

# *For every* **STUDENT**



# BEAR PAW

## PAVILION



The Bridgeway Bear is an enduring symbol of tradition and pride representing all activities at BSA. The Bear sculpture honors all of those who have served BSA's cause in various capacities - past, present and future.

This pedestal is dedicated in the memory of Martin E. Rice (son of Ed), a member of the Bear Paw area who suffered a fatal heart attack in a game on November 9, 1961. Marty was an energetic, kind and generous individual and a champion of our beloved area camp. The bear is a symbol of the Bear Paw area's success and hope.

October 23, 2021  
Chris Williams  
"Marty"

Dear Friends,

Each of the inspiring stories of students and donors (and those honored by our donors) found in our annual Impact Report has its distinct elements, representing different lived experiences, interests and backgrounds. There is, however, a powerful throughline that unites them: character.

These are stories of strength, courage, perseverance, determination, hope and love. They are authentically and quintessentially Bridgewater State stories.

We witness students who have overcome daunting challenges, work several jobs to put themselves through BSU, are raising families, and have found their passion and calling from their own experiences with everything from addiction and speech impediments to babysitting foster children. These are students seeking to make their mark on the world by making a difference in the lives of others, from conducting research into climate change to helping children who have experienced trauma.

Our generous alumni, faculty and staff donors were inspired by different role models, from grandparents and parents to a caring commuter café employee, and have harnessed that inspiration to assisting commuter students, building a more diverse pipeline of social workers, supporting students studying communication sciences and disorders and to advancing global environmental sustainability. They are all united by one overarching motivation: to help BSU continue to serve as a springboard to success for every student, without exception.

The character of our students and donors is reflected in the character of Bridgewater State University.

This university does not sit still, does not rest on its laurels; it continues to innovatively adapt and advance our virtuous mission to meet the realities and challenges of the day. Our resilient and hard-working university community has not allowed the constraints of the last two years to derail us from moving BSU forward in its growth and development:

1. **Racial Justice and Equity.** Through the leadership of the new Racial Justice and Equity Committee of the BSU Board of Trustees, Racial Justice and Equity Council, and Student Advisory Group, and guided by the recommendations of the Special Presidential Racial Justice Task Force, the university is actively addressing elements of policy, practice and culture which impede racial justice on our campus and implementing the 70+ Task Force recommendations through more than 150 distinct action items.
2. **Mental Health.** The pandemic exposed and accelerated the many mental health challenges faced by our students and employees. As a newly designated "JED" (<https://jedfoundation.org/jed-campus/>) campus, BSU making steady progress in providing care, adding supports and resources as well as building awareness and reducing stigma.
3. **Innovative Programs.** BSU continues to develop innovative programs that reflect the needs of society and our economy, including our recently approved Childhood Studies major. BSU's emerging cybersecurity program has already attracted nearly \$3.5 million in federal and state support. BSU is building the most sophisticated cyber training range in Massachusetts and expects to launch its new cybersecurity bachelor's degree in Fall 2023.
4. **Affordability.** The affordability of a BSU education is a leading university priority. In addition to providing millions of dollars in federal student emergency funding, freezing tuition and fees for two consecutive years, BSU raised more than \$6 million in private funding this past fiscal year for student scholarships and support.
5. **Burnell.** BSU is also commencing the renovation of the Burnell building to provide a new home to our College of Education and Health Sciences (CEHS). The project represents a truly transformative investment that will benefit 4,000 students, support innovative program delivery, expand the advanced use of technology, and serve critical workforce needs in the Commonwealth.

Although BSU is now 182-years young, this small sampling testifies to our conviction that our best days continue to lie before us. Thank you, our supporters, for giving generously of your time and resources. It is indeed your character that will keep open the doors of opportunity for generations to come and help this great university continue to thrive and innovatively meet the challenges of tomorrow.



**Frederick W. Clark Jr., Esq., '83**  
President  
Bridgewater State University

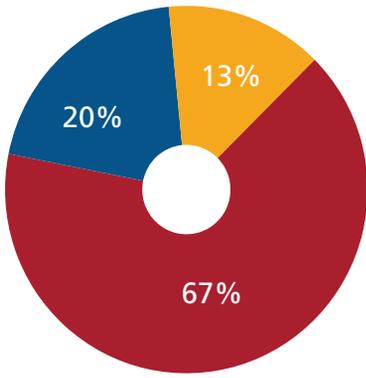


**Ellen Cuttle Oliver, '82, G'89**  
Executive Director, BSU Foundation and  
Chief Development Officer



**Joseph St. Laurent, '88**  
Chairman  
Bridgewater State University Foundation

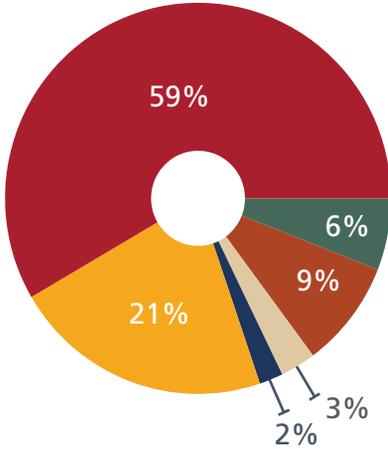
## GIFTS



Alumni .....	\$4,245,000
Corporate and Foundation .....	\$1,264,000
Friends, Parents, Faculty and Staff.....	\$865,000

Total..... \$6,374,000

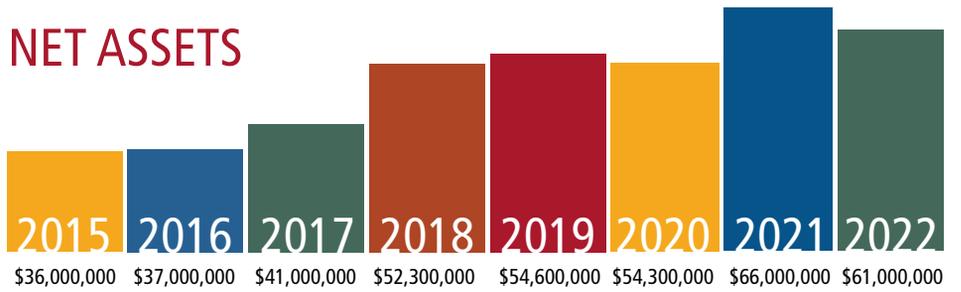
*100% of private donations go directly to helping students and programs. All BSU operating costs associated with the BSU Foundation are provided by Bridgewater State University.*



## DISBURSEMENTS

Academic Programs .....	\$139,300
Athletics .....	\$207,200
Equipment .....	\$65,900
Faculty Support.....	\$46,800
Internships.....	\$505,900
Scholarships/Financial Aid.....	\$1,382,000

## NET ASSETS



## REVENUE

In fiscal year 2022, Bridgewater State University received approximately **34 percent of its revenue from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts**. The remainder of its revenue is from local tuition and fees, government and private grants, contracts, gifts and auxiliary enterprises.





# OPENING DOORS

BSU Giving Day - April 13 & 14, 2022

# \$158,000

Amount raised.

# 410

Number of donors.

# 472

Number of gifts.

# \$336

Average gift size.

A 305% increase from first giving day six years ago when the average gift was \$83.

## CHRISTIAN PIERCE, '22



"Thank you for believing in me. I have worked very hard and I am grateful that Bridgewater State has helped me fulfill my goals. You were there when I needed it most."

## BRIDGEWATER STATE UNIVERSITY'S BOARDS AND OFFICERS

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- Margaret A. Caulfield, Esq., '00  
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- Mr. Francis Giles
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Student Trustee
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- Ms. Carolyn V. Turchon, '62

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- Mr. David Rumrill, '91  
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- Frederick W. Clark Jr., Esq., '83  
Ex-Officio

### OFFICERS OF THE UNIVERSITY

- Frederick W. Clark Jr., Esq., '83  
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- Dr. Karim Ismaili  
Executive Vice President  
and Provost
- Mr. Vinny M. deMacedo  
Special Advisor to the  
President for University Priorities
- Dr. Sabrina Gentlewarrior  
Vice President for Student  
Success and Diversity
- Ms. Karen W. Jason, G'04, G'10, G'15  
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Interim Vice President for  
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and Chief Information Officer

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- Kevin C. Costa, Esq., '15  
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- Ms. Colleen V. McIntyre, '97
- Ms. Jessica McNeill, '14
- Mr. Dave Morwick, '64
- Mr. Timothy P. Millerick, '82, G'86
- Mr. Nick Promponas, '89
- Mr. Matthew T. Rushton, '15, G'20
- Ms. Joie H. Steele, '04

# A TRUE INSPIRATION

## THE BETTY ENOS ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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“There are so many ways to give back to the BSU community. The financial part is, of course, important, but coming back to campus, supporting homecoming, mentoring students, serving on boards, and joining committees are several examples.” - KK Rumrill

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Dave, '91, and KK, '92, Rumrill belong to BSU's "met and married" cohort, a group of alumni who connect not only their career successes, but also their heartwarming personal lives and friendships to Bridgewater.

That was more than a quarter of a century ago, yet the couple has continued to support the university by giving of time and treasure as circumstances allow.

“There are so many ways to give back to the BSU community,” said Ms. Rumrill. “The financial part is, of course, important, but coming back to campus, supporting homecoming, mentoring students, serving on boards, and joining committees are several examples.

“In the early days of our careers, Dave and I couldn't afford to give back in financial terms. But Dave invested a lot of his time over the years.”

Fast forward. Today, among other commitments, Mr. Rumrill serves as the vice chairman of the BSU Foundation, sits on the Advisory Board of the Ricciardi College of Business, and serves on a scholarship selection committee. He is executive director at JP Morgan, and Ms. Rumrill is senior director/general manager at IQVIA Technology.

“KK and I are at a stage in our lives where we are able and eager to give back financially,” said Mr. Rumrill. “Our hope is that doing so will inspire others to see its importance not only to individuals, but also to the betterment of our communities and world we live in.”

To that end, the couple has established the Betty Enos Endowed Scholarship Fund. Mr. Rumrill describes Betty as “a sweet person” who, in his youth “looked after me in a very sweet way, and who I still see as my second mother.”

“Betty worked in the Bridgewater State commuter café all throughout our college years,” said Ms. Rumrill. “She was kind to everyone and hardworking, an inspiration to students.”

The Betty Enos Scholarship Fund benefits full-time, undergraduate, commuter students who maintain employment and demonstrate engagement with the BSU community through volunteer activities, student leadership, clubs, sports, etc.

“Dave was a commuter,” said Ms. Rumrill. “We wanted the scholarship to represent commuter students, who can find it more difficult to engage in campus life.”

Interested in inspiring alumni to get involved, Mr. Rumrill added, “We can't underestimate the leadership of President Clark. He embraces alumni – whom he welcomes, values, and appreciates – and realizes how important they are to the university's success.”



# ABIGAIL RAPOZA, '25

## Recipient of the Betty Enos Endowed Scholarship Fund

"Kind and caring" describe Betty Enos, an engaged member of the Bridgewater community and the honoree of this scholarship established by Dave, '91, and KK Rumrill, '92. Likewise, "kind and caring" describe Abigail Rapoza, '25, this year's scholarship recipient.

Abigail is a double major – elementary education/dual licensure in special education, and sociology. She commutes to BSU and is first in her family to attend college. During the academic year, she works at Cynergy CrossFit in Hanson, coaching kids, teens and adults. In the summer, she's a camp counselor and director of the Science Center at Whitman Town Park. Fall semester, she plans to join BSU's Best Buddies program. Those are just the basics.

How Abigail evolved from a shy child to an inspired leader is the inside story and proof positive that she is perfectly positioned to honor Betty Enos. "When I was a child, I was super mute," said Abigail. "I would speak only to family members. My parents enrolled me in karate, and I excelled." Abigail began talking with others, and her coach asked her to coach younger kids. "It took me out of my comfort zone, and I fell in love."

Abigail decided to become a foster-care babysitter 13 years ago, inspired by her parent's decision to become foster parents. Abigail said that sitting for foster children who live away from their own homes "opened my eyes to the good and not-so-good of the foster care system. Many foster children have learning disabilities; they need extra support." Recently, Josie came into Abigail's life when her parents fostered the then three-day old infant. Today, Josie is 13-months old and soon to become Abigail's official baby sister.

"Receiving this scholarship means a lot to me," said Abigail. "Because I'm first generation, I have no role models, making it a little more difficult for me and my family. It's also about validation. I always try hard to push as hard as I can. Receiving this scholarship means it may be paying off in some way.

"My goal is to do the best I can for others, and the only way I can do this is to get the best education I can."



# THE POWER OF EDUCATION

## JAMES M. NEILAND ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Mary and Raymond Neiland (pictured below) grew up during the great depression and met during the early days of WWII. Raymond's ship was in for repairs at the Charlestown Navy Yard; Mary worked in the welding department. Their story is much like other couples during those uncertain times. They married, had a family, and lived their lives together for just shy of 75 years. Some might say they lived an ordinary life; most of us do. But so often tucked within the ordinary is the extraordinary – the seemingly simple life lessons that shape a person. The Neiland's children learned from their example, observing ethical behavior in action; they learned about kindness, working hard and the importance of education.

Mary Neiland belonged to the PTA; she admired the teachers, respected their dedication, and appreciated how meaningful their lives were. She, in turn, taught her children how the broadening of their world view would enrich their lives and provide increased opportunities.

The James M. Neiland Endowed Scholarship Fund was established by the couple's son, Jim Neiland, in memory of his parents who believed in him and in the power of education to positively impact lives. The fund benefits top performing, undergraduate history majors with financial need, mirroring Jim Neiland's own passion for history.

Sierra Alyssa Beaulac, '23, (pictured far right) recipient of the James M. Neiland Endowed Scholarship, mirrors all that Mary and Raymond Neiland believed in so strongly. A double major in history and secondary education with a minor in social studies, Sierra is focused on academic achievement. The first in her family to attend college, she works two and sometimes three jobs to finance her education, clearly someone who knows the value of hard work.

Originally a biology major, Sierra's goal changed during the pandemic. "When I was stuck at home, I began feeling a little unhappy with my decision to study biology. Watching the news and understanding the big historical changes

happening in my lifetime, I knew I wanted to teach history, which is very diverse. I understood that I wanted to teach the way my teachers did, invite different perspectives, engage my students."

Sierra's goal is to graduate from BSU debt free. "As a first-generation student, I am very appreciative of this scholarship. It means a lot to me, especially since I plan to continue my education and earn my master's degree."

And she said that The James M. Neiland Scholarship gets her one step closer.



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**"As a first-generation student, I am very appreciative of this scholarship. It means a lot to me, especially since I plan to continue my education and earn my master's degree." - Sierra Alyssa Beaulac**

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# SIERRA ALYSSA BEAULAC, '23

RECIPIENT OF THE JAMES M. NEILAND ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP



# A CRITICAL NEED

## THE HOUSTON BRUNS SCHOLARSHIP IN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PRACTICE FUNDED BY MASS GENERAL BRIGHAM

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“Our philosophy in the School of Social Work is to educate our students to be culturally responsive and able to work with diverse populations and to provide them with the skills and tools to work as practitioners and leaders in the profession.” - Carol Bonner

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Recognizing today's critical need for mental health professionals, Mass General Brigham (MGB) has invested \$50 million in support of a select number of commonwealth institutions working to address the crisis exacerbated by the pandemic. After reaching out to President Clark, MGB made the decision to grant \$1 million to the university in support of the School of Social Work (SSW).

Over the course of the five-year grant, roughly 48 students – both bachelor's and master's – will benefit from the resulting scholarship, which has been named “The Houston Bruns Scholarship in Behavioral Health Practice” after two esteemed faculty

members of color who taught in the School of Social Work.

Dr. Carol Bonner, associate dean of the SSW, (pictured below) is not only grateful for the support, but also understands at a visceral level the incredible opportunity this scholarship provides for its recipients.

“Our philosophy in the School of Social Work is to educate our students to be culturally responsive and able to work with diverse populations and to provide them with the skills and tools to work as practitioners and leaders in the profession,” said Dr. Bonner. The MGB commitment to support racially and ethnically diverse students dovetails with SSW's strategic plan.

“Our goal is to strengthen our justice-informed identity,” said Dr. Bonner. “Our faculty and staff are focused on racial justice and how to live the commitment in our day-to-day work.

“We self-reflect about who we are at the school and what we can do not only in education, but also in terms of helping our students with their own personal growth and self-awareness on their journey.”

The MGB grant also funds outside speakers; supports modest events to help students get a better understanding of the issues in behavioral and mental health; and provides students monies to travel to conferences or attend trainings.



# JEFF ROSE, '23

## Recipient of the Houston Bruns Scholarship funded by Mass General Brigham.

It didn't happen overnight, and it certainly wasn't easy. But, over time, Jeff Rose, '23, conquered his years-long battle with addiction.

He was well into his addictive lifestyle when, as a 16-year-old, his first son was born. Addiction, however, had a strong hold. Eventually, he was incarcerated for a time, released on probation, and, he said, "Still ended up in the same-old same-old," meaning in and out of treatment.

However, Jeff struggled harder to reclaim his life, and with dogged determination and courage he succeeded. As of this writing, he has been in recovery nine years.

Driven in part through his own experience and subsequent success, Jeff wants "to help change the narrative in other's lives" in the same way alcohol and substance abuse counselors changed his own. "It was when I entered recovery that I started to realize I want to help people too."

Jeff enrolled in community college, transferred to BSU, and will graduate next year with his bachelor's degree in social work. He works full time, is father to three, married to the mother of his youngest child, and is the proud recipient of the Houston Bruns Scholarship, made possible through generous grants from Mass General Brigham.

"I have no words to express the gratitude I feel for having received this scholarship," he said. "I look back at my life, and it seems like a movie. Up to this point, I'm thinking Oh yeah, kids get scholarships, but not me. I'm 34 years old. I never thought I'd have the opportunity."

A nontraditional student with a challenging history and a bright future, Jeff shares his story so that others know that there is a full life to be lived post addiction.



# FACULTY AND STAFF SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS

## THE ALICE McCANN HEILMAN ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Born May 10, 1918, Alice McCann (pictured below center) defied the odds, graduating high school in 1935 at age 16; earning her bachelor's in languages from New York University in 1938 and her master's in speech and hearing from Columbia University at age 21 – remarkable achievements for anyone but especially for a woman in the 1930s.

In 1942, Ms. McCann married Wendell Heilman, later raising five children. Described as a woman with “courage and wisdom,” she went on to enjoy a long and productive career, using her prodigious language skills to help those most vulnerable learn to improve their speech. She worked until well into her 90s, embraced people from diverse cultures, and traveled widely.

Ms. McCann Heilman's sons, Ward (pictured left below), BSU professor of mathematics, and Jeffrey Heilman together with Ward's son Ethan and Jeffrey's daughter Wendy, established The Alice McCann Heilman Endowed Scholarship Fund in her honor.

They chose Bridgewater for many reasons. “Bridgewater is an amazing place with really good people,” said Dr. Ward Heilman. “But it's our students. Many work several jobs to

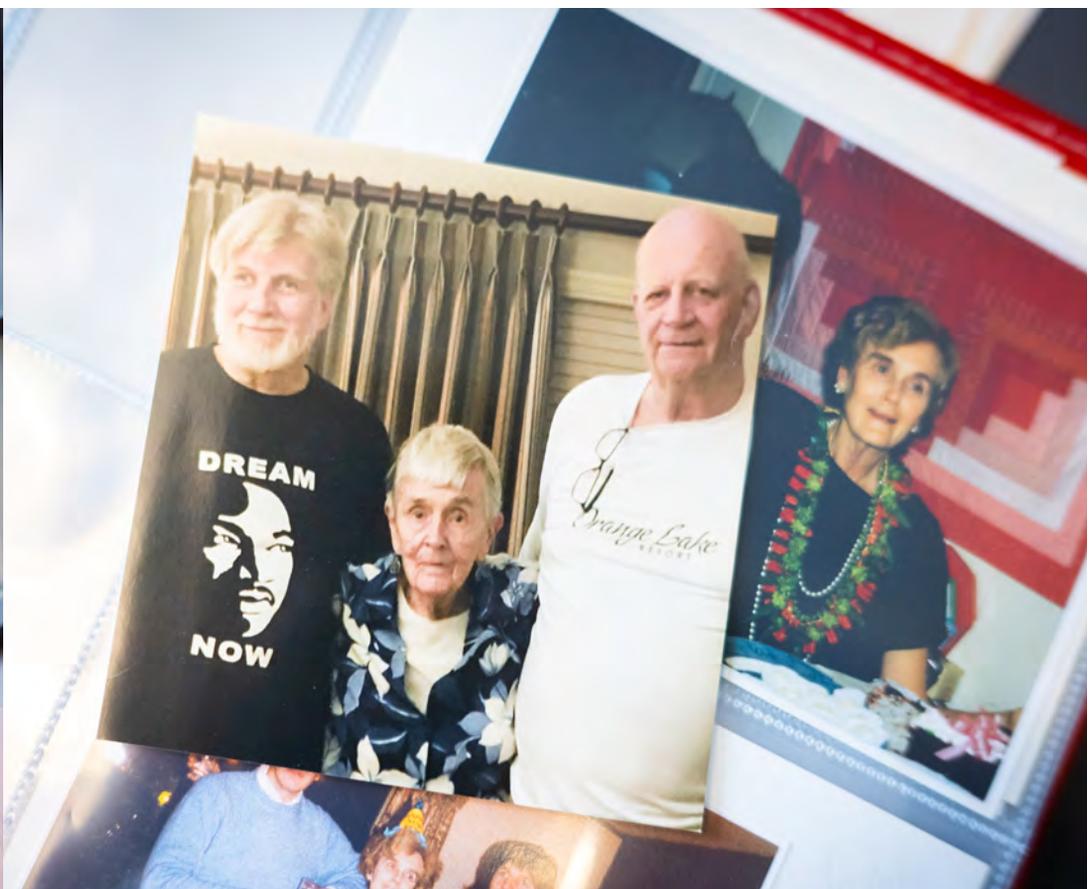
put themselves through school; others drop out to make more money to fund their education. If we can help even one student graduate and get a good job, it not only helps that student but gives the whole family a boost.”

Dr. Heilman was quick to say that funding the scholarship was “a ‘community affair.’ My wife, Mary, my two stepchildren, Jaime Marek and Kate Marek, and our families and friends joined in the fundraising effort.

“We thought about all the people my mother cared for and helped. And we thought a scholarship benefiting students studying in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders would be appropriate,” he said.

“My mother was a smart, generous, big-hearted, modest, amazing and awesome woman,” said Dr. Heilman. “She shared her love of words with everyone; she generated excitement about knowledge and exploration, and she taught us to respect others. She taught us to be generous, by being generous. She taught us to be truthful, by telling the truth. She taught us to be thoughtful, by demonstrating thoughtfulness.

“She taught us to love, by living and showing love.”



# JAILENE ESCALERA, '23

Recipient of the Alice McCann Heilman Endowed Scholarship



Career goal? Speech Pathologist. And Jailene Escalera, '23, a communication sciences and disorders major, is well positioned to do Alice McCann Heilman proud. Ms. Heilman devoted her life to helping those most vulnerable learn to improve their speech, and Jailene's academic journey is taking her in the same direction.

"When I was a kid, I had to see a speech pathologist," said Jailene. "So, I have that experience. I know what it's like, and I will be able to relate to my future patients. It's important they understand they're not alone."

Jailene began her journey at BSU as an elementary education major and quickly realized that "it just wasn't the right fit for me." At the recommendation of a friend, she enrolled in several communications classes. "I fell in love. I want to help everyone who needs the help," she said, whether the need is congenital or the result of injury or illness. "I want to make sure everyone feels confident when talking," which, among so many other things, covers the gamut from answering questions to engaging in casual conversations or delivering a formal speech, things many of us take for granted.

Like many BSU students, Jailene is not only focused on her studies, but also is managing to work and pay for the bulk of her college education on her own. During the academic year, she is employed at the Thornburg Fitness Center; in the summer, she works at Friends Academy's summer camp program for students K-12.

To the Heilman family and friends who made this scholarship possible, Jailene said, "Thank you. Thank you so much for considering me as one of your recipients. I hope I can live up to the expectations my receiving the award means. And I hope one day to give back to someone in the same way this scholarship has given back to me."

# FACULTY AND STAFF SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS

## THE RABIA ISMAILI ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Her story is all too familiar.

Political upheaval grips a continent and many of its people are forced to consider the potential for disenfranchisement, expulsion, or both. Rabia Ismaili was born in Kisumu, a small village in Kenya, in 1935. In the mid- to late-1960s, she and her family fled from East Africa following a wave of anti-Asian sentiment that took hold following independence from Britain. They headed for London. In 1980, Rabia moved to Vancouver, Canada with her two young sons, then 13-year-old Karim and 8-year-old Rahim. Rabia worked a variety of jobs to make ends meet and encouraged her boys to pursue higher education as a means to independence. Fast forward. Today, Dr. Karim Ismaili (pictured below) is executive vice president and provost of Bridgewater State University.

He and his wife, Wendy Ismaili, talked often about how to honor Rabia in a way that best represented her values. They put together the resources to endow a scholarship and then asked Rabia to share things that really mattered to her.

The Rabia Ismaili Endowed Scholarship, focusing on global environmental sustainability, was born. "My mother speaks multiple languages and thinks globally," said Dr. Ismaili. "She's seen famine firsthand and has always been concerned with the domino effect of environmental degradation."

He said she is also concerned with systemic inequality and very interested in global environmental issues.

"Wendy and I feel very connected to the story of Bridgewater's students, the many low-income, first-generation, and students of color. I was first in my family to attend college, and I benefited from support from different sources. The playing field needs to be leveled.

"Philanthropy is a way to make a difference. If you're fortunate to be able to do that, it's gratifying knowing you're helping.

"Without my mother's resilience and strength, I don't think I would be where I am today."

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"Philanthropy is a way to make a difference. If you're fortunate to be able to do that, it's gratifying knowing you're helping." - Karim Ismaili

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## MARVELL NICHOLSON, '25

### Recipient of the Rabia Ismaili Scholarship

Marvell Nicholson, '25, knows his mind: identify a solid career goal, enroll in a university well suited to help him achieve his goal, and maintain his ongoing focus on helping others.

One of 10 siblings and the first in his family to attend college, he said, "My major is marketing, and my initial goal is to work as a salesperson for companies like Apple and Tesla." Ultimately, he would like "to do my own thing once I have the experience." He chose to enroll in BSU because of the positive feedback he heard about the university's marketing program.

But that's only one side of Marvell. His focus on helping others is fundamental to who he is. To that end, after completing his freshman year and first semester of his sophomore year, he paused his education to enlist in the marines. "It was after COVID hit, and I wanted to make a difference."

Making a difference, of course, comes in many shapes. "I've been greatly impacted by global environmental issues," he said, "including global warming and the emissions of greenhouse gases." A class on deforestation set him on his path to learning the ways he can make a difference, not only to individuals' lives, but to our world. Sustainability is high on his list of priorities.

## MACKENZIE GIFFORD, '24

### Recipient of the Rabia Ismaili Scholarship

Raging wildfires, damaging tornadoes, devastating floods, rising temperatures, melting icebergs – our planet is in desperate need of all the help it can get. A chemistry major with a concentration in biochemistry, Mackenzie Gifford, '24, aims to do her part.

"I've always been interested in science and the environment," she said. "As a biology student, I learned a lot about carbon dioxide and how toxic things in the air impact plants and animals." A passionate environmentalist, she switched to chemistry, "because I felt I could help the environment even more."

Mackenzie is interested in researching certain chemicals able to absorb the carbon dioxide in the air, the goal being to make it into a useful and environmentally friendly substance. The research is cutting edge, and Mackenzie will have the opportunity to work in Dr. Edward Brush's chemistry lab this fall.

The first in her family to attend college, Mackenzie said that receiving the scholarship certainly helped her financially. But for her, it was more than that. "It makes me think of how I might help others in the future, how I might follow in the footsteps of those donors who have helped me and so many other students. I really want one day to be in the position to help future students."



## THE ABRAHAM KRISOFF SCHOLARSHIP FOR MSW STUDENTS

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“MSW graduates change lives. Establishing this scholarship to honor my grandfather made sense to me. It also puts forward the idea that, as employees, it’s important for us to figure out how to give back.” - Lisa Krissoff Boehm

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Scholarships satisfy a donor’s authentic desire to make a difference in the lives of students, one student at a time. Many are established in honor of a loved one who has positively impacted the life of the donor – an inspiring person, generous and kind, a person who leads by example.

Abraham Krissoff, grandfather of Dr. Lisa Krissoff Boehm, dean of the College of Graduate Studies, was just that person. “My grandfather’s parents were immigrants from Ukraine,” she said. “They weren’t wealthy, but my grandfather worked hard and went to college. Public higher education meant a lot to him.”

Abraham Krissoff earned his bachelor’s degree at Queens College. Then he earned a second bachelor’s degree and a master’s degree in forestry from the University of Michigan

(UM), and served in the army during WWII. After the war, he founded a lumber company in 1946 and retired in 1985. He then returned to UM and earned his master’s degree in social work at age 65. For the next two decades plus, Abraham Krissoff devoted his life to making a difference as a social worker, with a focus on helping young people caught in the criminal justice system.

Dr. Boehm established the Abraham Krissoff Scholarship for MSW (Master of Social Work) students in honor of her grandfather. “Bridgewater means a lot to me,” she said. “And my grandfather meant a lot to me.

“MSW graduates change lives. Establishing this scholarship to honor my grandfather made sense to me. It also puts forward the idea that, as employees, it’s important for us to figure out how to give back.”



# ALEXIS SANDERS, '21

## Recipient of the Abraham Krissoff Scholarship

Last year, Alexis Sanders graduated from BSU with her bachelor's in social work. Next year, she'll graduate with her master's. The first in her family to attend college, she's a single mom caring for her two-year-old daughter and works one, sometimes two, jobs to finance her education. Her career goal? To work with and help children who have experienced trauma in their lives.

"I experienced trauma as a child," she said, "so I know what it's like. It doesn't matter if it's the same trauma as a child I'm working with or not." Trauma is trauma, and Alexis knows firsthand how traumatic experiences impact lives.

Her selection as recipient of the Abraham Krissoff Scholarship for MSW Students is right in sync with the intent of the award. Alexis' focus on helping children in distress resonates with Mr. Krissoff's focus on helping young people caught up in the criminal justice system.

This fall, Alexis will intern in New Bedford at Trinity Day Academy whose mission "is to provide a safe and therapeutic learning environment that serves and supports students by addressing the whole child."

"Trinity is a behavioral school serving kids who have experienced some kind of difficulty or trauma in their lives. It's a smaller school where students get the extra attention they need," she said. Ultimately, Alexis is interested in becoming a school adjustment counselor. She describes this position as a sort of "extra ear," further helping students on their journey toward mental and emotional health.

"I was extremely excited to receive this scholarship," she said. "I've never even applied for one before. But I decided to try. I'm financing my education on my own, with financial aid, of course. But receiving a scholarship allows me to borrow less and, thus, have less debt when I graduate. I'm so thankful."



# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

**JULIETTE D. JOHNSON, '64, SCHOLARSHIP**

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"I learned that many of BSU's students are first-generation students, as was I, and many are working full time to fund their education. I learned that even as the university has grown substantially, students are still talking about the same things – great education, strong support system, and being known personally by instructors." - Juliette Johnson, '64

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"Giving is the most important thing we do in life," said Juliette Johnson, '64. "Sometimes it takes a while to understand its impact but once we do, and once we make a habit of giving, we find we can make a huge difference in the lives of others."

As an outstanding educator for more than 40 years, Ms. Johnson's entire career exemplifies one of the most impactful forms of giving – working with and guiding high school students as they begin their life's journey.

Ms. Johnson's degree in health and physical education has served her well, but her connection with the university did not end at graduation. While 'giving' often refers only to financial contributions, Johnson is quick to say that monetary support is only one way, time being similarly important.

To wit, over the years Ms. Johnson served 12 years on Bridgewater's Foundation Board. She credits service on a scholarship committee as being particularly eye-opening. "I learned that many of BSU's students are first-generation students, as was I, and many are working full time to fund their education. I learned that even as the university has grown substantially, students are still talking about the same things – great education, strong support system, and being known personally by instructors.

"I've been a donor for a while and knowing firsthand the need that continues to persist, I am delighted, as a proud and grateful alumna, to now be in a position to make a more substantial financial contribution."

Ms. Johnson chose to establish the Juliette D. Johnson, '64, Scholarship to benefit a full-time undergraduate student who self-identifies as African American and demonstrates good academic achievement as well as financial need.

Reflecting on her own career, Ms. Johnson said her most important years as an educator were the 17 she spent as headmaster of Brighton High School in Boston where she worked on a daily basis to create a learning environment that would successfully prepare her students for postsecondary opportunities, careers and life.

"Giving is not only the best thing we can do," said Ms. Johnson. "It's the easiest thing we do. Whether it's a gift of money or time, if every alum would do what they can – wow."





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- Bridgewater Alumni Association Annual Meeting
- Annual Alumni Homecoming Brunch
- Bristaco's Block Party at University Park
- Tailgating and the Rathskeller Party Tent at Swenson Field Lot
- Homecoming Football Game

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