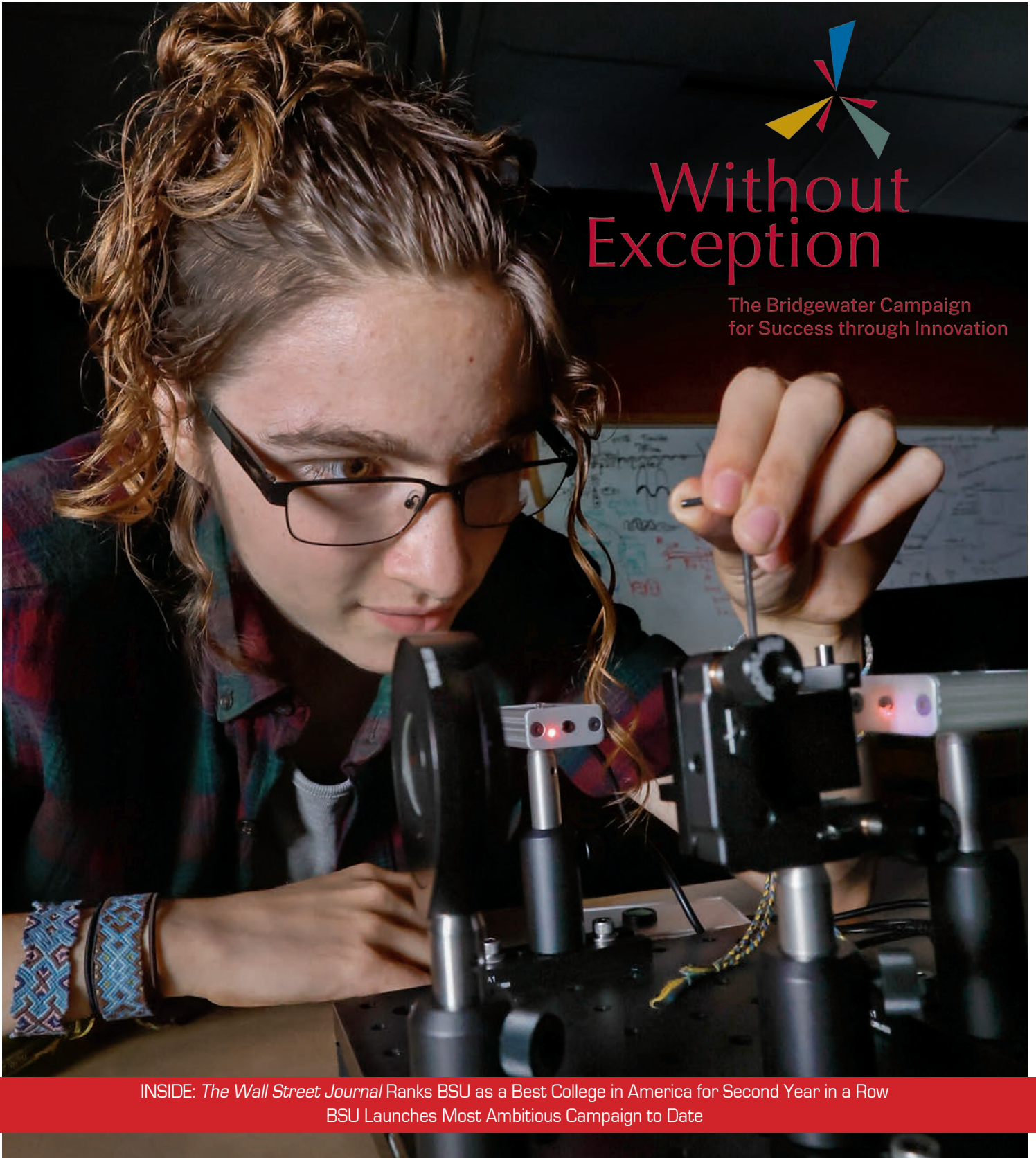


# Bridgewater

STATE UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

WINTER 2025



## Without Exception

The Bridgewater Campaign for Success through Innovation

INSIDE: *The Wall Street Journal* Ranks BSU as a Best College in America for Second Year in a Row  
BSU Launches Most Ambitious Campaign to Date



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

**Genesis Rojas, '26**, burns with a passion – many passions, in fact. And she's wasting no time turning her dreams for herself and others into reality.

Where to begin? Genesis, 25, is a first-generation college student, balancing her roles as an honors student, chronobiology undergraduate researcher, EMT, wife to Douglas and mother to Benjamin. Alongside her studies in psychology-pre-med, she recently presented her research at the Society for Neuroscience's national research conference. She also started the BSU chapter of Global Brigades, a student-led nonprofit focused on sustainable global philanthropic intervention. Driven by a deep desire to enable BSU students to assist nations battling social and economic disparities, and inspired by her Colombian and Venezuelan roots, Genesis, with the support of her best friend Jenalyn Warcup, '24, G'26, raised \$35,000 and co-led a mission with BSU students to Coclé Province in Panama to help establish clean, sustainable drinking water this past summer. The aspiring emergency medicine physician is gearing up for another mission to help build a medical clinic in Panama next summer. Genesis volunteers her free time as a worship leader in the Universal Missionary Church for the homeless in Brockton. Motivated by her family's sacrifices, desire to overcome her challenges and aiming to inspire her son, Genesis embodies perseverance and dedication.

## **What set you on this impressive path?**

Growing up, I faced challenges with my grades and learning disability and struggled with confidence. However, after three years of community college, becoming a mother motivated me to seek a fresh start. BSU offered me that opportunity, and I am now thriving beyond my expectations.

## **What inspired you to go into medicine?**

Well, originally focused on a career as a singer-songwriter having released a Christian album at 16 years old, I set this dream aside for my son, getting back in touch with my childhood dream of medicine. My fascination with science deepens with every class, and as an EMT I treat my patients with compassion and respect. Although I'm just pre-med, I've already gained invaluable leadership and helping skills. But I'm still writing original music and hope to combine my passions in Doctors Without Borders, sharing the gospel through my music with my patients one day. I want to serve humanity on a global scale.

## **What role has BSU played in your life so far?**

I'm deeply thankful to BSU for the experiences I missed in high school, for that, I know God has given my story purpose. I used to believe I could barely handle two classes a semester. But the support from BSU tutors, professors, SAS, my research mentor Dr. Joseph Seggio, my academic coach Maddie Bilowus and my pre-med advisor Dr. Blair Nelson has been crucial to my success. Also, peers I have studied with have become lifelong friends. I'm highly passionate about learning and hope my success motivates other neurodivergent students like me to see their limitations as a superpower and take advantage of BSU's wonderful community.

## **You talk about how much your parents have sacrificed for you.**

Although my mom dreamed of being an electrician and my dad an engineer and lawyer, they sacrificed their careers and came to America to give my brother and me a better life. To survive, they worked rigorous minimum-wage jobs. I need to show them that their sacrifices have not been in vain. I think that's why I work so hard: to honor them so their legacy lives on through my efforts. Plus, I want to teach my son that with discipline, dedication and faith, anything is achievable. It takes challenges to grow.



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*Bridgewater keeps alumni, faculty, students and their families, staff and friends of Bridgewater State University informed about the university community and its impact on the region.*

This magazine is written, designed and edited by the Office of Creative Services and Publications with the needs of its varied audiences at heart and in mind.

For up-to-date university news, activities and events, and to view past issues of the magazine, visit <http://bridgew.edu/news-events>.

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Sophia MacQueen Pooler, '25, works in the university's photonics/optical engineering lab.

*photo by Paul Connors*





# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

PRESIDENT FREDERICK W. CLARK JR., ESQ., '83

The name of American writer and philosopher Elbert Hubbard may be lost to the mists of time. However, the man sure was prescient concerning one thing: More than a century ago he observed that “The world is moving so fast these days that the man who says it can’t be done is generally interrupted by someone doing it.”

Indeed, things are speeding onward more than ever these days. And if a hundred years ago progress seemed to be an unstoppable force, in recent decades, the pace has only multiplied.

In this issue, we highlight several key innovations that generous benefactors have helped make possible for our students – past, present and future. This comes at a time when BSU embarks on Without Exception: The Bridgewater Campaign for Success through Innovation, the largest campaign in the institution’s history. Our goal is to get to a \$100 million endowment; it is already more than \$75 million. This will keep BSU on the cutting edge – on many different and essential fronts – for generations to come.

Today’s students need to be well equipped for the ever-changing world in which they will live and work. Since their world is, in essence, our world, they will be the leaders who will blaze new trails in technology, healthcare, environmental science, social issues, entertainment and more. They, and we, will benefit from all they discover, build and invent in the coming years and decades.

Here at BSU, we have always put a premium on innovation. More than two decades ago, Bridgewater State College, as it was known then, garnered national attention for being one of the “most wired” campuses in the country. Today, BSU is still blazing trails in important and innovative ways. In these pages you will read about the recently announced Bridgewater Commitment, which will cover the full cost of tuition and mandatory fees for in-state students from families earning \$125,000 or less. This is the kind of initiative that has once again made BSU one of *The Wall Street Journal’s* Best Colleges in America. You can also read about that in this issue.

That forward-looking approach remains at the heart of the university’s mission, which in a world driven by imagination and innovation, is more important than ever.

Ensuring that our students benefit from the most recent developments in educational resources, emerging technologies, academic best practices and career preparation is made possible in large part by the many benefactors who have made supporting Bridgewater State University a priority.

I thank all those who have previously and regularly opened their hearts to make BSU the institution it is today. And I hope by seeing in the following pages the results philanthropy has made possible for today’s students, recent alumni and countless others, you will be moved to join in the support of a great cause – that is, nothing less than the future.

With warmest regards,



President Frederick W. Clark Jr.





# CAMPUS CONNECTION

## NEWS AND NEWSMAKERS

### TOP GRADES

#### *The Wall Street Journal* and Others Place BSU Near Top of Their Lists

*The Wall Street Journal* has for the second year in a row ranked Bridgewater State University as one of the best institutions of higher learning in America.

In the new report issued by *The Wall Street Journal* and CollegePulse, the university's longstanding commitment to student success helped BSU rank in the top 15 percent of schools nationwide. The analysis measured how well schools improve students' chances of graduating and their future earnings while factoring in results of a student survey about campus life.

The university's strong placement speaks to student outcomes and the value of a BSU degree, said President Clark. "BSU positively changes the trajectory of countless student lives by delivering an excellent education that leads to a higher post-graduation salary at a lower cost than most universities in America," he said.

Graduates add an average of \$23,961 per year to their salaries as a result of attending BSU, according to *The Wall Street Journal* analysis, and it takes graduates just over three years to recoup their investment.

The newspaper also lauded BSU for preparing students to make meaningful contributions to society.



#### National Organization Dubs Campus as Among Most LGBTQIA+ Friendly

BSU has placed third in the United States in a ranking of the most LGBTQIA+ friendly colleges and universities in the nation. It is the highest ranking among New England schools in the new analysis from BestColleges.com. The report identifies institutions that excel in providing academic, financial and social resources for LGBTQIA+ students.

BestColleges.com, which based its analysis partly on federal data, called BSU a "best value" institution and praised the many opportunities for "students to understand and explore LGBTQIA+ identity and culture." It also emphasized the importance of Pride Center activities, such as Big Queer Welcome, the Pride365 mentorship program and Queer Prom. "It really highlights the good work that's being done campus wide," said Carolyn Taggart, director of the Pride Center.

At BSU, 14 percent of students openly identify as LGBTQIA+, and the university offers support in all areas of campus life. Those initiatives include gender-inclusive bathrooms and housing, trans-inclusive student health insurance, and easy processes to update names and share pronouns.

New this academic year is a program called Pride365, which connects first-year students with upper-class peer mentors who help ease the transition to BSU. Participants also take a one-credit class.

#### Campus Ranked Third Safest in Nation

The university celebrated another accolade when the campus was ranked the third safest in the country.

Last year, BSU captured the fourth spot on the list, which is issued each year by AcademicInfluence.com. The university has consistently ranked among the top five safest campuses in the country. This year's improved ranking reflects not only the exceptionally low crime rate on campus but also the university's compliance with the Clery Act, which requires colleges and universities to report campus crime data, support victims of violence, and share publicly the policies and procedures they have put into place to improve campus safety; dedicated BSU Police Department; CARE Team; Rave Guardian app; and other factors, according to the website's report.

"Safety matters to our students and their families and to our faculty, librarians and staff," said President Clark. "This higher ranking demonstrates that the years of work and constant transparency is paying real dividends."

# CAMPUS CONNECTION

## NEWS AND NEWSMAKERS

### Campus Community Bids Farewell to Eugene J. Durgin Jr.

Former chairman of the university's Board of Trustees and longtime friend of the institution, Eugene J. Durgin Jr. died October 19, 2024, at the age of 82.

President Clark paid tribute to Mr. Durgin, calling him "one of the most pivotal figures in the history of our great university and truly a prince of a human being."

President Clark added that the former chairman – of both the Trustees and Foundation – had "an unparalleled record of service to Bridgewater State University." Over the course of more than 30 years, he presided over the most transformative period in the university's 184-year history. Mr. Durgin oversaw BSU's elevation to university status and the largest expansion of its physical campus in its history.

"BSU today serves more students, is a more equitable institution, is financially stronger and simply a better place than when he first joined the Board of Trustees in 1991," President Clark said. "He was a constant source of support, guidance and wise counsel to three BSU presidents, and we will miss him greatly."

A graduate of Boston College, Gene Durgin held several senior positions in finance and banking during his career. He served as managing director of Voyageur Asset Management in Boston from 1995 until his retirement in 2011. Previously, he held roles as president of the Massachusetts Public Pension Forum, chairman of John Hancock Freedom Trust Co., and senior vice president at BayBanks. He also volunteered on several town committees in Duxbury, the Massachusetts Retirement Law Commission and the Williams College School of Banking.

Mr. Durgin officially joined the ranks of alumni when BSU bestowed on him an honorary degree in 2023.

A regular and genial presence on campus, Mr. Durgin enjoyed a reputation for generously supporting student success. Over the decades, it's estimated he congratulated and shook the hands of tens of thousands of BSU graduates who walked across the commencement stages. He leavened the responsibility of his various roles with a wonderful sense of humor; he was never at a loss for telling a good joke.



In an article BSU posted at the time of his retirement from the Board of Trustees in 2022, Mr. Durgin reflected, "It's been a blessing to see what happens on this campus and how students are transformed from freshmen beginners to confident graduates ... it's a feather in the cap to everyone on this campus."

President Clark did his best to provide the true measure of the man.

"For those of us who have known and worked with Gene over these many years, his loss is truly profound," he said. "While we celebrate and honor his service to and impact on BSU, we will also mourn the passing of a selfless and true friend. Gene Durgin's captivating smile always led to his heart. Our condolences go out to Gene's wife, Carol, and his beautiful family."

*In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Mr. Durgin's memory to the **Eugene J. Durgin Jr. Endowed Scholarship Fund** at Bridgewater State University. Checks can be made payable to the BSU Foundation, and mailed to the Bridgewater State University Foundation, P.O. Box 42, Bridgewater, MA 02324. To make a gift online, please visit <https://bridgew.edu/give>. Gene's scholarship fund will appear in the drop-down menu.*



### Program Provides Free Tuition and Mandatory Fees for in-State Students from Families Earning \$125,000 or Less

Thanks to an initiative years in the making, beginning in fall 2025 Bridgewater State University will cover the full cost of tuition and mandatory fees for in-state students from families earning \$125,000 or less.

The goal of the Bridgewater Commitment is to provide financial support to middle- and low-income families so students can pursue the benefits of an excellent four-year degree provided by one of *The Wall Street Journal's* Best Colleges in America.

"This is the logical destination BSU has been heading toward for some time," said President Clark. "This commitment will provide access and opportunities for many deserving students and ultimately will serve the region well."

Administrators said the Bridgewater Commitment was made possible due to an innovative funding model drawing on federal, state, institutional and private philanthropic sources. Unlike other institutions which have recently announced commitments to families making under \$75,000, BSU was able to go further. In fact, the Bridgewater Commitment exceeds the commitment being made by all other public four-year universities in Massachusetts.

The announcement was made in November by Paul Jean, vice president for enrollment, marketing and communications; Laura Biechler, assistant vice president for student financial assistance and enrollment management; and Doug Shropshire, vice president for finance and chief financial officer. In the announcement, university administrators said the Bridgewater Commitment is rooted in the institution's mission and supports BSU's determination to make education affordable and accessible for all students and families.

The Bridgewater Commitment is just the latest initiative aimed at making a BSU degree more within reach of all. Partnerships with the commonwealth's community colleges, more than competitive financial aid packages, and a growing number of privately supported scholarships have allowed BSU to set the standard in this regard. The Bridgewater Commitment speaks not only to the university's mission, but also to its long-held goals of increased equity and inclusivity.

While other schools around the state – including the University of Massachusetts – and across the country – Carnegie Mellon University, the University of Illinois – have also recently introduced free tuition plans, BSU is among the most aggressive in the nation, surpassed only by MIT and the University of Pennsylvania.

"Ensuring that a Bridgewater education is within reach of Massachusetts residents who want to improve themselves or enhance their career prospects has long been a goal of mine," President Clark said. "It is perhaps the most equity-minded of all our initiatives."

For questions or more information about the Bridgewater Commitment, contact the Office of Financial Aid at [finaid@bridgew.edu](mailto:finaid@bridgew.edu).

#### THE BRIDGEWATER COMMITMENT COVERS:

- Tuition and mandatory fees that are charged to all students
- Massachusetts families earning \$125,000 or less as verified by the FAFSA (families must complete the FAFSA to be considered)
- New and returning full-time (12-17 credits) undergraduate students beginning or continuing their first bachelor's degree
- Undergraduate students transferring to BSU beginning in fall 2025 (if all financial aid criteria are met)
- Students and families who have resided in the state of Massachusetts for at least two years

# CAMPUS CONNECTION

## NEWS AND NEWSMAKERS

### Alumnus Named New Trustee

Dr. Mike Vieira, '75, G'82, is a new member of the university's Board of Trustees.

An English and journalism teacher for 20 years at Fall River's Durfee High School, he has also been a member of the Bridgewater Alumni Association Board since 2015.

Dr. Vieira holds a PhD in higher education leadership from Capella University and a CAGS from Rhode Island College.

He unabashedly traces his roots to his alma mater: "It all goes back to Bridgewater," he said. "I often say it was life-changing, and it was in a bunch of ways."

Dr. Vieira even set up his journalism program at Durfee High based on what he'd experienced during his days on campus.

"I created a newsroom atmosphere that really replicated *The Comment*," said Dr. Vieira, who joined Bridgewater State's newspaper staff at the urging of a professor. He quickly fell in love with producing the paper, from writing stories to laying out pages to thriving in the sometimes-chaotic newsroom. His first article was about the 1973 resignation of U.S. Vice President Spiro Agnew.

"In a lot of ways, it's paying it forward," he said of being an educator. "I always try to keep an eye on those students who



need that little extra push. ... You are responsible for helping develop future citizens and future leaders."

Now, as a trustee, Dr. Vieira has an opportunity to continue shaping the lives of young people.

"I'm honored to be in this position, and I look forward to representing the alumni to the best of my abilities for as long as I can," he said.

BY BRIAN BENSON, G'23

### Meet the New Student Trustee

This academic year, E. Rose, '25, is serving as the student representative to the Board of Trustees.

A criminal justice major who is minoring in Portuguese, E. Rose looks forward to assisting the board in analyzing data, expanding opportunities for students from diverse backgrounds and fostering the welcoming campus they have enjoyed throughout their time as a Bear.

"Everyone goes above and beyond," E. Rose said. "I don't think I've ever experienced a time when someone didn't open a door for me and let me pass through."

BY BRIAN BENSON, G'23





# CAMPUS CONNECTION

## NEWS AND NEWSMAKERS



### New VP Stresses Student Connections

Dr. Lucy Shaffer Croft is BSU's new vice president for student life.

A student affairs professional with 35 years of experience, she came to Bridgewater State University having served as vice president for student success at Buena Vista University in Iowa and in student affairs leadership posts for more than 15 years at the University of North Florida.

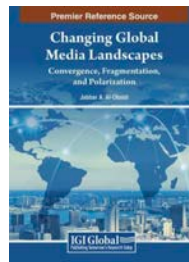
When she came to campus one year ago as interim vice president for student life, she saw an opportunity to provide stability to a division in transition. It didn't take her long to realize that BSU was a special place where she wanted to remain. "I quickly learned that Bridgewater is a unique university in that it's about education, but it's also about service in almost equal parts," she said. "Both of those are values that I practice and resonate with me."

Dr. Croft's career path took shape as an undergraduate at Hanover College in Indiana. A field hockey athlete and sorority member, Dr. Croft held numerous leadership posts, including as resident assistant, orientation leader, student union manager and president of the programming board. "I have a heart for service, and I have a heart for leading others," she said.

BSU students, Dr. Croft has noticed, are eager to develop as leaders and value mentorship. "I connect with the students," she said. "They're kind, they're caring, they're smart, they're motivated, and they're ready to learn. They want to feel inspired."

BY BRIAN BENSON, G'23

## Faculty Bookshelf



### *Changing Global Media Landscapes: Convergence, Fragmentation, and Polarization*

**Jabbar A. Al-Obaidi**

With the advancement of technology and the increasing use of digital and social media platforms, we are experiencing an unprecedented era of global connectivity and information sharing. However, alongside these advancements comes a pressing challenge: the rampant spread of misinformation and disinformation, fueling fragmentation and polarization within communities worldwide. As regulations struggle to keep pace with technological innovation, media scholars, experts and practitioners face a critical need for comprehensive strategies to navigate this complex terrain. This book offers a solution to the multifaceted challenges of modern media and communication. With a keen focus on media ethics, law and organizational management, it equips readers with the tools needed to confront the evolving landscape of digital media responsibly and effectively.



### *Emerging Technologies Transforming Higher Education: Instructional Design and Student Success*

**Jacquelynne Anne Boivin, Jabbar A. Al-Obaidi, Madhusudana N. Rao**

As higher education institutions grapple with the rapid evolution of technology, they are faced with a myriad of challenges in effectively integrating these innovations into teaching, learning and student support services. This book emerges as a timely solution to the pressing challenges facing higher education in the digital age. By offering a nuanced exploration of the intersection between technology and academia, this book equips educators and administrators with the knowledge and tools needed to navigate the complexities of technology integration effectively.



### *Employing Our Returning Citizens: An Employer-Centric View*

**Editors: Nicole C. Jones Young, Jakari N. Griffith**

A criminal record can be a formidable employment barrier and is thus a major contributor to employment inequality, as most employers would rather avoid hiring an individual who has committed a crime. This book, offering an employer-centric view of the latest research findings, blends interdisciplinary theoretical perspectives and empirical findings to provide an overview and areas for future management research. The chapters assess the state of the field while highlighting the most critical themes that advance our understanding of the employment process and challenges for system-impacted individuals. Presenting a comprehensive assessment of the challenges and opportunities, this volume will appeal to disciplines related to organizational behavior, human resource management and employment law, as well as any other disciplines that bear responsibility for enacting and crafting hiring and selection processes.

# FACULTY FOCUS

## DR. JENNIFER MEAD / HEALTH AND KINESIOLOGY

From a young age, Dr. Jennifer Mead had athletics in her blood. The Raynham native was a standout on the soccer pitch in high school, being named the South Shore League's MVP and earning All American, All New England and All State honors.

She also played basketball, which earned her a scholarship from Providence College. Meanwhile, on the soccer pitch, she helped the Friars win the 1993 Big East Championship and was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player.

A serious setback to all these triumphs and accolades arrived when she was 19, and doctors found a hole in her heart. It almost ended her stellar career as a dual-sport athlete. "There was a lot of drama back then," she recalled.

Boston newspapers carried stories about the surgery she underwent, and she was surprised by the outpouring of well wishes from children, students and families across the commonwealth and beyond.

Despite all the support, the physical ailment was accompanied by an emotional-mental component. One that shook Dr. Mead to her core. "I spent my whole life being an athlete and seen as an athlete first, so it was terrifying to think I wasn't an athlete anymore. That was my identity. It was scary," she said. "It probably led me into sports psychology and thinking about coaches and their roles differently."

She survived the health scare, and not only returned to the pitch, but would go on to make six appearances as goaltender with the United States Women's National Soccer Team. She took part in her final international game on December 13, 1997, in a match against Brazil.

For her tenacity and ability to move others through her example, Dr. Mead earned the 1993 Honda Inspiration Award.

She would also spend her fifth year of NCAA student-athlete eligibility playing soccer and studying at George Mason University, where the awards and accolades continued to pile up. Before retiring from the pitch in 2001, Dr. Mead was drafted and played professionally in the Women's Soccer Association. She retired at the end of that season. She was 29.

By that time, she had her sights on her next goal. "I always knew I wanted to go to graduate school, just to prove to myself I could do it," she said.

She'd already been forced by her cardiac surgery to view sports differently, when she was left to contemplate being sidelined for good.

"It was a big moment for me that really impacted my thinking about athletes," she said. "It kind of shifted my thoughts about the importance of it all. It was now harder to see sports as the most important thing in my life. I realized that I had value outside of sports."



photo by Brittani Bartok

**Dr. Jennifer Mead, above, and third from right with teammates after winning The Soccer Tournament (TST) in 2024.**

"It also kind of led me down the path to think about identity and how athletes experience being an athlete," she added.

A good student, she had earned a bachelor's degree in general studies from Providence College, and with her playing days over, she headed to Springfield College to pursue a master's degree in exercise science and sports studies. After graduation, her mentor, Betty L. Mann, assistant professor of physical education and director of the Division of Graduate Studies at the college, challenged Dr. Mead. "She saw that part of me, saw me as an intellectual being," she said. "She asked me why I wasn't going for a PhD, and I had no answer."

After that it was, as Dr Mead put it: "Giddy up!"

She stayed at Springfield College for that doctorate in physical education with a concentration in sport and exercise psychology.

That she would join BSU in 2009 as an adjunct faculty member, going full time five years later, is no surprise. Dr. Mead's family tree is loaded with Bears. Her mother is a graduate, as is a brother, aunt and cousins. Her eldest son, Adam, is a senior biology major. Meanwhile, her daughter, Jolie, 20, is in her first year at Bristol Community College. Dr. Mead and her wife, Melanie, live in Fairhaven.

She still carries the memory of that health scare of three decades ago, and its attendant effects still inform her work as an associate professor of health and kinesiology, and graduate coordinator.



# CAMPUS CONNECTION

## NEWS AND NEWSMAKERS

Among her accomplishments at BSU is the establishment of graduate programs in Professional Tennis Management and Coaching Education. Both programs are thriving. The former has been boosted by support from the United States Tennis Association (USTA) and a recent influx of international students, and the latter elevating the quality of coaching through a master's degree program that can be completed fully online. Both programs emphasize a humanistic approach to coaching, and their development was, in part, informed by her own experiences as an athlete – from good coaches who were exceptional tacticians and teachers of their sport who recognized and met the unique needs of their players, to not-so-good, such as the one who created a “no lesbians” policy for the team.

“With that, I just firmly left myself in the closet until I left the school,” she said.

In the coaching education degree program, Dr. Mead tries to go beyond the Xs and Os of the game, asking students to think with greater breadth and depth about their roles and responsibilities as coaches. Beyond developing expertise in their sport, the goal is for students to come away from the program with a deeper understanding of the key areas needed to help others optimize their sport performance, such as sport nutrition, biomechanical analysis and exercise physiology.

“We would like them to value self-awareness and reflective practice as leaders, to think deeply about the type of team cultures they will create, and to recognize the impact of their decisions and actions on all stakeholders, especially on the individual human beings they coach,” she said. “A major goal is that our graduates will become reflective coaches who value authenticity in themselves and others.”

Teaching in the successful coaching education graduate program keeps Dr. Mead in the game, so to speak. So, too, does her work in BSU's Academic Achievement Center, where she is an advisor. “I get to use some of my coaching and sports psychology skills to support our students,” she said. “Working with the academic advisors in the AAC is like having teammates working toward a shared goal. They show up for our students and each other. I love it!”

She's also a mentor for BSU's women's basketball team.

Earlier this year, Dr. Mead got back into the game for real, helping coach, along with some of her old teammates from the U.S. Women's National Team, a squad made up mostly of USWNT alumni in The Soccer Tournament winner-take-all women's competition. Her team won and split the million-dollar prize.

“Coaching and advising, these are my competitive outlets these days,” Dr. Mead said.

BY JOHN WINTERS, G'11



## Remembering Professor Walter Gleason

Professor Emeritus Walter J. Gleason died August 5 at the age of 88. He devoted the majority of his career – nearly a half century – to Bridgewater State and its students.

Professor Gleason held a Bachelor of Science degree from Boston State College and a master's degree from Boston College. He began his career as a high school math teacher in Milton, where he spent five years.

During his time in the Department of Mathematics, which spanned from 1965 to 2013 – the Winthrop native earned a Lifetime Faculty Research Award in 2006. He was proud of publishing several of his own textbooks, which were high in quality but low in price, saving Bridgewater State students from purchasing traditional, much more expensive titles.

Students and colleagues remember Professor Gleason as fun to be around, attentive to students' needs and always eager to share his passion for all things math related. These feelings were shared by President Clark.

“To have served this institution for the better part of 50 years is one thing,” he said. “To do so while exemplifying those traits that are hallmarks of the best educators is truly special. This university is ever thankful to those like Professor Gleason who contributed much to making Bridgewater such a special place.”

Professor Gleason was preceded in death by his wife, Nancy, and is survived by three sons, Stephen, Brian and Gary; daughter-in-law, Marisela; and his grandchildren, Nicholas and Isabella.

A graveside ceremony was held August 8 at Blue Hill Cemetery in Braintree.

BY JOHN WINTERS, G'11

# CAMPUS CONNECTION

## NEWS AND NEWSMAKERS



### Meet the Man Who Named BSU's Mascot

When sharing the good news that he was accepted into BSU, Dominic Ford, '28, inadvertently uncovered a piece of BSU history.

Dominic works as a dining server at Linden Ponds in Hingham.

It's also where Dr. Robert Calzini, '64, lives with his wife, Jan.

Over the past two years, the men formed a friendship.

When Dominic received his BSU acceptance letter, Mr. Calzini was one of the first people he told. After congratulating him, the older man had a news flash of his own. "Back then I entered a contest to name Bridgewater State's mascot," he said. "And I won!"

Today, everyone on campus knows that the big, friendly bear that serves as the university's mascot is called Brisatco. A contest to name the mascot was held back in the 1960s, and Mr. Calzini and his roommate entered. "I was determined to win," he said. He had many ideas, but then it came to him.

At the time, BSU was then Bridgewater State College, so the "Bri" stood for Bridgewater, the "sta" for state and the "co" for college. "My roommate told me that it was terrible, but I won," Mr. Calzini said. As the winner, he received \$10. For more than 50 years the name has stuck.

BY HEATHER HARRIS MICHONSKI, '26



### Burnell Hall Renovation Launched

A handful of university and state officials, including President Clark, were on hand for a January 29 campus event to mark the launch of the Burnell Hall renovation, a \$50.8 million project.

President Clark said the renovation demonstrates the institution's ongoing desire to create opportunities that ensure every BSU student finds his or her own level of success. "Throughout it all, the flame of our mission and noble purpose has only burned brighter," he said. "Today launches another tool to build our future and fulfill our mission."

Adam Baacke, commissioner of the Massachusetts Division of Capital Asset Management & Maintenance, was on hand, representing Governor Maura Healey's office. The project, he said, aligns with the goals of the governor's proposed \$2.5 billion Act to Build Resilient Infrastructure to Generate Higher Education Transformation bill. "We feel strongly about the importance of supporting higher education and the substantial structural needs higher education has," Mr. Baacke said. "Investing in higher education is critical, particularly in public higher education because public higher education is creating the people who stay and work in Massachusetts."

### New Scholarship Fund to Aid Education Majors

BSU received a \$3 million gift to support students studying to become teachers. The Isabel A. Dawson and Richard J. Powers Endowed Education Scholarship Fund will address some of the obstacles these students face, including certification and licensure fees. The scholarship was announced at the Burnell Hall renovation launch on January 29; Ms. Dawson's photo adorned the stage to the left of the president (see above, right).

"(This gift) will help grow and unlock promising futures for generations to come, without exception," said Ellen Cuttle Oliver, '82, G'89, chief development officer in the Office of Alumni and Development.

Isabel Dawson wasn't a Bridgewater graduate but believed in the school's mission of service and equity, best defined by its motto, "Not to be ministered unto, but to minister."

She was born in 1928 and was among the first women to graduate from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., and worked for the Central Intelligence Agency, the Foreign Service, and as an economic area officer with the U.S. State Department.



# STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

BY JENALYN WARCUP, '24, G'26

*Jenalyn Warcup received her bachelor's degree in geography with minors in sustainability and studio art.*

*Now a student in the university's new graduate program in public relations, Jenalyn, who is from Warwick, Rhode Island, is arming herself for what she feels will be the most critical issue of her lifetime: the battle against climate change and its myriad effects.*

As those who know me will tell you, I am committed to finding my role in the midst of climate change. I am very passionate, and I like to add fire to new and existing projects that come across my path.

One day last winter, I ran into fellow student Genesis Rojas, '26, (see story on inside front cover) and we decided to have lunch together. She told me about Global Brigades and the opportunity to travel internationally to serve people in need. Immediately I was hooked, already planning in my head to travel to Latin America that summer.

Two large group trips sponsored by Global Brigades ended up coming to fruition, and I was selected as co-leader of both: Water Brigade Panama and a climate research trip to Peru.

I spent the beginning of last summer as a videographer, hiking in the Andes mountains, learning about the elevation-dependent warming happening there, along with the melting of local glaciers, and how these affect Peruvian water systems. Toward the end of the summer, I was deep in the rainforest of Panama building a foundation for a dam and implementing a chlorine system for a water-insecure community.

I guess you could say I found my own version of traveling after graduation. Through these experiences, I believe I've found my role in the war against climate change. My ultimate hope



is to not only be one who goes out and experiences the various impacts of climate, but to be the person who returns and tells the tale.

My career goals are to utilize my public relations skills to uplift organizations focused on sustainability, whether by being a spokesperson, campaign manager, or someone who builds and sustains critical relationships. At the end of the day, I've learned it always comes down to the power of community. This is what fuels me to take on projects like those sponsored by Global Brigades.



# Without Exception

The Bridgewater Campaign  
for Success through Innovation

THE WITHOUT EXCEPTION CAMPAIGN enables us to expand our impact by securing the resources students need to thrive at BSU, strengthening the support systems that help them along the path to graduation and increasing our ability to offer them opportunities that translate into successful careers.

A gift to the campaign honors and affirms the very best of Bridgewater State University: where we come from, who we are and all that we can be. Please accept our sincere thanks for your support.

[bridgew.edu/bsu-campaign](http://bridgew.edu/bsu-campaign)



# Without Exception

## *The Bridgewater Campaign for*

BY JOHN WINTERS, G'11

BRIDGEWATER STATE UNIVERSITY has embarked on the largest fundraising campaign in its history, with the goal of creating a \$100 million endowment that will continue the institution's long tradition of excellence in educating tomorrow's leaders far into the future.

The Without Exception campaign is about making the investments that will sustain the university's efforts in ensuring student success – efforts that have led *The Wall Street Journal* for the second year in a row to rank BSU among its Best Colleges in America for advancing the social mobility of students from a wide range of socioeconomic backgrounds and providing an extraordinary return on investment.

"This endowment will guarantee a better tomorrow at BSU," said President Clark. "It is one of the foundational, transformative building blocks that we must complete. It's one of my highest priorities."

Indeed, the president spoke of his intentions during his inauguration in 2015. Over the past decade, the institution has put an emphasis on the development of innovative programs, initiatives and strategies that have elevated BSU on many fronts. Maintaining that upward trajectory is imperative, and the Without Exception campaign is designed to provide the resources necessary to do just this.

"BSU is rising," President Clark said. "You can see that our capabilities have expanded significantly and continue to expand."

He added that at the time of the first campaign he was involved in at the institution in the late 1990s, the state provided 80 percent of Bridgewater State's funding, with 20 percent coming from student tuition and benefactors. Those numbers are now reversed, making private philanthropy more important than ever.

The \$100 million endowment will be composed of pledges, cash donations and documented bequests that can be capitalized. The money is invested, and the interest can then be used by BSU.

"If you really want to make an impact on the institution and help students and departments for a very long time, endowed funds make the biggest difference," the president said.



# Success Through Innovation

Ellen Cuttle Oliver, '82, G'89, BSU's chief development officer, agreed. "There's no better time to safeguard the legacy of this institution and its future," she said. "And what endowed funds do is ensure that scholarships, programs and opportunities for our students exist in perpetuity."

The campaign was officially launched with an event on campus in June that was hosted by the BSU Foundation. Mailings, publications, events and other outreach efforts will invite current and future donors to become part of the campaign.

While the \$100 million mark was once viewed as aggressive, as of this writing it is within reach, with the university endowment standing at more than \$75 million. In 2015, the first year of President Clark's presidency, the endowment stood at \$36 million.

"This is about taking BSU far into the future," Ms. Oliver said.

Along with raising the funding necessary to sustain BSU's growth and commitment to student success, another goal of the campaign is to celebrate and further strengthen the institution's already strong culture of philanthropy.

"The only way to increase our funding is through private philanthropy," President Clark said. "It's up to us to make a difference now and in the future. It's also important to make sure BSU remains one of the most affordable pathways to a four-year degree in New England," he added.

In the following pages we feature examples of innovative programs, as well as stories about the individuals who have benefited from them. Each initiative was made possible and/or enhanced by donors. And, Ms. Oliver said, there's room for everyone to play a role.

"The campaign will ensure that BSU continues to be a place where everyone is welcome, where all who are interested in a degree have access to remarkable opportunities like undergraduate research, paid internships and study abroad," she said. "Everyone can contribute to this campaign. Every gift to an endowed fund gets counted. Large donations have a significant impact, but every donation matters. There's a pathway for everyone to support our students."◆

## THE FOUR PRIORITIES OF Without Exception: The Bridgewater Campaign for Success Through Innovation

**MAKE A BSU EDUCATION** synonymous with outstanding career pathways and great opportunities for professional running starts.

**MAKE A BSU EDUCATION** a great return on investment, giving students the opportunity to focus less on paying for college and more on building their futures and changing the world.

**DOUBLE DOWN ON BSU'S HISTORIC MISSION:** Bring the dream of college success to those who once considered it impractical - or impossible.

**INFUSE BSU'S ACADEMIC PROGRAMS** with new resources to make them more nimble, impactful and responsive to emerging opportunities.



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## PHOTONICS/ OPTICAL ENGINEERING

BSU occupies a leading role in what's known as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quantum Revolution. As Dr. Edward Deveney, a professor in the Department of Physics, Photonics and Optical Engineering, puts it, "This is an entirely new world with new economies in which we, BSU Physics and Engineering, are leading the way in terms of cutting-edge undergraduate research and education... We are true leaders." The technology allows for the creation of quantum computers, networks, medical sensors and the next generation of cybersecurity tools.

The Department of Physics, Photonics and Optical Engineering offers a four-year Bachelor of Science degree in photonics and optical engineering, teaching students about the technologies of tomorrow today, from semiconductors, light-based optics, fibers and photonic-integrated chip design to quantum's 'spooky' superposition entanglement, and much more. Through intensive classwork, lab experience, collaborations with institutions including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a nationally recognized undergraduate research program, students are ready for careers as engineers, physicists, technicians and software specialists.

<https://tinyurl.com/photonics-opticalengineering>



## PRIORITY ONE

*Make a BSU education synonymous with outstanding career pathways and great opportunities for professional running starts.*

TO SEE TOM MELODY, '24, AT HIS BEST, just toss down that gauntlet.

"I've always kind of liked academic challenges and putting myself through the rigor," said the 31-year-old Weymouth native. "I feel you come out better on the other side, even if it's painful in the middle."

His interest was sparked early on, and he earned an associate degree in electrical engineering at Massasoit Community College. He knew this was a good start but not enough to satiate his burgeoning appetite for tech's next big thing. "When I heard about what was going on at BSU, I felt it was more cutting edge," he said.

Indeed, teaching cutting-edge skills and the technologies that will shape the future enables BSU graduates to thrive in the ever-changing employment landscape. We call it BSU Works. Students come to BSU to get a great education that leads to meaningful careers. The Without Exception campaign provides the resources needed to ensure that BSU stands firm on our mission to create pathways to employment for every student, without exception.

Mr. Melody is already working for a regional tech giant and furthering his studies after graduating last May.

When he first arrived on campus in 2022, he heard about new directions being blazed by the university and its Department of Physics: the fields of photonics and optical engineering.

He joined the lab of Dr. Edward Deveney, a professor in the Department of Physics, Photonics and Optical Engineering, and



an existing research team, and a new frontier opened. “I knew this was the direction the world is going in; everything these days is driven by light manipulation versus classical technology,” Mr. Melody said. “It’s all about the opportunity to explore new avenues of technology that we haven’t been able to before.”

In his junior year, he earned a prestigious internship in the Quantum Technology Applications Group at Draper Labs in Cambridge. Upon graduation, that internship became a full-time job in Draper’s Quantum and Atoms Group. He was also accepted as a fellow to Boston University’s master’s degree program in material science and engineering, with a focus on photonics and electronic materials.◆

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## LIFE DESIGN@BSU

This program, a key component of BSU Works, was adapted from Stanford University's Design Lab and developed by BSU's Career Services and Internships Office. The goal is to help BSU students think early and often about where they want to go in their careers and lives. By using this problem-solving approach, students will build resilience when faced with adversity while also creating a career and life vision for success after BSU.

<https://tinyurl.com/LifeDesignBSU>



THINGS WERE NOT GOING WELL for Ehudy Silva's family in 2008. The worldwide recession bankrupted his father's business, and the family was forced to move three times in short order, each representing a downward step on the economic ladder.

Eight years ago, the Silvas came to the United States looking for a better life. Ehudy quickly set his sights on a college education.

"I made a promise to myself that if I was going to do this, I would have to pay for it myself," he said.

Today, Ehudy is a 20-year-old sophomore at BSU, majoring in political science and English, with a minor in Portuguese. And true to his word, he is not costing his family a dime.

That doesn't mean it hasn't been a struggle. Working nearly 50 hours a week at a pizza parlor to cover his tuition, car payments and gas while commuting from Stoughton often left him with less than \$50 in his pocket most weeks. Working at a restaurant served the dual purpose of earning money and allowing him to eat every day. All this while he was carrying 18 credits.

These kinds of challenges can sidetrack even the most devoted students. To assist students from all backgrounds, the university has introduced an educational approach called BSU Works, an innovative program that undergirds the student experience. The objective is to engage students in their first year in life design and career planning, and thereafter to strengthen the pathways to employment for students through work experience (internships, apprenticeships) and forging deep relationships with employers across many industries. The goal is to embed BSU Works as deeply in the BSU student experience as co-op is a defining element of Northeastern University.

Among these initiatives is Life Design@BSU, a five-step program to help students navigate the sometimes-troubled waters they might encounter and to keep them on the right track to achieve their educational and career goals. Life Design@BSU is emblematic of the many programs made possible by BSU benefactors, and support for



BSU Works is a critical component of the Without Exception campaign, helping to ensure that more opportunities for career advancement are available to students, before and after graduation.

Ehudy, as a first-year student, enrolled in the one-credit course, free to any matriculated student, that initializes the Life Design@BSU experience and helps students transition to university life. It's safe to say the course opened doors for him. "That class helped me a lot, especially since I was a commuter then and didn't know where anything was, and I felt kind of lost," he said.

Eventually, his experiences led him to Dr. Deniz Leuenberger, chief of staff to President Clark and vice president for planning and strategy. Hearing his story, she set up a meeting with the president. The result was financial assistance that this young Brazilian believes will help him reach his goals of graduating and one day becoming an immigration lawyer. Meanwhile, Life Design@BSU will still be there for him, as the initiative also helps students throughout their time at the university with advising from the Career Services and Internships Office, which runs the program. Also available through Life Design@BSU are events and workshops to help students learn and practice the skills they need to successfully reach their goals.

Despite being able to breathe easier, financially speaking, Ehudy still works 11-hour shifts at the pizza parlor on weekends and paints houses during the week. He said he is thankful to the BSU benefactors who make "miracles" happen, as well as President Clark, Dr. Leuenberger, and the faculty and staff behind Life Design@BSU.◆

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## COLLABORATIVE UNIVERSITY BUSINESS EXPERIENCES (CUBEs)

CUBEs was founded in the Louis M. Ricciardi College of Business, thanks to a BSU innovation grant. Since then, more than 1,000 students have participated in 71 external projects with outside entities that include WB Mason, Meditech, several local municipal governments, Harbor One Bank, A&A Metro Transportation, and many nonprofits, such as Habitat for Humanity and the Brockton Neighborhood Health Center.

<https://tinyurl.com/BSUCUBES>



JOE GOYETTE, '23, MAY BE RELATIVELY NEW to TriMark USA, but even on his first day he was confident he had the skills needed to succeed.

So did his bosses. That's why he was hired by the Mansfield-based company that bills itself as "one of the nation's largest providers of design and build services, equipment and supplies to the foodservice industry."

In short, this was a job Mr. Goyette was imminently prepared for.

"One of the biggest obstacles students face when they graduate is that a lot of companies offer entry-level jobs, but still require two to three years of experience," the 23-year-old Norton native said. "I don't think I'd be where I'm at today without CUBEs."

CUBEs, or the Collaborative University Business Experiences, a four-year-old program developed as part of the university's BSU Works initiative within the Louis M. Ricciardi College of Business, allows students to do actual work for real companies. Students are involved in producing marketing studies, strategic planning, conducting surveys and more. The students also assist in implementing the results of their work. Hence, they gain the experience employers are looking for these days, even for entry-level jobs.





Support for BSU Works and programs like CUBEs help to ensure that even more opportunities for career advancement are available to students, before and after graduation. Expanding opportunities for internships, project-based learning initiatives in conjunction with local businesses, entrepreneurship, student employment and cooperative learning are priorities of the Without Exception campaign.

CUBEs is an exemplary element of BSU Works. Mr. Goyette, a marketing major, took two classes as part of CUBEs. In his marketing research class with Dr. Stephanie Jacobsen, associate professor of management and marketing and coordinator of the program, he worked with the Bridgewater Council on Aging to survey local seniors to find out why they patronized the agency or why they did not. He said the work was the real deal. “You meet with a local business and go over their problems and help them craft solutions,” he said.

Meanwhile, during a strategic management class with instructor Michael Brophy of the Department of Management Science he helped map the future for the Easton-based nonprofit Raising Multicultural Kids. “It was cool to watch them implement the results,” Mr. Goyette said. “There’s no other experience like that. And the work you do really makes a difference.”

His CUBEs experiences were the highlight of Mr. Goyette’s resume, and months after graduating he was hired by TriMark USA, where he’s worked for a year now as a marketing specialist and web merchandiser.

“I love the company and love the people,” he said. “I’d recommend CUBEs to anyone.”◆



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## FINISH LINE SCHOLARSHIPS

This program identifies students in good academic standing with unpaid balances that prevent them from registering for the following semester. The Office of Student Success and Equity Interventions (SSEI) works with the Financial Aid and Student Account offices to screen students and identify unmet needs.

<https://tinyurl.com/BSU-engage>



## PRIORITY TWO

*Make a BSU education a great return on investment, giving students the opportunity to focus less on paying for college and more on building their futures and changing the world.*

IT WAS 2022, and Lenyn Silva Ferreira, '24, was trying to find a way to get back to school. Out of the country and without a job at the time, she despaired about making this dream come true. "A lot had happened with family emergencies and in my life in general," said the Dorchester native of Cape Verdean heritage. "I tried to go back to school but it was hard."

Paying for it was one of these obstacles.

However, Ms. Silva Ferreira, 27, knew enough to reach out to the Department of Psychology at BSU, where before her unplanned hiatus, she'd been a student for the better part of two years. There, she was told about a university program established to help students complete their education during times of financial and other forms of hardship.

To help students when money has become an issue, BSU initiated Finish Line Scholarships, which assist students in good academic standing with unpaid balances that are preventing them from registering for the following semester. Eligibility is determined by academic standing, financial need based on aid applications and balance due.

This generous assistance is dependent on benefactors for whom accessibility is a key aspect of a BSU education. Through the generosity of a single anonymous donor, BSU was able to award 130 Finish Line Scholarships from fall 2022 to fall 2023. The results speak for themselves: To date, 81 percent of recipients since the program's inception went on to retain, persist or graduate during the following semester.

Building on this success is one of the priorities of the Without Exception campaign. Plans call for increasing available financial aid and private scholarships, based on merit, as well as need.

"Finish Line Scholarships are invaluable to recipients, providing not only financial support but also a sense of security and encouragement to continue their academic journey," said Cecilia DeOliveira, executive director of the Office of Student Success and Equity Interventions. "For many students, these scholarships can be the difference between persisting in college or having to leave due to financial constraints. By alleviating this burden, Finish Line Scholarships



allow students to focus on their studies, engage more fully in their academic journey and ultimately succeed in completing their degrees.”

President Clark said students who are long on drive and ambition should not be penalized due to financial issues. “We need to make sure students don’t fall short of graduating for want of a few hundred dollars,” he said. “If we’re not affordable, we’re not accessible. And if we’re not accessible, then we might as well close our doors.”

After she reached out for help, Ms. Silva Ferreira worked with Iris Lapaix, a student navigator in the Office of Student Success, Equity and Diversity, who paved the way for her to receive the funding she needed for tuition, books and more. “When I got the scholarship, I decided I could start school again,” Ms. Silva Ferreira said.

She had to reapply, since she’d been away from BSU for two years, but she says that was a small price to pay. She earned her bachelor’s degree in psychology this summer, and in September, took the first step toward her ultimate career goal as a social worker when she accepted a position as a bachelor-level clinician at High Point Treatment Center.

Ms. Silva Ferreira credits receiving the scholarship for helping her cross the commencement stage. “I got this job because I was able to finish my degree,” she said.

She next plans to earn her master’s degree in social work at BSU. ♦





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## MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

Merit Scholarships are offered through the Office of Admission and include funding for first-year, transfer and graduate students.

<https://tinyurl.com/meritschol>



TO SPEAK WITH MINT JINDAWIT, '28, is to feel the energy and passion of youth.

"There's just so much to do here, and I want to get involved with everything," the 19-year-old Quincy resident said.

She moved with her family to the United States from Bangkok as a high school sophomore. After a campus tour at Bridgewater State University, she felt it was the right place for her.

"There are many things I love about BSU, like the small class sizes that allow for direct interaction with professors, an engaging president, my dorm and roommates, and much more," Mint said.

Mint is the recipient of BSU's Recognition of Scholastic Excellence (or ROSE) Scholarship, which recognizes academic achievement, leadership and diversity, and is among \$4.2 million the university awards annually to newly admitted students. In fact, BSU guarantees merit scholarships to students with a 3.40 or higher high school GPA. The ROSE Scholarship, totaling \$11,000 annually, will pay Mint's fees and tuition for four years.

"Receiving the scholarship meant a lot to me as it really eased the financial burden on my family and allowed me to focus on my studies," she said.

Gregg A. Meyer, dean of university admission, said merit scholarships are beneficial to both the student and BSU. "Offering merit scholarships is beneficial in two major ways," he said. "First, these are very worthy and hard-working students who deserve to be recognized. It is nice to finally be able to offer them a merit scholarship to distinguish them for their high achievement. Secondly, the admission market has become very competitive. If we cannot offer merit scholarships to these worthy students, we will lose them to other institutions who are."

Overall, more than \$34.2 million of BSU, federal and state funds is awarded annually (this includes \$4.2 million in merit scholarships to first-year students). This assistance goes to students in all disciplines, helping with tuition and other costs, as well as funding undergraduate research, study abroad trips and internships. Institutional scholarships include the Tsongas Scholarship,



Presidential Merit Scholarship, the ROSE Scholarship (each of these represents an award of \$11,000 or more per year for each recipient), Crimson Scholarship and Horace Mann Scholarship (both \$5,000 annually), and the Bear Merit Scholarship (\$3,000 per year for the recipients).

Mint's penchant for trying different things means she's still undeclared, but she has a few ideas about where she wants to head career-wise – namely business or cybersecurity. And wrapping up her first semester, Mint feels confident that all roads are open to her. "I think I did great in most of my classes, although my honors Japanese class was quite challenging," she said.

When one considers that 87 percent of BSU students receive scholarships and/or financial aid (and roughly 80 percent work off campus), it's easy to see the critical role this funding plays. Private philanthropy also plays an important part – again benefitting both sides, Mr. Meyer said.

"The fact that private donations allow us to fund merit scholarships helps us to attract great students to BSU. The impact on each of these students, as well as the university is significant," he said. "Students needing to make their tuition payments each semester can breathe a bit easier thanks to the generosity of others."◆

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## EXCEL

EXCEL is a fully inclusive postsecondary program for individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. EXCEL students share the same experiences as their college peers in the areas of academics, socialization, professional development and independent living.

<https://tinyurl.com/BSU-EXCEL>



## PRIORITY THREE

*Double down on BSU's historic mission: Bring the dream of college success to those who once considered it impractical – or impossible.*

JAKE QUINN, '24, OF BERKLEY, WHO GRADUATED from Bridgewater State University's EXCEL program on June 3, knew a chance to earn a university degree was never guaranteed for him. When that opportunity came his way, he ran with it.

"It felt amazing to be standing on the stage with my cap and gown," he said. "I've met some people before who weren't able to experience graduation like I did."

He lived in Scott Hall while at BSU, during which time his studies focused on courses having to do with sports (Mr. Quinn is an athlete himself). He says he benefited greatly from the program but admits to having to up his game a bit. "I got to have the college experience and met a lot of people, which I really liked," he said. "I learned a lot about independent-living skills and functioning on my own. I also learned that college classes are way different than high school classes in rigor and intensity. You've got to be on your toes.

"I fell in love with it," he added.

EXCEL is the leading educational program in the state for adults with learning and developmental disabilities. It is an innovation that delivers the promise of college success to those for whom that may have seemed out of reach.

"EXCEL takes the abilities these students possess, as well as their unique skill sets, and builds upon them," said Ellen Cuttle Oliver, '82, G'89, chief development officer. "It's what Bridgewater has always done to deliver the best for our students while recognizing that different students have different skills and different needs."





Potential EXCEL students are drawn from local school districts that BSU has partnered with. Participants can enroll in a two-year, noncredit-bearing certificate program. The transition option offers students extra support as they prepare to apply to one of the university's degree programs.

Other students enter EXCEL Vocational, a collaboration with the Uniquely Able Project that provides students with hands-on, career and technical education. This allows BSU to provide individualized supports that students need to access career and technical education combined with a college experience to successfully transition to a sustainable adult life. The partnership aims to provide EXCEL students with the confidence and tools needed to prepare them for paid competitive employment.

These opportunities reflect BSU's commitment to remove obstacles for students who desire a college education, something supported by the Without Exception campaign. Thanks to EXCEL, BSU has emerged as a state and national leader in this field and was the first to offer a residential component.

EXCEL paid dividends for Mr. Quinn. With his degree in hand, he found a job close to his heart: He began working in late summer for the program itself. "I'm looking forward to going back and being a double bear," Mr. Quinn said.

His mother, Pam Quinn, can't believe the difference she's seen in her son. "It's amazing," she said. "Even when the first year was remote due to COVID, he still loved it."

When he moved to his residence hall for his second year, mom admits to being a nervous wreck. "It took him a few months to get acclimated, and once he did, he really took off."

Or, as Jake himself puts it: "College is awesome!" ♦



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## STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES (SAS)

Bridgewater State University's Student Accessibility Services supports the institution's commitment to ensuring all individuals have access to its programs, services and community. SAS collaborates with matriculated students who have documented learning, intellectual or cognitive disabilities; medical diagnoses or physical challenges; psychological diagnoses and autism. Through Student Accessibility Services, students may receive classroom or campus-community accommodations, access to assistive technology, and referrals to additional resources. SAS is also available to assist students with opportunities such as registering for classes and degree-planning as appropriate.

<https://tinyurl.com/BSU-SAS>



WHEN KERRIE SHAPIRO, '21, G'23, WAS VISITING state schools a few years ago, there was one criterion that stood above other considerations.

"I only looked at schools that had supports, such as academic accommodations, tutoring and academic coaching, because I knew I needed those resources," the 25-year-old Shrewsbury native said.

Ms. Shapiro had made use of such assistance since middle school, citing a learning disability and mental health considerations. She was glad to find that Bridgewater State University had a comprehensive Student Accessibility Services (SAS) office, and so she enrolled, majoring in sociology (her master's degree, also from BSU, is in special education).

Today, her life at BSU has come full circle. She currently serves as a full-time accessibility specialist in SAS, helping others in ways that she herself had been helped. The services she made use of from the





Disability Resource Office, as SAS was then known, included help with written content, weekly meetings with a peer mentor and testing accommodations.

“They provided me access to make sure I was on the same playing field as my peers,” Ms. Shapiro said. “Especially these days when everyone is constantly on the go, it was nice to have a place to land while I gathered my thoughts.”

SAS reflects the university’s commitment to bring the dream of college success to those who once considered it impractical – or impossible. This goal is at the heart of BSU’s mission, helping the university become a national leader in equitable student success through campus-wide

work that supports the success of students from a wide array of diverse identities. SAS is one of the initiatives that will benefit from the Without Exception campaign. The goal is to expand the department’s already impressive roster of services.

“This is about meeting students where they are,” said President Clark. “It’s part of our unwavering commitment to making sure every student succeeds.”

Ms. Shapiro’s days are now spent co-managing the university’s peer mentor program along with arranging SAS events for staff and student meetings. She’s happy to be on the front lines of providing student assistance, especially since she has seen the need herself.

“I am able to make connections with students about varying resources and reflect back on when I utilized the services myself,” she said. “This work is amazing. It makes me happy, and every day is different but also consistent, and I thrive in the structure we have.”

“I will 100 percent stay in this field,” she said. “Growing up, I wanted to be a high school special education teacher and create community-based programs for my students to be able to build critical skills while having a traditional student experience. I have several friends on the spectrum, and I saw the gaps they faced in social settings, so I wanted to bridge those gaps. In my current role I am able to keep bridging those gaps for students of all diagnoses.”◆





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## THE CENTER FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF STEM EDUCATION (CASE)

CASE offers programs for K-12 teachers, students and the general public in support of its mission to leverage the university's physical and intellectual resources to build, sustain and inspire a diverse community of educators and students that promotes interest and literacy in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. CASE's programs take place on campus, in K-12 settings and throughout the community.

Signature programs include Open Observatory Nights; Greenlight for Girls Day@BSU; Darwin Day; CityLab; CASE on the Road; the Cyber Range; GeoExplorers; and the Science Academy, which each fall offers one-week science classes for students entering grades 7-12.

<https://tinyurl.com/CASEBridgewater>



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## PRIORITY FOUR

*Infuse BSU's academic programs with new resources to make them more nimble, impactful and responsive to emerging opportunities.*

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IT WAS A CLOUDY MORNING on one of the last days of summer and Erin (Collupy) Schofield was up to her knees in work. The 2004 graduate was wearing waders and leading a group of students from South Easton's Southeastern Regional Vocational Technical High School through the still water that winds along the rear of West Bridgewater's War Memorial Park. She was wielding a special tool that resembled an oversized metal detector, showing the students how to search for American eels that had been tagged as part of a program to track their movement.

For the Attleboro resident, who holds a bachelor's degree in environmental biology and a minor in chemistry from Bridgewater State, it was just another day on the job; since 2018 she has worked as a staff coordinator in the university's Watershed Access Lab. The lab is part of BSU's Center for the Advancement of STEM Education (CASE), which for more than a dozen years has been hosting innovative programs for educators and students of all ages. Over the years, these programs have engaged more than 1,000 BSU students, area young people and local educators.

Under the direction of Dr. Jennie Aizenman, the work of CASE speaks directly to the part of BSU's mission to be a resource for the region. The success of the Without Exception campaign will fund programs and initiatives like CASE to ensure BSU students are well prepared for emerging opportunities of all kinds.

"When donors support CASE, they are providing our students and area residents access to important programs that combine outstanding teaching with unparalleled real-world learning opportunities," said President Clark.

CASE has been a part of Ms. Schofield's life for many years. Some of her high school teachers participated in CASE classes, including at the Watershed Access Lab with Dr. Kevin Curry, professor emeritus in the Department of Biological Sciences. Her interest was immediately



piqued. “In high school, I was part of the natural resource program and knew I wanted to pursue a degree in environmental studies,” she said. “Being introduced to the Watershed Access Lab and Dr. Curry during my junior and senior years in high school significantly influenced my decision to attend BSU for my undergraduate degree.”

Later, as a Bridgewater State student, Ms. Schofield participated in the Adrian Tinsley Program for Undergraduate Research, mentored by Dr. Curry. She also took a work-study position with both the Watershed Access Lab and the Department of Biological Sciences throughout her undergraduate years. “It was then I discovered my passion for outreach,” she said.

Today, as a CASE employee, she aids in teaching, developing, and coordinating initiatives through both the lab and another long-term CASE project, CityLab, and other programs. “I love working with the K-12 student populations and local teachers in the greater Bridgewater area,” she said.

Dr. Curry is still involved with CASE and was on hand that late-September morning in West Bridgewater teaching the Southeastern students how to tag the eels they found. For years, he’s been tagging and tracking the American eel in local waterways. He was not only Ms. Schofield’s mentor, over the years he’s become a close friend and even attended her wedding.

As they worked side by side that September morning, along with Kim McCoy, staff coordinator of the lab and CityLab, and CASE associate director, their close friendship was on display, as well as the respect they held for each other as professional scientists.

Asked if he was planning to write a research paper about the work the team had been doing concerning the eels, Dr. Curry nodded toward his former mentee, smiled, and said, “She’s going to write it.” ♦





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## CYBER RANGE

Bridgewater State University's Cyber Range is a state-of-the-art cybersecurity training facility designed to simulate real-world cyber threats and attacks with unparalleled realism.

The 1,900-square-foot facility is equipped with 24 workstations, a large video wall and a fully operational command center, making it the most advanced of its kind in Massachusetts.

BSU is home to one of only four Security Operations Centers in Massachusetts. The Security Operations Center (SOC), when opened, will be staffed by students and professionals charged with monitoring, detecting and responding to real cyberattacks. The center will provide services to municipalities, nonprofits, companies and government agencies.

<https://tinyurl.com/bsu-cyber-range>



ROBERT JOHNSON, '25, TRANSFERRED TO BSU specifically because the university's new cybersecurity major provides a pathway into a growing and in-demand field. And Robert is confident in his decision as he begins partaking in hands-on activities, including protecting actual organizations from cyberattacks. "It's real-world experience as a student," he said. "I don't know of another program like this."

Robert is also excited to experience BSU's state-of-the-art Cyber Range. Funded with nearly \$3.8 million in state and federal grants, the range is the most advanced in New England. It allows students and cybersecurity professionals to experience mock attacks, from beginning scenarios to complex situations that take experts hours to solve. With multi-colored flashing lights, desks that shake and a massive video screen on one wall, the range immerses users in the high-stakes world of battling cybercrime.

"Cybersecurity intersects with all industries," said Steve Zuromski, '04, G'09, vice president of information technology and chief information officer. "Everyone has to be trained, and this is the place to do it."

Harnessing innovation to expand BSU's academic programs means graduates are prepared to meet the emerging business and workforce





needs of today and tomorrow. Funding forward-looking initiatives like the Cyber Range and the forthcoming Security Operations Center (SOC), is a primary goal of the Without Exception campaign. At the same time, expanding opportunities for the university's students and increasing community outreach speak directly to BSU's mission, as the Cyber Range and SOC will also allow the university to provide cybersecurity training to municipalities, schools, state agencies, law enforcement, the military and private businesses.

Mr. Zuromski highlighted a three-pronged approach to cybersecurity education at BSU that blends classroom instruction at the graduate and undergraduate levels; scenarios in the range; and the opportunity to conduct threat monitoring for outside organizations through the SOC. "These will address a profound cybersecurity workforce challenge in our state and in our nation," said President Clark.

With an immediate need for 750,000 more cybersecurity workers nationwide and 20,000 just in Massachusetts, BSU's Cyber Range will be a model for the nation, said U.S. Representative Bill Keating, who was pivotal to securing much of the funding behind the initiative. "It's something I think will take us to the forefront of meeting emergent threats," said Representative Keating.

The Cyber Range and SOC form the centerpiece of BSU's cybersecurity offerings, including a Bachelor of Science degree, which launched in fall 2024, and a master's degree, which is accepting students for fall 2025. BSU also offers certificate programs in cybersecurity through its College of Continuing Studies.

"The Cyber Range is going to be a really great addition for our students," said Dr. Hannarae Lee, an assistant professor of criminal justice. "Employers want candidates to have actual experience. We're going to fulfill all those requirements for students and employers."

Indeed, just ask Taher Al Sharif, '18, G'20, who knows what it takes to work in the cybersecurity field (he's currently an engineer with National Grid). He envies today's Bears, with their access to these cutting-edge opportunities. "They can really get you that next job or dream job," he said.

The mix of public and private funding that has resulted in the Cyber Range and SOC positions BSU graduates for one of the most important careers in an ever-expanding field, Mr. Zuromski said. "The incentives for bad actors to attack public and private online resources continue to grow," he said. "As a state university with a new cyber major, BSU has the scale and focus to move the needle on the cyber workforce in the state."◆



# Without Exception

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## MASSACHUSETTS AGGRESSION REDUCTION CENTER (MARC)

The Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center (MARC) is an academic center of Bridgewater State University. MARC conducts research, hosts conferences and workshops, and brings anti-bullying and anti-cyberbullying programs to K-12 faculty, staff, administration, students, parents and communities in Massachusetts and across the nation.

Founded and directed by Dr. Elizabeth Englander and managed by Dr. Meghan McCoy, the Center's team is staffed by both faculty and dedicated university students in the fields of psychology, social work, education/counseling and criminal justice.

<https://www.marccenter.org>



TODAY, MORE THAN EVER, there is a need for anti-bullying resources. Fortunately, when Dr. Elizabeth Englander of the Department of Psychology earned a Presidential Fellow Award, she used it to found the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center (MARC) at Bridgewater State. Since then, MARC has provided programming, curricula, workshops, books and other resources to combat bullying of all types.

The center has worked with schools, parents, educators and other professionals in all 50 states. The majority of the offerings are provided to school districts for free.

"Our model has been transformative not only because of the high-quality research we're able to conduct as an academic center but also because more than 80 percent of our programming is delivered at no cost to schools," explains Dr. Englander. "It's really in keeping with Bridgewater's motto: 'Not to be ministered unto, but to minister.'"

MARC consistently receives enthusiastic reviews from educators who benefit from its seminars, training programs and resources.

"I've attended many classes covering bullying over the last 20 years," said one veteran public-school employee. "I can honestly say that what I learned from MARC far exceeds them all combined."

Since it is set up as a teaching center, MARC enables BSU students to gain hands-on experience.

Dr. Englander is a nationally recognized expert on bullying and its modern-day incarnation, cyberbullying. In addition to the many school visits and conferences she participates in each year around the country, she and her staff conduct research and work to stay up to speed regarding the latest on the bullying front. During the pandemic, Dr. Englander published books designed to help both students and parents deal with the many difficult challenges brought on by lockdowns and school closings.

Even in normal times, this work is ongoing and very necessary, Dr. Englander said.



“Bullying has tremendous implications for a whole generation of children,” she said. “With MARC, we’re not only providing direct services to schools today, but also training the next generation of educators and counselors who will amplify our efforts throughout their careers.”

One of the goals of the Without Exception campaign is to expand support for BSU’s signature centers and institutes like MARC. Supporting the center allows for increased investments in staff (primarily BSU graduate students), programming and other expenses. The need is so great, Dr. Englander added, that she and her staff struggle to keep up with the demand.

“Unfortunately, we still have to turn schools away because we don’t have enough capacity,” she said. “We have a long waiting list for our services.”

Eventually, she envisions a national rollout of MARC by connecting with similar centers at other schools. That, too, will take additional funding. Dr. Englander said.

She added that America is still plagued by school shootings and other forms of youth-related violence. “Programs like MARC are needed today more than ever, so we can improve school environments and help students who need help before they potentially use violence,” she said. ♦



# Up Next in News and Sports

Two alumnae score the media jobs of their dreams

BY JOHN WINTERS, G'11

## *TV Reporter Amanda Pitts, '17, Finds her Passion Sharing Stories Before the Camera*

AFTER GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL, Amanda Pitts wasn't sure what her future held. A so-so student – admittedly spending more time with her friends than cracking the books – she'd begun taking classes at Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI). Then one morning, she was watching television with her grandmother when the *Today* show came on. "She said, 'You could do this,'" Ms. Pitts recalled. "'You like to be the first to know things and share information.'"

Indeed, it turns out that she does.

The following semester, she added a journalism class to her CCRI load. Soon, her career questions were settled. "Something clicked," said Ms. Pitts, a Taunton native.

In fall 2014, she transferred to BSU, majoring in communication studies and concentrating in film/TV/media. Thanks to her talent, hard work and ability to network, today Ms. Pitts is an on-air reporter for WVIT, the NBCUniversal-owned and -operated station out of West Hartford, Connecticut.

"I love storytelling, and I love this job," she said. "I love being outside and meeting new people; not being in an office but out in the world. It doesn't feel like a job when I'm doing it."

Ms. Pitts spent her earliest years in Taunton before moving to Rhode Island. Her native state, however, retained a hold on her imagination. "I remembered moving when I was very young, and I just wanted to experience living here. I've always felt connected to this area," she said. "And when I toured the Bridgewater campus, I felt like I was home."

Ms. Pitts said she loved her classes at BSU, citing especially those taught by Dr. Arthur Lizie and Dr. Jessica Birthisel, both of the Department of Communication. Key to her success were three internships she served in television newsrooms – one in Boston at WCVB and two in Providence, at WJAR and WLNE. That latter internship, in 2016, led to a job on the station's assignment desk. "I got in at the ground level and saw how TV worked," Ms. Pitts said. Her most recent position prior to jumping to Connecticut was with WPRI in Providence.

The fact that she graduated from BSU with so much hands-on experience and had made many connections in the region's television industry, jumpstarted her career, she said. "I credit the internship program with why I am where I am," she said. "You learn stuff in the classroom, but you can only learn so much. I had three internships at three TV stations, and one of them got me a full-time job."



During her time before the cameras, Ms. Pitts has done many stories; some have stayed with her, including her investigation into sexual abuse allegations in the Rhode Island National Guard, which helped WPRI in Providence win an Edward R. Murrow award for overall excellence. “I’m so proud of this story because the victim trusted me with her story, and I got to give her a platform to tell her truth of what happened, and it inspired other men and women to come forward with similar stories.”

Another story, a more recent one, involved the people living along Jobs Pond in Portland, Connecticut, who were facing terrible flooding due to rain and water runoff. In both cases, giving people a voice made all the difference.

“I love connecting with the people who are impacted by things like this, and sharing victims’ stories,” she said. “I feel we made a difference and put a spotlight on an issue that was affecting dozens of people. We listened, and we got the important people to listen.”

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## *From a TV Personality in Rhode Island to the Boston Bruins In-Arena Host, Michaela Johnson, '10, is Making Waves in the Sports World*

IF YOU’VE BEEN TO A BOSTON BRUINS home game in recent years, you’ve probably seen and heard Michaela Johnson. As the team’s in-arena host, she’s usually looming overhead, on the big screen above center ice, conducting player interviews, delivering short feature stories or sometimes just revving up the crowd before gametime.

For this longtime superfan it’s nothing less than a dream job. “I remember painting my face and making my signs,” Ms. Johnson said, “just dying to be on NESN” (the network that televises the team’s games). “I love how it’s come full circle. Now you can’t get rid of me, I’m always on the Jumbotron,” she said, laughing.





Michaela Johnson, '10, poses with Bladen the Bruin at the 2023 NHL Winter Classic, held at Fenway Park.

At BSU, Ms. Johnson was captain of the women's basketball team, while cutting her broadcasting teeth behind the mic at Bears' football games and on the air at WBIM, the campus radio station.

Her hard work paid off when she was chosen as a cohost of *The Rhode Show*, which airs on WPRI, Channel 12. She auditioned for the job in the months after graduation and was selected as the third host of what was then a new addition to the weekday morning lineup of Providence's CBS affiliate. She gained a world of experience on the hour-long lifestyle and entertainment magazine-type program that featured a potpourri of interviews, cooking segments, local happenings and, of course, animals.

It was initially meant to be a one-year position, as the producers of the show felt it was important to keep rotating in newcomers. That initial plan fell by the wayside, and Ms. Johnson stayed for a full 12 years. "I tried to keep it comfortable and familiar," she said. "It was fun and light, just like having coffee and conversation, and I think that's why I was able to stay as long as I did."

One thing it wasn't, Ms. Johnson said, was predictable. "I'd come in in the morning and there would be penguins

walking through the set, and then I'd realize that, oh, there's a camel out back."

That's part of the job as cohost of a live television show that boasts an eclectic slate of features each day: Be ready for anything.

"During that time, I learned how to be myself on camera," said the East Providence native. "The question was, can you try all this stuff and make it exciting and also make it your own?"

She did just that day after day, in the meantime learning what it takes to be a successful broadcaster. "I think it was the hustle and the grind and, luckily, coming from a sports background, I was no stranger to hard work and kind of doing it all," she said. "And I'm pretty stubborn and internally competitive. So, it's in my nature to take it on and get it down. And that's the nature of live TV and hitting the deadlines. There's no downtime. You have to be willing to do anything."

Ms. Johnson picked up the Bruins side hustle in 2016, when she was named the team's in-arena host, keeping the TD Garden faithful entertained with interviews, giveaways and more. She gets to interview players, past and present, and



has met many a bold-faced name from the team's storied glory years, including Bobby Orr, Rick Middleton and Zdeno Chara, as well as members of the current squad. In this role, she's also been sent by the NHL itself to marquee events across the country and Canada, such as the All-Star Game, the Winter Classic and the Stadium Series. "It's been so fun, a lot of pinch-me moments," Ms. Johnson said. "It's so nice to be a part of it."

Her father is also a fan.

"I remember the day I was texting with my dad and wrote, 'I just interviewed Ray Bourque!'"

Eventually, working on Providence television then hurrying into Boston for Bruins home games began to take its toll. It was one of a confluence of factors that led her to leave *The Rhode Show* in 2022. Weighing heavily on her decision was the desire to spend more time with her husband and children, now 5 and 3 years old. "I said, I think I just want my time with my family, and do just one job instead of two," Ms. Johnson said. "These are the precious years."

Her experience on the courts and fields of Bridgewater State University has proven valuable in many ways. For instance, she realized early on that in her chosen field collaboration is critical. "My role in front of the camera isn't possible without the hardworking and talented crews working behind the scenes," she said. "I grew up playing and loving sports, so it's only natural to be drawn to a profession where teamwork is not only valued but also vital in getting the content on air or on screen."

Speaking of working in sports, Ms. Johnson is happy with her current situation but would never rule out a new job one day that was the right fit, especially as a television sports reporter or anchor.

For now, she's enjoying being a hometown booster and the owner of that smiling face up there on the Garden Jumbotron.

"I love Boston, and I love my team," she said. ♦

#### PHOTOS, FROM TOP:

**Michaela Johnson, '10, interviews Boston Bruin Patrice Bergeron.**

**Visiting a pumpkin patch are Ms. Johnson and her co-hosts from *The Rhode Show*, Will Gilbert (center) and Brendan Kirby.**

**Ms. Johnson appears on the TD Garden Jumbotron with veteran Bruin Brad Marchand.**







# Tracing the Steps of History

Two dance professors dig deeply into the discipline's past

BY JOHN WINTERS, G'11

## *Instructor's Research Uncovers Roots of Scottish Dance*

JENNIFER SCHOONOVER IS DEMONSTRATING the steps of a centuries-old Scottish dance. The studio in Burnell Hall is otherwise empty on this Tuesday afternoon, and a page of old dance directions is projected on the front wall.

A recording begins, and Professor Schoonover takes small, rhythmic steps across the floor, her dance shoes scuffling quietly.

The dance was "Scotch Measure," committed to paper in 1841, but danced earlier as well. (A dance called a measure may sound familiar to Shakespeare fans as it is mentioned in the comedy *Much Ado About Nothing*.)





How do we know all this? It's thanks to the work of scholars like Professor Schoonover, an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Health and Kinesiology who specializes in multiple forms of dance, with a particular focus on Scottish dance. She is not only a dancer and educator, but also a researcher, spending time in far-off archives, tracking down the roots and sources of this type of dance, which she has practiced for three decades.

Many members of BSU's humanities faculty are teachers, performers and researchers. Their work reflects their passions, their curiosity, and even a sense of discovery and adventure. The topics range from large studies of individual artists, performances, key works, history and cultural trends to passion projects and more esoteric matters.

"People ask me all the time, 'Why Scottish dance?'" Ms. Schoonover said. "It's not my cultural heritage. It's just a form that really resonated with me."

There is not a lot of academic work happening otherwise on Scottish dance history. Part of the reason is that the Scottish themselves, going back centuries, were not sure why anyone would be interested in their native art forms. Yet, the Scottish diaspora has carried the country's national dances around the world. These eventually morphed and changed with time and geography, sprouting various offshoots.

Still, today, there are teachers and workshops specializing in Scottish dance (Ms. Schoonover is a featured performer and instructor at many of these), and worldwide a small network of scholars is working in this field.

Ms. Schoonover, who moved to Massachusetts in 1997, was for years a performer and choreographer in New York and elsewhere. She turned to research several years ago after meeting a dance teacher from the United Kingdom named Colin Robertson, who headed the Scottish National Dance Company. It was on his website she'd encountered his work, examining the historical connections between Cape Breton step dancing and Scottish dance. He saw more of an Irish influence; Ms. Schoonover sent him a message, and soon after she found herself immersed in research.

And like most research, there is some rolling-up-the-sleeves work. Ms. Schoonover has spent years going through the notebooks of long-ago dance masters, sheet music, contextual material, dance cards, lists of dancers, playbills, old video

clips and much more. Deciphering the steps put down in the notebooks of famed masters, recognizing the recurring motifs in the steps, and the accompanying music all form the puzzle pieces necessary to reconstruct the work of these former masters. She is constantly dealing with patterns, contextual asides, and sometimes cryptic notations and idiosyncratic forms of shorthand. "Dance masters set a vocabulary, and they often reused the same elements," Ms. Schoonover said.

Unraveling all this is a challenge, but for scholars like Ms. Schoonover, it's rewarding work. "It's really kind of tantalizing, there are instructions for dances that you could make out if you only had the key," she said. "There's a little mystery in it. You think, if I just read this over and keep on reading, I can figure it out. There's a logic puzzle, and through reasoning and analysis we can solve it," she said.

There are two main forms of Scottish dance – performance and social. Ms. Schoonover's research as of late has drawn on the work of Frederick Hill, whose notebook, kept in Aberdeenshire in Scotland, dates to 1841. Other manuscripts and notebooks she has used date to as early as 1830.

Two dances included in Mr. Hill's notebook, "The Scottish Measure" and "Barracks Johnnie," were resurrected in Scottish dance circles in the 1950s. There is a gap between the dance's original steps and the "modern" versions. Uncovering Mr. Hill's original intent and figuring out the steps and associated music are a few of the goals of Ms. Schoonover's research.

Eventually, comes the real test of her efforts. "That's the time we say, Let's put it in the body, and see how it works," she said. "This research also has to be done through movement, to discover how the patterns work and relate."

Ms. Schoonover performed one of the dances she's researched at this year's Center for the Advancement of Research and Scholarship (CARS) May Celebration, as well as in other venues.

While that seems like this would be an end point of the research, guess again. Ms. Schoonover plans to go back to Scotland next year to continue her work with fellow researcher and ethnochoreologist Dr. Mats Melin. After all, she follows the mantra of most scholars: "We just have to keep looking."



## *Faculty Member Visits Former Plantations to Study the Evolution of African Dance*

IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE that Professor Tina Mullone would have myriad feelings while visiting former plantations. As a child, she'd listened as her family shared stories about plantation life, particularly the depredations and brutality that were regularly employed to control enslaved people.





Yet, when as a scholar, she enters hallowed places, such as the Whitney Plantation in Edgard, Louisiana, now a tourist destination, Professor Mullone seeks to see more than this tragic history. She studies the spaces where the enslaved people lived and found a way through the art of dance to create a sense of community among the misery. It's a unique and informative way to examine this notorious chapter in American history.

"I'm looking at spaces and how they are shaped by the people themselves," Professor Mullone said. "So, it's really the people that determine the space, those who were present there and claimed that space."

She also looks at the other side of the coin: how these spaces where enslaved individuals lived and worked impacted their practice of dancing.

The Fort Worth, Texas, native (the roots on her father's side can be traced to Louisiana and Haiti, places with dark histories of slavery), came to BSU five years ago, bringing with her a focus on African Dance and the African American presence in dance.

Professor Mullone has visited as part of her work eight plantations in the Southeastern United States and the Caribbean. Specifically, her research is a way to "(put) slavery in a physical, mental and emotional context," as she wrote in a cover story published in the December 2023 issue of *Bridgewater Review*.

The idea of enslaved people performing dances, she continued, provided a counter-narrative to our common understanding of plantation life. Among the enslaved, dance built mental and emotional strength and also served as a touchstone that recalled their previous lives and traditions. "Dance is a way to acknowledge cultural identity," she wrote.

However, for the enslaved, space and the lack of freedom of movement shaped these dances.

There are many elements a scholar like Professor Mullone must take into consideration pertaining to the various aspects of any dance, such as the body itself, the dynamics of movement and the space where it takes place. While visiting these former plantations, Professor Mullone looked carefully at the locations where dancing occurred, including the main, or "big" house, slave quarters and fields, as well





**Among the plantations Professor Tina Mullone visited while researching the evolution of African dance are Sunbury Plantation in Barbados (left) and Whitney Plantation in Edgard, Louisiana.**

as other dwellings: row houses, churches, courtyards and more, both during slavery and in the years that followed.

“I am looking at how those dances continue to shape and shift as well,” she said.

One example her work has focused on came from the Whitney Plantation. There, a traditional African dance known as the Ring Shout was transformed when the enslaved began attending church where the space was not open but limited because of pews that were anchored to the floor. Since they could not perform in a circle, as tradition held, the dancers’ steps had to be altered to fit the new space.

While it’s impossible to know the exact details of the dances performed by the enslaved at the various plantations Professor Mullone visited (which in addition to Whitney, included Destrehan Plantation and Melrose Plantation, both also in Louisiana; The Great House at St. Nicholas Abbey and The Sunbury Plantation, both in Barbados; and Virginia’s Monticello), she was able to infer much. Based on the foundational text, *Slave Culture*, by Sterling Stuckey, she can trace the evolution of African dance and how it was shaped

by the restrictions and spaces that enslaved individuals faced in America.

“I have a good idea about the dances they did,” she said. “And then there are a couple structures that showed how they lived, so you can just imagine where the dances occurred. It had to be outside as there was no room inside, combined with the heat.”

This topic has long fascinated Professor Mullone, who in 2020 produced a short film called *Original Sin*, which featured African dancing as recontextualized by the slave trade.

She hopes to use her recent research as the jumping off point for a future piece. The overarching goal of this work, as she wrote at the conclusion of her *Bridgewater Review* article, is to pay tribute to the lives of the enslaved who once inhabited these plantations.

“(I want to) honor the spirits that have left this earth,” she wrote, adding, “I hope my creative and scholarly research in dance will honor the fullness of their lives, lest their names be forgotten again.”◆

*Professor Mullone’s Bridgewater Review article, “Reflections from a Plantation Visit,” can be found at <https://vc.bridgew.edu>*

# ALUMNI UPDATE

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## CLASS NOTES

**STAY CONNECTED.** Send your news to the Office of Alumni Relations via email to [alumni@bridgew.edu](mailto:alumni@bridgew.edu) or mail to Jones Alumni House, 26 Summer St., Bridgewater State University, 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.

### 1962

**Sheila Tunstall McKenna** was a speaker in a recent seminar, "Living a Long and Healthy Life," held at Attleboro High School. The guest clinicians were former New England Patriots offensive line coach, Dante Scarnecchia and former Boston Bruins goalkeeper Andrew Raycroft. The event was presented by Todd Houghton of Houghton Physical Therapy.

### 1975

**Beth H. Macy** has had a career as a mathematics teacher, officer in the U.S. Navy, Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC), videographer and programmer. She continues as an ACE Certified Personal Trainer, an artist and an author. She has written three books in her *Moscow Nights* series, which are available on Amazon, Apple Books, Google Books, Barnes & Noble and Ingram Sparks. Her fourth book is with her editor. In September, Ms. Macy had a solo art exhibit at the Parker River Refuge Center in Newburyport.

### 1977

**Rick Battistini** recently published his memoir, *Reaching for Gold*. The book, available on Amazon, provides a "no holds barred" account of his journey in the early 1980s. In the book, the now-retired multi-hall of fame swimmer/coach recounts his experience balancing part-time jobs with intensive training in pursuit of an Olympic trial berth.

### 1982

**Michael Alexander** competed in the USA Judo Senior Nationals in Ontario on May 25, winning a gold medal in the Veterans M7 Division age group, 60-64.

**William Lucci, G'82**, recently retired from the Rutland, Vermont, City Public Schools following a 20-year career as an administrator at Stafford Technical Center.

### 1985

**Leonard Mihalovich Jr.**, is an indie comics creator who recently reached the milestone of having his 25<sup>th</sup> comic published. It is a revival of *The Avenger*, titled *Avenger New Blood #1*.

### 1989

**David J. Hickey** released his seventh book, *Red Sox in the Hall of Fame*, from Arcadia Publishing.

### 1994

**James Janczy** was hired as the senior vice president and national director of strategic lending at GVC Mortgage.

**J. Michael McConville** coached the Unity School girls lacrosse team to its first Middle School District Championship in a decade during the spring 2024 season.

### 1998

**Stephen J. Nedder Jr.**, joined Curry College as the executive vice president for the Office of Administration and Finance.

### 1999

**Rebecca Adams**, former senior vice president of people and workplace and chief of staff to the CEO at Cohesity, was promoted to the role of chief people officer.

### 2001

**Maribeth Flakes** joined Atrium Staffing as a talent manager.

### 2006

**Gregory Thomas, G'06**, was appointed assistant principal of Sippican Elementary School, located in Marion.

### 2011

**Barry C. Sanders, G'11**, retired after 34 years as a social worker, first for the Department of Children and Families and then at the Department of Mental Health. He also ran for state senate in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bristol and Plymouth District and is serving in his fourth term as a Taunton City Councilor.

### 2014

**Kate Robinson, G'14**, is the City of Attleboro's first full-time social worker in its health department.

### 2018

**Nicholas Cidado** wrote a book titled *Sweat More During Peace, Bleed Less During War*, published by Koehler Books.

### 2024

**Jonathan M. Medina** is a Client Service Advisor at Dellelo Wealth Management.



# A Plaque and a Mystery Solved

It was the last game of the 1963 football season, November 9. The Bears were playing Brockport State University. Making a block on a kick-off return, Bridgewater State player Marty Rizzo sustained a neck injury that left him paralyzed. Two months later, he died in a Boston hospital after a bout with pneumonia.

Mr. Rizzo was 24 when he died on January 12, 1964. He was buried in Puritan Lawn Memorial Park in Peabody. The following year, a memorial plaque in Mr. Rizzo's honor was placed at the entrance to the former Conant Science Building by fellow members of Kappa Delta Phi.

In May 2023, Scott Enos, '98, director of Operations and Logistics for Alumni and Development at BSU and a fellow Kappa Delta Phi member, visited Mr. Rizzo's grave and had his photo taken holding the plaque. When the photo circulated among other fraternity members, they couldn't help but notice that Mr. Rizzo's mother's name, Helen, was missing from the marker.

Why? Was she even buried there?

A group of alumni, sparked by Mr. Enos' photo and led by Michael Hughes, '65, including Jim Tartari, '64; Bob Mason, '65; and Dom Ottavi, '68; did the necessary research to confirm that Mrs. Rizzo was indeed buried there, and ultimately paid for her name to be inscribed on the stone. The addition now reads: "Helen E. 1914-2006."

"We felt it was the right thing to do since Mr. and Mrs. were like parents away from home for Kappa during Marty's time at BSC," Mr. Hughes said.

Surviving Kappa members have since visited the grave to view the inscription and pay tribute to their fallen brother.



Clockwise from top left: Scott Enos, '98, holding a plaque honoring the late Bridgewater State student Marty Rizzo.

Kappa Delta Phi brothers (from left) Bob Mason, '65; Dom Ottavi, '68; Jim Tartari, '64; and Michael Hughes, '65, at the Rizzo family gravesite.

The grave marker listing the names of all three members of the Rizzo family.

## CAREER SERVICES & INTERNSHIPS OFFICE

Help lead Bridgewater State University students to success

### ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

#### UTILIZE OUR NEW WEBSITE!

The Career Services & Internship Program Office has launched a new site allowing all constituents access to information pertinent to them. Sign up for an account on our website, powered by uConnect, which will allow you to create customized e-newsletters to keep you updated on jobs and events of interest. Check out our new website and resources at: <https://careers.bridgew.edu/>

#### HANDSHAKE

Handshake is BSU's recruiting database connecting students and alumni to employers across the country looking to fill jobs and internships. Alumni are welcome to create an account to access position postings, networking opportunities and career event information: <https://bridgew.joinhandshake.com/login>. Make sure your company posts on Handshake as well.

#### CAREER FAIRS

The Career Services & Internships Office hosts several career fairs each year that alumni are welcome to attend to search for positions or to register as an employer looking to hire BSU students.

##### Spring Job and Internship Fair

Thursday, April 3, 12-3 PM  
Tinsley Athletic Center Gym

##### Education Career Fair

Wednesday, May 7, 4-6 PM  
Rondileau Student Union Ballroom

#### BSU STUDENT AND ALUMNI NETWORKING GROUP

Join the Bridgewater State University Student and Alumni Networking Group on LinkedIn.com, and connect with BSU students and other alumni. Help members explore career options, learn about internships and jobs, and build networks on this popular professional social media site.

#### TELL US ABOUT YOUR POST GRADUATION PLANS!

Each year, the Career Services & Internships Office surveys the recent graduating class to find out what you are doing after BSU. This data helps with university accreditation and to help develop programs to best serve BSU students. We are looking for responses from August 2023, December 2023 and May 2024 graduates, so please visit the QR code to complete the survey. If you are still job hunting, please complete the survey and contact our office at: 508.531.1328 to set up a job search appointment with a career advisor. Thank you for your help!



#### COLLABORATIVE UNIVERSITY BUSINESS EXPERIENCES (CUBEs)

The CUBEs program connects organizations with students taking courses across the university's academic majors solving problems through in-class project work. We also welcome other opportunities to collaborate with alumni/employers, such as guest speakers in the classroom, facility tours, networking events and more. Visit [www.bridgew.edu/academics/cubes](http://www.bridgew.edu/academics/cubes) for information.

#### CAMPUS ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

Many opportunities are available for alumni to engage with BSU students throughout the academic year. The Career Services & Internship Program Office coordinates several programs, including career panels, information sessions, networking events, and career fairs where alumni get the chance to represent their employers and interact with students.

For more information, visit our website at: <https://careers.bridgew.edu> or contact the Career Services & Internships Office at 508.531.1328 or [careerservices@bridgew.edu](mailto:careerservices@bridgew.edu).



# ALUMNI UPDATE

## NOTA BENE

### MARRIAGES

BSU celebrates the wedding of the following alumni:

Shawna T. England, '18, and Joseph M. Bannon, '18, G'20, were married June 1, 2024, in New Hampshire



### IN MEMORIAM

The university is saddened by the deaths of the following alumni and extends condolences to their loved ones:

Barbara Daly Canavan, '42, on October 9, 2023  
Freda Bendersky Pransky Saltz, '43, on June 5, 2024  
Meredith White Eichelberger, '45, on July 4, 2022  
Catherine White Dunn, '46, on June 8, 2022  
Geraldine Cunningham Tierney, '46, on June 18, 2022  
Lenore Kelly Hennessey, '47, on February 9, 2024  
Jack M. Herman, '47, G'50, on April 24, 2024  
Margaret Bigelow Tomlinson, '47, on July 19, 2023  
Lorraine Laliberte MacLennan, '48, on November 27, 2021  
Marjorie MacLennan Marshall, '48, on March 19, 2024  
Louise Conant Daley, '49, on October 27, 2023  
Mary Minerva Tinto, '49, on June 3, 2024  
Joanne Ferguson Brooks, '51, G'71, on December 25, 2023  
Marjorie Keenan Callahan, '51, on August 3, 2022  
E. Jane Cliggott Fisher, '51, on October 1, 2021  
Beverly Pottern Shapiro, '51, on July 24, 2024  
Carmela Dantonio Delmastro, '52, G'56, on July 5, 2022  
Kathleen Garvin Sullivan, '52, on November 9, 2021  
Doris F. Tomlinson, G'52, on February 8, 2024  
Joanne Kilmain Curran, '53, on May 11, 2022  
Vivian Gasper Lord, '53, on March 29, 2024  
Nancy Skinner Monahan, '53, on June 10, 2021  
Calvin J. White, G'53, on June 16, 2023  
Gertrude J. Daneau, '54, on September 29, 2022  
Wilfred A. Doyon, '54, on July 6, 2024

Phyllis Schwartz Gould, '54, on May 30, 2022  
Marilyn Mehegan Hesford, '54, on April 22, 2020  
Murray A. Kane, '54, on April 22, 2020  
Mary Goggin Kilian, '54, on March 30, 2023  
Christos G. Koumantzelis, '54, on April 8, 2021  
Emma Fisher Law, '54, on February 3, 2020  
Lois O'Brien Risi, '54, on July 10, 2023  
Anne Steves Zeigler, '54, on July 6, 2022  
Mary Meagher Corcoran, '55, on January 20, 2019  
Marilyn P. Hoffman, '55, G'74, on March 2, 2022  
Joan E. Murphy, '55, on August 5, 2023  
Patricia Butler Park, '55, G'76, on September 22, 2023  
Nancy Querzoli, '55, on January 7, 2023  
Barbara Chapman Stevens, '55, on November 1, 2021  
Marilyn Freeman Broide, '56, on December 6, 2019  
Maureen Dolan Clemett, '56, on February 3, 2021  
Janet Huskins Harrison, '56, on May 31, 2023  
Elizabeth Amaral Nickerson, '56, on December 19, 2023  
Richard Setteducati, G'56, on January 19, 2023  
Ann Wilberding Brewer '57, on June 12, 2024  
Salvatore Piccolo, G'57, on September 27, 2021  
Patricia Zbikowski Tagliavore, '57, on December 13, 2023  
Mary Downing Verdelli, '57, G'76, on December 7, 2020  
Sylvia Finlayson Gullage, '58, on January 2, 2022  
Jacqueline Morin Hobday, '58, on February 7, 2021

## ALUMNI SERVICES

For more information about the services below, visit [www.bridgew.edu/alumni](http://www.bridgew.edu/alumni)

### WEBSITE

Visit the BSU alumni website, [www.bridgew.edu/alumni](http://www.bridgew.edu/alumni), to learn more about events, services and the activities of alumni affinity groups.

### FACEBOOK

Follow us on Facebook (@BSUAlum) or search "Bridgewater State Alumni."

### LINKEDIN

The "Official Bridgewater State University" group on LinkedIn is more than 59,000 strong. Request to join the group today.

### INSTAGRAM

Follow us @BSU\_Alumni.

Carolyn Erickson Julian, '58, on May 1, 2023  
 Joseph A. Kobak, Jr., G'58, on September 26, 2022  
 Anne Holmes Rice, '58, on April 2, 2023  
 Charlotte Sowa Alves, '59, on May 24, 2024  
 Margaret A. Demone, '59, G'63, on August 7, 2023  
 Wayne A. Forester, G'59, on December 24, 2023  
 Lawrence G. Lambros, '59, on April 16, 2023  
 Christopher O'Byrne, '59, G'64, on January 27, 2021  
 Daniel S. Redgate, G'59, on September 24, 2022  
 Richardson Reid, G'59, on December 20, 2022  
 Aniello L. Russo, G'59, on July 12, 2023  
 Clarence J. Silvia, G'59, on January 8, 2023  
 Mary Sylvia Stearns, '59, on May 24, 2024  
 Barbara Stevens, '59, on October 19, 2022  
 Robert J. Gardula, '60, on May 24, 2024  
 Frederick C. Toran, G'60, on October 30, 2022  
 Kathleen Curtin Morella, '61, on May 7, 2024  
 William F. Nixon, Sr., G'61, on July 12, 2024  
 Leonard G. Alves, G'62, on March 3, 2024  
 Sandra Lans Lorusso, '62, on June 10, 2024  
 Betty A. Anderson, G'63, on August 22, 2022  
 Joseph F. Carven, Jr., G'63, on November 27, 2021  
 Louise J. Ferrari, '63, on April 19, 2024  
 Frank E. Jardin, G'63, on April 9, 2024  
 Joseph L. Renquin, G'63, on January 17, 2023  
 Mary McDonald LaFlamme, '64, December 4, 2023  
 Grace Amorim O'Gorman, '64, on August 11, 2024  
 Michael W. Russell, '64, G'75, on June 21, 2024  
 Mary N. Jevdet, G'65, on September 26, 2021  
 David O. MacKinnon, G'65, on March 10, 2024  
 Lucien P. Poyant, Jr., G'65, on August 6, 2024  
 MaryAnn Bernabeo SanClemente, '65, on August 21, 2024  
 Elaine Shriber, G'65, on June 24, 2024  
 Robert J. Andrews, G'66, on March 8, 2023  
 Mary Brum Creed, '66, G'76, on March 18, 2024  
 Richard E. Reagan, G'66, on August 10, 2024  
 Marie Antonelli Bradley, G'67, on November 21, 2022  
 Michael L. Ellis, '67, on March 27, 2024  
 Claire M. Wingren, G'67, on January 29, 2024  
 Joyce Moniz Andre, '68, on April 28, 2024  
 Gary T. Watson, '69, on May 16, 2024  
 Robert F. Flanagan, G'70, on July 25, 2024  
 Lynne Salvador Hopper, '70, on July 10, 2024  
 Marie Poirier Palmer, '70, on April 17, 2024  
 Marlene Smith Renaud, '72, on March 22, 2024  
 Robert M. Bergquist, '73, G'95, on August 5, 2024  
 Michael D. Fitzgerald, G'73, on August 16, 2024  
 Thomas F. Frizzell, G'74, on April 11, 2024  
 Leo F. Furfey, '74, on March 14, 2024  
 Thomas J. Kelley, '74, G'81, on May 1, 2024  
 Josephine Koelsch, '74, on May 18, 2024  
 Edna Phillips Meserve, G'74, on October 11, 2023  
 Estelle A. Rose, G'74, on May 16, 2024  
 Karen Irving Deady, '75, on March 19, 2024  
 Cynthia A. Eagar, '75, G'82, on August 4, 2024  
 Stephen R. Karr, '75, on July 19, 2024  
 Thomas G. St. Thomas, '75, on June 30, 2024  
 David J. Carter, '77, on August 22, 2024  
 Kathleen Good Hefferman, '77, on July 24, 2022  
 A. Diane Moran, G'77, on April 26, 2024  
 Judith Outman-Conant, '77, on June 19, 2024  
 Lorraine Simon, '77, G'82, on March 18, 2024  
 Rachel A. Stewart, '78, on April 13, 2024  
 Marie McLaughlin Dick, G'79, on May 12, 2022  
 Rhea A. Coates, G'80, on May 1, 2024  
 Scott McDonald, '80, on March 27, 2024  
 Stephen F. Sullivan, '80, on April 14, 2024  
 Frances S. Molla, '81, on April 3, 2024  
 Bruce F. Handy, '83, on July 29, 2024  
 Helen M. Curtis, G'84, on April 7, 2024  
 Kelley Moers Owens, '84, on July 30, 2024  
 Robert E. Ashley, Jr., G'86, on April 24, 2024  
 Bienvenido Velázquez, G'68, on May 9, 2024  
 Robert P. McCabe, Jr., '87, on May 24, 2024  
 Philip DeSilva, '88, on September 5, 2023  
 Donald D. Veronneau, G'88, on March 12, 2024  
 Michael A. Feltman, '89, on April 11, 2024  
 Carol L. Finn, '91, G'97, on August 20, 2024  
 Kevin J. Reilly, '91, on June 16, 2024  
 Jason F. Perry, '98, on March 28, 2024  
 Colby J. Caravaggio, '99, on March 6, 2024  
 Margaret M. McGowan, '99, on March 28, 2024  
 Kevin W. Cotte, '01, on July 20, 2024  
 Rose A. Sauvageau, G'07, on July 5, 2024  
 Hazel R. Donoghue, G'10, on July 7, 2024  
 Bianca A. Piemonte, '12, on July 7, 2024  
 Judith McCaffrey-Perry, '13, on May 7, 2024  
 Melissa Libby Pentowski, '16, G'19, on April 8, 2024  
 Brooke E. Smith, G'17, on July 24, 2024  
 Ryan J. King, G'19, on April 20, 2023

**BSU pays its respects to the following members of the campus community who recently passed away:**

Sandra L. Cleary, visiting lecturer, Department of Communication Studies and Theatre Arts, on July 7, 2024  
 Professor Walter Gleason, professor emeritus, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, on August 5, 2024 (see page 9)  
 Dr. Herbert J. Greenwald, professor emeritus, Department of Psychology, on July 12, 2024  
 Dr. Florian A. Muckenthaler, professor emeritus, Department of Biological Sciences, on March 23, 2024  
 Professor Reed F. Stewart, on March 23, 2023



# PARTING SHOT

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Peeking out amongst last fall's stunning foliage is the pressbox in Mazzafferro Field, named for Bridgewater State's legendary head football coach Peter Mazzafferro, who led the team for 36 years, retiring with a record of 195-137-7.

PHOTO BY CHARLIE PETERS, G'20





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- Gifts made by June 30<sup>th</sup> will be awarded in the fall semester.
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- Packets will be mailed to you, giving you the opportunity to learn about your student beneficiary.

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