and commitment come in. “To go to school, play soccer and raise my daughter has been very rewarding. I want to keep playing for as long as I can,” she added.

As far as choice goes, Kaitlin decided to transfer to Bridgewater for several reasons, not the least of which is the college’s reputation for teacher preparation and its proximity to her home in Wrentham, where she and her daughter live with Kaitlin’s parents and sister.

“Education is very important to me. I also want to set a good example for my daughter and future children,” she said. “No matter what happens or what obstacles you face, you should never give up on what matters and what is important to you. I’ve gotten a very good education at Bridgewater. Then, there are the girls on the soccer team and my coach; they’re amazing people and players, and I’m very fortunate to have walked into such a good program.”
Star forward Roland Millien, '09, came armed with prodigious talent and an unflagging competitive spirit when he joined the Bridgewater State College men’s basketball team a few years back. And he’s never let up. This past season, the communications major ended his college basketball career with a number of accolades and a hard-won optimism concerning his future in the sport he loves.

The Stoughton resident finished his senior year as team captain with impressive stats: second in the conference in field goal percentage and free throw percentage, fourth in rebounding, fifth in scoring and sixth in steals. With a total 1,160 points, he placed 18th all-time on the Bears’ career scoring list, on the way to becoming the 24th player in Bridgewater men’s basketball history to reach the 1,000-point milestone.

A three-time Massachusetts State College Athletic Conference (MASCAC) Player of the Week, Roland was named to the All-MASCAC First Team, the National Association of Basketball Coaches All-Northeast District Second Team and the Eastern College Athletic Conference Division III New England Men’s Basketball All-Star Second Team.

He helped lead the Bears to a successful ’08–’09 season and the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Division III Tournament before the team fell to Farmingdale State College. “We had a lot of heart,” he said of his team.

All this may not have come to pass, however, without the support of his friends and family, combined with his personal drive to overcome obstacles set before him.

Roland started playing basketball at age 9 with encouragement from his brothers, who early on perceived his athleticism and competitive nature. However, while playing ball at Stoughton High School years later, Roland tore the meniscus cartilage in his left knee, a serious injury that hindered his options to ever earn a spot on a college team.

Or so the thinking went.

Eventually, during a year of prep school at Bridgeton Academy in Maine, he started shooting hoops with some buddies who inspired him to get back on the court. “My friends really helped keep my competitive spirit alive,” Roland said.

While his knee has since fared well, there is a chance of potential injury down the road. However, he said his motivation to play basketball outweighs his concern of possible injury. “I’d rather keep playing the sport I love than regret every moment I don’t,” he said.

Reflecting on the great camaraderie he’s experienced and support he’s received on and off the court, Roland said he aims to continue playing basketball as a way of thanking those who guided him and cheered him on, including his family, friends and coaches. “For all the people who supported me, it’s the least I can do to give something back,” he said.
The 2008 Atlantic hurricane season was devastating, producing plenty of work for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). So when Kathryn E. Messner, ‘10, spent her fall internship at the agency’s Washington, D.C., headquarters, she knew the work would be time consuming. However, the communications studies major managed her job well and still found time to explore artistic opportunities in the city.

“In Washington, there was easy access to so many things,” she said, adding, “it was an ideal scenario for an internship.” Kathryn obtained the position through The Washington Center Program for Internships and Academic Seminars offered by Bridgewater State College’s Center for Legislative Studies.

The program provides students nationwide with internship opportunities in the capital, combining real-world work experience with academics. Positions are available at more than 1,000 public, private and nonprofit agencies, and students are required to take one-and two-week seminar courses.

The Plymouth native said she was searching for work that required using new media and provides the public with crucial information. Anything to “reach and help the largest quantity of people possible,” she said. So the position at DHHS was a perfect match.

Natural disaster preparedness and recovery is one of the services provided by the DHHS, and Kathryn began her work there just as Hurricane Gustav was wreaking havoc on southern U.S. territories and Hurricane Ike was on its way. She had a busy first week.

As her supervisors were focused on the storm, the 20-year-old developed an acronym database, compiled content for a departmental archive and started writing the history section of the department’s Wikipedia page. “It was certainly a baptism by fire,” she said.

Her hard work during that hectic week paid off. Her supervisors began delegating to her more challenging tasks, such as perusing a publication for the department’s secretary, and before she returned home, they presented her an award of excellence for her accomplishments.

Along with her full-time work week and course on diplomatic protocol at Johns Hopkins University, Kathryn found time to explore another passion: music.

A violinist for more than 10 years, she was given the chance to perform with the Washington Conservatory Orchestra and to volunteer a couple days a week at the National Endowment for the Arts, a public agency that provides support for the arts nationwide. Art has always been a large part of her life, she said, and the internship provided easy access to those projects.

Self-described as a non-risk taker, Kathryn said she sees Washington as a place where opportunities are ubiquitous and where one can seize the chance to really make a positive impact, just as she had.

“I got the sense that if you want to be a part of something and make great things happen, you just have to take a chance,” she said.
While interning for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, D.C., communications major and long-time violinist Kathryn Messner, '10, took advantage of an offer to perform with the Washington Conservatory Orchestra. Back at home, she performs with the Southeastern Philharmonic Orchestra.
Upcoming ALUMNI EVENTS

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY
FRIDAY, OCT. 30
This event is held every other year as part of Homecoming Weekend to honor former student athletes and those who have made significant contributions to athletics at Bridgewater State College.

HOMECOMING 2009
SATURDAY, OCT. 31
Events will include the annual Kappa Delta Phi Breakfast and a young alumni event. Details to follow.

The Hyannis Physical Education Alumni Association hosted a “Getting to Know You” event at the Tinsley Center for students in the Department of Movement Arts, Health Promotion and Leisure Studies. The event introduced students to the alumni group, which will help them remain connected to the college and their major after graduation. An event for seniors was held in the spring to congratulate them on their accomplishments and encourage them to join the organization.

Crimson Ambassadors were busy during the fall semester participating in various Homecoming events and charity projects.

During Homecoming, ambassadors could be found marching in the parade, distributing alumni T-shirts during the football game and under the alumni tent, where they held contests for Bridgewater State College gift baskets.

In December, ambassadors sponsored two local families in need through My Brother’s Keeper.

This spring, the ambassadors look forward to participating in their first Relay for Life walk and to their annual scholarship fundraiser.

Several members of the Afro-American Alumni Association Board of Directors hosted tables at a Workplace Protocol dinner sponsored by the Office of Career Services. Dr. Wayne Phillips, ’62, professor emeritus of elementary education and author of a book on etiquette, provided advice to students on appropriate dining manners.

The association sponsored a career services and scholarship information night at the Davis Alumni Center, where career counselor Carol Crosby discussed how the career services office assists students. Christine Regan, assistant director of alumni relations, explained the many scholarship opportunities available to students and demonstrated how to complete online applications.

The association has established the Arthur Cox Endowed Memorial Scholarship Fund and plans to award the first scholarship in spring 2010 to a Bridgewater State College student of color. Donations, payable to the Bridgewater State College Foundation, can be mailed to Candace Maguire, director of alumni and development programs, Davis Alumni Center, 25 Park Terrace, Bridgewater, MA 02325.

STAY CONNECTED.
Send your news to Christine Regan in the Office of Alumni Relations via e-mail at cregan@bridgew.edu or via mail at Davis Alumni Center, Bridgewater State College, Bridgewater, MA 02325.

The class notes editor reserves the right to edit submissions for clarity and brevity.

Submitted photos must be either high-resolution digital images or original prints from film. Photos generated on home printers are not of publication quality.
The Recent Graduate Association (RGA) hosted its second annual Homecoming event, Oktoberfest, which filled the Dunn Conference Room to capacity with young alumni.

The RGA partnered with the Crimson Ambassadors in a holiday charity project. The partnership between the two groups is an annual event, providing gifts for needy families through My Brother’s Keeper.

For more information about the RGA, contact Christine Regan at cregan@bridgew.edu

GREEK ORGANIZATIONS

The Brothers and Sisters of Phi Pi Delta were actively involved with the Bridgewater State College community last fall. Members have participated in several philanthropic events, such as the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation walk, fundraising for Make-a-Wish Foundation and adopting a family for the holiday season. The brothers and sisters are looking forward to their annual philanthropic event, Relay For Life, during the summer.

The Theta Zeta chapter of the Sigma Chi Fraternity was featured in its own national magazine, The Magazine of Sigma Chi, which commended the brothers for more than 15 years of loyal service to the Children’s Physical Developmental Clinic at Bridgewater State College. Theta Zeta was honored by the acknowledgement because the magazine boasts more than 50,000 readers and is one of the most highly esteemed publications in the Greek-letter world, often collecting the most awards of any group at the annual Greek editors’ conference. The article can be found in the fall 2008 edition.

Gamma Phi Beta had an exciting and eventful fall semester. The chapter held its inaugural Crescent Classic, a three-on-three basketball tournament that raised $1,300 for Campfire USA, a leadership camp for underprivileged young women. Through individual community service, members participated in the Breast Cancer Walk, Good Neighbor’s Day and volunteered at Camp Nawaka. Through collegiate-alumnae activities such as its annual Alumnae Luncheon, attending a Brockton Rox game and hosting a Lia Sophia Jewelry Party, Gamma Phi Beta has continued to build lasting connections with its alumnae. Every fall, a Teacher’s Tea recognizes the contributions made by the college’s faculty and staff to the sisterhood.

The Alumni Chamber Choir, directed by Dr. Carol Nicholeris, began its holiday concert season at The Breakers mansion in Newport, RI, last December. The choir followed that performance with a concert at Central Square Congregational Church in Bridgewater center. In January, the choir performed at Millbury Federated Church and was invited to return to The Breakers for a special two-hour Valentine’s evening performance. The Vercalone family, owners of VERC Rentals, graciously donated two passenger vans to the choir for transportation to The Breakers. The choir’s spring schedule included a concert at Central Square Congregational Church on Sunday, May 3, with a variety of musical styles and traditions. For more information about the choir, visit www.bscacc.org.
WEB SITE AND ONLINE COMMUNITY

Updated information about alumni events and services is offered at the Bridgewater Alumni Association Web site, www.bridgew.edu/alumni.

In this secure community, Bridgewater State College alumni can set up personal profiles, blog, make donations to the college, and post messages and photos for other Bridgewater graduates to enjoy.

Join the online community by clicking on the first-time login link, and enter the six-digit constituent identification number that appears on this magazine’s mailing label.

For questions about registration, contact Michelle Slavick in the Office of Alumni Relations at mslavick@bridgew.edu.

CREDIT CARD PROGRAM

Bridgewater State College students benefit directly from purchases made through the alumni credit card program, which is available to all Bridgewater graduates. A percentage of all purchases made with this affinity credit card is returned to the alumni association and is used to assist students with scholarships and enhanced academic opportunities.

To apply online, visit the Office of Alumni Relations Web site, and click on the alumni services link.

For details, contact Candace Maguire, director of alumni and development programs, at cmaguire@bridgew.edu.

Homecoming and Family Day attracted hundreds of people to campus for a day full of activities. The day began with the Carol Mulloy Cuttle 5K Road Race followed by a number of pre-parade breakfasts, which included a parents’ breakfast, as well as the annual Kappa Delta Phi, Sigma Pi and WBIM reunion breakfasts. Alumni involved with Program Committee also had a reunion breakfast. A pre-parade breakfast is a wonderful way to get friends to come back to campus to enjoy the day. For more information about arranging a breakfast for Homecoming in 2009, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 508.531.2695.

During the afternoon, Gamma Phi Beta hosted its annual Homecoming luncheon and the Recent Graduate Association sponsored an Oktoberfest celebration where Chef Dan prepared various types of traditional Oktoberfest foods and beverages for the audience to sample.

One hundred thirty-four people, including students, faculty and alumni, ran in this year’s road race. All proceeds from the race benefit the Carol Mulloy Cuttle Scholarship Fund, which is awarded annually to a student clinician within the Children’s Physical Developmental Clinic at Bridgewater. Listed on the facing page are the first and second place winners in the various categories, as well as the best overall.
WOMEN – AGES 14 AND UNDER
First Place Julia Danksewicz
Second Place Bethany Stoehr

WOMEN – AGES 15-19
First Place Lindsey Hatten
Second Place Erin Curran

WOMEN – AGES 20-29
First Place Nicole Balaschi
Second Place Allison L’Heureux

WOMEN – AGES 30-39
First Place Maureen Barboza
Second Place Emily Douglas

WOMEN – AGES 40-49
First Place Rachel Rothstein
Second Place Elizabeth Sheibley

WOMEN – AGES 50-59
First Place Maureen Barboza
Second Place Emily Douglas

WOMEN – AGES 60 AND OVER
First Place Betsy Knapp
Second Place Anne Marie McDonald

MEN – AGES 14 AND UNDER
First Place Evan Shortes
Second Place Anthony Sorenti

MEN – AGES 15-19
First Place Ben Mattson
Second Place Matthew Fisk

MEN – AGES 20-29
First Place Michael Dimick
Second Place Marc Blandin

MEN – AGES 30-39
First Place Mark D’Amico
Second Place Josef Ramagi

MEN – AGES 40-49
First Place Jeff Williams
Second Place Jim Lyons

MEN – AGES 50-59
First Place Scott Newkirk
Second Place John DiTomasso

MEN – AGES 60 AND OVER
First Place Sam Baumgarten
Second Place Dick Carnes

BEST OVERALL FEMALE
Mimi Lombardo

BEST OVERALL MALE
Kent Taylor

ALUMNI SNAPSHOTS

Members of the Classes of 1959 and 1960 come together at the Wamsutta Club. In the back (from left) are Judy Martinson Ryan, ’59; Paula Kotilaiken Lantz, ’59; Willie Bruno, ’59; Jane Tuttle Powers, ’59; and Bernard Powers, ’61. Front (from left) are Nancy Saba Roberts, ’59; Barbara Stevens, ’59; and Rosemary Moore Bowen, ’59.

Sheila Tunstall McKenna, ’62, delivers books for the Christmas is for Kids program in Attleboro. Her classmates donated 412 books.

Dr. John Fletcher, ’58, (left) is honored in a special ceremony by the City of New Bedford for his half century of volunteer community service on behalf of children, families, the elderly and the economically disadvantaged. The ceremony included the unveiling of his portrait, painted by Deborah Macy (third from left). Also pictured are his wife, Mary Beth, and Mayor of New Bedford Scott Lang.
BSC CAREER LINK
The Office of Career Services career management site, BSC Career Link, is an easy-to-use, centralized system where alumni, students and regional employers can:
• search jobs
• post jobs
• become an alumni mentor
• access the alumni mentor database
To access BSC Career Link, visit: www.bridgew.edu/careerservices/careerlink.cfm.
Contact the Office of Career Services at 508.531.1328 with any questions.

PERFECT INTERVIEW
An innovative online tool – Perfect Interview – allows Bridgewater State College alumni and students to enhance their job-interviewing skills with a realistic simulated-interview experience. This program offers more than 1,500 interview questions, answers and hints that have all been professionally produced on digital video.
To access Perfect Interview, visit www.bridgew.edu/careerservices/perfectinterview.cfm.
Contact the Office of Career Services at 508.531.1328 with any questions.

ALUMNI MENTORS
The BSC Career Link Alumni Mentor Program consists of a group of alumni who volunteer to share their experiences with students and other alumni. The Office of Career Services is looking for alumni participation from all career fields.
To become a mentor, visit www.bridgew.edu/careerservices/careerlink/cfm.

1924
Katharine Turner McWilliam, Bridgewater State College's oldest living graduate, passed away on Oct. 18, 2008, at age 104.

1931
Mary E. Lavelle Breault passed away on Dec. 21, 2008, at age 97. Her daughter, Mary Ann, said her mother had wonderful memories of her four years at the college and enjoyed going to many reunions.

1936
Barbara Smith Huff passed away on Sept. 20, 2008, in California. Her daughter, Virginia, wrote, “... Bridgewater held a very special place in my mother’s heart. She cherished her memories from 1936 and of the reunions she attended over the years.”

1940
Gertrude King Ramstrom wrote to the alumni office recalling her fond memories of graduating the year that Bridgewater Teachers College celebrated its centennial.

1952
Marian Murphy LeBlanc and her husband Hal, '56, spend their winters in California and their summers on Cape Cod.

1956
Hal LeBlanc and his wife, Marian, '52, enjoyed the Class of 1956 luncheon meeting.

Annie Robbins Talbot writes for the Melrose Mirror and the Holliston Reporter, both of which are online publications.

Andy Miller and his wife, Sue, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at a party given by their children at White Cliffs Country Club in Plymouth.

Eleanor Sondeen Morlino had two successful knee replacement surgeries and has since traveled to Portland, OR; Yosemite National Park; and Los Angeles to visit her daughter and grandsons.

Norma Goyetche Munroe and her husband, Alan, continue to travel across the United States. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at a party given by their children.

Joan Park, G'63, traveled to England last summer to visit family.

Alice Murphy O’Neill and her husband, Ed, have eight children and 14 grandchildren. Alice chaired the American Cancer Society’s Spinnaker Gala at the Oyster Harbor Club on Cape Cod.

Janet Lee Green, G’71, spends her retirement years leading tours to national parks each summer.
HENRY CARTER SHAFFER
Was chair of Department of Theater and Dance

A memorial service was held in the Rondileau Campus Center Ballroom earlier this year to remember the life and the accomplishments of Professor Henry Carter Shaffer, a member of Bridgewater State College's faculty since 1995 and a chairman of the Department of Theater and Dance.

Professor Shaffer, a designer, director and producer in theater, film and opera for 30 years, died Dec. 15, 2008, at the Life Care Center of Raynham. He was 56. During his tenure at the college, he staged numerous theater and opera productions, which culminated in the production of Mozart's opera *The Magic Flute* last fall.

Mr. Shaffer earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Georgetown in 1979 and Master of Fine Arts from Carnegie Mellon University in 1982. He is survived by his father, Larry E. Shaffer of Maryland; three sisters, Janet “Jill” Shaffer of New Hampshire, Jacqueline L. Shaffer of Virginia and Ardis B. Shaffer Bond of Maryland; and several nieces and nephews. He was also the son of the late Carolyn L. (Carter) Shaffer.

Speaking at the Bridgewater memorial were President Dana Mohler-Faria; Dr. Howard London, provost and vice president of academic affairs; Dr. Arthur Dirks, chairman of the Department of Theater and Dance; his sister Jill; and Timothey Sullivan, a former student of Professor Shaffer’s and an alumnus of the college. Memories of Professor Shaffer were shared by the audience.
1958
A celebration was held at the New Bedford Public Library to honor John Fletcher for his 50 years of service in education. See page 41.

1961
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 OAHS gymnasium.

1962
Steve Almeida, G’66, and his wife, Gail, hosted the annual Class of 1962 holiday party at their Lakeville home. “Christmas is for Kids” was the holiday charity project of the class, which donated 412 new books to children in the Attleboro area. See page 41.

Sheila Tunstall McKenna, chair of the holiday book drive, was honored by the Greater Attleboro Area Council for Children with the Champion for Children Award for collecting more than 1,000 books.

1968
Bruce Taylor is professor emeritus after his retirement from the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire.

1971
Kathryn Golden is professor emeritus after her retirement from the College of DuPage in Illinois, where she taught and coordinated the criminal justice program for 25 years. “We have relocated and are living in Bridgewater and are very happy to be back in this beautiful college town,” she wrote, adding that she plans on writing and volunteering in the area.

Kathy Delaney Smith, Harvard University’s women’s basketball coach, was awarded the 2008 MIAA/Ron Burton Community Service Award.

1973
Claire Broce Cullinane of Surry, ME, retired from teaching special education and the fourth grade. She taught in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine.

1977
Edward Mara, superintendent of schools for the Bristol Warren Regional School District in Rhode Island, was named 2008 Rhode Island Superintendent of the Year.

1979
Marjorie Andrade Hewitt is a career specialist at Taunton Area School to Career, Inc.

Joe Johnson is a solution designer at UPS Solution Group.
Thoughtful planning makes a difference

BY KAREN A. BOOTH

Opportunities to give come in all shapes and sizes – from outright gifts of cash to endowed scholarships, planned gifts and everything in between. Ms. Anna E. Shaff, ’37, made a planned gift, naming Bridgewater State College as a beneficiary in her will.

Ms. Shaff, who passed away Sept. 19, 2007, was an educator in the Taunton school system for more than 40 years, having earned her bachelor’s degree in secondary education at Bridgewater. To those who knew her well, the gift comes as no surprise. A dedicated and inspirational teacher, Ms. Shaff was known for her kindness, warmth and generosity.

Ms. Shaff’s generous bequest gift is making a lasting difference to ensure Bridgewater’s mission to provide high-quality education at an affordable price. The college is grateful for her thoughtful estate planning and the difference it will make to students, faculty and Bridgewater’s tradition of educational excellence.

A will provision allows a donor to make a substantial contribution to the college without diminishing the assets available during the donor’s life. Since bequests are deductible from the taxable estate, significant estate tax savings may be possible.

To learn more about shaping a provision into a will or retirement plan, contact a Bridgewater State College gift planning professional to explore, with a legal or financial adviser, the best way to accomplish philanthropic intentions. For more information, contact Alice Zaff in the Office of Institutional Advancement at 508.531.2700 azaff@bridgew.edu.

1980
Joshua Hamilton is chief academic and scientific officer of the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole.

1982
William Milhomme, G’82, is director of volunteer services for the Massachusetts Department of Correction.

1988
Melisse Dansereau-Billy is interested in planning a reunion for the classes of ’87, ’88 and ’89. She can be reached at gbilly@psualum.com.

1991
Army Chief Warrant Officer 4 Phillip Diaz is stationed in Iraq. This is the pilot’s fourth tour in the Middle East.

1993
Tara Cronin Jones is chief information officer for New England Market Hospitals, Vanguard Health Systems.

1994
Ted Jones is an applications sales manager at Oracle Corporation.

1996
Amy Bartkow, a teacher in the Abington public schools, received the Chester J. Miller Jr. Outstanding Teacher Award for 2008.
Todd Philie is director of marketing for Coco Key Water Resort in Fitchburg.

1997
Brian Crepeau is an attorney with Rosenberg, Martin and Greenberg, LLP in Baltimore. He earned a Juris Doctor from the American University-Washington College of Law.

Gary Fowles, a pharmaceutical sales medical specialist for Eli Lilly, is an associate board member of Kappa Delta Phi National Fraternity.

1998
Shannon Heagney, a city councilor in Attleboro, is pursuing her second dual degree from Bridgewater State College in management and accounting.

2000
Daniel McLean received a professional certificate from the Program Management Institute in January.

2001
Hillary Thomas will begin a cardiology fellowship at the San Antonio Military Medical Center-North in July.

2002
John Loughran has developed a coffee called “SlimBeans” and is the owner of Fight Fat Forever in Burlington.

Josh Walther is program director of the Dedham Community House Summer Day Camp.

2004
John F. Looney, G’04, is director of corporate communications and public affairs at Winchester Hospital.

Matthew Mantalos has passed the California bar exam and is an associate with Gibson & Behman, PC.

2005
Chelsea Fournier is an associate in the business law and intellectual property groups of Preti, Flaherty, Beliveau & Pachios in Portland, ME.

2007
Melissa Vasconcelos received a Master of Social Work from Simmons College and is an urgent care social worker at the Brockton Neighborhood Health Center.

2008
Steven M. Miller Jr. is sports information director at Worcester State College.
BIRTHS Congratulations to Bridgewater alumni on these new additions to their families:
To Ronli Berlinger, ’90, a son, Mark Michael, on Oct. 8, 2008, joining big brother, Ryan
To Tara Cronin Jones, ’93, and Ted Jones, ’94, a son, Ryan Edward, on June 6, 2008, joining big brother, Matthew
To Matt Griffin, ’97, and Mirian Claudio, a daughter, Vanessa Selena, on Sept. 14, 2008

IN MEMORIAM Bridgewater is saddened by the deaths of the following alumni and extends condolences to their loved ones:
Katharine Turner McWilliam, ’24, on Oct. 18, 2008
Ruth Schenck Stewart, ’30, on Jan. 17, 2009
Mary Lavelle Braault, ’31, on Dec. 21, 2008
Bertha Ellis Pease, ’35, on Dec. 29, 2008
Barbara Smith Huff, ’36, on Sept. 20, 2008
Eleanor Appleford Scripture, ’36, on Nov. 20, 2008
Marjorie I. Butterfield, ’37, in 2007
Marjorie Candy Jackson, ’37, on Nov. 23, 2008
Marion Chambers Lewin, ’37, on Nov. 8, 2008
Magda Borgatti Fiorini, ’38, on Sept. 23, 2008
Elsie Church Smith, ’39, on Nov. 18, 2008
Anne Garvey Joseph, ’40, on Jan. 17, 2009
Eleanor Grundberg Nyberg, ’40, on Feb. 27, 2008
Florence Cordrick Connors, ’42, on April 28, 2008
Jane Hodgkins Sweet, ’42, on Sept. 26, 2008
Lois Carpenter Shea, ’43, on Nov. 18, 2008
Virginia Lougee Bennett, ’46, on Oct. 29, 2008
Madeline Lamin, ’49, on Oct. 18, 2008
Pauline Pifko Amaral, ’50, on Jan. 17, 2009
Mary Correia Reardon, ’50, on Oct. 26, 2008
Eileen Tessier Scacca, ’50, on Jan. 18, 2009
Doris Gould Hanson, ’51, on July 27, 2008
Evelyn Ellis Wade, ’53, on Dec. 1, 2008
Robert L. Rowell, ’54, on Jan. 18, 2009
Lawrence Costa, G’55, on Nov. 6, 2008
Leonard Fougere, G’56, on Oct. 17, 2008
Barbara Hamilton Strelke, G’56, on Jan. 5, 2009
Clare Hanrahan Bowman, G’59, on Jan. 18, 2009
Francis Gunville, G’59, on Nov. 7, 2008
Emily Steere Andrews, ’60, on Aug. 21, 2008
Alfred Horn, G’60, on Dec. 5, 2008
Admont Clark, ’61, on Oct. 28, 2008
Joan Doherty, ’61, on Nov. 13, 2008
Maureen Shanahan, ’61, on Jan. 11, 2009
Priscilla Bouchard, G’63, on Aug. 22, 2008
Mary MacDonald Poole, G’65, on Sept. 25, 2008
Linda Brauner Reynolds, ’67, on Dec. 9, 2008
Sidney Akerblom, ’68, on Oct. 6, 2008
Delbert Reynolds, ’68, on Oct. 30, 2008
Charles Lincoln, G’68, on Oct. 10, 2008
Mina Watts, G’69, on Dec. 30, 2008
Robert Reilly, ’70, on Nov. 21, 2008
Norman Tate, G’71, on Oct. 7, 2008
Agnes Marchand, ’77, on Oct. 28, 2008
Henry Zucchi, G’78, on Dec. 9, 2008
Linda Clough Meehan, ’79, on Nov. 10, 2008
Mary Thomas Sarkes, ’79, on Jan. 5, 2009
Donna Mello Caron, G’80, on Dec. 25, 2008
Earl Chase, G’82, on Dec. 28, 2008
Pamela Wood, G’82, on Nov. 21, 2008

MARRIAGES The college celebrates the weddings of the following alumni:
April Reardon, ’95, to Scott King on Oct. 10, 2008
Marianne Wallace to William Leaman, ’96, on Nov. 22, 2008
Megan Fiduccia, ’98, G’00, to Jared Dinkle on Sept. 27, 2008
Kelly Graves, ’00, to Adam Lomnicki on July 5, 2008
Kristin Sachetti, ’00, to Christopher Ernest on May 17, 2008
Jennifer Sherman, ’01, to Paul Keyes on Aug. 23, 2008
Taffy Smith, ’01, to Joseph Ruggeri on July 5, 2008
Cynthia Paige, ’02, to Chip Desi on March 15, 2008
Sarah Rocha, ’02, to John Tormey, ’03, on Aug. 2, 2008
Shauna Simmons to Seth Burke, ’03, on Aug. 2, 2008
Kristen Finn, ’03, to Nathan Buchanan on Sept. 13, 2008
Marguerite Grady, ’03, to Timothy O’Hara on July 12, 2008
Jennifer Pell, ’03, to Darryl Murphy on July 26, 2008
Sarah Arruda, ’04, to Martin Grosslein on Aug. 17, 2008
Daniele Belisle, ’04, to Brian Siegel, ’04, on June 23, 2007
Audra Fredette, ’04, to Brian Thomas on Dec. 22, 2007
Nancy Valaitas, ’04, to Louis Levesque on Aug. 16, 2008
To Cara Cricco Capalbo, ’97, and Peter Capalbo, ’00, a daughter, Cecilia Ann, on April 8, 2008, joining big sister, Abigail
To Mark D’Amico, ’98, and Kathleen D’Amico, a son, Thomas Mark, on Nov. 19, 2008
To Nicole Santos Gotthold, ’01, and Michael Gotthold, a son, William Anthony, on June 3, 2008

To Tara Cronin Jones, ’93, and Ted Jones, ’94, a son, Ryan Edward, on June 6, 2008, joining big brother, Matthew
To Matt Griffin, ’97, and Mirian Claudio, a daughter, Vanessa Selena, on Sept. 14, 2008

To Cara Cricco Capalbo, ’97, and Peter Capalbo, ’00, a daughter, Cecilia Ann, on April 8, 2008, joining big sister, Abigail
To Mark D’Amico, ’98, and Kathleen D’Amico, a son, Thomas Mark, on Nov. 19, 2008
To Nicole Santos Gotthold, ’01, and Michael Gotthold, a son, William Anthony, on June 3, 2008
Commencement day is a blur of activity as these members of the Class of 2009 get ready to process, greet their families, and part with the classmates they’ve learned, lived and laughed with during their years at Bridgewater State College.

Approximately 900 graduates, hailing from 199 Massachusetts communities and 10 states, were addressed by Massachusetts Gov. Deval L. Patrick at the college’s 168th spring commencement ceremony, held May 16.