Research Notes: John Marvelle
Dr. John Marvelle of Elementary and Early Childhood Education is currently enjoying his third reunion with Bridgewater State College. After graduating from the college in 1968 and receiving his Masters degree in Special Education in 1976, John is back at Bridgewater and enthused about helping teachers create classroom environments that meet the needs of all children regardless of their ability, cultural background, or gender.

To implement his commitment, John has immersed himself in a series of projects. From 1991-1993 John and Special Education professor Lisa Battaglino implemented Into the Mainstream, a project that helped preschool teachers in Southeastern Massachusetts develop integrated classrooms in which children with severe special needs are taught alongside their typically developed peers. More recently, John and Computer Science and Mathematics professor Gail Price co-taught numerous PALMS (Partnerships Advancing the Learning of Mathematics and Science) workshops to help kindergarten through college teachers restructure how they teach mathematics and science so that all students become literate in these two vital areas.

Even the summer does not slow down John’s efforts. This summer John taught a course on creating inclusive classrooms; served as a teacher in Gail Price’s SCI-MA Connection project designed to help 6th-grade girls become confident in their abilities in mathematics and science; spent two weeks in Guadalajara, Mexico sharing insights with teachers on teaching students with special needs in regular classrooms; and was the featured guest on Apple Computer’s electronic communication service, E-World, where he discussed inclusion philosophy and strategies.

All his work in improving the classroom setting has given John the impetus to write a book focusing on creating learning environments that support all learners. John hopes he can help teachers realize that all students have strengths (gifts), and weaknesses (disabilities), but it’s the classroom environment which teachers create that determines who will be handicapped. It is good to have John back home at Bridgewater. Because of his insights and dedication, many more classrooms will become welcoming places for all learners.