

Bridgewater

STATE UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

FALL 2023



Taking Flight

Meet freshman Renna Kingsbury along with other students and alumni from the growing Aviation Science program

Bridgewater State University Ranked One of America's Best Colleges by *The Wall Street Journal*

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



It's said that it's not how often one is knocked down that matters, but how many times one gets back up. Then there are those who get up and somehow reach out to help others.

That's what **Lazara Wilson, G'26**, does. She is on track to earn her Master of Social Work degree, but already her life is full of work and plans designed to improve the lives of others. Especially those who have trod the same road as she.

The 26-year-old Sagamore native grew up in the custody of the state's Department of Children and Families (DCF). She's struggled with addiction and been homeless at times. Yet, she persevered. She holds an associate degree, has worked as a paramedic, earned her Child Development Associate credential at Cape Cod Community College, and has taught pre-school, kindergarten and first grade. She came to BSU to prepare for a life in human services. Her mantra, whether working on the front lines or lobbying state lawmakers on behalf of the state's underserved youth populations, remains the same: Look at people as human beings and not as dollars.

How did you become interested in social work and helping others?

I grew up with a lot of challenges and mental illness, and I received a lot of services and always admired social workers; they always gave me hope and stability in life.

What was it like growing up as a ward of the state?

DCF set me up for a lot of challenges, and I went through several group homes and foster homes, and that made it difficult for me to remain in the same school system, and I had trouble forming relationships. When I aged out of the DCF system at 19, I didn't see much of a future for myself. I was living in my car, and at one point I overdosed. I worked closely with advocates and other social workers. They told me I didn't need to be a statistic, and that made me change my perspective. They taught me that I could use what happened to me to change others' lives and make an effort to give back what I'd received.

The advocacy work you do focuses on helping those who, like you, age out of the DCF system. Can you talk about that?

When you are in DCF's care, everything is covered. But when you turn 19, that ends. You have no money, no support, they don't help you build your credit. You're kind of left out in the world to try and figure things out on your own. Social services really helped me a lot. They set me up with food stamps and health insurance. No one else had showed me these things.

You often work on state legislation to try to help the situation. What are some changes you'd like to see?

Money should be allotted to the children after they age out so they can do what they need to do to become functioning adults. There should be more audits done to protect the children in the system. Also, I believe society should prioritize treatment over imprisonment for those addicted to drugs.

Why is education so important to you?

I watched my parents, who never graduated high school, and I saw how that impacted them. I wanted to provide more to my community and always wanted to learn more. School was always the one place where I could figure out my life. I always had the same schedule and subjects ... that gave me a sense of stability.

Why are you such a passionate advocate for the things you believe in?

I have the education now and also have the personal experience. Having that personal connection is so powerful when I speak about these laws, because I know how they affect people. I think studying social work at BSU really taught me that it's not about all the bad things that happened to me. They're actually beautiful scars. They hurt, but they've helped me make important connections and speak out for those who don't have a voice.

Interview by John Winters, G'11

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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.

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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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Bridgewater

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Renna Kingsbury, '27, begins to pursue her lifelong goal of becoming a pilot at BSU's Flight Training Center in New Bedford.

photo by Karen Callan



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

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

When news arrived that Bridgewater State University was ranked by *The Wall Street Journal* near the top of all higher-education institutions in Massachusetts, needless to say, I was thrilled.

But not surprised.

After all, having been involved with this amazing place for nearly a half century, I've learned to expect the extraordinary.

Bridgewater has earned its share of accolades over its long and storied history. While it's great to be celebrated for having one of the most beautiful campuses in the United States or declared among the most welcoming of schools, being ranked by the *Journal* as the 18th best in Massachusetts is as gratifying as it is well deserved, reflecting as it does the impact we have on the lives of our students.

Twice a year, *Bridgewater* magazine highlights the extraordinary people who make this university special. This particular issue features a story about the groundbreaking research of Professors Emily Field and Jamie Huff into the lives of enslaved persons and people of color who lived in the Town of Bridgewater during the Colonial era. It's important and impressive work. You'll also meet five alumni who manage regional airports, as well as an alumna working as a health care CEO, and a recent graduate who is one of U.S. Representative Ayanna Pressley's favorite local poets and performers. Also, an alumna recalls her United Nations internship, and you met our Student Spotlight subject inside the front cover, a Master of Social Work student who's fought her share of battles and now devotes herself to helping others deal with the obstacles in their path.

Each story is a thread, among so very many, that comprise the fabric of the Bridgewater experience. It's no wonder outsiders are taking notice.

I knew Bridgewater was a special place from the moment I first walked on campus. The year was 1979, and I was a wide-eyed young man of definite ambition but few plans. It was in a Bridgewater classroom presided over by political science Professor Michael Kryzaneck that my life changed. The person I would become began to take shape right there, right then.

As *The Wall Street Journal* survey demonstrates, this happens all the time for people of all ages, genders, ethnicities, sexual orientations, races and religions at BSU, both then and now. 'Transformative' is the word that comes to mind.

School rankings undoubtedly have their place. However, the greatest measure of BSU's success is the university's outsized impact on the lives of its students. You can experience it when you speak with current and former Bears on the quadrangle, visit one of our many internship sites, observe our students working in the Children's Physical Developmental Clinic, or watch our faculty, staff and librarians go above and beyond for a student in need.

These things still fill me with wonder.

With warmest regards,



President Frederick W. Clark Jr.



CAMPUS CONNECTION

NEWS AND NEWSMAKERS

One of the Best

The Wall Street Journal recently ranked Bridgewater State University as one of the best colleges in the country. But many alumni have long seen the value of a BSU degree.

"Where I am today, it has a lot to do with Bridgewater State and the experiences from Bridgewater," said Harold Tavares, '05, G'07, who holds a leadership position at the World Bank Group representing 23 African nations. "Bridgewater led me to the practice of thinking globally."

BSU ranks in the top 20 percent of schools nationwide and 18th out of more than 100 Massachusetts institutions, according to a report from *The Wall Street Journal* and College Pulse. Bridgewater State University is one of only eight public colleges and universities in New England listed among the best colleges.

For the first time, the analysis emphasizes student success and outcomes by evaluating metrics such as graduation rates, post-graduation salaries and costs of a degree.

"*The Wall Street Journal's* ranking is significant because it focuses on the impact we have on the lives of our students," said President Clark. "At a time when many people are questioning the value of a college education, this ranking proves we deliver a higher post-graduation salary at a lower cost than most universities in Massachusetts and America."

Graduates add an average of \$24,750 per year to their salaries as a result of attending BSU, according to the analysis. With an average net cost of attendance of only \$14,071 per year, it takes graduates less than 2 ½ years to recoup their investment, a statistic that places BSU well above the average of the 400 best colleges.

And BSU ranks in the top 10 percent of colleges and universities on upward mobility, which indicates the university provides students with the opportunity to better their lives.

But many alumni also strive to better their communities. My Lan Tran, '79, came to the United States as a refugee from South Vietnam shortly before enrolling at BSU. Now she mentors today's new immigrants as the leader of the Virginia Asian Chamber of Commerce. "Everything I learned from Bridgewater I put into my work," she said.

The Journal analysis also lauded the many emotional and mental health supports available on campus, as well as the quality of classrooms and teaching resources.

Thanks to access to advanced laboratory equipment and devoted faculty, alumni like Mel Carmichael, '20, who studied ovarian cancer cell lines as a student, graduate ready for jobs or further education. "The things I got to do as an undergraduate prepared me well in comparison to some of my peers, many of whom come from larger schools with larger research programs," said Ms. Carmichael, who is pursuing a doctorate at Dartmouth College. "Coming from BSU, where I got to develop this project and do research on my own, I gained independence and skills that have helped me be successful in my first two years here at Dartmouth."



BSU BY THE NUMBERS

TOP 20 PERCENT: BSU's rank among schools nationwide

\$24,750: Average amount per year added to salaries of BSU graduates

LESS THAN 2.5 YEARS: Amount of time for BSU alumni to recoup their investment in attending the university, well above the average of the 400 best colleges

TOP 10 PERCENT: BSU's rank among colleges and universities for upward mobility

CAMPUS CONNECTION

NEWS AND NEWSMAKERS

New Dean Settles In



Dr. Marci J. Swede is passionate about breaking down systemic inequities in medicine and education. As BSU’s newest dean, she sees the university as the perfect platform from which to pursue that ambitious goal.

BSU’s “obvious commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging, not just in word but in practice, was exceptional and appealed to me,” said Dr. Swede, who began leading the College of Education and Health Sciences in August.

A geneticist and biochemist, Dr. Swede is returning to her roots at a public New England institution. She worked as a biology professor at Middlesex Community College in Connecticut and subsequently held a variety of teaching and administrative posts. She most recently worked as dean of Illinois’ North Central College’s School of Education and Health Sciences.

Throughout her teaching career, Dr. Swede has worked with many students pursuing medical careers. “I started thinking, aside from scientific knowledge,

what else do they need?” she said, adding, “The science – which I love – was a jumping off point to ask how can we do medical education in a better and more equitable way.” It’s important for students to understand past mistakes – such as the exclusion of women and people of color from drug trials – and how to prevent them from happening again, she said.

As her career progressed, Dr. Swede gravitated toward initiatives that crossed department lines and forged connections throughout the institutions she has served.

She enjoys working with and learning from faculty, and brings key experience, having helped develop academic programs and design the 35,000-square-foot engineering and health sciences building at North Central College.

Now at BSU, Dr. Swede looks forward to seeing the campus come alive with activity this fall and working with the university’s strong education and health programs to address inequities that persist in society. “There’s a lot of deep knowledge in this college about what’s happening out in the communities,” she said. “There’s tremendous potential to build on what’s already here.”

Welcome Back Barbecue

University Park was packed with BSU students, faculty and staff for the annual Opening Day Barbecue. The September 5 event included great food, fun games and a community art painting project.



CAMPUS CONNECTION

NEWS AND NEWSMAKERS



Meet the New Leader of the Career Services and Internship Program Office

Growing up in Hong Kong, Dr. Gerald Tang attended schools where test scores played an outsized role in dictating a student's future. After immigrating to America with his family as a teenager, he discovered a higher education system focused more on helping students discover their passions. He has embraced that sense of exploration as a student and professional. "My true calling is helping people understand their skill sets and interest in what they want to do," he said.

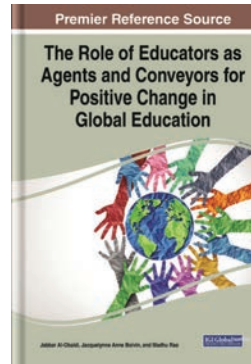
As the first executive director of the Career Services and Internship Program Office, Dr. Tang sees BSU as a great place to continue that mission. He looks forward to uniting the two to enhance support for students and alumni. "The community cares about student success," Dr. Tang said of an initial observation of BSU. "Bridgewater is a great institution."

He comes to BSU with more than 15 years experience in higher education, most recently as the inaugural assistant dean for career integration at St. Francis College in New York City.

As a first-generation student, Dr. Tang found supportive mentors during his undergraduate years who shaped his educational and career journey. Even back then, he served his peers as an orientation leader, resident assistant and career development intern. "I now understand what it takes to help students be successful in their college experience and professional experience as well," he said.

Dr. Tang is excited to work for a university with strong academic programs and a commitment to innovation and social justice. He looks forward to larger conversations with employers about what comprises a living wage and ways to achieve a more diverse workforce. "Our work isn't just about short-term change," he said. "Our hope is (to create) systemic changes across society at large."

Faculty Bookshelf



The Role of Educators as Agents and Conveyors for Positive Change in Global Education

Dr. Jabbar Al-Obaidi, Dr. Jacquelynne Anne Boivin and Dr. Madhu Rao

The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the necessity for establishing practical strategic global education collaboration throughout the world. The challenges are serious and come in many forms, including, but not limited to, educational policies, technology limitations, economic, mental health, linguistic barriers and power struggles.

The Role of Educators as Agents and Conveyors for Positive Change in Global Education highlights the role of educators in local, regional and global arenas. It analyzes various conventional and modern educational and learning theories and teaching pedagogies to promote global citizenship among students and teachers. Covering key topics such as learning engagement, curriculum and online learning, this reference work is ideal for higher education faculty, administrators, researchers, practitioners, academicians, instructors and students.

STEM Education Approaches and Challenges in the MENA Region

Dr. Fatimah Alhashem, Dr. Heather Pacheco-Guffrey and Dr. Jacquelynne Anne Boivin

In the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, recent long-term policy plans emphasize the ever-increasing need to transition to 21st-century skills and achieve sustainable development goals by preparing highly qualified nationals with credentials in STEM fields relevant to the current and future needs of the labor market.

STEM Education Approaches and Challenges in the MENA Region contributes to the existing STEM literature by exploring factors that influence student participation in STEM in MENA countries. The book also identifies the gaps in STEM education research in MENA countries and presents the current practices and challenges. Covering key topics such as gender equity, school administration and education systems, this premier reference source is ideal for administrators, policymakers, researchers, scholars, academicians, practitioners, instructors and students.

FACULTY FOCUS

DR. CAITLIN FISHER-REID / BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Undergraduate research is highly successful at preparing students for careers and graduate school. But Dr. Caitlin Fisher-Reid worries about those students who miss out on such a transformative opportunity.

“There’s this huge group of early-career scientists who just need a little bit more attention,” said Dr. Fisher-Reid, an associate professor in the Department of Biological Sciences. “They’re not getting the research experience but competing with students who have that experience.”

With funding from a \$3 million National Science Foundation (NSF) grant, Dr. Fisher-Reid is leading a new program that will serve 30 people with undergraduate STEM degrees and limited time in the lab.



Dr. Caitlin Fisher-Reid (right) conducts field research with BSU students.

Beginning in fall 2024, the first group of participants will work for a year as full-time research fellows studying salamanders at sites in the Eastern United States. The program, run by faculty and staff at BSU, Pennsylvania State, Michigan State, Monmouth and Susquehanna universities, isn’t just about nurturing the fellows. It will also train mentors in ways to guide the fellows.

Funding comes from the NSF’s Research and Mentoring for Postbaccalaureates in Biological Sciences initiative, which also seeks to increase the racial, gender and socioeconomic diversity of workers in STEM fields.

“A lot of the problems are big problems that benefit from having diverse perspectives,” Dr. Fisher-Reid said. “Being able to reach different communities is really important.”

That’s especially key with issues such as climate change where scientists must convince the public that the problem is worth their time and tax dollars, she said.

Climate change is also a component of the fellows’ research. They will work as part of the Salamander Population and Adaptation Research Collaboration Network, through which Dr. Fisher-Reid and other scientists study how salamanders respond to changing environmental conditions.

The amphibians make for good research subjects because they are abundant. Additionally, scientists can easily study their place in the food chain and how they respond to changes in temperature, moisture and the tree canopy.

“This species is really, really intertwined with a lot of other things going on in the forest ecosystem,” she said.

Former President of Poland Inspires BSU Students

Abigail Bulman, '24, has long looked up to Lech Wałęsa, so much so that his picture adorns her family's mantle. It wasn't until she became a BSU student that Abigail got the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to converse with the former Polish president.

"For me, it was like meeting Santa," said Abigail, a political science major whose family, like many Eastern Europeans, honors the former president. "People hold him in such high regard that they put him next to family members' photos."

A pro-democracy dissident and union organizer, Mr. Wałęsa answered questions from about 20 students before giving a talk to more than 1,000 people during his recent visit to campus.

He led the Polish Solidarity movement, which played a key role in ending communist control. In 1990, Mr. Wałęsa became the country's first democratically elected president in more than 60 years. He oversaw Poland's transition from communism to a free-market liberal democracy.

"Like so many of you, President Wałęsa came from humble beginnings," President Clark told students, recounting how Mr. Wałęsa once worked as a shipyard electrician. "No one better exemplifies the idea that one person can change the world than President Wałęsa."

President Clark announced the establishment of an endowed scholarship in honor of Mr. Wałęsa that will support first-generation undergraduate students with financial need who have a parent working in the skilled trades.

Mr. Wałęsa, whose visit was underwritten by BSU benefactors Bruce, '68, and Patricia (Quinn), '67, Bartlett, emphasized that the United States must be a leader in global affairs. "Who can do it if America doesn't want to do it?" he said through a translator.

At the more intimate gathering with students, Mr. Wałęsa described how the democracy movement in Poland once seemed impossible. But he and his fellow Polish citizens persevered.

"I would like your generation to make democracy better," he said in urging term limits and a reduced role of money in politics.

Mr. Wałęsa also addressed his motivation for becoming the leader of Poland. "I became a president, but I didn't want to be a president," he said. "The point was to destroy communism."



Former President of Poland Lech Wałęsa (top) addresses the audience in the Rondileau Student Union and meets with a group of students.

Student journalists Madyson Esquivel, '26, and Hannah Murphy, '25, were honored to ask questions of a leader who showed them the immense impact one individual can have. "Speaking to him emphasized how our engagement with democracy is important," said Hannah, a political science and English major pursuing a philosophy, politics and economics minor. "Even if it feels like our lives are quite small, our involvement in the grand scheme is very important."

For history major Patrick McCue, '24, meeting Mr. Wałęsa shone a new light on topics he studies in the classroom. "You learn a lot about history with books and articles," Patrick said. "To actually meet someone who made history in quite an impactful way means a lot."

CAMPUS CONNECTION

NEWS AND NEWSMAKERS

NASA Helps Fund Students' and Faculty Member's Space Project

Abby Brown, '26, developed a love of astronomy as a young child. Perhaps this had something to do with the fact that back then Abby used to be able to walk outside and watch the neighbors launch rockets into space.

Originally from Riverview, Florida, the physics major, with a concentration in astrophysics and minor in computer science, grew up near NASA's Kennedy Space Center, and it was a common occurrence to watch rockets lift off toward the stars. "It definitely influenced me, watching the launches," Abby said. "Since I was a kid, I could sit in my room and look out the window to watch the rockets go up. It's amazing."

So, when the opportunity to participate in a week-long, on-site workshop run by NASA was offered to BSU students, Abby jumped at the chance. "It's NASA," they said. "Being a physics major, it's a big deal to be doing something with NASA, no matter how big or small it is."

Knowing Abby's background is why Dr. Margaret Black, chairperson of the Department of Computer Science, recruited them, along with computer science major Lyra Brown, '25, to team up to participate in NASA's RockOn! workshop.

Through the workshop, teams of three traveled to NASA's Wallops Air Force Base in Virginia to build experiments that were placed on sounding rockets and launched into space to gather specific data. The students used soldering techniques to build a circuit board to be placed on an already constructed sounding rocket. "There was a lot of checking and testing; it was very tedious work, but it was fun," Abby said.

Once the circuit board was placed into a sounding rocket, the team members signed their names on the exterior and waited for liftoff.

Unfortunately, the weather didn't allow for BSU's rocket to launch in June. Instead, it was postponed to August. Dr. Black was able to travel back to Virginia to watch the launch. "Ours went up 116 kilometers, 16 kilometers past the border with space," she said. She was then able to collect the circuit board to bring back to BSU where she, Abby and Lyra will analyze the data.

While the students gained new knowledge, for Dr. Black, the project benefited her as a teacher. "This was a good



Showing the circuit board they assembled before it was placed in their rocket are (from left) Dr. Margaret Black of the Department of Computer Science; Lyra Brown, '25; and Abby Brown, '26. Abby (below) signs the exterior of the rocket.

experience for me, learning how to teach a complicated lab," she said. "Now I can come back to Bridgewater and apply it to projects I'm already working on ... it revolutionizes the way I can teach a project-based course."

According to Dr. Martina Arndt, interim dean for the Bartlett College of Science and Mathematics, the work and travel were funded by the dean's office in the Bartlett College of Science and Mathematics, Bartlett internship funding and a NASA MA Space Grant.

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

BY GRACE MASTROIANNI, '23



As former editor-in-chief of BSU's student-run newspaper, The Comment, Grace Mastroianni believes that every story should put the focus on people. This is not only good journalism, but also an approach that she embraces in her studies as an anthropology major (with minors in theatre arts and American studies). We asked the New Bedford native to share her outlook on both subjects.

For me, journalism is about the people. As journalists, our goal is to record their lives and accomplishments, as well as their struggles and failures. We interview them so that their stories are never lost or forgotten. These interviews are a testament to the perseverance of humanity. Every single person has their own story that needs to be told, and our work is the way in which that story is remembered. Not only by the people who have been recorded and those who love them, but also by those that they inspire with their stories long after the ink has dried.

As a student of anthropology, I study people. I observe, I record, and I research the lives and the stories of those who came before us. I contribute to that history by adding the stories of the people who are here now. During my time with *The Comment*, I had the opportunity to interview numerous people: students, faculty, administrators and political figures, to name a few. Putting together their stories – promoting their events and talking about their accomplishments – allowed me to show readers

the individual lights that these people possessed. Each print day, people would flood the office asking for extra copies to show friends and family, so proud that they would forever be remembered within the Maxwell Library archives.

Some may say that journalism is a dying art, especially when it comes to print. I disagree with that. I appreciate technological advances as much as every other 20-something, but books, newspapers – the written word – are things that have continued to live on. Archival research has never gone out of style, and the stories that I, and others, have printed will remain.

One day, another anthropologist will discover our writings in the same way we have discovered others'. The lives of the people we interview will continue, on and on. Stories are the core of our society, and journalists are the scribes who bring them to life.

KEEPING SCORE

FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS AND RECREATION

Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2023 Named

The Bridgewater State University Athletics Hall of Fame Committee has announced the members of its 25th induction class, enshrined during Homecoming Weekend. Bridgett Casey; Brian Espinosa, '15; Shelby (Farland) Green, '13, G'14; Michael Morris, '97; Lauren (Geary) Murphy, '16; Conor Murtagh, '17; and Tammy Silveira, '93, are this year's honorees. Also being inducted under the team category is the 1984-1985 women's basketball team.

More information can be found at bsubears.com.

Field Named in Honor of Legendary Coach Peter Mazzaferro



BSU paid tribute to legendary football coach Peter Mazzaferro by naming the turf field at the Edward C. Swenson Athletic Complex in his honor.

The field turf playing surface at the Swenson Complex, which is home to the football, men's soccer, women's soccer, field hockey and women's lacrosse teams, was named Peter Mazzaferro Field in recognition of the Bears' longtime head coach.

"Coach Pete Mazzaferro is the foundation on which BSU's football program is built," said BSU Associate Vice President for Athletics & Student Wellness, Dr. Marybeth Lamb. "He has dedicated his professional life to intercollegiate athletics and the role it has in the development of our student leaders. He has

been a supporter of all our student-athletes, male and female, and is a strong advocate for them all," she added.

The naming of the field in honor of Coach Mazzaferro was due to the efforts of President Clark and the BSU Board of Trustees.

"This honor for Coach Mazzaferro is well deserved and long overdue," noted Dr. Lamb. "President Fred Clark saw the need for this honor and made it happen."

Peter Mazzaferro was the head coach of the Bridgewater State football team for 36 seasons, from 1968 to 2004. After spending a year at Curry College, he came to Bridgewater State as an assistant to former coach Ed Swenson in 1966. He took over the head coaching responsibilities in 1968 and has continued to be the foundation of the Bears' football program ever since. During those years, the Bears won or shared New England Football Conference (NEFC) championships in 1969, 1989, 1992, 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000. His teams competed in post-season play in 1989 and 1992 (ECAC) and in 1999 and 2000 (NCAA). During 41 years of coaching Division III football, Coach Mazzaferro compiled a career coaching record of 210-159-10 (.567), including a 195-137-7 (.586) mark at Bridgewater State.

Coach Mazzaferro spent 34 years as an associate professor in the Department of Physical Education during his tenure at Bridgewater State. He was inducted into the BSU Athletics Hall of Fame in 1995.

"I am honored and very humbled by this recognition of my days at Bridgewater State," said Coach Mazzaferro. "I am grateful to President Clark, Dr. Lamb and the Board of Trustees for bestowing this honor upon me." He added, "I am so grateful for my time at Bridgewater State and all of the student-athletes I was able to coach over the 38 years and all of the people that have been so impactful in my life."

The dedication was held in early September during a pregame ceremony.

—BY JIM FENTON

CAMPUS CONNECTION

NEWS AND NEWSMAKERS

Geology Majors Travel to Montana to Study Earth's Surface

Julia Lee, '25, headed to Montana in search of rock formations called dikes in the Ruby Mountains. But, she faced a monumental problem: She couldn't find the dikes listed on her geologic map.

Disheartened but not defeated, Julia's fortunes turned when she stumbled upon a rare rock with large crystals. Called peridotite, these dense igneous rocks appear as a result of a piece of the Earth's mantle thrusting upward. "I'm so excited because this is 100 times cooler," said Julia, a geology major and geographic information systems minor from Walpole. "We knew the rock existed, but we didn't expect to find it there."

These highs and lows came during a trip to Southwestern Montana with fellow geology major Olivia Ranck, '24; Dr. Michael Krol, chairperson of the Department of Geological Sciences; and Jessica Campbell, '08, laboratory staff assistant. The students received funding from the Adrian Tinsley Program for Undergraduate Research and Creative Work and the Richard Enright Field Scholarship. Their research involves gathering field samples and analyzing their geochemistry on campus.

Julia hopes to understand why peridotite exists where she found it, while Olivia is studying a type of basalt also found in the area. Olivia aims to determine if the basalt came from a hot spot (which causes molten rock to rise to the Earth's surface) that created volcanic eruptions in what is today Yellowstone National Park. "Hot spots are still not really understood," said Olivia, who is from Wilbraham. "Doing research like this can help us better understand geological history and processes."



In Montana are (from left) students Julia Lee, '25, and Olivia Ranck, '24; Laboratory Staff Assistant Jessica Campbell, '08; and Chairperson of the Department of Geological Sciences Dr. Michael Krol.

Student-Researchers Present Wetlands Findings at Symposium

Kayla Keith's and Matt Potvin's time at BSU is marked by many treks through streams and swamps to count and observe hundreds of tiny tadpoles, snakes, frogs, turtles and other species.

It's sweaty, physically demanding work, but it led to a once unimaginable professional opportunity for the Class of 2023 biological sciences majors: sharing their research as the only undergraduate presenters at the prestigious Society of Wetland Scientists' recent symposium on wetland restoration.

"I was blown away," Kayla said of the presentation. "It was nerve-wracking, but also very exciting. ... I feel like I got as much as I could out of my BSU experience. It offered me so much."

Kayla and Matt, collaborating with mentor Dr. Thilina Surasinghe of the Department of Biological Sciences and classmate Summer Saad, '23, worked at Plymouth's Tidmarsh Wildlife Sanctuary and Foothills Preserve. The former cranberry bogs have been transformed into natural wetlands. Studying the presence of reptiles and amphibians offers insight on the effect of restorations at different stages, ultimately providing valuable information for government agencies, environmental organizations and landowners.

Their research has already impressed experts, who invited them to present at the symposium after seeing their work at a different conference. The BSU Class of 1954 Undergraduate Research Fund supported their travel to Spokane, Washington.

"It felt like a big deal and something we worked really hard for," Matt said.



Showing a turtle they found while conducting field research are (from left) Dr. Surasinghe of the Department of Biological Sciences; Summer Saad, '23; Kayla Keith, '23; and Matt Potvin, '23. Recovering a funnel trap deployed at Tidmarsh Wildlife Sanctuary in Plymouth (from top) are Summer Saad, Kayla Keith and Dr. Thilina Surasinghe.

BEHIND THE NAME

DINARDO HALL



Dr. V. James DiNardo, '39, was "the heart and soul of this institution." That's how former BSU President Dana Mohler-Faria described Dr. DiNardo in a eulogy after his 2011 death.

From student to administrator, Dr. DiNardo was an important member of the campus community for decades. His legacy lives on through the residence hall that bears his name.

He first connected with Bridgewater State when he was an education major in the 1930s amid the Great Depression. "Bridgewater gave us a sense of hope and purpose, and I loved the school from the moment I arrived here," he once said.

After graduating, Dr. DiNardo taught in a one-room schoolhouse in Bethel, Vermont. During World War II, he served in the Army. Following the war, he became a teacher and administrator in Quincy before returning to Bridgewater in 1957 as principal of a school to train future teachers. He went on to become dean of undergraduate studies, an education professor and executive vice president before retiring in 1983.

President Mohler-Faria once called Dr. DiNardo someone who will "forever be remembered for his immense loyalty to Bridgewater and all that he did over so many years to profoundly influence its growth and development."

Dr. DiNardo had a long connection with the Quincy YMCA, serving as a camp counselor and later as the organization's president. He also worked for the State Department training teachers for American schools in Brazil, Costa Rica and Italy.

BSU's Alumni Association named a prominent teaching award for him in 1984. In 1991, the university named the new residence hall in his honor.

DiNardo Hall sits on east campus near University Park. It is identical to its neighbor, Miles Hall. The two buildings collectively house more than 400 students in double and triple bedrooms with shared common rooms. DiNardo Hall also houses the Office of Residence Life and Housing.

—BY BRIAN BENSON, G'23

Material used in this article comes from a 2012 Bridgewater magazine article by David Wilson, '71, and a 2011 obituary by Laurie Willis published in The Boston Globe.

CAMPUS CONNECTION

NEWS AND NEWSMAKERS

Psychology Department Embarks on New Peer-Mentoring Program

In the post-COVID era, faculty in BSU's Department of Psychology noticed there was a breakdown in communication with students. "We realized we weren't interacting with each other as much and finding it difficult to create a community," said Dr. Ashley Hansen-Brown, assistant professor of psychology. "We kept thinking, 'What can we do?'"

It became obvious to Dr. Hansen-Brown, Dr. Stephanie Penley and Dr. Holly Grant-Marsney, that students were not receiving important information or were unaware of how to take advantage of resources offered by BSU and the department.

With more than 1,000 students enrolled in the psychology major, it's the largest at BSU, so providing one-on-one support with a limited staff wasn't a feasible option. "Beyond mentoring with faculty and advisors, we wanted to find a way to give every student the individualized attention they deserve," Dr. Hansen-Brown said.

For input on the matter, the professors turned to students whom Dr. Hansen-Brown was co-mentoring in a research lab, and after brainstorming, came up with the idea of the Peer-Mentoring Program.

Nadia Calderon, '23, who is part of the research lab, helped come up with the plan. She served as a mentor alongside fellow students Jillian Danielczyk, '23; Sarah Smith, '23; Mona Pace, '23; and Xander Barney, '25.

As part of the program, mentors meet with students taking the Orientation to the Psychology Major course, taught by Dr. Grant-Marsney. During the visits, mentors supply students with pertinent information, such as which classes are mandatory, when and why they are essential, how to network, how to create resumes, ways to look for a job, internships, research opportunities and what a career in psychology might look like.

"We did our best to make it fun with games," Nadia said. She and her colleagues created a *Jeopardy* game and networking activity, an in-class discussion dealing with mentor's experiences, and more.

To fund the program, they applied for and were awarded a Catalyst Grant offered through the Division of Academic Affairs. The grants come from the Academic Innovation Fund and are meant to support new ideas that advance divisional priorities.

With the help of the Catalyst Grant, the program was also able to offer special events, including an alumni panel, game night and a de-stressing event. Nadia and the other students have been collecting data as part of an Adrian Tinsley Program for Undergraduate Research and Creative Work Summer Grants. The goal is to analyze the effectiveness of the project.



Sarah Smith, '23, and Mona Pace, '23, serve ice cream to a student during the end of semester de-stress event sponsored by the Peer-Mentoring Program.



A student plays with a therapy dog as part of the de-stress event sponsored by the Peer-Mentoring Program in collaboration with Health Services.

Last spring, surveys were sent to students in the seven orientation course sessions who participated in the pilot program. "These (survey) findings could be crucially beneficial for the following semesters because they will help us understand what to do next," Nadia said. "I hope that next semester more students can be a part of (the Peer-Mentoring Program), and someday we will have a large number of peer mentors and mentees. This is the beginning of a long-lasting impact on students' lives."

Dr. Hansen-Brown is optimistic about the potential impact of the program. "Social support is so critical, particularly at the college level," she said. "The more connected you are to your university, faculty and students, the better your outcomes."



A Million Hats

Five alumni who manage regional airports discuss the joys and challenges of the job

BY JOHN WINTERS, G'11

WHEN MATTHEW CARDILLO, '13, LOOKS OUT THE WINDOW of his office it's as if he's looking out upon an entire world.

The Plymouth Regional Airport is, like any, a microcosm of society. It has its own security, sanitation, maintenance requirements, restaurants, dedicated administrators, environmental staffers, firefighters and many other elements shared with its home community.

"You think you've seen one airport, you've seen one airport," said Mr. Cardillo, manager of the Plymouth Municipal Airport. "But they're all so different. And we as managers wear a million hats. You're essentially running a small city."

Southeastern Massachusetts and Cape Cod are home to a network of excellent regional airports. No fewer than three are managed by Bridgewater State alumni. In addition to Mr. Cardillo, there are Matthew Elia, '09, assistant manager at Cape Cod Gateway, where he works with airport manager Katie Servis, '95. Her husband, Scot, '93, is director of aviation for New Bedford and head of the city's regional airport where Michael Crane, '13, G'16, serves as assistant manager.

While each earned his or her pilot's license, they ultimately decided that flying the friendly skies for a living was fine, but they wanted something more. Management appealed to them, offering a career that was very hands on and with myriad challenges that go way beyond the cockpit. "You do it all from the moment you walk in the door," Mr. Crane said. "The nice thing is you know you're really making an impact."

Ms. Servis is the only woman to manage the airport in Hyannis in its nearly 100-year history. As with the others, her road to management was paved with years of

performing duties of all kinds. All of it added up to a great accumulation of knowledge and experience. “I’m glad I went through that process taking on different roles and learning new aspects of my job each time,” she said.

Among the five alumni, some gave flight training a try at first. Others worked at larger airports in various support positions. When they decided to try management, those experiences all came in handy. “That’s the job,” Mr. Servis said. “We’re mowing the lawn, mitigating hazards, always trying to improve the facility. We’re going after grants, anything we need to do. A lot of time it goes unnoticed, but when you do something big, people appreciate it.”

There is also higher-level work, like dealing with officials from the Federal Aviation Administration and MassDOT Aeronautics, creating master plans, working with community leaders, setting and maintaining budgets, and dealing with legal issues.

“We’re mowing the lawn, mitigating hazards, always trying to improve the facility. We’re going after grants, anything we need to do. A lot of time it goes unnoticed, but when you do something big, people appreciate it.”

—SCOT SERVIS, '93, director of aviation, New Bedford Regional Airport

It’s a mix of activities that requires many skills. The upshot is the workday is rarely dull. “Regardless of what you do in aviation, it’s unique, and it comes with challenges,” Mr. Elia said. “The unique thing about airport management is it’s always different. You’re never in a rut or bored. The work can sometimes be challenging and take a lot of effort and critical thinking and problem solving. That’s what I enjoy about it.”

It goes without saying that paramount to any airport administrator is safety. Part of the manager’s job is to provide constant training, communicate with local first responders and mutual aid providers, conduct safety drills and monitor all critical functions at the facility, all in the name of smooth takeoffs and landings.

“Safety is no accident,” Mr. Crane said. “It’s a cliché, but it’s the biggest thing for us. The hardest part is making sure that folks outside of your direct control get the training they need.”

Ms. Servis summed it up: “It’s just training, training and training,” she said. “Training that keeps your staff interested in how they can protect themselves and our customers.”

BSU’s aviation science program offers degrees in both management and flight training. Speaking with alumni in the field, it becomes clear that flying planes is only a small part of the aviation field. The advice to today’s students from these industry professionals is to keep an open mind. “If they have an interest in something they think is outside aviation, I tell them there’s probably a job related to that in the field,” Mr. Crane said. “There’s a path for everything and anyone.”

While each of these alumni came to aviation in different ways, they share a deep commitment to training and mentoring tomorrow’s aviation professionals. They host job fairs, open the airport to the public, especially encouraging youngsters to visit. They share encouragement, advice, and networking leads, and discuss their stories with young people who may never have envisioned themselves in a cockpit or flight tower. “That’s when I smile the most; it’s when I’m teaching new and upcoming aviation professionals,” Ms. Servis said.

Their message about the industry is simple, her husband added, “There’s a job for everyone here.”

Katie Servis learned about the Air National Guard as a freshman in high school, later serving for six years. Today, she is not only the manager of Cape Cod Gateway Airport but also the first woman to fill that role since it opened in the 1920s.

Q: What first interested you in aviation?

A: I was one of five kids, and my father always had an interest in aviation. And I just remember him always talking about wanting to get his pilot's license. Then he'd say, "Let's go to the Taunton airport and watch the planes take off." And I think my interest started with him. It was common ground for us, and I would ask him questions, like, "What is thrust?" I never realized it was pointing me toward a career in aviation.

Q: Was gender ever an issue in your career?

A: When I started, there were not a lot of women in the field, and I was a little apprehensive. Bridgewater Professor (emeritus) Frank Sterrett was instrumental in encouraging me as a woman in the aviation field.

Q: What do you love about the job?

A: I think the most fulfilling part of my career is, as I've transitioned to different jobs, learning more and more about the industry, and learning about things I never thought I'd be involved with. Also, we hold career fairs here at the airport. Getting kids in a plane and seeing their faces, it rekindles that spark I once felt myself. That's what makes me most happy, providing a chance for a young person to get into aviation.



KATIE SERVIS, '95
Airport Manager
Cape Cod Gateway Airport
Hyannis
(Nine Years)



Photo by Sergio Dabdoub

MATTHEW CARDILLO, '13

**Manager
Plymouth Municipal Airport
(Eight Years)**



Matthew Cardillo came to the Plymouth Municipal Airport eight years ago. This was where he learned hands-on the business side of the aviation industry.

Q: What first interested you in aviation?

A: I originally became interested in flying after I attended the Quonset Air Show. I thought, oh, man, I enjoy watching these planes, maybe I should learn to fly. I went to school in Florida in 2006 but realized the lifestyle of being a pilot wasn't a good fit for me. So, then I pivoted to the management side and came to BSC in 2008. I was an orientation leader, resident assistant and a brother in Sigma Pi Fraternity. I'm extremely proud of my involvement on campus.

Q: Did you have to pay your dues at first?

A: I got my license and worked my way up. Like everyone else, I started doing smaller stuff. It's a lot like flight training; you start with a single engine plane, then work your way up to a 747. But it all began with me cutting the grass.

Q: And the best part of the job?

A: The most fulfilling thing with my job is when you do a project or you build a new hangar, and seeing the progress and seeing the growth. It's really rewarding. I really enjoy planning and designing. We're expanding one of the runways here. It's a four-year project that's just about halfway done. When it's finished, there'll be a great sense of fulfillment.

An internship helped Michael Crane launch his career. He also spent time working at a relatively large airport, T.F. Green International Airport in Warwick, Rhode Island, before deciding a municipal airport was a better fit.

Q: What first interested you in aviation?

A: I grew up looking through the fence at the New Bedford Regional Airport. That's where I first got the aviation bug. I also started my flight training in New Bedford before attending Bridgewater State University. The commute wasn't too bad, and I had heard it was a fantastic program for aviation management.

Q: Can you talk about the internship you served and how it helped?

A: In my junior year, I served as an airport planning and operations intern with the City of New Bedford. That experience helped pave the way for my future in the field. After graduating from BSU in 2016 with my MBA, I started a job at T.F. Green International Airport in Warwick, Rhode Island. My first jobs in aviation included loading bags and dumping lavatories. That led to a hectic but rewarding position as an international operations supervisor.

Q: What's the best thing about the job?

A: When you add services or develop opportunities at larger airports, the net benefit is comparatively marginal. However, the same services or opportunities at a regional level are far more impactful. That level of impact is what motivates me each and every day.



MICHAEL CRANE, '13, G'16

Assistant Airport Manager
New Bedford Regional Airport
(Six Years)



MATTHEW ELIA, '09

Assistant Airport Manager
Cape Cod Gateway Airport
Hyannis
(Five Years)



Matthew Elia got a head start on chasing his passion. During his time as a student at Bridgewater State, he worked at the Mansfield Municipal Airport, as he put it, “pestering them to let me do anything.” His advice for today’s students? Do the same.

Q: What first interested you in aviation?

A: When I was a little kid, about four, my father would take me to Norwood, New Bedford or Taunton just to watch the airplanes as something to do. I think because of that and my father’s interest in the Mercury astronauts, I always thought it would be neat to fly.

Q: The Mercury astronauts?

A: My path was a little different. I started learning to fly when I was 13, and on my 16th birthday, I skipped school and went to the local airport to take a flying lesson. But it all began with my father. He never watched TV or anything, he was always doing something. Well, he was watching TV one day, and it was a program about the Mercury astronauts, and he told me I should watch. It was interesting. I never wanted to be an astronaut, but I wanted to learn more about it. I figured out that all these guys, like John Glenn, they all started as pilots.

Q: What’s the best part of your current job?

A: I really enjoy sharing my love of aviation. I always tell people anyone can learn to fly, you just need to put the effort in. The most challenging part of this, of course, is when you have to get out of the plane and let the student fly alone. But it’s a great feeling to take this person with no or little experience and teach them to fly and land a plane all on their own. It’s very tangible.

Scot Servis had his eyes on a career in aviation from an early age. He had the good luck to have an inspiring teacher who was himself a pilot. He eventually found his way to Bridgewater and after working in the industry for a time, decided a role in airport management was for him.

Q: What first excited you about aviation?

A: I remember in fifth grade we were watching a video in class about floatplanes (a type of seaplane). That program is my first recollection having to do with flying. Then in high school I took an aviation class. The teacher showed us flight plans and aeronautical charts. We had to do the groundwork, so to speak, before “playing.”

Q: And you had a teacher who was a pilot?

A: Yes. I recall in high school having an elective class that was hosted by one of our teachers who was a private pilot. He taught us the basic rules of flight, reading maps and planning trips, how to calculate routes, way points, and what the different instruments were telling you. At the end of the semester, he took us on an introductory flight. I had already applied to colleges for flight training at this point. The experience only strengthened my choice to make aviation my life.

Then the teacher took us up on a plane, and I was hooked. That led me to enrolling in Daniel Webster College’s flight program. After my second year, I transferred to Bridgewater State College to continue my aviation management courses while flying out of King Aviation at the Taunton airport and obtaining my private pilot’s license. During my last year at Bridgewater, my first aviation job was working at Logan International Airport for Business Express Airlines. Eventually, I decided to go into management.

Q: What do you love about working in the industry?

A: The most fulfilling part of the job is getting things done. If we do everything correctly, no one notices we did it. It’s all about getting the job done and constantly improving the facility.◆



SCOT SERVIS, '93

**Director of Aviation
New Bedford Regional Airport
(Seven Years)**



FREQUENT FLIERS

Like any aviation science major seeking a pilot's license, those at Bridgewater State University have to pay for the time they spend in the air. The cost of training at the university's Flight Training Center, located at New Bedford Regional Airport, is \$210 an hour; this includes the cost of the plane and instructor's time.

Four scholarships that help with these costs and others are available to aviation science majors: Dorothy Szafer Dunn, '51, and Frank Dunn, '49, G'51, Aviation Science Scholarship; the James S. Castagnozzi Jr. Memorial Scholarship; the Lieutenant Edward 'Ted' Hoyle III Scholarship Fund; and The Murray Randall Scholarship Fund.

Additionally, there's a very specific fund to help students afford a critical aspect of their licensure requirements. Future pilots and instructors must pass an annual flight rating, where they are accompanied by a Federal Aviation Administration designee. The cost for each of these is \$500, or a total of \$2,000 for the series of four ratings.

Helping students defray this expense is Louis M. Ricciardi, '81, a longtime BSU benefactor for whom the College of Business is named. Each year, Mr. Ricciardi donates the funds necessary to help aviation majors pay for their flight ratings.

These scholarships are open to applicants in February. To learn more about them, visit bridgew.academicworks.com.

Clear Blue Sky

The opportunities in aviation are manifold, both in the air and on the ground

BY JOHN WINTERS, G'11

ANYONE WHO'S BEEN TO AN AMERICAN AIRPORT knows what busy places they are. It's been said, in fact, that it takes a village to run even a mid-sized or small airport.

The good news is that this metaphorical village amounts to many different opportunities for those with a real love of flying and transportation.

In the following pages, we present a kaleidoscopic view of the aviation industry, as seen through the eyes and experiences of current BSU students and alumni.

Featured are a freshman who sees herself one day piloting jets on international flights, the Women in Aviation campus group, an alumnus who's thankful for the financial help he received on his way to his degree and dream job, an update on the Flying Bears flight team and, last but not least, an outreach program that seeks to diversify the industry.

Read on to learn about these Bears and the many ways they keep shooting for the sky.



First-Year Student Can't Get Enough of the Friendly Skies

RENNA KINGSBURY, '27, WAS COMING DOWN from her first flight lesson. She was glowing.

It was a blue-sky sunny afternoon in mid-August, and the recent Barnstable High School graduate was full of superlatives. It was also her first day at BSU's Flight Training Center, located at the New Bedford Regional Airport.

It had been a long time coming.

"I first started getting into aviation when I was 13, and I live right next to the Cape Cod airport, so I've always had some exposure," she said.

Renna was also a frequent flier, often visiting her mother's native Japan. These days, when she looks to the future, it's not the single-engine planes like the training aircraft she sees herself piloting. She has her sights set on flying big jets for a major airline – maybe even Japan Airlines.

"I always found aviation interesting," she said. "But I never thought it would be my career."

There were many stops along the way on Renna's journey to BSU and the university's Flight Training Center. She joined the

Cape Cod affiliate of the Experimental Aircraft Association and took lessons at a variety of airports. Even when the pandemic shut things down, she was watching online videos about pilots and their lives.

During a visit a few years ago to Cape Cod Gateway Airport, Renna was offered an internship on the spot. She got to know the airport firsthand, worked with the management team (including 1995 graduate Katie Servis), and met with industry professionals from around the region. During a previous internship at Cape Air, she attended ground school.

"As a future pilot, there's something so valuable about learning how each aspect of an airport works," she said. "I know all of it will make me a better pilot."

Renna is already a member of the BSU campus organization Women in Aviation. "Women don't get to where they are without the help of other women," she said. "I've found that true already in my own journey. I'm so fortunate to be doing this now," Renna added, "as there's more support for women in the industry these days."



Members of BSU's Women in Aviation organization include (from left) Jasmine Huang, '24; Sophia Schiappa, '24; Meghan Toler, '26; Molly Keenan, '26; and Haley Nelson, '26.

Campus Organization Promotes Diversity of Industry

SOPHIA SCHIAPPA, '24, LIKES WHAT SHE'S SEEING in the aviation industry: more pilots and administrators who look like her. "From my experience, there are definitely more women," the Wareham resident said. "I appreciate the change that's happening."

Aviation has long been a boys' club, but that is beginning to change. On BSU's campus are several future aviation professionals who plan to continue this trend. To that end, Sophia, along with Kate Martinez, '22, and Catherine Cummings, '23, founded the campus organization Women in Aviation.

Members learned in October that their upstart group had been awarded provisional chapter status by Women in Aviation International.

"When I got my first job in aviation, the members of my first leadership team were all women, and it was great to have these role models," Sophia said. "Then to help found this group and have more women join and having them as a resource has been incredible. I have a lot of male friends in aviation. It's a different level of connection when you have female friends in the industry."

The club stands at 22 members and meets every Friday during the academic year. "It's fun as much as it is educational," Sophia said.

For more information, email sschiappa@bridgew.edu.

Outreach Program Aims to Lift Historically Marginalized Communities

COVID MAY HAVE GROUNDED one of the Department of Aviation Science's keynote programs, Gateways to the Airways, however, the relaunch is under way. BSU's New Bedford Flight Training Center is home once again to high school girls and students of color interested in learning about flying.

Founded in late 2017, Gateways is a free, seven-week program where participating students fly drones, work the controls of a flight simulator, conduct wind tunnel experiments, visit Logan International Airport in Boston and even take the controls of a BSU training aircraft in midflight.

"The goal is to reach female students and students of color, or others who are underrepresented in the aviation industry," said Dr. Jeanean Davis-Street, dean of the Louis M. Ricciardi College of Business. "This is a valuable program, and its primary goal is to increase diversity."

Through the Gateways program, BSU reaches out to area high school students, particularly those who are strong in the STEM fields but who ordinarily might not think about a career in aviation, specifically, women, people of color and LGBTQ individuals. Each group is remarkably underrepresented at less than five percent of the industry.

The Gateways program emphasizes there are many jobs other than that of pilot. Dozens of aviation jobs don't require climbing into the cockpit – from air traffic controller to dispatcher to airport security. And, they're good-paying jobs at that.

Professor Loren Herren serves as the dean's special assistant for aviation program diversity. He is charged with reaching out to high schools and middle schools in the state, including those in nearby "gateway" cities – Taunton, New Bedford, Fall River and Brockton (so-designated by the Massachusetts legislature due to their status as midsized urban centers that anchor regional economies). He's on the lookout for students who have an interest in or are adept at STEM subjects but might never have given a thought to a career in aviation. "That's the message we want to get out, and we want to provide that information to folks because STEM offers one of the best pathways to take advantage of these opportunities," Professor Herren said. "So, if we can get the kids interested, it's a win-win."

Professor Herren, a veteran pilot himself, looks for potential students via organizations such as the Boys & Girls Clubs of America and Girls Inc., as well as other area schools. Funding for the program comes in part from the New England Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen Inc. and Empower Yourself LTD.



Sofiyat Bello of Brockton High School checks out an airplane cockpit as an early participant in the Gateways to the Airways program.



Flight Team Relaunches Post-COVID

MEET THE FLYING BEARS 2.0.

BSU's longstanding flight team got off to a great start this academic year. More than 40 hopeful participants showed up for the squad's initial meeting in September.

They had a lot of work to do and not a lot of time to do it. For in October, BSU hosted the regional competition of the National Intercollegiate Flying Association (NIFA) at the university's Flight Training Center located at New Bedford Regional Airport. (The NIFA nationals will be held in May 2024.) The competitions test skills, knowledge and safety awareness over the course of the multi-day event.

The squad's latest incarnation includes co-captains Joseph Davis, '25, and Joe Connolly, '24. Its longtime advisor is Michael Farley, associate professor and chairman of the Department of Aviation Science. The team was grounded due to the pandemic and had not been fully active for a couple years. However, the current leaders are making plans to ensure that the team re-emerges even stronger. "We had a great time at the nationals back when I was a freshman, but we really didn't know what we were doing," said Joseph Davis, who hails from Lunenburg. "We didn't really care about the competition so much. But now we're working on a number of things and devoting a lot of time to it."

The drafting of bylaws, fundraising and finding sponsors, regular practice sessions and meetings, these are all central to the team's new outlook.

Flight teams occupy an important space in the education of many aviators, future and past. Matt Elia, '09, assistant airport

manager at Cape Cod Gateway Airport in Hyannis, was a member during his time on campus (he once won the landing competition). Now he volunteers with NIFA to help tomorrow's pilots sharpen their skills. "It's fun to compete," he said. "I love having the opportunity to go back and volunteer by being a judge and helping the students of today by providing them with support and guidance. It's also a chance to share a love of aviation and show the students the magic of aviation."

Co-captain Joe Connolly, from Stowe, joined the team seeking others who are passionate about flying and to see how his skills stacked up against his peers. "It offered me a lot of opportunities I may not have otherwise had," he said. "But the most important thing is the ability to talk to all of the sponsors at the events. They range from the military to major airlines and everything in between. It's a great way to widen one's horizon when it comes to choosing a career in aviation."

Ultimately, it's the mix of fun and serious instruction that make NIFA participation so rewarding, Joseph Davis said. "The team offers so much from the fun perspective; you really get a free vacation with all your best friends to all these cool events, you get free meals and fly planes," he said. "But you learn so much. You have to compete against really smart people in extremely hard tests, and you're exposed to so many ways of learning and using so many different tools. It adds so much to your aviation knowledge."

To learn more about joining or sponsoring the Flying Bears, email Joseph Davis at j1davis@student.bridgew.edu.

Benefactors Helped Recent Graduate on the Way to a Career in Aviation and the Green Economy

ANDREW ESTUS, '23, KNEW YEARS BEFORE he came to BSU that aviation science was his calling. Back then the dream was to become a pilot. Eventually, he decided to go the management route.

Today, Mr. Estus is ground operations manager and communications specialist with HeliService USA, located off the coast of Martha's Vineyard.

"It's sort of like a dispatcher," he said. (Actually, as you'll see below, it's more complicated than that.)

Like more than 80 percent of BSU students, Mr. Estus required financial aid to earn his bachelor's degree. Part of that assistance included a number of scholarships. Bearing in mind that most aviation science majors also have to pay for flight-training hours, as well as four official ratings accompanied by a designee from the Federal Aviation Association, he cast his net wide.

"I applied for a bunch of scholarships," he said, listing off the local organizations and other sources that awarded him some assistance early on. "For anyone who's looking into aviation, I'd definitely recommend also looking for scholarships from local chambers and high school guidance departments."

Especially key, he added, was a Bartlett Scholarship earned during his junior year. "It was great, it really helped me out with the expenses," he said. "It definitely helped me keep my debt down."

Four endowed scholarships dedicated to aviation science majors are available at BSU. In addition, annual donations from Louis Ricciardi, '81, a longtime Bridgewater State benefactor for whom the College of Business is named, helps defray the costs students must pay for those four FAA flight ratings. (See page 26 for more details.)

While at BSU, Mr. Estus' dream of becoming a pilot changed to that of a career on terra firma. It's every bit an aviation job, and it's in the growing field of corporate aviation.



HeliService USA transports crew members in its fleet of helicopters to their respective vessels where they work constructing windfarms in Narragansett Bay. Coordinating flights and passenger lists are the heart of Mr. Estus' current job. Safety is, of course, job one.

"There's definitely never a dull moment," he said. "With aviation, I feel like you're responsible for the safe transport of dozens and hundreds of people a day. ... Which is sometimes difficult to fathom. It's a really rewarding feeling, that you are helping people get from here to there, and that you're part of something so big."

Ever a booster for his home state, Mr. Estus was quick to add: "Plus, it's great to see aviation growing in Rhode Island." ♦

A Shared Past

Two faculty members research the lives and times of early Black and Indigenous local citizens

BY JOHN WINTERS, G'11

IT WAS 2017, and Professor Jamie Huff was contemplating ways to illustrate some of the lessons at the heart of her law and society course. The class examines the places where the legal system impacts society and the ways in which individuals organize themselves under the law. It is Dr. Huff's area of specialization.

"I thought, 'What can I show my students?'" she recalled.

The answer was close by.

One day while walking past First Cemetery on the edge of campus, Dr. Huff's interest was piqued. Doing some cursory research in the cemetery's records, she noticed one of those listed carried the unusual first name of Cuff. She was struck by the name's African connections (the name Cuff is an Americanization of the Akan day-name "Kofi," a boy born on a Friday).

This really caught her interest.

However, it would take years of work by Dr. Huff and her colleague, Dr. Emily Field, before the full picture would emerge in all its revealing detail. The scholars, along with the help of several students and community leaders, as well as funding from the Office of the President and support from library staff, began to explicate the history that lay buried at the edge of campus.

"It was really an exciting find, to know these are the founding citizens of Bridgewater, and we can learn about them and tell their stories," Dr. Huff said.

Tell their stories, yes, with strict attention to the Indigenous, enslaved and formerly enslaved individuals of Colonial Bridgewater. "It's a history that's been forgotten and overlooked," Dr. Field said.

FIRST CEMETERY SITS ADJACENT to the Art Building at 19 Summer Street. Throughout its history it has also been known as The Old Graveyard and the South Precinct Burial Place. It was established in 1716, the year Boston Light, the first lighthouse on the continent, was built, and just as the colonists were losing patience with the royal governor; four years later, they'd refuse to pay his salary. Greater trouble would eventually ensue.

Slavery was flourishing down south. A century before those earliest graves were dug at First Cemetery in Bridgewater,

Virginia became the first British mainland colony to establish slavery, when in 1619 Dutch traders sold approximately 20 Africans to local authorities.

The first enslaved Africans arrived in Massachusetts in the 1630s as the institution spread its dark tentacles across the colonies. It was legally blessed in these parts in 1641 and persisted until three years after the state's first constitution went into effect in 1783. "Repugnant" and "incompatible" were the words written by Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice William Cushing as he signed what would be slavery's eventual death knell in the commonwealth.

Meanwhile, Indigenous people have a 12,000-year history in Massachusetts, according to the History of Massachusetts blog. By the 16th century there were 100,000 Native people in the state organized into tribes, including the Wampanoag, Mahican, Massachusetts, Nauset, Nipmuc, Pennacook and Pocomtuc peoples. Violent conflict and disease brought by the settlers took a toll on the most local of these tribes, the Massachusetts and the Wampanoag, both of whom deeded land to the colonists in the Bridgewater area in the 1600s.

Many non-Indigenous Massachusetts residents do not realize that Native people were also subject to enslavement, even being shipped in the slave trade to the Caribbean. But Indigenous people persisted in the region through the 18th century and right up until today, despite myths to the contrary.

Records reveal at least 38 people of color buried in First Cemetery dating back to the early 18th century, although there are probably many more; all but three are in unmarked graves. Some were enslaved for all or part of their lives. Their graves are located on the outskirts of the cemetery. Sad, but fascinating, is the fact that the layout of the graves here, as in similar cemeteries around New England, mirrors the hierarchy of American society at the time. "The cemetery reproduces the marginalization of people of color in its geography and in the way the graves are laid out," Dr. Field said. "They are buried at the literal margins. This is one of the larger historical things we saw at work in this micro example of the town and its earliest residents."

Put another way, those buried in First Cemetery are a small, but not untypical, part of a larger American history. They've just been waiting for someone to pay attention.



Dr. Jamie Huff and Dr. Emily Field meet in Bridgewater's First Cemetery, where at least 38 individuals they are researching are buried.

DR. FIELD'S AREA OF SPECIALIZATION is early African American literature, specifically the 18th and 19th centuries. The associate professor of English was integral in establishing BSU's African American Studies program more than five years ago. She was raised in Cambridge and came to BSU in 2014.

That same year, South Carolina native Dr. Huff joined BSU's Department of Criminal Justice where today she is an associate professor. A few years ago, when she first wanted to investigate the cemetery on the edge of campus, she was urged by a colleague in the department, Dr. Mia Ortiz, to contact Dr. Field. With that, a partnership was born, and a light was suddenly shone on an aspect of local history that had been too long in the shadows.

The research's genesis may be found in First Cemetery, but the work quickly expanded to become a comprehensive census of the people of color from Bridgewater, East Bridgewater and West Bridgewater, with the earliest record they have found dating from 1706. With the help of then-student Emily Cuff, '22, Dr. Field and Dr. Huff spent years combing through vital

records; material from BSU's Archives and Special Collections, which holds archives of First Universalist Church; the Old Bridgewater Historical Society; legal documents; Library of Congress records; and dusty old tomes with simple, unadorned titles like *Epitaphs of Old Bridgewater*; and more. They were examining these Colonial-era documents and records with an eye out for Black and Indigenous individuals.

Critical records they found included the first federal census in the Town of Bridgewater, which dates to 1790. It revealed that at that time there were 17 families headed by men of color. The breakdown of the overall population was: 1,253 "free white males of 16 years and upwards," 1,123 "free white males under 16 years," 240 "white females," and 129 "all other free persons" (i.e. people of color) – of these, 50 lived in white-headed households.

Interested in more than basic census information, Dr. Huff and Dr. Field began to assemble the facts of these lives. Births, deaths, marriages, military service, addresses, work history and lawsuits: The pieces came together to varying degrees, providing

everything from a glimpse into the surface details of some lives to detailed biographies of a few. (See pages 36-39 for two examples.)

It quickly became apparent that three-plus centuries ago the Black and Indigenous people in the Bridgewater area, free or enslaved, were participants in local goings-on as parents, citizens, workers, taxpayers and soldiers (often enlisting and re-enlisting for the Revolutionary War and fighting side by side with the men who owned them).

"These are people who worked really hard to become part of this community," Dr. Huff said.

The central idea of the project, ultimately named "Remembering Bridgewater's Black and Indigenous History," was to learn about what life was like for Black and Indigenous people of the Colonial era. There were many surprising finds and plenty of uplift, as well as the usual heaviness that surveying the darker aspects of American history brings.

The local men who owned the enslaved also drew the researchers' focus. Buried halfway up the hill near the center of First Cemetery is Nathan Mitchell, a wealthy lawyer, justice of the peace, executor of wills and tax collector. Juxtaposing his grave with that of

A Lot of Help from Their Friends

It takes a village to, well, investigate a village.

That is to say, when Dr. Emily Field and Dr. Jamie Huff began investigating the presence of Black and Indigenous people in the Bridgewater area in the 1700s, they knew they'd benefit from outside help.

Fortunately, members of the community were able to bring an informed perspective to the work and guide the researchers as they tackled difficult topics. First, they convened a community advisory committee and more recently have consulted with a smaller group that gave feedback on the database in progress.

"We are mindful that Professor Huff and I are white scholars, so we consulted with Black and Indigenous community leaders," Dr. Field said. "They were very encouraging and excited about what we put together and to see many names they recognized in the database. They really helped us understand some of the language and a few things we didn't know."

Chief among those loaning their expertise and support were:

JEANNE OLIVER-FOSTER, '77

A retired teacher and founding president of Bridgewater State University's Afro-American Alumni Association, she also sits on the board of directors of the Massachusetts Tribe at Ponkapoag. She provided valuable input on using the new database and was moved by the sheer number of people included. "This is validation for my tribe," she said, explaining that the research helps to establish the Massachusetts Tribe's long residence in the Bridgewater area.

THOMAS GREEN

The tribal councilmember and history preservation committee chairman for the Massachusetts Tribe at Ponkapoag, he stressed the importance of the accuracy and specificity of the information the database contains. "This database will allow researchers access to information about African American and Indigenous peoples previously unavailable to the public," he said. "There are countless documents and records pertaining to the historically marginalized peoples of Massachusetts that still need to be brought to light with efforts like this."

GLORIA STANTON, '74, G'00

This local educator and alumna has held almost every position in the Bridgewater-Raynham Regional School District, from teacher to curriculum coordinator to principal. She, too, provided feedback on the database and emphasized how it counters the erasure of Black history.

Ms. Stanton said she appreciated the fact that the research was "very thorough," adding that the database "brings out a lot of new information." Always an educator at heart, she looks forward to the day when local K-12 students and teachers will be able to use the database to learn and research the past. "I'm so glad they asked me to be part of this," Ms. Stanton said.

CLEONIE MAINVIELLE

Ms. Mainville is the founder and co-president of Diversity & Inclusion for Community Empowerment and a member of the Bridgewater-Raynham School District School Committee. "Cleonie was so helpful in giving detailed suggestions about the functionality and organization of information in the database," Dr. Field said.

KEVIN KIDD

BSU's dean of Maxwell Library devoted many hours of work building the actual database that will house all the information gathered throughout the course of this project.

BECKY FLEISCH CORDEIRO

A member of Bridgewater Communities for Civil Rights, she was an unflagging supporter of the project.



Jeanne Oliver-Foster, '77



Thomas Green



Gloria Stanton, '74, G'00



Kevin Kidd

his enslaved worker Cuff Ashport is enlightening. (In 1775, Mr. Ashport paid for his freedom and purchased property from his former enslaver.)

History is a tangle of billions of intersecting stories. Fascinating tales and surprising facts emerge often in the work done by the professors. From centuries-old records, fieldwork and good, old-fashioned fact-finding, they have provided a narrative to a complex, sometimes murky, too-often painful chapter in local – even American – history.

All told, Dr. Field and Dr. Huff have located about 423 Black and Indigenous people who lived in the combined Bridgewater during the Colonial era. Of these, 60 are marked “Indian,” or suspected by the professors to be Indigenous; they are reasonably certain that at least 50 were most likely enslaved, though it is probably many more.

The culmination of the two faculty members’ efforts will be a database to preserve the information they’ve assembled and to assist members of the public and future scholars who want to research these aspects of local history.

Another key goal is spreading the word about the findings. The researchers have shared their work with BSU’s senior leadership team through a series of public talks, in campus lectures, at academic conferences and with Bridgewater-Raynham School District officials interested in possibly creating lesson plans from the material. Journal articles, more lectures and engagement with the community will follow.

One thing for certain is that the work will go on.

“Understanding injustice today is difficult if you don’t know the history,” Dr. Huff said. “I think it’s terribly important to make all this knowledge available.” She added, “We feel lucky to be a part of it.”

Already, the project has earned high praise. The Afro-American Alumni Association presented the duo with one of its top awards, the Paul L. Gaines, Sr., Achievement Award.

President Clark also cited the importance of this work. “I was very honored to support this innovative faculty project because I saw its direct relevance in advancing BSU’s mission, our priority of racial justice and the community-engaged nature of the work,” he said. “We are truly proud to have faculty and librarians who lean in to assist with telling the story of Bridgewater citizens and creating this important resource for the community.”

Ultimately, Dr. Field said the work is about “honoring and respecting” those who faced the most uphill of American battles – slavery and settler colonialism and their long, dark shadows.

“This is a nuanced story about these people’s lives,” she said. “A lot of the stories we tell about slavery are about abject oppression or decisive triumph over that oppression. But here are these everyday people who were enslaved but were still working their way through life and becoming a part of the community. They were creating a nation.” ♦



Alumna Recalls Research Chronicling Local History of People of Color

At times while researching the history of the people of color and Indigenous residents of Colonial Bridgewater, Emily Cuff, '22, found herself reading ahead to find out what happened.

The history she was uncovering, transcribing and recording formed an integral part of research being conducted by BSU Professors Emily Field and Jamie Huff. From the vital records, archives, local histories and contemporary accounts unfolded one amazing story after another.

“A lot of what I was doing was transcribing documents,” Ms. Cuff said. “I didn’t want to stop until the documents were done, but sometimes I would read ahead and not transcribe it right away. It was interesting history.”

The project, more than five years in the making, highlights the lives and times of non-white residents of Colonial-era Bridgewater, East Bridgewater and West Bridgewater. The result will be a database that will preserve the findings but also pave the way for future scholars interested in the history of slavery, race relations, legal affairs of the day, Revolutionary War service and much more. Thus far, more than 465 early citizens of the region comprise the database.

Ms. Cuff, who was a social work major with a minor in African American studies, joined the project as a research intern as a junior. The Medway native proved to be an ideal candidate, Dr. Field said. “She spent two full years helping with the research,” she said. “Her work was key to the success of the project.”

Ms. Cuff quickly realized the significance of the work. “I think I started to realize the importance of the project as I was telling my peers and no one knew about this history despite the fact that we live here,” she said. “I felt it was a significant experience retelling this history.”

Ms. Cuff’s primary contributions involved transcribing the material and organizing the information as it was being gathered. She stayed with the project until she graduated, and even came back to pitch in that following summer. “I found myself working on it at some point almost every day back then,” she said.

These days, she is a social worker with the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families. But Ms. Cuff looks back fondly on the research she did at BSU. “I think it’s significant that this work is being done by faculty members at our university,” she said. “I’m so glad they gave me the opportunity to participate, it was very important to me.”



Freedom Fighters

Faculty researchers recount details
of two of the enslaved in Colonial Bridgewater

BY DR. EMILY FIELD AND DR. JAMIE HUFF

THE FOLLOWING BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES were written by Dr. Field of the Department of English and Dr. Huff of the Department of Criminal Justice, drawn from their ongoing research. The details come from primary source material, though the professors expect to keep learning new information as their research continues.

Cuff Ashport and Toby Talbot are two African American men buried in First Cemetery in the midst of BSU's campus. Both were enslaved in Bridgewater, married and had children here, and served in the Revolutionary War on the side of the Patriots. Each achieved freedom by their own efforts and were prominent members of the community.

CUFF ASHPORT

Cuff Ashport is buried in a corner of First Cemetery in a marked grave adorned with an American flag to commemorate his Revolutionary War service. It may seem contradictory to some that a man would fight alongside those who had enslaved him, but Cuff Ashport and many other Black Patriots did just that, many with the hope that the new nation would live up to the ideals of liberty from tyranny espoused by the cause. According to sworn testimony by Nathan Mitchell Jr., Mr. Ashport "was a slave to my father Nathan Mitchell," a prominent judge in Bridgewater who enslaved him from around 1765, when Mr. Ashport was 19 or 20, until 1775, when he purchased his freedom, perhaps with money he had saved by his own labor outside of his duties in the Mitchell home.

During this time, Mr. Ashport married a local teenager, Elizabeth (more often Lydia) Quay Ashport, who later said she was "brought up in" the home of a white man, Anthony Winslow. This characterization obscures as

FIRST
CEMETERY
1716



much as it reveals: Was Lydia an orphan and in need of a home? Her name and racial designation in the records – a “a Molatto girl” – indicates that she may have been at least partially of Indigenous descent. Was she perhaps removed from an Indigenous family by coercion or without their consent, as too many Indigenous children were? We may never know the answer to this question, but we do know that the young couple did not cohabitate for the first three years after their marriage in 1772, at least until Cuff Ashport purchased his freedom from Nathan Mitchell. Shortly thereafter, probably to earn money now that he was without a solid social place outside of the Mitchell home, Mr. Ashport enlisted in a military campaign that was part of what would come to be known as the Revolutionary War.

Thus began multiple terms of service over the next five years in multiple states that took Cuff Ashport to some of the hottest flash points of the Revolution. In her widow’s pension application, Lydia Ashport assembled testimony from many people who served with her husband or remembered him talking about his service. He told of how he was present when General George Washington and the Continental Army won their first major victory in Boston on Evacuation Day on March 17, 1776, and of General Washington’s evacuation of New York City in the summer of 1776. He talked of the “face of the country around West Point,” likely the beauty of the Hudson River Valley, and the execution of Major John André in Tappan, New York, after André’s collusion with Benedict Arnold in 1780.

When Mr. Ashport returned to Bridgewater, he and Lydia had at least five and possibly six children during the 1780s and 1790s. The records reveal at least 11 grandchildren. In 1798, perhaps in part with money earned from his Revolutionary service, he purchased a plot of land from his former enslaver, an acre and a half located behind what is now BSU’s Boyden Hall and stretching across what is currently Cedar Street. The help of Stephen Rogan,



chairman of the Bridgewater Historical Commission, was invaluable in locating Mr. Ashport’s property in town.

The Ashports, however, were to come upon extremely hard times in the 1810s and 1820s. Between 1814 and 1827, six of their grandchildren and five of their adult children died, many in a wave of consumption that seemed to be sweeping the area. In 1825, daughter Rebecca died. In 1826, two sons, first Calvin and then Luther died, the latter “suddenly, a notation that may indicate a violent or accidental death.” Cuff Ashport died in late August 1827 at 81.

Nathan Mitchell, aforementioned son of Cuff Ashport’s former enslaver, administered Cuff Ashport’s estate. He divided the family’s land into three plots, leaving Lydia Ashport one to live on. The others he sold, and it is not clear whether she benefited from this sale or whether the

Mitchell family re-absorbed the land and the benefits from it. Either way, the land passed out of the family's hands, not to surviving children or grandchildren, but eventually to executives of a company that manufactured cotton gins, and then willed in part to Bridgewater Normal School. In another twist of an already complex intertwining of these two families, Mr. Mitchell assisted Lydia Ashport

in her successful bid to receive a pension from the Federal Government in recognition of her husband's Revolutionary War Service in 1836. Lydia Ashport died in 1842, and she and many of her children and grandchildren are buried in unmarked graves in First Cemetery. Descendants of the Ashports lived on, however, with at least two serving in the Civil War.

TOBY TALBOT

Toby Talbot is another African American buried in First Cemetery. Though his grave bears no marker, he made an indelible impression in the historical record of Bridgewater. He was likely born around 1735; records do not tell us his place of birth. Mr. Talbot was enslaved to several families in Bridgewater, including the Jesse Howard family, and in his marriage record he is listed as the "servant man of the ye widow Lydia Keith," referring to Lydia Williams Keith White Jones. On February 3, 1755, Mr. Talbot married Dinah Gould (who was enslaved to Ephraim Fobes). It is notable that their marriage took place on the same day that Mr. Fobes' will would have been enacted. His will gives Dinah Gould to his daughter. The decision to marry may have been motivated by the Talbots' commitment to keep their family together; Dinah had already given birth to their first child, Sarah, the previous September. Toby and Dinah Talbot had 10 more children after their marriage, and Mr. Talbot would go to great lengths to pursue freedom for himself and his family.

In 1775, he enlisted in the military to fight for the colonies in the Revolutionary War. He served multiple tours, some at the same time as his son, Abraham, who had also enlisted. Mr. Talbot's time in the military placed him in contact with other Black veterans from the Bridgewater area, including John Foy, Quork Matrick, and Sampson and Joshua Dunbar, creating a community of free Black families in the region. Mr. Talbot not only fought for the liberation of the colonies, but also to free himself and his family from slavery. In 1779, Toby Talbot appeared in the Plymouth County Court of Common Pleas to contest his enslavement and recover damages for stolen property. In the case, *Tarbet v. Howard*, Mr. Talbot argues that Jesse Howard has illegally enslaved

him and stolen produce and livestock from him. The jury, comprised entirely of white men, found in favor of Mr. Talbot, stating not only that he is free but also that Mr. Howard owes damages to Mr. Talbot to account for the loss of property.

About a year later, Mr. Talbot again appears in the Plymouth County Court of Common Pleas in hopes of freeing two of his children. In two additional suits, he alleges that a group of white Bridgewater men, including Elijah Snell and Samuel Dunbar, seized two of his daughters, Dinah, about 18 years old, and Metilda, about 16 years old, beat them and held them illegally in slavery. This time, the jury found against the Talbot family, declaring that both Dinah and Metilda are legally enslaved, so Mr. Snell and Mr. Dunbar cannot be punished. Mr. Talbot appealed to the highest state court, but it does not appear that the case was ever completed. By the mid-1780s, these two Talbot daughters were living in freedom.

Toby Talbot was remembered by multiple late 19th century sources, including *The Boston Globe*, as a resourceful man who resisted the strictures of slavery, especially on behalf of his family. These documents include many inaccuracies and depict Mr. Talbot more as a character one might find in the "local color" fiction of the 1890s than as a person of his own time, but they do contain tantalizing details, some of which may be true. The story goes that he took his family to Matfield Swamp, hiding them until they could return to town together in freedom. Whether or not this story is true, the record of the legal cases he brought indicates he was indeed a man committed to his family and the pursuit of liberty. Toby Talbot died on January 28, 1815, leaving behind at least 16 grandchildren and numerous other descendants. ♦

A Healthy Outlook

Alumna finds career satisfaction in helping others

BY JOHN WINTERS, G'11

RENEE McINNES, '85, WASN'T SURE what she wanted to do after high school. Luckily, her father had some sage advice: "Go to college, and figure it out once you get there."

And that's just what she did. Once the Hanover native understood that helping others – specifically through the health-care field – was her driving passion, she embraced a career that today finds her as Chief Executive Officer of NVNA and Hospice.

"My mom was a nurse, though she never practiced, and I was always attracted to the sciences," Ms. McInnes said. "I've always enjoyed working in health care, and even as CEO, my joy remains helping patients and families navigate our complex health-care system. I really feel like I'm achieving something."

Known today simply by its initials, NVNA and Hospice was once better known as Norwell Visiting Nurses Association. Over the past century the organization has grown exponentially in its provision of home health, palliative and hospice care, as well as public health services. Today, the independent nonprofit organization operates in 29 communities across Massachusetts' South Shore. NVNA and Hospice also owns the Pat Roche Hospice Home in Hingham.

After graduating from Hanover High School, Ms. McInnes knew she was interested in anatomy and physiology. However, her first choice in colleges, Emmanuel, in Boston, didn't offer a nursing program. After a year, she transferred to Lawrence Memorial School of Nursing, where she earned her certification as a registered nurse with a focus in pediatrics.

She came to Bridgewater State in 1979 as a social work major and graduated in 1985.

"I really enjoyed it," she said of her time on campus. "I was already working in a hospital, and I was older than my classmates, but they were great. I learned a lot from them. It was really a wonderful experience."

Ms. McInnes also earned an MBA with a focus in health-care administration from Fitchburg State University in 2021.

Her commitment to lifelong learning and innate curiosity has served her well. In her 16 years at NVNA and Hospice, Ms. McInnes has served as a front-line nurse – visiting patients at home – as well as nurse case manager, director of admissions

and vice president of business development. She has been the CEO for seven years.

"I always wanted to make things better and really dig in and look at root causes of problems," she said. "I'm drawn to process improvement and achieving better outcomes and goals. I need to challenge myself, and I really enjoy learning and mastering something new and elevating my skills."

Her myriad duties as CEO include managing the financial health of the nonprofit at a time when revenue is declining (mostly due to Medicare shouldering fewer end-of-life costs) and soaring prices. She also must work to recruit and retain nurses, which is difficult these days for a variety of reasons. These factors have made the job more challenging than usual, especially when the impact of COVID is considered.

"The health-care industry is definitely in crisis," Ms. McInnes said. "The impact of so many baby boomers retiring, and when COVID hit it accelerated everything. We've got to get people back and figure this out."

Ms. McInnes, who lives in Norwell, enjoys spending time with family, including her two grown children and four grandchildren. She's also active in various trade organizations, serving on the board of directors for the Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts and Visiting Nurse Association of New England. She is the former chair of the of the South Shore Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

In the end, she said, the work is all about the patients and their families.

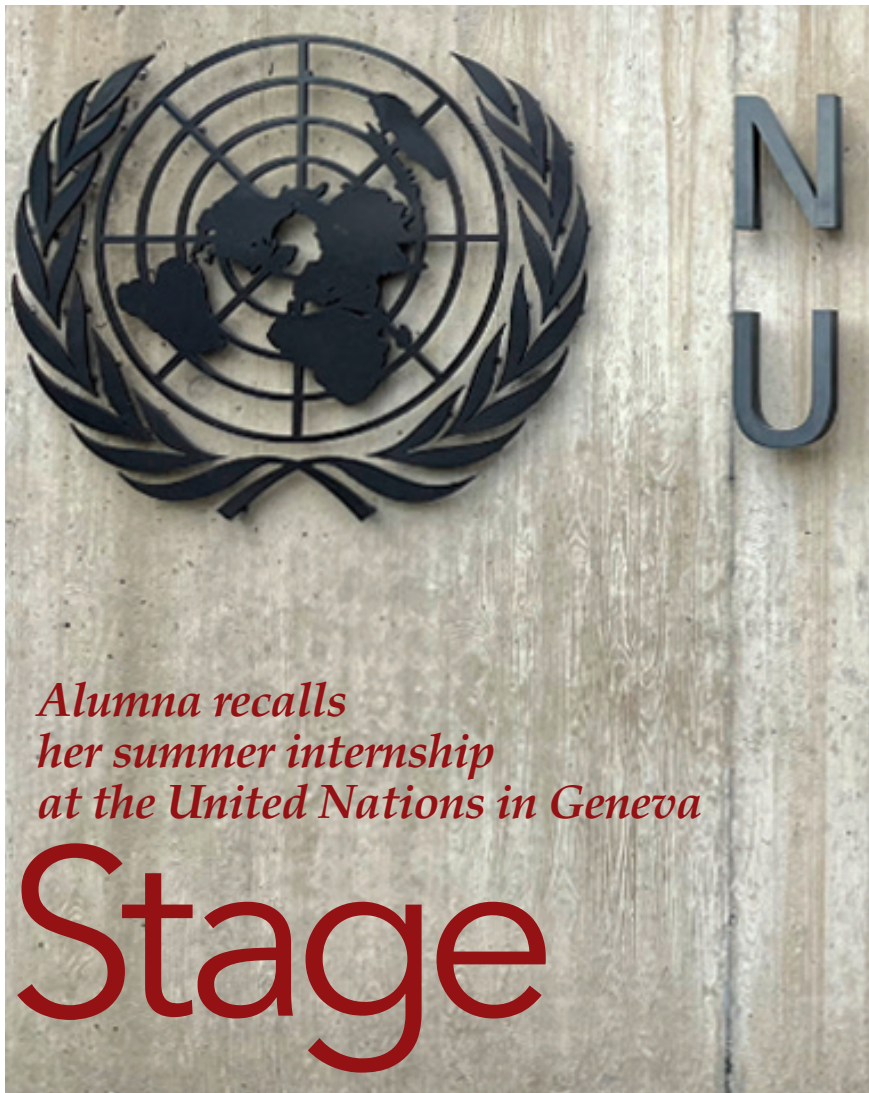
"There are so many rewarding aspects to my job," she said. "It can certainly be challenging and stressful, but when I feel I've made a difference for someone at the end of life it's very rewarding. It's nice to know you've helped the patient and family by providing them with a sense of peace."

Ms. McInnes said she's glad to see BSU still providing the great opportunities that she enjoyed. Opportunities she's clearly made the most of.

"For so many people, whether they have money or not, the cost of education is so high, I think it's great what Bridgewater is doing," she said. ♦



Photo by Sarah Hinchey



On the World's Stage

BY HEATHER HARRIS MICHONSKI

*Alumna recalls
her summer internship
at the United Nations in Geneva*

STANDING IN THE UNITED NATIONS ASSEMBLY HALL in Geneva, Switzerland, Tiana Jurisic-McGuire, '19, smiles. She knows she's come a long way from the little girl living in a Bosnian refugee camp. In fact, these days she's turned the tables: She's working to help people who are as vulnerable as she once was.

Originally from Bosnia, Ms. Jurisic-McGuire and her family were forced to enter a refugee camp shortly after war broke out in 1992. "I can recall picking worms out of the cornmeal and picking bugs out of potatoes so we would have something to eat," she said.

Despite the difficulties she endured, Ms. Jurisic-McGuire said, she wouldn't change a thing about the experience. "It taught me a lot. I learned to persevere from a very young age," she said. "When you've gone hungry and lived in fear, it gives you a fire that a lot of people don't really relate to. It's been a critical piece in moving forward in my adult life."

This past summer, she brought her passion to Geneva where she worked as an intern at the Human Rights Council for the United Nations.

Among other things, she traveled to Belgium to present a project plan to the European Union and reports to 93 members of the United Nations regarding specific issues related to the rights of women and children, and the right to an education. "I had to share the issues in different countries and how various non-governmental organizations can help us carry out that work," Ms. Jurisic-McGuire said.

The hardships of her childhood inspired her to reach for the stars, to be fearless. That desire to fly is how she discovered BSU.

"When I was a little girl, my dream job was to be a pilot, and I had heard that Bridgewater State had an aviation program," said Ms. Jurisic-McGuire, who has family ties to New England. "I've known since I was 12 that's where I wanted to go to school, so that's where I applied."

Once she got to BSU her flight path, so to speak, changed. She decided to double major in criminal justice and political science, with an international relations concentration. She also minored in anthropology.



Ms. Jurisic-McGuire immersed herself in campus life and tried new things, such as becoming a member of the Irish step team, joining a sorority and participating in BSU's Best Buddies program. "When I was at Bridgewater, I even went skydiving. That was awesome," she said. "But my favorite, most important role, was being a study abroad ambassador."

Ms. Jurisic-McGuire spent just three semesters on campus; the rest of the time she took advantage of the university's Study Abroad Program. She became the youngest recipient of an Erasmus Grant offered through BSU's Study Abroad Office, which allowed her to spend a year undertaking human rights research in Manchester, England.

The time Ms. Jurisic-McGuire spent in England further strengthened her desire to help others, and when she learned of the internship with the United Nations, she applied and was accepted. But, because of COVID, the internship was cancelled. So, she instead earned a master's degree in public health from UMass Lowell.

Last November, however, she was surprised to receive a call asking if she was still interested in moving to Geneva to take

part in the prestigious internship. After a long discussion with her husband, she accepted the offer and made the move overseas in April. By summer's end, she was back stateside and had already enrolled in the public health PhD program at the University of North Carolina Greensboro, where she is continuing the work she did at the United Nations.

U.N. officials were impressed enough with Ms. Jurisic-McGuire that they asked her to spend next summer conducting more field work in Ethiopia designed to help people affected by the ongoing conflict there.

She's already eyeing her dream job, working for the United States Agency for International Development, or maybe the World Health Organization.

When she thinks about her journey, Ms. Jurisic-McGuire credits BSU for serving as a catalyst and helping to create the path she's on. "Bridgewater State has a planetarium on campus where you can look at the stars, and I've always had dreams that are larger than life. ... BSU has helped me reach all the stars I've ever wanted to touch," she said. ♦

ALUMNI UPDATE

CLASS NOTES / NOTA BENE

1954

Hazel Varella, G'56, received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Easton Historical Museum "in honor of her vision, dedication, and commitment for more than 56 years."

1979

Carolyn Simon is author of *A Pretty Great Life: Life Lessons and Beauty Secrets from a Hollywood Makeup Artist*, in which she shares her adventures as a Hollywood makeup artist and the lessons she learned along the way. The book gives insight into beauty, as well as the world of film and television production in Hollywood. Available through Amazon, the book is for aspiring artists, as well as people who want to discover their best selves.

1983

Barbara Annis Ratcliffe retired in September 2022 after 39 years of teaching.

She spent the last 15 years working in the Easton Public School System. She is enjoying her retirement and is volunteering locally.

1991

Paul Lambert was elected president of the New England Historical Association for the 2023-24 academic year.

1997

Lisa Fortenberry was inducted into YW Boston's Academy of Women Achievers.

2000

Kathleen Jenkins-Brown received a Doctor of Education degree with a focus on transformative leadership from the University of New England. Her dissertation, "Perceived Barriers to Oral Health Among Women with Social Determinants of Health Inequality," was a qualitative study that explored oral health inequity in Southeastern Massachusetts.

STAY CONNECTED. Send your news to the Office of Alumni Relations via email to 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.

2002

Pamela Eaton Motacek is a physical education instructor at Carmel Creek and Solana Pacific Elementary schools in the Solana Beach School District in California.

2007



Ferene Paris Meyer, G'07, is a 2023 recipient of the Rebecca Blunk Fund award. The annual award recognizes New England artists whose work demonstrates creative excellence and deep community engagement.

2015

Laurel Ryan was named the 2023 Young Entrepreneur of the Year for Massachusetts by the Small Business Administration for her jewelry business, Nautically Northern.

2016

Joseph R. Gray earned a master's degree in art education from Illinois State University.

2017

William Statkiewicz earned a master's degree in history from Salem State University in May 2023 and plans to soon pursue a doctorate in history. He was inspired by Dr. Sean McPherson of BSU's Department of Art and his class on art in history.

ALUMNI SERVICES

For more information about the services below, visit www.bridgew.edu/alumni

WEBSITE

Visit the BSU alumni website, 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 Alumni" group on LinkedIn is more than 4,000 strong. Request to join the group today.

X (FORMERLY KNOWN AS TWITTER)

Follow us @BSU_Alumni.

INSTAGRAM

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MARRIAGES

BSU celebrates the wedding of the following alumni:

Jenna L. Tavares, '15, and Nicholas C. SanAngelo, '15, were married June 30, 2023 in Dennis Port



IN MEMORIAM

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

Phyllis Powell MacMillan, '44, on June 14, 2023

Evelyn Almeida, '46, on June 28, 2023

Irene Bouley Oslund, '49, on August 20, 2023

Marie Marr Smith, '50, on February 4, 2020

Marie Quirk Cheney, '51, on July 27, 2023

Harriet Schroeder Weaver, '56, on July 29, 2023

Frances M. Burns, G'57, on June 27, 2023

William K. Coady, G'57, on August 16, 2023

Jean Marchant Dwyer, '57, on May 9, 2023

Norman J. Landry, '58, on August 4, 2023

Margueritte Blanchard Thayer, '58, G'63, on June 3, 2023

Roger C. Lamoureux, '59, on April 26, 2023

Robert C. Jones, G'60, on July 23, 2023

Mary Grant Piantoni, '60, on July 10, 2023

Lorraine Bordeaux Pratt-Coelho, '60, on May 17, 2023

Gerardo N. Tempesta, '60, on June 27, 2023

Sonia Kizirian Zorabedian, '60, on April 24, 2023

Karen Wells Fournier, '61, on April 14, 2023

Roger L. Mailhot, G'61, on August 5, 2023

Sarah A. Quinn, '61, on June 27, 2023

John J. Reardon, '61, on April 5, 2023

Linda Libbey Robinson, '61, on December 21, 2022

James W. Pelletier, G'62, on April 27, 2023

Janice Souza Randall, '62, on July 17, 2023

Paul E. Byron, G'63, on May 24, 2023

Susan Maguire, '63, on July 23, 2023

Margot A. Lavoie, '65, G'72, on August 16, 2023

John M. Hickey, '66, on May 24, 2023

Nancy Finen Wilson, '66, on August 15, 2021

Gail K. Brookings, G'67, on July 13, 2023

Colette H. Janson-Sand, '67, on May 25, 2023

Edward P. Morgan, G'67, on July 17, 2023

Joseph C. Roper, III, '68, in June 2023

Diane St. Amour Tripp, '68, on July 8, 2023

Louise A. Gauthier, '69, G'75, on May 20, 2023

Carolyn A. Johansson, G'69, on April 29, 2023

Kathleen R. McKenna, '69, on June 7, 2023

Richard R. Mros, '69, G'73, on May 3, 2023

Linda Ann Trimble Stewart, '69, on July 5, 2023

Theodore Letendre, G'71, on May 5, 2023

Dolores L. Forman, G'72, on May 12, 2023

Joan Cleary McElwee, '72, on May 14, 2023

Robert E. Rodier, G'72, on November 27, 2022

Eileen Soares, G'72, on June 11, 2023

Wayne R. Bachand, '73, on August 4, 2023

Kathleen M. Houghton, '73, on June 23, 2023

Marcia Serino O'Neill, '73, on June 17, 2023

Carlene Motta Brennan, '74, on April 30, 2023

Elizabeth Fantoni, '74, G'80, on May 5, 2022

Juliana Frisoli, G'74, on April 17, 2023

Robert Mullins, '74, on July 15, 2023

Roberta Gross McQuade, '75, on May 9, 2023

Clara Heffernan Ferguson, G'76, on May 12, 2023

Charles H. Martin, G'76, on July 18, 2023

Marjorie Furze Nemeth, '76, on March 2, 2023

Carolyn LaCombe, '77, G'81, on May 13, 2023

Mary R. Mullen, '78, G'81, on April 29, 2023

Jon D. Wonson, '78, on August 5, 2023

Paulette I. Parent, '79, on July 7, 2023

Mary Kaler Chapin, '80, on May 26, 2023

Barbara Fazzina, '80, on September 24, 2022

Dorothy M. Greene, '80, G'92, on March 7, 2021

Elizabeth A. Tamborella, G'80, on May 26, 2023

Beverly J. English, '81, on June 30, 2023

Diane M. Samia, '81, on July 11, 2023

Martin G. Trahan, '82, on June 13, 2023

Veronica Thorner Kordas, '83, on August 11, 2023

Elaine Barry West, G'83, on June 6, 2023

Judith A. Anastasi, '84, on August 7, 2023

Steven R. Howes, '84, on June 10, 2023

Scott D. Tanner, G'85, on April 14, 2023

Diane Monahan, '89, on May 20, 2023

Robert Gobeil, '91, on April 21, 2023

Susan Peterson Norcott, '91, on August 3, 2023

Maureen C. Saunders, G'91, on August 3, 2023

Gregory Motta, '92, on July 24, 2022

James Murphy, G'92, on July 12, 2023

Georgina Valante, G'92, on July 19, 2023

Brian Johnson, '93, on June 7, 2023

Sonia A. Klakus, G'93, on June 4, 2023

Christine A. Williams, '93, on May 12, 2023

Ricardo D'Alarcao, '94, on May 23, 2023

Lorraine Donnelly Lopes, '97, G'03, on June 2, 2023

James F. Ingargiola, Sr., '01, on May 2, 2023

Joseph Scallon, '03, on May 6, 2023

Stanley K. Johnson, '07, on June 5, 2023

Charles W. Deacon, '09, on June 6, 2023

Shayne T. Murray, '12, on May 24, 2023

Jennifer S. Freitas, '20, on April 15, 2023

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

John F. Myer, professor emeritus, Department of History, on February 11, 2023

ALUMNI PROFILE

DOMINIQUE LYNCH, '20

DOMINIQUE (DURDEN) LYNCH has a lot on her mind.

And lucky for us, her anger, passion, righteous sense of justice, and love of family and life, often find their way into her poetry and spoken word performances.

Her drive and talent have already landed her some high-profile gigs under her stage name Momo the Poet. The most prominent – and the ones she’s most proud of – are the times she’s opened charitable events featuring U.S. Representative Ayanna Pressley. She even introduced her once. “I thought, ‘Oh, this woman is phenomenal, and I want to be like her,’” Ms. Lynch said.

She’s also shared the stage with Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey, U.S. Senator Ed Markey and Boston Mayor Michelle Wu.

The fact that these connections were forged through the power of her words, makes them even more special, she said. “Writing is the only thing that makes sense to me,” the Rockland resident said. “It’s the only way I can make sense of the way I feel about things, and it’s saved my life many times.”

Ms. Lynch is a native New Yorker whose family moved frequently when she was young. She spent part of her early years in Abington. She came to BSU with an eye toward becoming



Dominique Lynch, '20, with U.S. Representative Ayanna Pressley (top), and Boston Mayor Michelle Wu.

He Loves Me, He Loves Me Not

by Dominique Lynch, '20

Lover I keep dreaming about you.
Pick you out of an endless field.
The only sunflower in sight.

*He loves me.
He loves me not.
He loves me.
And he does it well.*

You feel like cotton candy skies, and 7pm 70° sunsets when the
wind plants raindrop kisses all over your face;

*He loves me.
He loves me not.*

The wishbone in my chest waits for you to break it: you never do.

*He loves me.
And he does it well.*

I run to you.
I will always run to you.

a pediatric neurosurgeon. It took a little time for her to find her way to the Department of Psychology, but it was there she found a home. “As soon as I did that, I felt 10,000 times better,” she said. “I loved the psychology program. I’ve always wanted to know what makes people tick and why people do the things they do.”

Ms. Lynch also carried minors in Middle East and African American studies.

She spends her days as a behavior support technician with the state’s Department of Developmental Services and works with adults with behavioral issues and emotional dysregulation.

Ms. Lynch’s real passion arrived as a result of two epiphanies.

“I started writing when I was 14, and that started because I come from a family of musicians,” she said. “I started writing songs, but they weren’t quite finished. I thought, well let’s try them as poems, and I was hooked after that. And I’ve just kept writing.”

Epiphany number two was a little more public. A friend of her brother was hosting an event at a bar in Fall River and asked Ms. Lynch to perform some of her poems. She was anxious, but decided to give it a go. Let’s just say things worked out.

"They were super receptive about what I had to say," she said. "After that I just fell in love with performing.

Speaking with Ms. Lynch for even a few minutes, one can catch snippets of her wit and intelligence. For instance, when asked about transitioning from being a thoughtful writer to a commanding performer who still deals with a bit of stage fright, she said: "I go through sort of a Clark Kent moment," conjuring images of Superman's alter-ego jumping into a phone booth before emerging as the Man of Steel.

Ms. Lynch's time on stage hobnobbing with state and national political leaders came about after she connected with an events coordinator for the Kenmore Square Planned Parenthood location. Someone from the organization simply asked her to perform at one of the organization's rallies. The invites kept coming, including for rallies protesting the Dobbs decision that overturned Roe v. Wade, and not long after, she found

herself sharing the bill with Representative Pressley and other notables.

She's also published her work in a collection called *BIRDSONG*, as well as a journal titled *Journey to Myself*.

These days, Ms. Lynch has plenty to write and rhyme about. There's the eternal subject of love – in June the 26-year-old married fellow Bear John Lynch, '20. And then there's a whole world of potential content. "I write a lot about social justice because I believe, as Nina Simone always said, it's an artist's duty to be in touch with her times. I can't not write about what I see, because it's the only way I know how to make sense of things.

"I do it so I can sort out the noise in my brain," she added. "And I try to sort out why I feel the way I feel because I feel very deeply." ♦

–BY JOHN WINTERS, G'11

CAREER SERVICES AND INTERNSHIP PROGRAM OFFICE

Help lead Bridgewater State University students to success

ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Career Services and Internship Program Offices have merged to support BSU students and alumni as part of the BSU Works Initiative to ensure students are career ready for the workforce. BSU alumni continue to play a pivotal role in amplifying this initiative. Below are examples of how you can give back to BSU and resources to support your own career development.

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: bridgew.joinhandshake.com/login. Make sure your company posts on Handshake as well.

CAREER FAIRS

The Career Services and Internship Program 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 & Internship Fair

Thursday, April 4, 2024, Noon-3 PM
Tinsley Athletic Center Gym

Education Career Fair

Wednesday, May 1, 2024, 4-6 PM
Rondileau Student Union Ballroom

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 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 for more information.

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.

CAMPUS ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

Many opportunities are available for alumni to engage with BSU students throughout the academic year. The Career Services and 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.


PARTING SHOT



Bristaco gets in a workout at the university's new fitness court, installed over the summer in University Park.

Thanks to a partnership with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Massachusetts, BSU was awarded a grant to help cover the cost of the project. The outdoor gym, which is open to both campus and local community members, is designed to provide a full-body workout, with seven zones intended for circuit training. Daniel Rezendes, assistant athletic director for recreation and wellness, said of the fitness court, "We know that physical health is important, and that mental health is directly related to physical fitness and exercise training. This offers one more set of tools in the BSU wellness toolbox that will hopefully make an impact on students' and the community's health and wellness."

PHOTO BY MACKENZIE RUBITSCHUNG, '21



While many aspects of how we educate and engage students are continually evolving, one thing remains the same: the impact friends like you have on the future of our students.

Bridgewater State University will continue to adapt to the changing needs of our students because generous past donors had the foresight to make gifts in support of Bridgewater's future.

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BSU ALUMNI & FRIENDS

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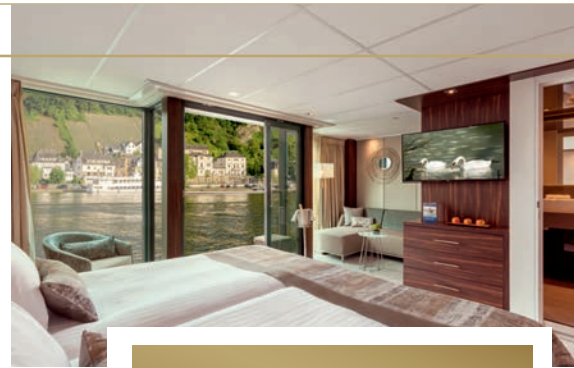
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