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Alumni Magazine Fall 2012

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COMMENCEMENT 2012
Thousands gather to celebrate the class of 2012.

80 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE
FSU’s student newspaper The Gatepost celebrates its 80th anniversary.

ALUMNI RECOGNIZED FOR ACHIEVEMENTS
Four Alumni Achievement Awards are presented during Commencement and Reunion Weekend.
A FORTUITOUS MOVE

The evolution of Framingham State University's Department of Economics and Business Administration can be traced back to 1853, when the college moved from West Newton to its current home on Bare Hill in Framingham. Though it would not have been known at the time, the move would end up placing Framingham State in the heart of one of the largest concentrations of high-tech industries and leading businesses in the country. Today, MetroWest is widely considered the economic engine of Massachusetts.

Our location in the center of this vibrant business community has allowed the University to develop a dynamic business program that draws on the expertise of working professionals throughout the region. The partnerships we've established with many of these businesses also provide our students an opportunity to get their foot in the door at local companies by completing an internship prior to graduation.

As the only four-year university in the region, Framingham State is relied upon by the business community to produce a highly educated workforce, just as we rely on enterprises in the region to provide expertise and opportunities to our students. This interdependence is directly attributable to the growth of our undergraduate business administration program—currently the University’s most popular major—as well as the establishment of our successful Master of Business Administration (MBA) program.

This issue of FSU Magazine highlights the growth of our dynamic Economics and Business Administration department. Within these pages, you’ll hear from current students who are learning about international business by traveling around the world with faculty members. You’ll also discover how student interns at Framingham State’s MetroWest Economic Research Center (MERC) are uncovering critical research and data previously unavailable to businesses in the region. Finally, you’ll hear from alumni who have launched their own successful businesses or who are in high-ranking positions at many of the area’s top companies. These stories demonstrate not only the high level of innovation taking place on and around our campus, but also how the University has capitalized on its fortuitous move to Framingham in 1853.

Best wishes,

Timothy J. Flanagan, PhD
President
the feature

02 LEADERS IN BUSINESS
A look at how Framingham State’s proximity to a thriving business environment has shaped and enhanced the University’s undergraduate and graduate business programs

our departments

08 ON COURSE | Mastering Business
Professor Michael Harrison discusses his transition from the private sector to a university and his role in developing Framingham State’s MBA program

09 STUDENT VOICE | Counseling Her Classmates
Psychology major Meghan Earle ’13 talks about her experience advising fellow students as a peer mentor in the Center for Academic Support and Advising

10 SPRING COMMENCEMENT 2012
Alumni, family and friends gather on campus to celebrate the graduates

12 CAMPUS LIFE | President Flanagan Participates in Education Policy Roundtable at White House
Framingham State President Timothy J. Flanagan visits the White House to share his thoughts on college affordability

16 FACULTY NEWS | CELTSS Fosters Innovation in the Classroom
Faculty discuss the growth and significance of the Center for Excellence in Learning, Teaching, Scholarship and Service (CELTSS)

18 RAM NATION | Ram in Focus
Football captain Joe Masucci ’13 shares his thoughts on the unprecedented recent success of the FSU Football program

20 ALUMNI CORNER | Alumni Recognized for Achievements
Four alumni are celebrated for their career accomplishments

24 CLASS NOTES | News from Alumni
Learn how your classmates are spending their time

28 HAPPENINGS | Improving Instruction for English Language Learners
FSU receives $1.68 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to train teachers to support English Language Learners

29 DONOR PROFILE | Alumni Association Launches Scholarship
For the first time in school history, the FSU Alumni Association Board of Directors has taken ownership of a student scholarship

For content available online visit www.framingham.edu
MERC’S IMPACT
Ten faculty members and a dozen student interns provide economic data for 53 cities and towns that are home to 14.2 percent of the Commonwealth’s jobs.

Big Business – The MBA Advisory Board
Members include representatives from Bose, Inc.; Boston Scientific Corp.; EMC; Genzyme Corp.; MetroWest Chamber of Commerce; MetroWest Medical Center; Middlesex Savings Bank; Staples, Inc. and TJX.

Excellence in Business Education
The Department of Economics and Business Administration is in the midst of a rigorous accreditation process by the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education (IACBE).
Despite the lingering recession, the atmosphere at Framingham State University feels more hopeful than disheartened, more upbeat than downcast.

A number of factors explain the mood. The MetroWest region is a bustling home to leading businesses, from the pharmaceutical to the software industries. Here, the University has built a thriving interdependent community of business practitioners that apply their knowledge as they learn from one another, enrich the local community, gain fresh perspectives through travel and add value to local businesses as employees.

Furthermore, the University’s MetroWest Economic Research Center (MERC)—staffed by devoted economics and business faculty members—guides student interns and provides vital research that influences decision making in 53 MetroWest communities.

Framingham State offers undergraduate business degrees in economics, business, and business and information technology. The singular business and information technology program prepares students for work as systems analysts, project managers and IT administrators. Students studying outside the business program have the option of minoring in business or economics.

Not only does the University have a diverse undergraduate program, but we also offer a rigorous MBA—available both part- and full-time—as well as both a master of arts degree and a graduate certificate in human resource management.

The following stories of four business students and alumni reveal why they feel hopeful. However, the factors that influence their success have been evolving for more than two decades.
When Mary Rogers, coordinator of the MBA program, arrived in 1988, the University had just added a business administration major with several concentrations. Rogers was hired to teach the new major’s capstone course.

Today, business administration has the highest enrollment of any major at Framingham State. “Business and economics enrollment has grown continuously,” says Rogers. A marketing and management concentration was added in the late 1990s, along with a business minor, which, she says, attracted candidates interested in a more creative approach to business. “It opened up more of a focus on teaching ‘people skills,’” says Rogers.

In 2007, the University launched its Master of Business Administration (MBA) program in response to student demand. The MBA was a rigorous new degree that offered high-level business skills and modeled strategic thinking. Rogers was part of the team that designed the program.

A native Brazilian and business administration major, Lima founded the Brazilian Business Club to help students practice their leadership skills and to connect with Framingham’s large Brazilian community.

The organization’s vice president, Vinicius De Souza, and its treasurer, Sandro Henrique, traveled to Minas Gerais and São Paulo, respectively, in order to establish a student exchange between Framingham State University and a Brazilian university.

This past spring, Lima, the club’s president, brought a capoeira company, the Dance and Fight Cultural Center, to campus to promote local business and Brazilian culture. “I want to apply my knowledge to do something positive in the community,” says Lima.
Laura Reed ’12 is reaping the benefits of the travel opportunities that the University offers.

Relocation-ready

Reed wants to work for a global company, and the University provides ample opportunities—through coursework and its marketing club—for travel. As a business administration major with a concentration in international business, Reed has visited China, France, Germany, Italy, Monaco, Russia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). She speaks Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, French and German. (Reed learned German at Framingham State University.)

In March, she traveled to Dubai and Abu Dhabi, UAE, with Dr. Sandra Rahman, chair of the Department of Economics and Business Administration, and Virginia Noon, assistant professor in the Department of Fashion Design and Retailing; the trio attended the Women as Global Leaders conference at Zayed University in Abu Dhabi. While Noon and Rahman presented papers, Reed earned a certificate in sustainable growth.

“The trips enable me to show potential employers I’m willing and able to relocate,” says Reed. For now, she applies what she has learned at the University to her job as manager of Dino’s Trattoria in Marlborough. Reed has used her marketing knowledge to expand the restaurant’s customer base and her linguistic acumen to interview kitchen staff.

Alumnus Andrew Chaves ’87 credits the invaluable skills he learned at FSU with launching his thriving insurance career.

Have skills, will transfer them

Chaves majored in economics with a concentration in business and a minor in writing.

“The University taught me transferable people, math and writing skills,” he says.

Upon graduating, Chaves worked a variety of part-time jobs; he eventually approached a recruiter who sent him to an insurance company, which sparked his interest in the profession.

Chaves works for a small startup unit within AmTrust’s Boston branch and feels fortunate to be working in the field. “Insurance is a massive industry; for some, it can be just a desk job. I’ve been able to get into a more exciting position starting a niche business,” says Chaves.

The department adds a unique Business and Information Technology major, which is overseen by an industry advisory board.

2005
Adding an M to her BA

Shronce found the perfect fit in the MBA program. It allowed her to work full time; its proximity to her home and employer meant she could spend more time in the classroom; and her undergraduate classes transferred in as core MBA classes. But Shronce especially appreciated being able to take just one class per semester. “I didn’t feel pressured to do an accelerated program, so I was able to really dive down into subjects,” she says.

MERC provided the training critical to attaining her current position. The organization offers economic research, develops students’ research skills and enhances the MetroWest community; its activities support the economic development goals of the state’s Board of Higher Education.

As a MERC research intern, Shronce learned to perform database research. The research led to a job with local insurance company Allied American, where she used her database skills to update the company’s customer service data. The insurance work led to an internship at J.F. White Contracting Co., a construction company. She began working at J.F. White part time. When she earned her undergraduate degree, J.F. White offered Shronce full-time employment. The alumnus now works as an executive safety assistant at the company. “Internships were critical for me,” says Shronce. “I was exposed to movers and shakers in the community, from local senators to state representatives.”

Now the MBA program that served Shronce so well—and the University’s economics and business administration programs—are poised for the next phase of their evolution. Last spring, the University launched an accreditation process with the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education (IACBE).

The next level

Michael Harrison, assistant professor in the Department of Economics and Business Administration, coordinates the effort.

The process entails several stages, from self-study, during which current syllabi and other materials are reviewed, to implementing IACBE recommendations. The University will implement the changes. Harrison then feels confident that the IACBE board will approve Framingham State University’s accreditation in 2014.

Ultimately, says Harrison, receiving accreditation will focus the University on continual process improvement. “Once accredited, we will need to continue to meet outcomes,” he says. “The whole point is to foster a culture of improvement, and make changes based on learning outcomes. It will ensure alignment throughout both the department and the University.”
Kevin Gosnell ’91
Co-Owner
T&K ASPHALT

Needing to earn some extra money to pay his way through Framingham State, Kevin Gosnell ’91 and his childhood friend Tony Heffernan began sealcoating driveways during the summer following his freshman year. Soon after, T&K Sealing was born.

“Starting the business while at Framingham State was huge, because I was able to immediately apply what I was learning in the classroom to the business,” says Gosnell, who majored in Economics. “I gained applicable skills in everything from marketing to basic accounting and economics.”

T&K Sealing has since become T&K Asphalt and has grown into one of the largest asphalt businesses in New England, with four locations in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island. Gosnell has about 260 employees and offers a wide range of services, including commercial paving, sealcoating, and landscape construction.

“I credit my education at Framingham State with helping me launch a successful business,” Gosnell says.

Kevin Foley ’84
Assistant Vice President,
Finance and General Accounting
TJX COMPANIES, INC.

Kevin Foley is living proof that you don’t have to move far away after graduating from Framingham State to find success at some of the biggest businesses in the world.

Foley is the assistant vice president of Finance and General Accounting at TJX Companies, Inc., which is headquartered in Framingham. The Fortune 500 Company is the leading off-price retailer of apparel and home fashions in the world and operates nearly 3,000 stores in six countries, including Marshalls and T.J. Maxx.

Foley began his business career working at Fidelity Investments. He has been with TJX for 24 years. FSU has benefited from Foley’s business acumen, as he volunteers his time to serve as president of the Framingham State University Foundation, Inc.

“I got a great education at Framingham State, so I’m more than happy to give back to the University,” he says.

Peggie Anderson ’64
Owner
THE PAPER STORE, INC.

Peggie Anderson ’64 graduated from Framingham State with a degree in Home Economics right around the same time her husband Bob opened the first Paper Store in 1964 in Maynard, MA. Originally a stationery store, The Paper Store has evolved into a diverse operation that includes everything from gifts and toys to fashion accessories and gourmet foods. There are more than 30 locations in New England. The family-owned business includes several high-level employees who graduated from Framingham State.

Anderson’s main role with the company prior to retiring was to develop the store’s gift component. She served as the main buyer for all new products. Anderson says her education at Framingham State helped her achieve success in the business world.

“The general education component at Framingham State has always been excellent,” Anderson says. “It helped me develop research and problem-solving skills, which are critical to running a business.”

Dana Neshe ’90
Executive Vice President
MIDDLESEX SAVINGS BANK

Dana Neshe credits her professors at Framingham State with building the confidence and skills required to excel in the business world.

“I remember being terrified about giving a presentation to my class, but my marketing professor took the time to really work with me at it,” says Neshe, an economics major. “Today, I love public speaking.”

Neshe is the executive vice president at Middlesex Savings Bank, which has 30 branches and more than 600 employees throughout MetroWest. She started at Middlesex Savings Bank in 1995 as an assistant compliance officer. As the bank grew in size, Neshe worked her way up through the ranks, eventually being put in charge of the entire retail branch network.

The highlight of Neshe’s time at Middlesex Savings Bank has been establishing and overseeing the Middlesex Savings Charitable Foundation, which donates thousands of dollars to local charities and non-profit organizations throughout the region.

“I’ve gotten to know and work with a lot of terrific community partners who are all doing amazing work,” Neshe says. “It’s really humbling to provide support to them in what they do.”
Mastering Business

WITH PROFESSOR MICHAEL HARRISON

Professor Michael Harrison recently began his fourth year teaching at Framingham State and has played a major role in the development of the University’s Master of Business Administration (MBA) program. He holds a Doctor of International Business from Southern New Hampshire University. This semester, Professor Harrison is teaching undergraduate courses in International Business and Marketing Research and a graduate course in Managing in a Global Environment.

Talk about your work in the private sector prior to coming to Framingham State.

I worked for Bose Corporation for four years and Fidelity Investments for seven years before coming to Framingham State. One of the nice things about working at an innovative small-to-midsize company like Bose is you don’t get pigeonholed in one department. I had a dual role as a program manager and training consultant to our sales executives. A highlight of my time there was having the opportunity to partner with NASA to send a team down to Cape Canaveral to spend a week engaged with the shuttle astronauts. I learned how an agency charged with doing things that have never been done before creates a vision and achieves success. The folks at Bose and the people at Framingham State recognize that to achieve continued success, you always need to be thinking about how you do business and how you can improve in the future.

Are there any business courses you’ve developed during your time here?

I recently launched a Sports Marketing class for undergraduates. I was a scholarship baseball player in college at Florida Atlantic, so I’ve always had a passion for athletics, and sports marketing is a multibillion-dollar industry that’s seeing phenomenal growth. As part of that course, I had the students select a Framingham State athletic team to market. The students were quite successful, particularly the group that marketed the hockey team. There has been a lack of awareness around the hockey team on campus over the years. The students created a hockey Facebook page, took advantage of word-of-mouth marketing and worked with SILD (Student Involvement and Leadership Development) to put up posters and create a chuck-a-puck halftime promotion for the final game. I’m told the hockey games have an average attendance of about 30 people, but around 300 showed up for the last game of the season, due in large part to the marketing efforts. I know the players and parents really appreciated that.

How does Framingham State’s MBA program compare to those of other schools?

I think our MBA stacks up well against most MBA programs. We are not Harvard or MIT, which have far greater resources, but we do have extremely well-qualified faculty and small class sizes. This allows us to customize the program to the interests of individual students. You’re not just a number here. I think we provide true value when you consider the personal attention and the cost. It’s about $14,000 for the entire MBA. You can find other great programs at some of the private schools in the region, but you’re going to pay upward of $40,000 or $50,000.

Have you enjoyed the transition to public higher education and the opportunity to work with students?

I really love working with students at Framingham State. At first, I wasn’t sure what to expect. I had experience training all levels of executives and front-line employees, but I wasn’t sure how it would translate. The vast majority of students are focused, hardworking and a delight to work with. Most of them are balancing their education with jobs and other responsibilities.
Senior Meghan Earle is a member of the Framingham State University Honors program, a peer mentor in the Center for Academic Support and Advising, and a Psychology major.

Counseling Her Classmates

THE CENTER FOR ACADEMIC SUPPORT AND ADVISING

How did you become involved with Framingham State’s Center for Academic Support and Advising (CASA)?

I started peer mentoring two years ago, and I’m currently an Academic Success Peer Tutor, which you have to apply for. I work one-on-one with students. It’s been an eye-opening experience to work with freshmen and sophomores who just need a little bit of extra help. They often start out really nervous, but eventually they open up and take control. Some of my students are part of PLUS (Program Leading to Undergraduate Success) and have been determined by the Office of Admissions as likely to require academic assistance. Others come voluntarily.

What sort of skills do you teach the students you tutor?

We go over things like time management, note-taking skills, and test-taking skills. I’ll review the papers and assignments they have for the week and help them manage their time to make sure they are staying on top of everything. We don’t just talk about different strategies; we actually put them into practice. It starts out very structured, but as things move along it becomes more tailored to each student’s particular needs. Plenty of students no longer need my help, which is great to see. A lot of schools don’t have an office like CASA, but I think it’s so important. Many students get nervous seeking out help from their professors. Having someone they can go to who is their peer and is on their level makes it easier for them.

What are your favorite aspects of FSU?

I love that it’s a very small campus with small class sizes, because I enjoy having close relationships with my professors. It’s also a very tightknit campus, which makes it easy to form a lot of close relationships. There are many ways to get involved on campus, for example. I’m a member of the Pride Alliance and the Hilltop Players. Next year, I will direct the annual performance of the Vagina Monologues. That will be an amazing experience—it already has made me so much more aware of myself and the women on campus. I also sing and play guitar in a band and am part of Psi Chi, the Psychology Honors Society.

What are your plans following graduation? Will you be able to draw upon your CASA experience?

I’d like to go to graduate school right away. With psychology, you really need a higher degree. Eventually, I would like to get into gender counseling. My experience as a tutor and mentor at CASA should be incredibly valuable. A big part of working one-on-one is being able to earn the trust of students and get them focused on their work. Sometimes, you have to talk them through an issue that might be distracting them. Working with students has greatly improved my ability to read people and build a relationship with them. Counseling, in general, is about building a bond of trust.
Honoring the Achievement at
Spring Commencement 2012

1,252 Graduates Join the FSU Alumni Association

CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2012

Thousands gathered at Framingham State University on a beautiful sunny day in spring to celebrate the Class of 2012. The theme for commencement was: “Food, Hunger and Nutrition.”

Undergraduate commencement speaker Catherine D’Amato, president and CEO of the Greater Boston Food Bank, encouraged the students to lead charitable lives.

“Do for others in whatever way fits you best,” said D’Amato, whose organization provides more than 31 million pounds of food each year to local pantries. “Give your time, give your money, give your talent. No gift is too small.”

The University conferred an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters upon D’Amato and Carolyn Mugar, executive director of Farm Aid, who accepted on behalf of the organization.

During the graduate ceremony, commencement speaker Dr. Patricia Luoto, director of FSU’s John C. Stalker Institute of Food and Nutrition, encouraged the students to develop their character, give back to others and never forget where they came from.

The University presented Citizen Laureate awards to Paul Mina, president and CPO of the United Way of Tri-County, and Katie Millett, executive director of the Office of Nutrition, Health and Safety Programs at the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

A SPECIAL PARTNERSHIP

United Way of Tri-County President and CPO Paul Mina accepts a Citizen Laureate Award during the Graduate Ceremony.
HONORED GUESTS
Honorary Degree recipients Catherine D’Amato, left, and Carolyn Mugar, center, share a laugh during the undergraduate ceremony.

Honoring the Young and Old
While commencement is about celebrating the next generation of highly educated young people who will drive the Massachusetts economy, the two loudest cheers of the day came in recognition of the accomplishments of two older members of the FSU community.

During the graduate ceremony, Ralph Pfeiffer, 90, received a standing ovation as he accepted a Master of Education in History. Pfeiffer also received a bachelor’s degree in Liberal Studies from Framingham State in 2006, at the age of 84.

The other deafening cheer of the day came during the undergraduate ceremony, when Framingham State President Timothy J. Flanagan presented a special service award to Edith Brown, who works as a cashier in Framingham State’s dining commons. This year, Brown celebrated her 25th anniversary working at Framingham State, as well as her 90th birthday.
Policy advisors for President Barack Obama recently hosted Framingham State President Timothy J. Flanagan and other public college and university presidents from around the country for a roundtable at the White House on the topics of college access, affordability and completion.

“This was a great opportunity for face-to-face dialogue between White House officials and leaders of America’s four-year public colleges and universities about critical issues of access, affordability and achievement,” President Flanagan said.

The presidents who participated are all members of the Council of State Representatives of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), a Washington-based association representing 420 public higher education institutions. As Massachusetts’ representative on the council, Dr. Flanagan works directly with the organization to develop its national policy agenda and helps keep the group informed about higher education policy issues.

“The 90-minute discussion was led by President Obama’s Senior Education Advisor Zakiya Smith; Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education Tony Miller; Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council Cecilia Muñoz; and Council of Economic Advisors Member Katharine Abraham.

“President Obama’s administration is currently exploring constructive solutions to holding down college costs and making higher education more affordable and attainable, while also increasing college completion rates for those who do attend. But this effort comes at a time when 30 to 60 percent of college freshmen require remediation, more college students require assistance with learning and psychological issues, and costs to upgrade technology and hire quality faculty continue to increase. Public schools across the country also are facing declining state tax dollar support, putting pressure on student fees to make up the shortfall.”

Focus of Discussion is on College Accessibility and Affordability.

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80 years of Living to the Truth

Celebrating Framingham State’s Independent Student Newspaper

Students, faculty and alumni gathered on campus in March to celebrate the 80th anniversary of The Gatepost, Framingham State’s independent student newspaper. Longtime Gatepost advisor and Framingham State English Professor Desmond McCarthy told the audience that the University’s motto, “Live to the Truth,” has served as the “inspirational touchstone” for the students who put together this weekly newspaper. For more than 20 years, Dr. McCarthy has guided countless generations of budding journalists, many of whom came back on the night of March 23 to honor his efforts, their own and those of the current staff.

“Your work,” he said, “and your voices have contributed to Framingham State being a better informed, more participatory, more engaged and more cohesive community.”

The Gatepost ran its first issue eight decades ago after Miriam (Jagodnik) Feldman ’34, the founder of the paper, created a prototype for a class project that she called The Hilltop News. After much lobbying on her part, the mock-up became a realized dream and went to print for the first time in the spring of 1932 with a new name—The Gatepost. Feldman, who passed away in 2011, held the paper close to her heart for the rest of her life. Her children, Ellen Straus and Roger Feldman, created a scholarship fund to honor their mother and her connection to the paper.

Alumna Lauren Byrnes ’11, former editor-in-chief of The Gatepost, says it is difficult to express how much her time spent working on the paper means to her. Byrnes reads the newest incarnation of The Gatepost when she is back on campus and is very proud of the current staff, including those who were there when she was in charge. “They have grown so much since they first joined The Gatepost,” she says, “and it’s good to know the newspaper I love so much is in good hands.”

The time spent and lessons learned from The Gatepost have served Byrnes well, even though she’s not currently in the field of journalism. For those current staff members who are looking to go right into the field—such as English major Samantha Rawson ’13—the reception was not just a celebration of their shared labor, but also a great opportunity to network and discuss future career paths. “Talking to all the alumni definitely soothed my nerves,” Rawson says. “A good deal of them have proven journalism isn’t dead quite yet.”

Chapter of National Honor Society Wins Prestigious Award for Service

Students in Framingham State’s local chapter of Phi Upsilon Omicron, the national honor society in Family and Consumer Sciences, were selected in the spring as the first-place recipients of the 2012 National Professional Project Award for service work they performed for a local food pantry.

The local FSU chapter, Beta Pi, completed a service project titled, “Engaging the Community: Polishing a Pearl!” during the course of the 2011–12 academic year. Members of the honor society worked with the Pearl Street Cupboard and Café, a new food pantry established in Framingham, MA.

Among the efforts undertaken by the students were creating 45 reusable fabric grocery bags, holding a food drive at a local Stop & Shop, collecting used and donated can openers and partnering with FSU Food Service Provider Sodexho and the campus community for a Donate-a-Meal fundraiser. The students also collected and made winter scarves, hats and gloves for the clothing rooms that will be opening at the pantry, and helped to create the floor plan for those rooms.

Students Present Results of Innovative Research Projects

Framingham State students and faculty mentors presented their research on dozens of fascinating topics from a wide range of disciplines during the 1st Annual Framingham State University Student Research Conference in May.

“Every year, a group of faculty takes students to UMass for the annual undergraduate conference,” said Dr. Bridgett Perry Galvin, former director of the Center for Excellence in Learning, Teaching, Scholarship and Service (CELTSS). “This year, we thought it would be great to showcase what research students are doing on our own campus. It resulted in something that I think everyone was extremely proud of:”

The various research work included abstracts, portfolio displays and poster presentations on topics from the arts to the hard sciences and everything in between.

Topics included “Race, Social Class and Crime in Springfield, MA,” which was studied by Liberal Arts major Sheri Spaulding, and “Perceptions of Academic Performance and Motivation in College Athletes,” which was explored by Psychology majors Alicen Murray and Erin Grafton.

Dr. Linda Vaden-Goad, vice president for Academic Affairs, said the work that the students put into their research represents a big step toward understanding how progress is made in their chosen field.

“You have taken a special initiative to understand something deeply, and you have worked by the side of your faculty who have spent their time sharing with you their academic fields and expertise,” Vaden-Goad said.

“I think it’s great to have a conference where students can show off their work”

The research conference was co-sponsored by CELTSS and the Office of Academic Affairs. Dr. Galvin helped coordinate the undergraduate portion of the conference, while History Professor Jon Huibregtse coordinated the graduate portion.

Cayla Allard ’12 researched “Changes in Diel Patterns of Birdsong in Response to Greater Amounts of Urban Noise.” Allard has submitted her project to the Animal Behavior Journal.

“I think it’s great to have a conference where students can show off their work,” says Allard. “Everyone here put a ton of time into these projects.”
Two major milestones in Framingham State’s efforts to Go Green occurred this past summer with the conversion of the power plant from number six fuel oil to natural gas and North Hall’s designation as LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold Certified. The power plant conversion is expected to reduce FSU’s carbon footprint by 30 percent.

“This was our number-one action point in our Climate Action Plan,” says Environmental Science Professor Carl Hakansson, who helped author the plan. “The 30 percent reduction in our carbon footprint is huge.”

North Hall, which opened in the fall of 2011, has several environmentally-friendly features, including ultrahigh-efficiency boilers, a geothermal heat pump system that helps heat the building in the winter and cool it in the summer, and a 20,000 gallon underground cistern that captures and diverts rainwater to irrigate the surrounding landscapes. LEED Gold Certification is the second highest certification awarded by the U.S. Green Building Council and acknowledges that the new residence hall meets some of the most stringent regulations for sustainable construction and healthy living environments.

The power plant conversion is part of a larger Energy Performance Contract (EPC) that includes various energy conservation measures ranging from campuswide light replacements to new heating, ventilation and cooling (HVAC) systems. The annual energy savings from all the EPC measures is expected to be around $800,000.

Framingham State’s efforts to Go Green are guided by the University’s Climate Action Plan, which was created with input from the student Green Team, the Facilities and Capital Planning department, the administration and the faculty.

“When we sought input from our students, faculty and staff on the design of North Hall, one thing everyone agreed upon is that it should be environmentally friendly,” Framingham State President Timothy J. Flanagan said. “With its designation as a Gold Certified LEED building, the entire FSU community can feel proud to have a facility that adheres to the highest standards for environmental sustainability.”

“The move is expected to reduce FSU’s carbon footprint by 30%”

A class of service-minded students awarded $5,000 in grants to two deserving nonprofit organizations during an end-of-semester ceremony in May for Framingham State’s new Philanthropy program, which was created in partnership with the Highland Street Foundation’s Youth Philanthropy Initiative.

The course was co-taught by Sociology Professor Ira Silver and Susan Nicholl, the chair of the MetroWest Nonprofit Network and executive director of the MetroWest Visitors’ Bureau.

“This course provided a tremendous learning opportunity for the students,” says Dr. Silver. “It familiarized them with one of the most crucial problems our society now faces—the growing economic opportunity divide—and illustrated why philanthropy does not adequately address this problem.”

The Highland Street Foundation, a private nonprofit organization that supports a wide range of charitable causes, provided $5,000 to be awarded to a nonprofit organization vetted by the students. During the ceremony, the class announced that it was splitting the $5,000 award between Families First, a parenting education group out of Cambridge, and the Resiliency for Life program at Framingham High School, which assists academically struggling students.
CELTSS Fosters Innovation in the Classroom

The Center for Excellence in Learning, Teaching, Scholarship and Service Continues to Grow and Expand Its Mission

Most professors agree that collaborating regularly with their colleagues is critical to remaining current in their field, developing best practices for classroom teaching and creating models for interdisciplinary learning.

With that in mind, Framingham State University established the Center for Excellence in Learning, Teaching, Scholarship and Service (CELTSS) in 2008 to support the professional development of faculty and staff. Dr. Robert Martin, former vice president of Academic Affairs, played a key role in getting CELTSS off the ground. Today, the center is a critical resource for faculty.

“The existence of CELTSS convinced me early on that the University takes faculty development seriously,” says English Professor Claudia Springer, who came to FSU two years ago and is currently the assistant director of CELTSS. “I think everyone feels very strongly that the center benefits not only the faculty, but also the students.”

CELTSS is guided by a steering committee made up of faculty and staff that is provided with an annual budget from the University. The center awards more than $100,000 in funding each year to support travel to conferences, research, guest speakers and a wide array of additional efforts. CELTSS also coordinates the Lyceum Lecture Series and Day in May, where every faculty member who received a grant shares how the money benefited their professional development and creative activity. This year, the center coordinated the first annual student research conference, which provided students an opportunity to showcase research they performed throughout the year.

Economics and Business Administration Professor Karen Druffel, who took over as director of the center this fall, says CELTSS is a continuation of efforts that were already taking place on campus prior to 2008 but were not centralized.

“When I arrived on campus nine years ago, there were semester-long teaching circles and social groups for new faculty where you could share ideas about research and pedagogy,” Druffel says. “The creation of CELTSS allowed us to bring all these efforts under one roof and greatly expand upon them. The annual funding provided to CELTSS reinforces the value the administration holds for these efforts, which means a lot to faculty and staff.”

“Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Linda Vaden-Goad says the faculty and staff involved with CELTSS have done an exceptional job strengthening Framingham State as a learning community over a short period of time.

“This is a strong faculty, and when they collaborate as they do in CELTSS, the entire community benefits,” Vaden-Goad says.

Druffel says her main goal moving forward is to expand the center’s role in the campus community by providing students with opportunities to share their thoughts on ways to improve learning in the classroom. She also hopes to work more closely with professors from the University’s sister institutions in Massachusetts and to harness the partnerships FSU has with international colleges in order to create additional opportunities for faculty exchanges.

“Every year, the center has grown and expanded its programming, which is a credit to our past directors and to the steering committee,” says Druffel.
Distinguished Faculty Awards for Excellence in Scholarship/Creative Activity, Teaching and Professional Service are awarded during Spring Commencement each year.

**FOR EXCELLENCE IN SCHOLARSHIP/CREATIVE ACTIVITY**

Professor Robert Johnson, Jr. has been a member of the Communication Arts department at Framingham State University since 1992, serving as chair for several years. He earned a Master of Fine Arts in Video from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

In 2011, Professor Johnson received a Fulbright Specialist Grant to teach in Rwanda and continues to work with the National University of Rwanda. He is one of five documentary film educators from around the country participating in the “Collaborative Documentary Project: Sexual Assault Grant” funded by the Wyncote Foundation. As part of this project, he will receive up to $15,000 toward the creation of a student-produced documentary that explores the subject of sexual assault and rape.

Recently, Professor Johnson has taken groups of students to the Cannes International Film Festival in France, where they have been able to network and gain exposure in their chosen fields.

**FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING**

Dr. Virginia Rutter has been a member of Framingham State’s Department of Sociology since 2006. She earned a Master of Sociology and a Doctor of Sociology from the University of Washington.

In the classroom, Dr. Rutter has “high expectations of students coupled with a patient and supportive teaching style,” according to colleagues. She regularly teaches six courses at FSU, including Introduction to Sociology, Sociology of the Family, Women in Society, Sociological Theory, Sociology of Childhood and Adolescence, and Sex/Sexualities in Society. Dr. Rutter also developed three of these courses. She has an innovative teaching style, regularly making use of technology such as Skype to allow her students to speak directly with the authors of their course material. Recognizing that significant learning takes place outside the classroom, she has played a leadership role in bringing interesting speakers and events to campus.

**FOR EXCELLENCE IN PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

Dr. Vandana Singh has been a member of Framingham State University’s Department of Physics and Earth Sciences since 2003. She earned a Master of Physics from Delhi University in India and a Doctor of Physics from Louisiana State University.

Dr. Singh was nominated for the Excellence in Professional Service Award for her commitment to the Framingham State Environmental Forum, which is an umbrella group that brings together students, faculty and staff interested in environmental efforts on campus. Dr. Singh serves as coordinator of the Forum, helping to organize several environmentally themed events on campus each year, which culminate in the annual Green Festival held in April around Earth Day.

She has developed and taught several courses at FSU, including Principles of Physics II, Modern Physics as well as Introductory Physics and Physical Science. In addition to teaching, Dr. Singh is also an internationally renowned science fiction and fantasy author, with more than a dozen short stories to her credit.
The Framingham State football team has enjoyed huge success the past three seasons, following several years of being stuck at the bottom of the standings in the New England Football Conference (NEFC). This fall, the team is led by Captain Joe Masucci ’13, who plays on the offensive line.

“It’s really cool to be a part of the resurgence of the program,” Masucci says. “When I first got here, we would always talk about how the last team with a winning record was way back in 1986.”

Things began to turn around for the football program in 2008, when the team finished 5-5. Following another 5-5 season in 2009, the team finished 9-2 in 2010, setting the school record for wins in a season. They followed that up with a 7-4 season in 2011 that saw them take home their first NEFC Bogan Division Title.

Masucci credits Coach Tom Kelley ’76 and his staff for turning things around by implementing an excellent recruiting process.

“I know my family is proud of the fact that I’ve been recognized more for my academic accomplishments than for my on-field accomplishments,” he says. “At the end of the day, when I go to look for a job, employers are not going to be interested in my football accomplishments. They’re going to be interested in how I performed in the classroom.”

Masucci is a Business Administration major with an interest in marketing. One of his assignments last year in Professor Michael Harrison’s Sports Marketing class was to promote and market one of the University’s sports teams. Not surprisingly, he chose the football team.

“That was a great experience, reaching out to the community and businesses and promoting the football team,” he says. “It really got me interested in pursuing marketing following graduation.”

Masucci expects big things from the football team this season. He’s excited about his new leadership role as captain.

“It’s a big honor,” Masucci says. “I know the younger players look up to the captains. It’s something I’m proud to accept.”
For the second year in a row, the tournament was held at picturesque Highfields Golf & Country Club in Grafton, MA, an 18-hole championship course. The weather conditions were perfect. The day began at 10 a.m. with every group of golfers teeing off from a different hole on the course. Following the round, everyone gathered back at the clubhouse for dinner, drinks and several auctions and raffles.

Major sponsors for the golf tournament this year included: Sodexo (Eagle sponsor); Pfeuffer Richardson Architects P.C. (Birdie sponsor); Commercial Construction Consulting, Inc. (Birdie sponsor); Brochu Bros., Inc. (Par sponsor) and T&K Asphalt Services (19th-hole sponsor).

The Winter Sports schedules are subject to change. For the most up-to-date information on FSU athletic schedules and standings, visit www.fsurasms.com.
Alumni Recognized for Achievements

The Alumni Achievement Awards are presented annually during Commencement and Reunion Weekend in May to recognize alumni for their accomplishments and contributions in both their careers and their communities.

Kathleen Roberts ’37
Distinguished Achievement Award

Kathleen Ryan Comisky Roberts grew up in Wellesley, MA, and spent summers in Dartmouth, MA. From the time she was in the third grade, she wanted to be a teacher. Roberts received a bachelor’s degree from Framingham State University in 1937 and a master’s degree from Boston University. Her teaching career spanned 47 years in the public schools of Dartmouth and Raynham, MA, and in Milton, VT. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Massachusetts Teachers Association’s Human and Civil Rights Award; the National Education Association-Retired Distinguished Service Award and Salem State University’s Friend of Education Award. In 2011, the Massachusetts Teachers Association created a new award in her name, the Creative Leadership Award.

Roberts believes strongly that people should give back to their community. After her retirement, she became an active volunteer in the Raynham Public Schools and several other community and civic organizations in Raynham, including serving as the co-chair of Raynham’s 275th anniversary celebration. In 1993, the Town of Raynham dedicated its annual report to her, and she was named “Raynham Citizen of the Year” in 2003.

 Susanne McIvor ’62, ’69G
Alumni Educator Award

Susanne McIvor served as a dedicated administrator within the Waltham, MA, public school system for most of her career. McIvor graduated from Framingham State in 1962 with a bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education, and in 1969 earned a master’s degree at FSU. She began her teaching career in Waltham at the Thomas Hill School in 1965. McIvor became the assistant principal at the Douglas MacArthur School in Waltham in 1969, where she introduced new programs and student activities. In 1981, McIvor was elected principal of the Ezra Fitch School in Waltham. During her tenure, she developed a unique Parent Center for the school community, started a self-sustaining afterschool program, and initiated magnet programs in technology and Spanish. She was named “Woman of the Year” in 1994 by the Greater Boston/Waltham Business and Professional Women’s Club.

McIvor led the effort to combine two school buildings in Waltham into the new Stanley School, which was named one of the 100 best schools in eastern Massachusetts within three years.
Dr. Irene Foster ’87, ’88G
ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

Dr. Irene Foster has been guiding and inspiring students in Framingham State’s Fashion Design and Retailing program for more than 20 years. She graduated from Framingham State in 1987 with a Bachelor of Science in Clothing and Textiles, concentrating in Clothing Design. She also earned a Master of Education in Home Economics from FSU in 1988.

Dr. Foster worked as an adjunct faculty member at three different colleges before accepting a temporary full-time position at Framingham State in 1990. During this time, she continued her education, earning a Master of Clothing and Human Behavior in 1994 and a Doctor of Education concentrating in Retail Management Education in 1996 at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She accomplished all this while working full-time.

Along with Dr. Judy Flynn, Dr. Foster co-authored Research Methods for the Fashion Industry, the first textbook written specifically for research in clothing and textiles. She has presented at many regional, national and international conferences.

Edward Carr, ’96, ’06G
ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

Edward Carr is the current administrator of the MetroWest Regional Transit Authority (MWRTA) and an alumnus of the Framingham State University undergraduate class of 1996. He also received a master’s degree in Public Administration from Framingham State in 2006.

Carr worked for the Commonwealth as the director of transit for 10 years. When he arrived in 2007, the MWRTA was serving just three communities. Since that time, he has transformed a fledgling organization into a critical transportation resource that serves residents and employees of 12 communities in the MetroWest area, including students at Framingham State University.

Working closely with seniors, Carr developed a network of critically needed transportation options for those unable to drive and brought together a group of local partners to equip buses with lifesaving defibrillators. Under Carr’s leadership, the MWRTA launched a shuttle for local veterans to access the VA Hospital in West Roxbury, Massachusetts.

He also has worked closely and collaboratively with Framingham State University to increase and improve transportation options for students, faculty and staff.

Alumni Achievement Awards were presented this year in three categories

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
The highest joint honor awarded by the University and the Alumni Association for outstanding generosity or service to the University; outstanding participation in community and civic affairs; and unusual achievement in one’s field of endeavor.

ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD
Awarded to an alumnus or alumna who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in his or her career and profession and whose work has contributed to the advancement of the community and its citizens.

ALUMNI EDUCATOR AWARD
Recognizes an individual who has made contributions in the field of education and is active in the community.

Call for Alumni Nominations
Alumni Achievement recipients are outstanding role models for Framingham State students today. Any person or group of persons may nominate an alumna or alumnus of the University for this recognition. The nomination form for the 2013 awards is available on the alumni Web site at www.framingham.edu/alumni.

The deadline for nominations is December 15, 2012.
Perfect weather greeted friends, families, alumni and graduates during a beautiful Commencement and Reunion Weekend in May. Festivities kicked off on Saturday, May 19, with the Alumni General Assembly and celebration of the Golden Anniversary Class of 1962. The all-alumni luncheon took place in the McCarthy Center, followed by student-guided tours of campus and other activities. Several alumni chose to stay in the area overnight and walk in the commencement ceremony held the following day.

Now is the time...

If your class is celebrating a special anniversary in 2013, or if you just want to get together with friends you haven’t seen in a long time, now is the time to contact the Alumni Relations Office to plan an event for Reunion 2013. We are happy to assist you in tracking down classmates and coordinating an event on campus. The Alumni Relations Office may be reached at 508-626-4687.
Regional Alumni Activities

The Office of Alumni Relations holds regional alumni events throughout the year. For information on upcoming events, call 508-626-4687 or visit www.framingham.edu/alumnievents.

BOSTON BRUINS GAME
FEB. 14, 2012
Steve Fiorentino, Jose Baraybar, Lisa (Walmsley) Slavin ’99, Caitlin Slavin ’02 and Kristen Fiorentino at the TD Banknorth Garden to see the Boston Bruins.

LOS ANGELES
MARCH 9, 2012
Natalie Mangini ’75 and Bernie Mangini catch up with other alumni at the reception at the Palm Restaurant in downtown Los Angeles.

NAPLES, FLORIDA
MARCH 11–14, 2012
Sue Donald, Jane (Brassil) Spillane ’68, Assistant Director of Alumni Relations Robert Walmsley ’01 and Markey (Keegan) Walsh ’69 pose during the St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Naples.

CAPE COD
JULY 27, 2012
Barbara Mullet ’60 and Marie Dooling ’62 were among several alumni who took part in the Sunset Dinner Cruise in Cape Cod.

TANGLEWOOD
AUGUST 12, 2012
Bob Nealon and Andrea Hallion ’75 enjoy a drink and conversation prior to the Boston Symphony Orchestra’s Tanglewood outdoor performance.

In Need of Your Support

As educational costs rise, and state support declines, the financial support of our alumni and friends is now more important than ever. Your gift to the Annual Fund directly supports student scholarships, making an FSU education a reality for every student. Help us keep Framingham State affordable and accessible by making your gift today.

There are three easy ways to give:

**ONLINE:**
Make your gift securely online at: www.framingham.edu/give

**BY PHONE:**
You can give with a credit card by calling: 508-626-4012

**BY MAIL:**
You can mail your check to:
Office of Development and Alumni Relations,
Framingham State University
100 State Street PO Box 9101
Framingham, MA 01701-9101
Of Special Note...

**CARRIE THURBER ’05: FROM BACHELOR’S DEGREE TO PHD**

More and more people are finding Framingham State University’s robust and affordable science programs to be the perfect stepping stone toward earning a PhD.

That is the case for Carrie Thurber ’05, who earned a doctorate in Plant Biology this fall at UMass Amherst. Thurber says that she was attracted to Framingham State because of its relatively small Biology program.

“I knew that I would get individual attention, which was important to me,” says Thurber.

“I think the faculty in the Biology program at Framingham State are excellent.”

She says that her education at FSU laid the groundwork for the specialized research she performed in her doctoral program. Thurber’s focus at UMass was on the evolution of crops and plant genetics. She is currently in a post-doctoral research position at the University of Illinois working with biofuel crops.

“My eventual goal is to get a full-time faculty position at a small college or university, similar to Framingham State,” Thurber says.

**’39 Rita C. Ormond** is still enjoying retirement on Cape Cod. Prior to retiring, Rita taught for many years. She is the proud mother of three boys and one girl.

**’45 Phyllis Hamilton Frechette** recently published a book called *Remembering Millington: A Village Swallowed Up By The Quabbin Reservoir*. The book shares the story of the beginning of the end of the village known as Millington, in the town of New Salem, MA, where Frechette grew up. The village is now completely underwater at the northern end of the Quabbin Reservoir. The book is available on Amazon.com.

**’51 Joan Carter Frey** continues to pursue her passion for art by creating, showing and teaching her work. She teaches special needs students of all ages as well as private artists. Joan has been married for 60 years to Dr. Robert Frey. The couple raised four children, and they have 11 grandchildren.

**’66 Arlene (Benlifer) Mindus** is co-author of the book *The Shaping of Thought*, which is a teacher’s guide to critical and creative thinking in response to literature. To review sample pages and purchase the book, visit www.spotlightlearning.com.

**’67 Marilyn (Tedeschi) Robertson** recently married Robert Robertson. The couple lives in Needham, MA.

**’74 Marie Caradonna** is program chair at WAGLY (West Suburban Alliance of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Questioning Youth and their Allies), a non-profit charitable organization committed to supporting the social, emotional and physical well-being of LGBTQ high school youth and allies in the MetroWest area by creating and sustaining social and educational programs through peer leadership and adult guidance.

**’75 Sara Lane ’75G** was recently hired as the new principal of Whitemore Elementary School in Waltham, MA. Lane has been a principal at several middle schools, and most recently was principal at an elementary school in Lunenburg, MA.

**’76 Dennis Ricci** is pleased to announce the publication of his novel, *Willy’s Ballgame*, a fun fictional read of Willy Mae Beal’s journey as she rises to become big league baseball’s first female phenom. Dennis is a writer, historian and political scientist living in Massachusetts and is married to FSU alumna Jane M. Mitchell ’76. A lifelong baseball aficionado and amateur sabremetrician, he is a diehard fan of the Boston Red Sox, Brooklyn Dodgers and Kansas City Monarchs. The book is available on Amazon.com.

**’78 Patrice (Quinn) MacNevin** recently earned a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree from the University of New Hampshire. Earlier this year, she was part of a team that took home first-place honors in the Graduate Comprehensive Category at the National Small Business Institute Conference Project of the Year Competition. Her team designed a three-year business profitability plan for the Dartmouth Skiway in Lyme, NH.

**’82 Julie Siler Olander** was recently the featured artist at the Hirdie Girdie Gallery in Sanibel Island, FL. Julie reveals her love of the beach and all its treasures in her work. Paintings are in acrylic oil, watercolor and mixed media.

**’89 Alenda (Nizzari) Calderbank** recently started a new position as senior business intelligence developer at ESPN in Bristol, CT. She has also been involved with Toastmasters, serving as division governor under District 53.
'90 Dan Dowd recently completed several paintings that are featured in the William Wegman exhibition on display at the Bowdoin College Museum of Art. In addition to contributing artwork, Dowd serves as a security officer at the college’s museum.

'92 Elaine (Spurling) Alden ’92 ’96G is currently a volunteer for the Cocker Spaniel Rescue of New England annual auction. The group is one of the oldest and largest cocker rescue groups in the country, and is composed of many volunteers throughout New England dedicated to rescuing and placing homeless cocker spaniels.

'93 Cheryl Freier recently published a book, The Grayling—Hidden Truths: Poems by Martin Freier. It is a historical fiction novel set during World War II. The book is one in a series of four, which tells the complete life story and accomplishments of Cheryl’s husband Martin Freier, who survived the war. It is available on Amazon.com.

Lee Ann (Landers) Lewis and her husband of 12 years Chris Lewis recently welcomed their third child, Calvin Anders Lewis, who was born on February 21, 2012. Their son Graham is 10 years old and their daughter Bethany is seven. The family lives in Concord, NH.

'95 Kathleen Williams ’95G was recently hired as the director of marketing and communications at Keene State College in New Hampshire. Kathleen brings 20 years of experience in the field of marketing and strategic communications, most recently from New England College where she was the director of public information for the past seven years.

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Overseeing the Quality of a Vast Quantity of Food

When people think of food pantries, they often picture piles of canned food and other nonperishable items that can sit on shelves for months at a time and require little in the way of health inspection. But the world of food banking has changed over the years. In fact, the Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB) anticipates distributing more than 8 million pounds of fresh produce this year alone, which requires careful controls over the handling and storage of the food.

Enter Framingham State alumna Kendra Bird ’06. As director of nutrition for the Greater Boston Food Bank, Bird is responsible for overseeing the safety, quality and healthfulness of nearly 40 million pounds of food that pass through the facility annually.

“We have a great food acquisition team that brings in the food,” says Bird, who earned a bachelor’s degree in Food and Nutrition at FSU. “Once the food gets here, I’m responsible for overseeing how our staff handles it, where it’s stored and ensuring it gets to clients in time to be consumed while it’s still high quality.”

In addition to overseeing the safety of the food, Bird analyzes all the products that come through the door and ranks them on a scale of 1 to 3, with 1 representing the most healthful options and 3 representing the least healthful. This allows the food bank’s clients—which consist of 549 hunger-relief agencies throughout the region—to make educated decisions about nutrition when they distribute the food.

“Some of our clients only want products that rank the most healthful, because they put a strong emphasis on nutrition,” she says. Bird says she realized during her field experience at FSU that she wanted to become a community nutritionist. She was hired by GBFB in 2009, after working for three years as a nutritionist with the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). Bird’s current role provides her an opportunity to hire interns from Framingham State and pass on her knowledge and professional experience.

“I look at it as a natural part of a dietitian’s role to accept students and facilitate the continuing growth of our field,” she says. “I’ve had great success bringing Framingham State students here. They are very prepared and eager to learn.”

Bird also stays active in the community by overseeing nutrition classes for the Kids Cafe, a partnership between GBFB and local Boys & Girls Clubs, which educates kids about nutrition and provides them with meals five nights a week.

“One of the best aspects of this job is that it’s high impact and allows me to get out in the community,” Bird says. “I’m not just sitting behind a desk. No two days here are the same.”

Kendra Bird ’06
Debut Novel *Unforeseen*
Hit Bookshelves in April

Fantasy author Lauren Grimley ’05G says she rediscovered her passion for writing while earning her master’s degree in Language and Literacy at Framingham State.

Her debut novel, *Unforeseen*, a thrilling urban fantasy about a young heroine named Alex Crocker, hit bookshelves earlier this year. Grimley says she’s enjoyed writing for as long as she can remember, but the idea of publishing a novel never even occurred to her after she graduated from Boston University in 2002 with a bachelor’s degree in English Education. She quickly took a job as a middle school English teacher in Southborough, MA. The next year, Grimley entered the Language and Literacy Program at FSU. She says the program not only helped her become a better teacher, but also rekindled her passion for writing.

“As a reading and writing teacher, I wouldn’t be where I am now if not for that program,” says Grimley, who still teaches Language Arts and Reading in Southborough. “The methods courses also sparked my love of writing. I started really focusing on writing again after graduating.”

In 2010, Grimley came up with the idea for a fantasy novel about a heroine who possesses a special gift that gets her mixed up in a world of vampires. The result is *Unforeseen*, which was published by Malachite Quills Publishing. Nowadays when people hear vampire fantasy, they immediately think of the Twilight series. But Grimley says her writing style is more similar to Charlaine Harris, author of The Southern Vampire Mysteries series. She also credits the Harry Potter novels with turning her on to the fantasy genre.

Grimley says she shares some similar traits with Alex Crocker, her 26-year-old protagonist.

“Like me, she’s a teacher, which made it easier to include some realistic details, because I could draw on my own experiences,” Grimley says. “But our personalities are not the same. She’s a little more brash than I am. I wanted a really strong character, not a damsel in distress.”

Grimley says she enjoyed coming up with her own take on vampire mythology and creating the backstories of her characters. She has already written a follow-up novel, *Unveiled*, which is due out early next year.

Grimley’s books may be purchased at Barnes & Noble or online at amazon.com. Her website is www.laurengrimley.com.

Lauren Grimley ’05G
Capt. Michael Gagnon of the United States Marine Corps. was recently a guest of State Sen. Richard T. Moore, D-Uxbridge, at the Massachusetts State House. Capt. Gagnon received the invitation after returning home from his third deployment to Afghanistan, where he led a team of about 20 men in the construction of a helicopter-landing zone for special operations.

Christina Bonnevie married Ari Goldschneider on September 17, 2011, at Ballymeade Country Club in Falmouth. Bonnevie is employed as a childcare provider.

Tanya Fortini is engaged to Robert Billings. Fortini is currently employed by Town & Country Legal Associates in Natick, MA.

Caitlin Meagher recently gave a presentation at Rochester Memorial School on how hormones work inside the body, the effects of sleep deprivation and nutrition’s role in learning. Since September 2011, Meagher has served as food service director for the Old Rochester Regional School District, Mattapoisett, MA. She has been working on providing better nutrition in the schools.

Amanda Lefebvre recently accepted a new job as an admissions representative at the American Career Institute.

Dorothy Burns ’30 — April 27, 2012
Eleanor (Mayo) Fletcher ’37 — May 1, 2009
Frances (Halpin) Sherman ’37 — May 17, 2008
Paula (Ahtio) Smith ’39, ’72G — April 9, 2012
Barbara (Gurney) Ryan ’43 — April 26, 2011
Ruby (Haffer) Finger ’44 — April 16, 2012
Margaret (Cassidy) Manship ’44 — Feb. 13, 2012
Phyllis (Beach) Bain ’45 — Jan. 22, 2012
Solange Sullivan ’48 — Feb. 28, 2012
Eleanor (Craig) Landry ’51 — April 10, 2012
Christina (Bugbee) Nelson ’62 — Oct. 28, 2011
Mildred (Freedman) Freeman ’64 — July 12, 2011
Paul Linscott Jr. ’64G — June 17, 2010
Nancy (Thoren) MacDonald ’65 — June 4, 2012
Nancy J. Heron ’67 — March 29, 2012
Paula Draper ’68 — April 30, 2012
Patrick G. Aja ’72 — Jan. 1, 2010
Thomas E. Desilets ’74 — April 15, 2012
Margaret (Cook) Tristan ’76G — April 14, 2012
William H. Watson ’76 — May 18, 2012
Paula (Rogers) Henry ’77 — March 2, 2012
Mary T. Friel ’78 — April 20, 2012
Barbara P. Mitchell ’80, ’82G — May 2, 2007
Janine Sullivan ’83 — March 18, 2012
Steven D. Waugh ’84 — April 18, 2012
Lynn (Chernicky) Schimp ’87 — June 2, 2012
Alanna (Masterson) DeMella ’07 — March 18, 2012

Class Notes Submissions

Are you getting married or starting a new job? Do you have a new bundle of joy or did you publish your work?

Share your news and photos with the University and fellow alumni. Each class note should include your full name and year of graduation from Framingham State.

Submit your class notes to publications@framingham.edu

Class notes can also be faxed to 508-626-4036
Questions? Call us at 508-626-4012

MICHAEL FREDETTE ’00 – SUCCESS AT HOME AND ABROAD

Just a dozen years into his teaching career, Michael Fredette has already experienced more than many people do over the course of their entire career.

A semester spent abroad in Australia sparked Fredette’s interest in teaching internationally and played a role in his decision to accept a teaching position in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, shortly after he graduated from Framingham State in 2000.

“It was the best decision I ever made,” says Fredette, who remained in the country for five years. “I came back fluent in Spanish. I have Bolivian friends who remain a part of my life, and my wife is Bolivian. We have two children.”

He returned to the United States with the desire to become an elementary school principal. After earning his master’s degree at UMass Amherst, Fredette was hired as principal at New Hingham Elementary School in Chesterfield, MA, where he spent five years. This summer, he took his next major career step, accepting the principal position at Mapleshade Elementary School in East Longmeadow, MA.

“This position is definitely a professional growth opportunity for me,” he says. “The school is larger, and I see it as a tremendous opportunity and challenge.”

Fredette says he has no regrets about his career path or his decision to attend Framingham State.

“The Education department at Framingham State is excellent,” Fredette says. “When I’m hiring, seeing Framingham State on the résumé makes a person stand out, and it’s not because I’m an alum. The University has an excellent reputation.”
New Staff Members in the Office of Development and Alumni Relations

Framingham State University is pleased to announce the hiring of Margot Early as director of Annual Giving and Erin Ryder as campaign director in the Office of Development and Alumni Relations.

Early has more than 15 years of experience working in higher education, including 10 years working within development offices. She comes to Framingham State from The Johns Hopkins University, where she had been serving as associate director of Development, in the Office of Annual Giving since 2008. In that role, she managed the fundraising and engagement activities for alumni and reunion programs.

Ryder comes to FSU from the St. Francis House, where as senior philanthropy officer she was central to the organization’s recently completed $15 million campaign. Prior to that, Ryder was the director of Development at The Second Step, a non-profit organization that assists adult and child survivors of Domestic Violence.

“We are thrilled to have Margot and Erin onboard with us,” says Eric Gustafson, executive director of Advancement and Alumni Relations at FSU. “They both bring a broad range of knowledge and experience to their respective positions. We expect them to be valuable additions to our team as we continue to grow our fundraising efforts.”

FSU Receives $1.68 Million Grant to Improve Instruction for English Language Learners

Framingham State has been awarded a $1.68 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education that will solidify the University’s position as a statewide leader in developing master’s level teachers who are highly qualified to support ELL (English Language Learners) populations.

The University applied for the five-year grant through the National Professional Development Program (NPDP), in partnership with Wachusett Regional School District, Cambridge Public Schools and Marlboro Public Schools.

“It should go a long way toward improving instruction for this growing segment of students.”

The grant money will be used to pay tuition for 40 teachers to earn their master’s degrees in Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) at Framingham State University. The money also will be used to provide professional development to a minimum of 300 teachers from the partner school districts. Framingham State will work with these school districts to establish a cross-district collaborative Advisory Council as well as a data collection method to allow the University to track the progress of the program participants for up to three years after the program is completed.

The grant was submitted by Dr. Marguerite Mahler, coordinator and advisor to Framingham State’s master’s degree TESL program, in collaboration with Kelley Gangi, curriculum supervisor at Wachusett Regional School District.

“This grant should expand graduate program enrollment by establishing the University as the statewide leader in developing teachers who are highly qualified in supporting the English Language Learner population,” Dr. Mahler says.

She believes that it’s critical for the state to improve instruction for ELL students in order to close the achievement gap and increase graduation rates among that group. Nearly 10 percent of all students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade have limited proficiency in English, according to a study by the U.S. Department of Education. The work to improve qualifications of ELL-certified teachers has been slow, as professional development is not always accessible to teachers in all school districts.

“This grant comes at a critical time for the state,” Mahler says. “It should go a long way toward improving instruction for this growing segment of students.”
Alumni Association Creates a Lasting Legacy with New Scholarship

The Framingham State Alumni Association Board of Directors has created a new student scholarship fund that they hope will serve as a call-to-action for alumni who cherished their time at the University.

“I think that supporting this scholarship is a wonderful way to remember where you came from and help those who are here today,” says Susan Alessandri ’91, chair of the new Alumni Association Board of Directors Scholarship Committee.

Having the Alumni Association take ownership of a scholarship is unprecedented at Framingham State, according to Peter Salenius ’90, a current member and former president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

“We believe that this is an opportunity to create a lasting legacy,” Salenius says. “This scholarship is something future boards will be able to carry on and hopefully grow.”

The Alumni Association Board of Directors is a diverse group of volunteers charged with supporting alumni engagement and promoting the University. The association’s president, Ralph Eddy ’96, says he believes that it is important for the group to lead by example when it comes to giving back to the University.

“Every member of the Alumni Association board has pledged to support this scholarship,” says Eddy. “We think it sends a notable message about our overall commitment to the University.”

The endowed scholarship will go to a student in good academic standing who has completed at least four semesters at Framingham State and who has demonstrated a high level of engagement in the FSU community.

“It’s pretty broad in terms of the type of student, but it was important to all of us that the student be actively involved in the campus community,” Alessandri says. “We’re hoping to help out students who will go on to be active alums following graduation.”

The first scholarship will be awarded this academic year.

“My hope is that anyone who cherished their time at Framingham State will give, but especially those who haven’t given in the past and might see this as an opportunity to get involved now,” Salenius says. “Collectively, alumni can have a huge impact on the University and its students.”

Anyone interested in making a gift to the Alumni Association Scholarship Fund may call the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at 508-626-4012. To make a gift online, visit www.framingham.edu/give.
**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Children's Literature Festival**
**THURSDAY, NOV. 1, 2012 | 3 P.M.**
This year’s Children’s Literature Festival at Framingham State University features renowned artist Jerry Pinkney and award-winning author Joyce Sidman. The event includes book signings, lectures and workshops about the latest developments in the craft.

**New York City Alumni Sightseeing and Shopping Trip**
**SATURDAY, DEC. 1, 2012**
Departs Framingham State University at 7 a.m. sharp. Return trip leaves from Bryant Park, NYC, at 6:30 p.m. $60 per person; includes luxury motor coach transportation, a New York City survival kit and a $10 contribution to the FSU annual fund.

**Alumni Holiday Ticket Sales for 2013 Boston Bruins**
**THURSDAY, DEC. 20, 2012 ONLY | BEGINNING AT 10 A.M.**
See the Boston Bruins with a group of Framingham State alumni. Each game includes a pre-game reception in the Garden. Tickets are sold by phone ONLY and they go fast, so call early and often! 508-626-4687

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Winter Commencement**
**SATURDAY, FEB. 2, 2013**
The University will hold its annual Winter Commencement ceremonies for undergraduate and graduate students finishing their degrees in the summer, fall and winter. Alumni are encouraged to join the celebration!

**Alumni Activities in Florida**
**MARCH 16–19, 2013**
Join alumni for activities throughout Florida. More details to come.

**Commencement and Alumni Reunion Weekend**
**MAY 18 & 19, 2013**
The Framingham State University Alumni Association is hosting several fun-filled events for you and your classmates on campus. It’s the perfect opportunity to catch up with old friends, make new ones and learn about some of the exciting changes taking place at your alma mater.

For more information or to register for alumni events, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 508-626-4012 or alumni@framingham.edu.

Purchase tickets for certain events online at [www.framingham.edu/alumnievents](http://www.framingham.edu/alumnievents)

Visit our fan page at [www.facebook.com/framinghamstatealumni](http://www.facebook.com/framinghamstatealumni)