



**OFFICE OF
COLLEGE AND COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIPS**

Annual Report

July 2006 – June 2007

Submitted by

Susan McCombe, Director

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SUMMARY

Established in December 2005 within the Division of External Affairs, the Office of College and Community Partnerships (CCP) is responsible for linking college resources with community needs. CCP accomplishes this by building partnerships and fostering relationships between the college and the communities of southeastern Massachusetts. This single-minded focus allows for a comprehensive coordination of all college activities pertaining to community relations.

CCP's goal is to enhance and expand all outreach efforts. To that end, CCP's director and staff work closely with local governments, communities, environmental agencies, and regional organizations to identify areas of need and to facilitate meaningful connections with the college's many resources.

Given that the college is located in the heart of Bridgewater, a major focus is the relationship between the Town of Bridgewater and Bridgewater State College. Partnerships that benefit both the college and the town are of vital importance to both and contribute, ultimately, to the creation of a true "college town" environment.

***Susan McCombe, Director, Office of College and Community Partnerships
(B.S., Bridgewater State College, M.P.A., Bridgewater State College)***

Ms. Susan McCombe has worked at Bridgewater State College since October 1991. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in biology as well as a master's degree in Public Administration, both from Bridgewater State College. Since assuming the position as director of the Office of College and Community Partnerships (CCP) in December 2005, Ms. McCombe has established CCP as the hub for collaborations between the town of Bridgewater and its college partners, working to develop programs, projects, and new initiatives.

Lynne Augenti, Office Assistant, Office of College and Community Partnerships

Ms. Lynne Augenti joined the Office of College and Community Partnerships in August 2006. She holds a bachelor's degree in resource economics from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. She brings over 15 years of expertise in office management to her position. Ms. Augenti is responsible for the day-to-day management of the office, including the office budget database, event coordination, and scheduling. She is also responsible for maintaining the College and Community Partnership's website.

COMMUNICATION

Campus and Community Connection Cable Program

Co-hosted by Larry Doherty and Susan McCombe

Interviews:

Kitty Doherty

President, Natural Resources Trust of Bridgewater (NRTB), Town River Landing

Lorraine Carrozza

Executive Director of Elder Affairs, Senior Center

Ursula Garfield

Chair of the College and Community Relations Council (CCRC)

Jeff Granatino

Principal at Bridgewater Raynham Regional High School (BRRHS), One Book One Community

Ketna Julmeus

Bridgewater State College student and volunteer

Ginny Pitts

Executive Director, HandiKids

Liz Calef

Teacher at Bridgewater Raynham Regional High School, Coordinator TJ² Robotics Lab

Three Bridgewater Raynham Regional High School students

“My Sister’s Keeper,” One Book One Community

Casey Florence and Jason Flannery

Bridgewater State College students, who are from Bridgewater and attended BRRHS

Various students and staff at Woodward Hall, BSC, Halloween Party

Campus and Community Connection Newsletter

Published in fall 2006 and spring 2007

See Appendix

EVENTS

Autumnfest

September 30, 2006; the Bridgewater Business Association, in partnership with BSC, held Autumnfest on School Street and the Boyden Quadrangle. Students from Residence Life and Housing organized games and face painting for children. The One Book One Community steering committee members presented information about the community read for 2006-2007.

Senior Theater Reception and Play

October 2006 and March 2007; approximately 50 senior citizens attended a Sunday matinee of “Urinetown” adapted from the book by Greg Kotis and Thornton Wilder’s “Our Town,” both plays were preceded by a reception and lecture, by the director, of the history of the plays presented.

Festa Neighborhood Fiesta

October 2006; international students, college faculty and staff, and neighbors were invited to this annual event at the home of Pamela and James Hayes-Bohanan. The fiesta featured cultural food and music.

Barney Frank

November 28, 2006; students and teachers from Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School attended a lecture by Congressman Barney Frank which took place in the Rondileau Campus Center Ballroom.

An Inconvenient Truth

January 31, 2007; Bridgewater town residents and middle and high school students attended the Al Gore documentary “An Inconvenient Truth” at the Moakley Center. A panel discussion made up of Dr. Jonathan White, Dr. James Hayes-Bohanan, Dr. Peter Saccocia, Dr. Ed Brush, and Dr. Jeff Williams followed.

Bill Nye

April 10, 2007; students and teachers from the Williams Middle School attended CityLab at BSC. CityLab is a hands-on experience for middle school students to take part in investigative scientific technology. Teachers from the middle school attended a teacher workshop. Bill Nye visited both CityLab and the teacher workshops before his lecture. Following CityLab and the workshops, students and teachers attended a lecture by “Bill Nye the Science Guy” which took place in the Rondileau Campus Center Auditorium.

BRRHS- BSC Green Awareness Day

April 13, 2007; Jeff Granatino, Principal at Bridgewater Raynham Regional High School, welcomed BRRHS students and teachers who participated in a day of workshops focused on organic food and community gardens, fisheries and the Taunton River, sustainability, recycling, and energy led by college faculty, students, and representatives from the Taunton River Watershed Alliance. At any one time, there were over 200 students in the BRRHS auditorium attending the workshops.

History Symposium

April 13, 2007; the first symposium showcasing different aspects of BSC college history took place in the Maxwell Library Heritage Room. The Office of College and Community Partnerships was among the features, and a comparison was made between committees and events of the past and the present as they pertain to the college and town relationship.

Earth Day

April 21, 2007; the college and the Town of Bridgewater celebrated Earth Day. Partners included the Center for Multicultural and International Affairs, Center for Sustainability, Community Service Center, Outdoor Adventure Club, Office of Residence Life and Housing, Bridgewater Conservation Commission, Natural Resources Trust of Bridgewater, West Bridgewater Open Space and Recreation Commission, the West Bridgewater Forestry Department, and Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts. The group cleaned 15 conservation park sites and the college grounds. Over 175 college students, staff, and community members from Bridgewater and West Bridgewater participated in the event.

International Flag Display Reception

April 18, 2007; Members of the college community gathered in the atrium of the Rondileau Campus Center for the dedication ceremony. Sponsors of the international flag display include the President's Office, College and Community Partnerships, Center for Multicultural and International Affairs, and the Geography Department.

College and Community Partnership Dinner

June 12, 2007; approximately 300 people attended this annual celebratory event held in the East Campus Commons. Guest speakers included BSC President Mohler-Faria, Vice President of the Division of External Affairs Ed Minnock, Chair of Bridgewater Selectmen Herb Lemon, State Senator Marc Pacheco, State Representative David Flynn, Chair of BSC Trustees Lou Ricciardi, and three students representing a newly formed student organization Bridgewater Organization for Non-Profit Development (BOND). The guests were also given an update of partnerships between the college and the town.

The first annual College and Community Partnership Award was given to Ms. Susan Brougham, Library Director at Bridgewater Raynham Regional High School "For her leadership and vision in connection with the One Book One Community program."

PARTNERSHIPS

One Book One Community

One Book One Community is a partnership between Bridgewater State College, the Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School, and the Bridgewater Public Library. This partnership began in 2005 when Ms. Susan Brougham, the director of library services at the high school, approached Ms. Ursula Garfield, the chair of the College and Community Relations Council, about organizing a community read. The first year, One Book One Community participants read *Nickel and Dimed* by Barbara Ehrenreich; Ms. Ehrenreich presented a lecture at the end of the year. Last year, participants read *My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult. Participants include college and high school faculty, students, staff, and community members.

Discussions, films, essay contests, art exhibits and more were organized around the theme of the book. A few comments made by high school students after attending a discussion with students at the Honors Center at BSC include: "I never realized that this book had such application to issues other than the obvious surface problem"; "I've learned how to look in other books for the underlying issues"; "I really learned how to probe and dissect a book."

Ms. Susan Brougham received the first annual, College and Community Partnership Award on June 12, 2007, for her leadership and vision in connection with the One Book One Book One Community is a continuing and growing partnership.

The book selection chosen for fall 2007 – spring 2008 is *Night* by Elie Wiesel.

International Education Week in November

Together with Ms. Kristy-Ann Eldridge, BSC international student advisor, eight international students attended the Mitchell Elementary School to share information about their culture, hobbies, and schooling. This is the third year of this program.

The Bridge

Gerald Walker and Mary Dondero, faculty advisors for *The Bridge*, BSC's student journal, included submissions from the Senior Center in Bridgewater and Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School as well as an entry from the University of Bahrain.

Community Engagement in Sustainable Development and Environmental Planning

Ms. Pat Anania and Ms. Shirley Wood from Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School; Dr. Deniz Leuenberger, Dr. James Hayes-Bohanan and Ms. Jodie Kluver, BSC faculty; Mr. Greg Boisvert, current graduate student; and Ms. Amanda Chisholm, MPA graduate; Mr. Mike Tibert and Ms. Kitty Doherty, town residents, make up the committee that met numerous times to discuss sustainable development and environmental planning as it pertains to community engagement.

These discussions resulted in a Green Awareness Day held at the high school on April 13, 2007. Jeff Granatino, principal of BRRHS, and students participated in a day of workshops relating to organic food and community gardens, fisheries and the Taunton River, sustainability, recycling and energy. At any one time there were over 200 students in the BRRHS auditorium attending these workshops. As a follow-up, a rally is planned at BSC to get college and high school students involved in developing programs for promoting community awareness about environmental issues. Two grants have been submitted to further this effort (see Grant Proposals page 9).

Natural Resources Trust of Bridgewater

The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife completed installation of a canoe launch at the Town River Landing in Bridgewater. Plans are underway for construction of a pedestrian bridge connecting a greenway from Stiles and Hart conservation park site to the Town River Landing and eventually through the college to Carver's Pond. The BSC Outdoor Adventure Club has agreed to be stewards of the Town River Landing, working in conjunction with the Natural Resources Trust of Bridgewater (NRTB) and the Town of Bridgewater. Two grant proposals have been submitted for funding for development of the pedestrian bridge (see Grant Proposals page 9).

Outdoor Classrooms

Seven conservation sites and river corridors in Bridgewater connect West and East Bridgewater. These areas are of great value and plans to create outdoor classrooms are in the works. Faculty at the college have been using Carver's Pond as an outdoor classroom and collecting data for more than 20 years. It is extremely important to coordinate all efforts as outdoor classrooms are great places for students of all ages to gain research and field experience.

Town River Fisheries Committee

Mr. Bob Hanson, chair of the TRFC, and Dr. Kevin, chair of the Biology Department at BSC, worked together along with two BSC students in spring 2007, gathering data on fish populations and water quality on the Town River. The Town River is a site for herring populations making their way upstream, and there is concern over declining populations. Any information we can gather is helpful. We are hoping this can be a project for student interns and possibly students at the high school.

West Bridgewater Internships

Michael Carr and Nathan Farnum, two geography students from BSC, under the direction of Dr. Robert Amey, department of geography, worked in the West Bridgewater office of the Conservation Commission creating GIS maps of the town's conservation sites. This mapping will also be helpful as West Bridgewater develops its Open Space Plan.

Open Space Plans

The towns of West Bridgewater and Bridgewater approached the college to ask for assistance in the development of Open Space Plans. The college, in conjunction with Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences and The Nature Conservancy (TNC,) is working to help find ways to connect the already existing open space plans in East Bridgewater and neighboring towns with area open space plans – in essence, working beyond the barrier of town borders to connect greenways and even the Bay Circuit Trail from Plum Island through the Bridgewaters and the college.

Personal Enrichment Program at the Senior Center (PEP)

An Advisory Committee has been formed consisting of Lorraine Carozza, Director for Elder Affairs, from BSC Professor Jodie Kluver, Political Science and Dr Arnaa Alcon, Social Work, Liz Moura, Assistant Director for Elder Affairs, Kathy LaGrasta, staff person from the Senior Center and Mary Westman, Joan Cummings, and Bob Coolen senior citizens. The advisory board helps to plan workshops and classes at the senior center. This spring the program included a digital photography course and a lecture from a visiting professor from Jordan on the Middle East, “A Citizens View,” which BSC students also attended. Dr. Ed Brush, Dr. James Hayes-Bohanan, and Ms. Pamela Hayes Bohanan showed the Al Gore documentary, “An Inconvenient Truth,” and held a discussion on alternative energy following the film.

Sister City Program

The college and the town are currently entertaining the idea of becoming a sister city with Ina, a small town in Nagano, Japan. BSC enjoys an educational history with Ina, as one of our first international students in 1877, Shuje Isawa, played an influential role in establishing Japan’s educational system. Dr. Wing Kai-To from BSC’s History Department has been instrumental in initiating this partnership.

Bridgewater Coalition Against Community Violence

This group of dedicated people from the Bridgewater Police Department and Brockton District Attorney’s office and the Senior Center organize events such as the White Ribbon Campaign and programs on education about violence in the community and suicide prevention. The White Ribbon Campaign, often held at schools, asks students to sign a banner agreeing they will not commit, condone, or remain silent about violence towards women. In February 2007, a White Ribbon campaign was held at Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School.

GRANT PROPOSALS

National Community Based Research Networking Initiatives Innovation Grant (CBR)

Ms. Susan McCombe and Dr. Deniz Leuenberger (BSC) collaborated on and submitted a grant for funding to aid in the implementation and evaluation of the Community Engagement in Sustainable Development and Environmental Planning program. This program is a partnership between the Town of Bridgewater, Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School, and Bridgewater State College. A mission and a plan for engaging the college, high school, and community in efforts around sustainable development and environmental planning have been developed. Although not funded they were encouraged to engage with CBR and submit again.

Massachusetts Department of Education (MDOE)

BSC, BRRHS, Root and Shoots of the Jane Goodall Institute partnered on a grant for funding for Community Engagement in Sustainable Development and Environmental Planning. This program is a partnership between the Town of Bridgewater, Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School, and Bridgewater State College. A mission and a plan for engaging the college, high school, and community in efforts around sustainable development and environmental planning have been developed. Funding has not been announced.

Taunton River Watershed Alliance (TRWA)

Town of West Bridgewater submitted a proposal for funding to assist in the completion of the West Bridgewater Open Space Plan. A letter of support from BSC was included in the proposal. The grant was awarded to the town in the amount of \$2,500.

Department Of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)

The Natural Resources Trust of Bridgewater (NRTB), in conjunction with the Town of Bridgewater and Bridgewater State College, submitted a planning grant in the amount of \$18,000 to DCR. The funds would be used to off-set the cost of engineers in developing a pedestrian bridge design and implementation of on-site work at the Town River Landing. This proposal was not funded but the director of DCR remains interested in the project, has visited the site and offered advice.

Town of Bridgewater Community Preservation Committee

The Natural Resources Trust of Bridgewater (NRTB), in conjunction with Bridgewater State College, requested \$15,000 to help support the planning and implementation of the pedestrian bridge project at the Town River Landing. This grant was awarded.