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COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH

FACULTY AND STUDENTS AT FRAMINGHAM STATE ARE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN PRODUCING KNOWLEDGE

WINTER COMMENCEMENT 2011
Students receive the first degrees featuring the school's new "University" status

REMEMBERING CHRISTA
Students and faculty commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Challenger Explosion

LIVING UNITED
Framingham State has established a strategic partnership with the United Way of Tri-County
THE POWER OF COLLABORATION

A key attribute of great teachers is the ability to bring out the best in their students. That gift enables great teachers to extract more from students than they thought possible. One of the most powerful ways of inspiring students is through close mentorship, leading by example and involvement in scholarly inquiry. This assumes that the teacher is an active scholar and is capable of “drawing...students into his own work of inquiry. The student’s relation to his teacher necessarily becomes that of an apprentice to his master, rather than that of a pupil to his schoolmaster.” This description, by American economist and sociologist Thorstein Veblen (1857–1929), captures the dynamic nature of faculty-student collaboration. A small, personal university with a strong commitment to undergraduate education provides many opportunities for students to be “drawn into” the scholarly work of faculty—and the rewards for both students and faculty are significant.

This issue of FSU Magazine highlights the many forms that faculty-student collaboration takes at Framingham State University. From economic data analysis undertaken by student interns at FSU’s MetroWest Economic Research Center to student involvement in social science research with faculty members in Sociology and Psychology to the yearlong independent research program in Biological Sciences that culminates in the department’s annual Undergraduate Research Conference, students work side by side with faculty on significant research questions and learn by doing real-world scholarship. Students routinely report that these interactions are transformative, opening doors to ambitious career goals and elevated professional aspirations. For faculty, research collaboration with students is personally energizing and professionally rewarding—a genuine opportunity to witness how students grow and mature. Years later, alumni frequently mention these mentorship experiences as critically important elements of their undergraduate academic experience.

It is a pleasure to share these stories about the outstanding collaborative work taking place at Framingham State University. They reveal the deep commitment of our faculty to student success, as well as the zeal of our students to Discover, Achieve and Succeed.

Best wishes,

Timothy J. Flanagan, PhD
President
Collaborative research involves faculty and students working side-by-side collecting data and solving puzzles in an effort to uncover useful information, either by design or by accident. Contrary to popular belief, this level of research is not the sole domain of large universities. In fact, Framingham State University faculty and students have long been actively involved in producing knowledge.
Behind the Numbers
For 20 years, FSU has been home to the MetroWest Economic Research Center (MERC), “a collaborative research program developing comprehensive profiles of substate economies,” explains Professor of Economics and Business Administration Maureen Dunne. “We have seven or eight faculty looking at cost of living, housing and census data, as well as employment and labor force statistics. Every year, we have 12 intern positions assigned to participating faculty members. It’s a great professional experience for them. They collect and analyze data, then learn how to write about and present in a way that’s understandable and useful.”

Intern Jonathan Murphy ’14, for example, has spent the past two years analyzing employment and labor statistics for regions around the state, including the MetroWest, South Shore and Ipswich Corridor. “One of the best things is that what we’re working on is being used,” he says. “MERC brings life to what you learn in the classroom. You can actually see the impact of these numbers. People—journalists, business-people, politicians—are calling all the time for reports.”

In fact, Murphy put his knowledge to good use in co-presenting a research poster comparing the economies of the South Shore and MetroWest at the National Association of Business Economists (NABE) in Washington, D.C. “The networking opportunities are unparalleled,” he adds. “In addition to NABE, I’ve presented at the MetroWest Chamber of Commerce and the New England Economic Partnership. I’ve had the chance to meet local CEOs and the governor of Vermont.”

Family Matters
FSU’s impact is felt outside the region as well. Associate Professor of Sociology Virginia Rutter has used her membership on the board of the national Council on Contemporary Families (CCF) to involve FSU students in far-reaching research. “CCF is an elite group of more than 200 professionals—psychologists, historians, sociologists and sociologists—who work with families,” Rutter explains.

“The CCF’s goal is to develop an interdisciplinary understanding of families and to inform public discourse on family diversity. We produce 12 briefing reports annually, and last year they generated approximately 60 unique hits,” she says, citing publications such as the New York Times, USA Today and the Wall Street Journal.

Colleen Poulin ’13 has spent the past year working with Rutter on a study of interracial dating (IRD). “We found, for example, that IRD is more than black-white couples, and that socio-economic status has little to do with the relationships,” she notes. “And interestingly, although there are more inter-racial couples in dating relationships than there have been in the past, fewer of them are marrying.”

Poulin reports that she’s taken much from the experience, both personally and academically.

Poulin and Rutter have composed a CCF briefing paper on IRD that came out in March and are collaborating on an academic paper for submission to a scholarly journal. In February, Poulin presented her research at “How Free is Love? Interracial Dating at FSU,” a campus-wide panel on interracial dating.

Poulin reports that she’s taken much from the experience, both personally and academically. “Working with Professor Rutter one-on-one is much different than the typical student—teacher relationship. We’re collaborators, working toward a common goal. It’s made me challenge myself in a way that the classroom just doesn’t,” she says.

Inspiring Minds
The hard sciences have long recognized the value of research in a student’s education. Last December, a senior biology major presented the results of his capstone research projects at the annual research conference held on campus. “Every one of our graduates does independent research,” says Professor of Biology and Department Chair Margaret Carroll. “It’s an extensive process planned over two courses. In Research Methods 1, students develop a research idea and then find a faculty mentor with whom they can work. In Methods 2, students actually do the research and then write it up to present at the conference. Our goal is for students to understand the scientific process from beginning to end. Majors graduate with familiarity of both laboratory and field skills as well as written and oral communication skills.”

That experience was critical for Kimberly Keith ’07, now a research assistant in a cardiology laboratory at Boston’s Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. This past November she co-authored a paper presented at the Scientific Sessions of the American Heart Association meetings in Chicago, outlining the discovery of a mechanism for LIONPARK syndrome, a rare, but fatal heart condition.

“It’s difficult to take a year’s worth of data and boil it down into a meaningful 10-minute presentation,” Keith says. “Luckily, I had the experience of doing that with my senior research project, so I felt very prepared to do it.” Both her undergraduate and professional experiences have inspired her to continue her education: Keith is now applying for doctoral programs in molecular biology.

Making Waves
Keith isn’t the only one who discovered her calling in FSU’s laboratories. Brittany Richardson ’12 has been working with Associate Professor of Psychology Dawn Vreven for the past six months on a project involving evoked response potential (ERP).

“The ERP technique uses a non-invasive technology to find out how the brain responds to particular stimuli,” explains Vreven. She trained Richardson and another undergraduate how to administer the test—which involves placing a cap with embedded electrodes on a subject’s head and connecting the electrodes to a computer. Last year, they recorded 300 waves, tiny electrical signals associated with attention, in students who had a diagnosis of Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (AD/HD) and in those without AD/HD to determine if there were any differences in brain response patterns when performing a repetitive task.

“This has really shown me how one topic can spark another piece of research,” Richardson says. “My hope is that this will make my application—pictures of themselves, pictures of celebrities and pictures of random people—to chart differences in their ERP response. “My hypothesis is that the pictures of themselves will have the highest ERP amplitude because they have emotional significance,” she says. “This is the first time I have seen a positive ERP response.”

The ERP project inspired Richardson’s senior thesis research: She’s examining the Pygo brain wave as it relates to lying. “The research is contradictory,” she explains. “Some studies say there’s a larger Pygo amplitude when subjects are being deceitful, and there’s talk of using the scan in law enforcement. So they’re looking at a picture of a murderer, and supposedly the one who committed the murder would have a larger Pygo wave. But the larger wave could be because the person recognizes the murder weapon—not because they committed the crime.” She notes. Richardson is designing an experiment to show volunteers different pictures to see how they respond—pictures of themselves, pictures of celebrities and pictures of random people—to chart differences in their Pygo response. “My hypothesis is that the pictures of themselves will have the highest Pygo amplitude because they have emotional significance.”

This is the first time I have seen a positive ERP response. Richardson is grateful to Vreven and FSU for the hands-on experience. “I think that’s one of the benefits of a smaller school,” she concludes. “You’re able to develop those relationships with faculty and make those connections that just wouldn’t have happened at a larger school.”
Keith McNally '11 is a Sociology Major with minors in History, Music and Psychology.

Keith works as a Resident Assistant and Security Desk Attendant at Framingham State University. He also works in Undergraduate Admissions as a Student Admissions Representative, is the treasurer of FSU's 10% Alliance & Allies (Gay Straight Alliance), and is the vice president for the school’s Women’s Empowerment group.

What collaborative research project are you working on with Dr. Virginia Rutter?

My project is for the Council on Contemporary Families (CCF), a dedicated nonprofit family group of leading family scholars that produces research-based information, which it shares with the general public. For this project, I collect and review family-diversity related media hits either by CCF scholars or where a CCF scholar is quoted. I then summarize each media hit using categorical and qualitative means (for example, was this media hit from a newspaper or a blog?). This data is used by CCF to review how their media program is doing as well as for fundraising purposes. It is fantastic because I not only get to help out a national nonprofit organization, but I also get to see my work presented at their annual conference. Last year, I had the privilege of attending the CCF Annual Conference at August College in Illinois.

What has this experience been like?

This experience has been invaluable. Just getting to work on a project where I am reviewing pieces of data that contain some of my favorite scholars’ works is incredible. I have also enjoyed this experience because I get to see the project from its humble beginnings in a spreadsheet to the finished product when the annual media report is being presented on a screen at the national conference. Finally, I get to review the annual media report with the CCF Board of Directors. It is truly a means-to-an-end experience, and I hope to have the opportunity to attend this year’s conference as well.

How has it prepared you for the future?

It has enhanced my knowledge of data collection and interpretation. Also, it has shown me how to create professional documents like memoranda that are eventually used by the CCF for their media project, general searches and fundraising. This endeavor has also given me considerable knowledge on how to best market your research and get it in the hands of leading journalists for publication.

What are your post-graduation plans or goals, and how do you think FSU has prepared you to achieve these?

Upon graduating from FSU, my current plan is to attend graduate school for higher education student affairs. My ultimate goal would be to work in student disability services and conduct research there. FSU has given me the tools to succeed in this field, while my residence life and admissions positions have provided the real-world applications that I can use in future positions in the field. My academic and research experience with Dr. Rutter has given me the research skills needed to work at a graduate level. As a result, I will be able to successfully apply the theories and concepts that I have learned in my future studies.

Do you ever have your entire class do a project for an alumnae-owned car wash in the Greater Boston area? How has this experience been?

The project was to create a multi-language instructional video on how to complete various operations in the car wash. Students teams produced different pieces of the video, starting with creating a script, shooting on location, recording voiceover tracks, and editing the final piece. Instructional videos are multi-part projects in which everyone can be involved, so they work really well for engaging an entire class.

Learning Through Experience

Professor Robert Johnson Jr. is the chair of the Communication Arts Department.

In addition to teaching undergraduates, Professor Johnson is a mentor and connection to the University for alumni. Why is it important that students participate in internships?

There are many reasons why internships are important for students. They gain on-the-job experience, which gives them a competitive advantage in job placement, something that is critical in this economic environment. They also get to apply those time management skills that are innate to the college experience, learning to effectively meet the needs of multiple people while also dealing with a bureaucracy. Finally, the experience also improves their acceptability should they apply to graduate school. In the Communication Arts Department, we have three concentrations that require internships for students. We’ve seen students who have had those experiences become more engaged and excited about what they are learning.

How do you stay involved in your field?

I have been producing instructional and documentary videos for almost 30 years now. For a period of time, I served on the board of directors for the Council on International Non-Theatrical Events and continue to chair jury panels for its film competition. I invite Communication Arts alumni to serve as jurors, and we have a great deal of fun doing that. I am an elected officer of the University Film and Video Association and served for eight years as chair of its student film grants office. In the past year, I mentored Kevin Tierney ’09 at the Cannes International Film Festival and Market. Currently, we’re organizing an internship with students who have reactivated the TV Club. We’re also working with the Office of University Advancement to find ways to help fund this opportunity on an ongoing basis.

“Learning how to study and teach yourself new skills, manage your time and complete an internship will give you a competitive advantage in the future.”

How can alumni stay connected with the University and students today?

We try to stay in touch with alumni in a number of ways, including through Facebook, as well as inviting them to campus as speakers and when they have opportunities for our students. Recently, Peter Zawadski ’87 contacted me to see if we would be interested in collaborating with Brookline Access Television to produce a behind-the-scenes documentary on the making of the opera “Madame White Snake.” In a nice role reversal, Peter served as the executive producer and I served as the director. Students from my Field Production II class went to the rehearsal studios in Boston and took turns with different aspects of creating the video documentary. They all received name recognition in the opera program and will be credited in the documentary once it’s completed. The opera premiered in China at the Beijing Music Festival this past October.
The first diplomas featuring Framingham State’s new status as a university were conferred during two beautiful ceremonies inside the Dwight Hall Performing Arts Center in February.

President Timothy J. Flanagan honored alumna Kathleen (Ryan) Roberts ’37 by presenting her with the first undergraduate degree. Commencement speaker and Professor Emeritus Alan Feldman, former chair of the FSU English Department, told the graduates to relish the moment because there is great value in seeing a difficult challenge through to the end.

Massachusetts Secretary of Education Paul Reville gave the commencement address to the graduate students, urging them to stay focused, seek broad experiences, and take chances as they go forward in life. “You’re not done as a student today,” Reville said. “You’re just beginning the next phase of education. That’s why they call it commencement.”

The ceremonies marked the first time Framingham State has held a winter commencement.

The first graduates of Framingham State University

A BEAUTIFUL VOICE
Framingham State student Barbara Pierre ’11 sings the National Anthem.

TAKING IN EVERY WORD
Massachusetts Secretary of Education Paul Reville gives the graduate ceremony commencement address.

PEARLS OF WISDOM
Professor Emeritus Alan Feldman addressed students during the undergraduate ceremony.

MAKING IT OFFICIAL
Faculty member Diane Lowe and Vice President of Academic Affairs Linda Vaden-Goad assisted with the hooding process.

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FULL HOUSE
Students, alumni, family, and friends filled the Dwight Hall Performing Arts Center to capacity. Students were ecstatic as they filed out of Dwight Hall following the ceremony.

A LOVING EMBRACE
Jessie Macedo kisses her fiancé Shane Chadwick after receiving her degree.
Christa (Corrigan) McAuliffe ‘70 was “as Strong as Ever” before her legacy was already established. Her memory is apparent in everything the center for 2012. “We want to teach differently — that teamwork, problem solving and decision-making, while completing tasks that are very similar to an actual space mission.”

McAuliffe’s vision became a reality not long after the disaster. Today there are 46 Challenger centers across the country, but only one Christa McAuliffe Learning Center, located on the campus of Framingham State.

The center sees about 12,000 middle school students a year and provides most of them with what will be their first steps on a University campus. Moreover, the center provides a one-of-a-kind learning experience. Students learn valuable life skills, such as teamwork, problem solving and decision-making, while completing tasks that are very similar to an actual space mission.

McAuliffe’s Legacy is apparent in everything the center does, including teacher support through workshops and consistent updates and expansion. A new planetarium is slated to open in 2012.

“Our goal is to keep kids looking up into the sky,” said Mary Liscombe, director of the center. “We want to teach differently and make our own pathway, as Christa did in space.”

“In years to come Christa McAuliffe’s spirit and bravery will be an enduring reminder of the best in America.”

— Late Senator Edward M. Kennedy during a speech to the U.S. Senate on Feb. 19, 1986

A Fitting Tribute

Christa (Corrigan) McAuliffe “Joey not only demonstrated that ordinary people can be extraordinary, but also famously challenged our country’s students to “reach for the stars.”

And so, to commemorate McAuliffe and the 25th anniversary of the Challenger disaster with a science fair, Framingham State President Timothy Flanagan said: “What better way to remember the legacy of Christa McAuliffe?”

More than 200 parents, students and members of the University community packed into the McCarthy Center Forum to see the work of Dan Anderson’s students on display: “The students spent more than two months working on these projects,” Anderson said. “They are incredibly excited to show them off.”

The project is the latest in a string of renovations to existing space within Hemenway, Framingham State’s largest academic building.

Renovations include measures to make the building far more energy efficient. A new science center last spring, according to President Timothy Flanagan. “This community has gotten this done,” Richard Freeland, commissioner of the state Department of Higher Education, said during the October announcement.

Initials did not make the cut to be included for funding under the state’s $2 billion bond bill, which was passed in 2008. But the state approved the project after nearly 600 Framingham State officials and students signed a petition in support of the new science center last spring.

“This community has gotten this done,” Richard Freeland, commissioner of the state Department of Higher Education, said during the October announcement.


The festival began in 1986 as the David McCord Children’s Literature Festival, sponsored by the Nosbisch Reading Council, Inc. Framingham State, which has always hosted the event, took over coordination of it in 2006, according to English Professor Dr. Evelyn Perry. “I get a sense from our alumni and the entire Framingham State community that there’s a real appreciation that the University has kept the festival alive,” Perry said. “It’s no longer just a great event that happens to take place at FSU. It’s a great event put on by FSU.”

There is no better way to master a craft than by learning from the pros, which is exactly what art students at Framingham State University got the chance to do during the 25th anniversary of the Children’s Literature Festival in November. “I’m interested in becoming a children’s literature author, so this has been a great opportunity,” said FSU illustration major Erika Swift ’12. “Anytime you can get feedback from successful authors, you have to take advantage of it.”

The featured guest at this year’s event was Grace Lin, author and illustrator of more than a dozen picture books, including “The Ugly Vegetables” and “Dim Sum for Everyone!” Lin, who published her first book in 1999, said she grew up knowing she wanted to be a children’s author.

“One of my books, ‘Year of the Dog,’ is autobiographical,” Lin said. “The main character dreams of being a children’s author.”

Many of Lin’s books are about her experience as an Asian American.

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President Flanagan told the audience that the need for the science facility emerged according to President Timothy Flanagan.

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The University was able to host four nation-ally recognized authors at this year’s festival rather than just one, thanks in part to generous contributions in support of this special anniversary celebration.

Leda Schubert, author of several books, including “Feeding the Sheep” and “Winnie All Day Long,” said she tries to attend as many literature festivals as she can fit in her schedule.

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Living United

Framingham State University and the United Way Develop Innovative Partnership

After last year’s devastating earthquake in Haiti, Mirerla Azor ’13 went to her internship at the United Way of Tri-County (UWTC). She was up in tears and crying. So I said to her, ‘Ma’am, do you speak Creole? I’m Haitian, too.’ You could just tell she was so relieved —she told me her whole story. I was able to listen and put her in touch with the Red Cross. When we get off the phone, she said to me, ‘God bless you.’

The Mass 2 1-1 internships are just one part of the robust partnership between Framingham State University and the United Way of Tri-County, the community-building organization serving 34 cities and towns throughout the MetroWest area. In place since 2003, the partnership includes internships, volunteer opportunities, a scholarship and alumni working for the organization.

ONE TO ONE

Like so much the United Way does, the FSU partnership is rooted in personal connections. “We’ve had a relationship with Framingham State over the years, but it wasn’t very active,” says Paul Mina, United Way of Tri-County president and chief professional officer. “When President Flanagan started in 2006, I went to meet him, and we hit it off. We started talking about projects we thought would be beneficial to the University and the community.”

That conversation led to Days of Caring, monthly volunteer opportunities for students, faculty and staff, coordinated by Jennifer Leary ’07, former UWTC program services specialist, and Adam Goldfarb, an AmeriCorps volunteer in FSU’s student involvement office. Through Days of Caring, volunteers have raked leaves for elderly residents through Jewish Family Services, prepared meals for developmentally disabled adults at Advocates in Natick and organized family activities at the Clinton Street Homeless Shelter in Framingham.

“There’s an inherent value in helping people without getting anything in return.”

Leary says she finds FSU students “very eager to volunteer… And since the United Way partners with so many agencies in the area, they’re able to see another side of Framingham. It’s great to encourage students to volunteer and get engaged in their community,” she says. In addition, Leary points out that students can gain valuable career perspectives. “Many students don’t know what they want to do after graduation. By volunteering at an agency in what they think interests them, they can get a taste of what it may be like,” she says.

CROSSING BOUNDARIES

Beyond individual students, Jason Paskillo ’07, a UWTC account executive, sees the whole University gaining from the partnership. “Because of geography, with Route 9 running right down the middle of town, Framingham State sometimes has this image as a separate entity on the top of a hill. This partnership connects the University to the community in tangible ways,” he says.

“The governor is always touting public-private partnerships,” adds Mina. “This partnership is a great example of how together we can improve the quality of life within our region. The United Way and Framingham State have a lot in common. We both have a vision of making the world a better place. Framingham State wants to instill civic engagement as a value in their students, and the United Way wants to get young people involved in the community. There’s a lot of synergy in what we do.”

And while FSU gains volunteer and service-learning opportunities, the United Way also draws strength from the formal partnership. “This relationship gives us another high-profile, civic-minded stakeholder in the community,” Mina says.

VIEW FROM THE BOARD

As with all good partnerships, the total is more than the sum of its parts. Both the United Way and Framingham State have gained an appreciation of the other’s vital role in the MetroWest area.

“I’m impressed by all that the United Way does,” says Dr. Susanne Conley ’98, vice president of enrollment and student development, who sits on UWTC’s board of directors. “Conley has become involved with the Women’s Leadership Council, a group advocating for women and girls in the service area.

One of the council’s most visible efforts is a joint scholarship with Framingham State, which awards two $2,000 scholarships to immigrant women seeking higher education. “For a lot of local women, it will pay for a third of the cost of their education. It’s a really nice scholarship with the potential to have impact,” she says.

And impact is what the two organizations are all about. FSU transforms students’ lives through education, while the United Way moves vulnerable community members from dependence to independence. “There’s two points along the continuum of positive change. “There’s an inherent value in helping people without getting anything in return,” Mina says.

“This partnership is a great example of how together we can improve the quality of life within our region.”

The resources available through career services make it possible to find an internship in any field of study. From the comfort of a dorm room or home, members of the Framingham State community can search for internship and job postings online through Career Services’ College Central Network, take personality and skills assessments, and learn how to build their resumes and cover letters.

Make It Work

Through Internships

by SARA MULLEN’07

The Office of Career Services and Employer Relations serves as Framingham State’s number-one resource for connecting current students and alumni with internships and job opportunities nationwide. Director of Career Services and Employer Relations Richard Davino says, “Students should try to come out of college with as many diverse opportunities as possible, from work with nonprofit groups to government agencies. Students should think of internships as an investment in the future.”

Students are interning and getting their feet in the door at various locations in the MetroWest area, including Framingham Cooperative Bank, the Hanover Insurance Group, the South Middlesex Opportunity Council, and Wayside Youth and Family Support Network. Candace Franco ’11, a fashion design and retailing major, accepted a double internship, working full time this summer at Reebok. Internships may not always be a requirement at the University, but it is becoming increasingly evident that they are must-have experiences.

The resources available through career services make it possible to find an internship in any field of study. From the comfort of a dorm room or home, members of the Framingham State community can search for internship and job postings online through Career Services’ College Central Network, take personality and skills assessments, and learn how to build their resumes and cover letters.
Welcome New Faculty

María Bollettino
History Department
Assistant Professor
Ph.D., M.A.
University of Texas, American History
B.A.
Brown University, European History

Joseph Donovan
Economics & Business Administration
Assistant Professor
Ph.D., M.A.
University of Nebraska, Economics & History
B.A.
Saint Anselm College, Economics & History

Stephanie Grey
Art & Music Department
Assistant Professor
M.F.A.
Carnegie Mellon University, Graphic Design
B.F.A.
Rhode Island School of Design, Graphic Design

Zhe Li
Economics & Business Administration
Assistant Professor
Ph.D., M.A.
SUNY at Stony Brook, Economics
B.A.
Zhejiang University, Economics

Deborah McMakin
Psychology Department
Assistant Professor
M.S.W.
Boston University, Clinical Social Work
M.A.
George Washington University, Special Education & Human Development
B.A.
Williams College, American History

Rodney Montague
History Department
Assistant Professor
Ph.D., M.A.
Columbia University, American History
B.A.
Wesleyan University, American History

Nicholas Sedlock
Mathematics Department
Assistant Professor
Ph.D., M.A.
Washington University, Mathematical Sciences
M.S.T.
Boston College, Secondary Education in Mathematics
B.S.
Carnegie Mellon University, Mathematical Sciences

Rebecca Shearman
Biological Department
Assistant Professor
Ph.D.
University of Chicago, Organismal Biology and Anatomy
B.A.
Franklin & Marshall College, Biology

Sam Witt
English Department
Assistant Professor
M.F.A.
University of Iowa, Creative Writing, Poetry
B.A.
University of Virginia, English

Framingham State Adds Criminology Major

The new interdisciplinary liberal arts program is expected to be the first of its kind in the state.

The State Board of Higher Education unan- imously approved a new Criminology Major at Framingham State on Nov. 4, 2010.

“The very best criminology programs anchor the study of delinquency, crime and justice in the social and behavioral sciences,” says Framingham State President Timothy Flanagan. “Our BA degree in Criminology is designed to graduate highly educated leaders who will be prepared to assume a wide variety of roles in government and private-sector organizations, or to further study in law, public policy and human development.”

The program will be housed in the University’s Department of Sociology and will lead to a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology degree. The Criminology Major will be much different from a Criminal Justice Program in that it will be based in a liberal arts education, which should prepare students for a broader range of future careers.

“This will be the only program in the Commonwealth that mandates an interdisciplinary approach to criminology,” says Dr. Ellen Zimmerman, associate vice president for academic affairs. “It consists of a strong core of sociology courses with a criminology focus. But students will be required to take courses in at least two other disciplines, including economics, business administration, political science, psychology and philosophy.”

The broad range of coursework should make for an easy transition into the program for students from other institutions, according to Zimmerman.

“Students may already have taken a variety of liberal arts courses, which should allow for easy integration,” she says. “Criminology-related types of employment are expected to experience considerable growth between 2008 and 2016, according to U.S. labor projections.”

This program will prepare students for a wide array of criminology-related careers and graduate programs,” Zimmerman says.

“Our BA degree in Criminology is designed to graduate highly educated leaders who will be prepared to assume a wide variety of roles in government and private-sector organizations, or to further study in law, public policy and human development.”

Future careers for students in the program could include community and social service specialists, law enforcement work, substance abuse counselors or program directors, social science research, post-secondary teaching and a host of other opportunities, Zimmerman says.

Work on creating the program began in fall 2008. A survey of current students conducted in spring 2010 indicated strong interest in a Criminology Program.

Framingham State Launches Authors’ Event Series

Last year, Framingham State launched a new Authors’ Event Series created to showcase the published work of faculty and staff.

“This will be a semiannual event at the University,” said Dr. Linda Vaden-Goad, vice president of Academic Affairs. “It’s a great opportunity to recognize the work of our talented faculty.”

The authors discussed their inspiration for writing the books and the process that went into completing them. They also read excerpts from their books.

Authors Featured During the Inaugural Event in November:

History Professor Jon Huberga B.A.
American Railroad Labor and the Genesis of the New Deal, 1919–1935
Sociology Professor Henry Tischler
Kant’s Concept of Genius: Its Origin and Function in the Third Critique

Authors Featured in March:

History Professor Gregory Hallford
The Archaeology of Frankish Church Councils, AD 511–768
Communication Arts Professor Christopher Bowen
Grammar of the Shot and Grammar of the Edit
English Professor Evelyn Perry
Robin McKinley: Girl Reader, Woman Writer
The Framingham State football program enjoyed its best season in school history last fall, capping an 8–2 regular season with a 27–21 victory over Norwich University in the ECAC Northeast Bowl. The game marked the program’s first-ever bowl game appearance. The football team featured several standout players, including quarterback Kurt Leone ’11, running back Melikke Van Alstyne ’14 and safety Anthony Pappagallo ’11.

Wide receiver James McCarthy ’12 set seven school records, including most receiving yards and touchdowns as he led the nation in scoring despite missing the first two games due to an injury. McCarthy was recognized as the top football player in all of Division III when he received the 15th annual Joe Zabilski Award.

With a solid core of players returning this fall, Director of Athletics and Head Coach Tom Kelley ’76 hopes to build on the unprecedented success that the team had in 2010. The Athletic Hall of Fame ceremony is organized every other year. More information on the date and location of the next ceremony will be forthcoming. If you would like to be included on the mailing list for this event in the future, let us know by contacting the Office of Alumni Relations at 508-856-4012 or alumni@framingham.edu. For questions about nominations or the induction ceremony, please contact Casey Eggens at ceggen@framingham.edu or 508-856-4956.

Record-Shattering Season for FSU Football

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Rams Charge Ahead

Framingham State University continues to climb the ladder of elite teams in the Massachusetts State College Athletic Conference (MASCAC).
JULY 26-28, 2010 CAPE COD ALUMNI WEEK

President Timothy Hanagan and Dr. Nancy Hanagan welcomed Framingham State alumni for fun in the sun on Cape Cod this past August. The alumni took in a hole golf outing, a Cape Cod League baseball game and a sunset dinner cruise aboard the Lobster Roll.

G.O.L.D. EVENT
Boston Red Sox Game!

Calling all graduates of the last decade...
Join your fellow alumni at a Red Sox game on Tuesday, July 5, at Fenway Park. Participants in this exclusive G.O.L.D. event will meet up at a tavern prior to the start of the game.

Then watch live as the Red Sox take on the Toronto Blue Jays at 7:10 p.m.

Got ideas for future G.O.L.D. events? Send them to alumni@framingham.edu.

Don’t miss out on Cape Cod Alumni Week!
AUGUST 8–12, 2011

Meet fellow alumni for a relaxing week on beautiful Cape Cod this summer. Events will go on from Aug. 8–12, 2011, including a golf outing, a sunset dinner cruise aboard the Lobster Roll, a theatre performance and a social gathering.

DEC. 19, 2010 HOLIDAY THEATRE PERFORMANCE

Alumni enjoyed a great holiday treat last winter by taking in the Hanover Theatre’s 3rd annual spectacular production of Charles Dickens’ classic tale, “A Christmas Carol,” in Worcester. Alumni spent time catching up during a catered pre-show reception.

OCT. 1–3, 2010 HOMECOMING & FAMILY WEEKEND

A perfect fall weekend greeted nearly 3,000 people who attended homecoming festivities on campus in October. The football team didn’t disappoint by defeating the Massachusetts Maritime Academy 48–20.

TOP FIVE STATES

WHERE ALUMNI LIVE

Clear your calendar the weekend of May 21 and 22 this year as several events are on tap for Commencement and Alumni Reunion Weekend.

Thousands of alumni, family, friends and, of course, graduates, will gather that weekend to celebrate Framingham State’s newest class of alumni. It’s a great opportunity to reconnect with classmates you haven’t seen in years.

EVENTS WILL INCLUDE:
• The All-Alumni Lunch
• The Golden Anniversary Dinner
• A large archive display
• Campus Tours
"It’s a terrific honor," Curran says, "and always nice to support Framingham State. You are only a stone’s throw away from the back corner of the library and includes..."
Getting Motivated with Michael Miller ’89

By Virginia Aronson ’78

Motivational speaker Michael Miller ’89 wants us to figure out what we want out of life and then go for it! Miller is a national leadership trainer and consultant who teaches audiences how to get and stay motivated in school, at work, in relationships, and in life. He provides training and development sessions for students, employees and executives, traveling around the country to speak to colleges and universities, corporations and retreats. Miller is on the road more than 200 nights a year, speaking vibrantly and enthusiastically, engaging the audiences in role-playing, small group activities and interactive case studies.

For Miller, the key to motivation is getting started. And he gives much credit for his own start to the University. “For me, Framingham State was about beginnings,” he says today. While completing a master’s degree in Public Administration at Framingham, Miller worked as a graduate assistant in the University Center and Student Activities Office.

For someone new to higher education, the opportunity to work with faculty, staff and students was key. “The concepts and professional practices I learned as standards at Framingham State support all the consulting and presentation work I do today,” he says. After earning his master’s degree, Miller worked as the residence director in O’Connor Hall. “I had 300 females,” he jokes. He also volunteered to present training programs for the Student Government, Residential Life, Student Union Activities Board and University Center employees. He was able to develop his unique and engaging presentation style, while honing his craft and building the confidence required to be a motivational speaker.

These days, Miller returns to Framingham State for the annual “Wet Feet Retreat,” a pre-orientation program provided before the start of the academic year for students, parents and academic advisor to be on campus and meet their academic advisor. Miller recently visited campus to speak at a Journalism Forum for Framingham State University students.

Mike Mullanis recently joined Brevini, Ill. based Terrier Investments as a network administrator.

Damodar Godhi has accepted the position of collector specialist for the Law Office of Larry H. Keppel.

Amada Leidingas has accepted the position of admissions representative for the American Cancer Institute.

James Morrone recently attended a forum on global engagement hosted by Semester at Sea, an educational nonprofit event sponsored by the University of Virginia. The forum was by invitation only. The Honorable Sandra Day O’Connor was among the keynote speakers during the event.

Kristin L. Will is the editor-in-chief of two Taylor Publications’ newspapers—The Ticon Ronomer in south Hadley and The Holyoke Star in Holyoke. She had completed an internship at both papers prior to graduation from Framingham State.

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New Diversity Minor Announced

Officials at Framingham State University are pleased to announce a new Diversity Minor that can provide students with the knowledge, skills and perspectives essential to responsible citizenship, employability, and quality of life in an increasingly pluralistic and diverse society.

Director of Human Resources and Affirmative Action Rita Colucci says the minor was created last spring by combining courses from multiple disciplines at the University, including sociology, English, history, modern languages, geography and art.

“If you think about the global economy and that we’re all members of this global community, it’s easy to see how the Diversity Minor could be learned usefulfully with a wide range of majors,” she says.

Students who take on the minor will strengthen their understanding of how ability, age, ethnicity, gender, language, nationality, religion, sexual orientation and social class interact to define identities and social relations.

The minor provides students with the knowledge and analytical skills that enable them to appreciate differences among groups of people and the potential benefits as well as conflicts that arise from human differences.

This program brings cohesion to a variety of courses across departments that together can increase students’ sensitivity to and critical thinking about issues of diversity.

New Residence Hall Nearly Complete

Framingham State University will open a spectacular new 410-bed residence hall in July 2011. The final stages of construction began this spring.

In addition to four-person suites and combined double and single rooms with semi-private baths, the new building will feature several study and recreational spaces inside and outside the facility.

“Our design team incorporated student input on what they want in a residence hall experience.”

The building is sure to be the premier living and learning space for FSU students, according to Glenn Cochran, associate dean of students and director of residence life.

“Our design team incorporated student input on what they want in a residence hall experience,” says Cochran. “This influenced everything from the environmentally friendly elements of the design to the furniture selections to the basketball court out back.”

Other amenities include floor lounges equipped with kitchen space, a ground-floor "grab-and-go" store and an outdoor patao.

Work started on the 255,000-square-foot, four-floor dormitory in November 2009. The timing of the work is optimal as construction costs are down.

Framingham State President Timothy Flanagan said the new dorm “propels us into the 21st century in terms of modern living.”

The residence hall is one of several capital improvement projects taking place all around campus.

For more information about the new residence hall, visit Residence Life at Framingham State University on Facebook.com.

How Will Your Class Be Remembered?

Class Gifts at Framingham State

Each year alumni come back to Framingham State to reconnect with one another, see our beautiful New England campus and learn about what is happening with the University. This often brings back memories of what it was like when they attended the school.

Reflecting on the time she spent at Framingham State during a recent reunion gathering on campus, alumna Nancy Grew ’54 decided she wanted to provide a gift that would help the University and preserve the memory of her graduating class.

Grew joined with her good friend Marge McKay ’54 and other members of the Class of 1954 to raise money for a memorial bench that now sits outside the Henry Whittemore Library.

“For our reunion, we wanted to find something concrete to name that reflected our dedication and interest in the University,” McKay said.

“We wanted to do something memorable.”

“We have always felt a strong connection to the school, and we knew it was important to give back,” Grew added.

Three other classes have also donated gifts to memorialize benches engraved with their respective class years, creating a seating area outside the library.

The benches are just one of many ways alumni can have their class remembered on campus. The Office of University Advancement works with alumni to provide a wide array of philanthropic opportunities that are meaningful for the respective classes and beneficial to the institution. This includes campus beautification efforts, faculty research initiatives, scholarships and athletic or club funding.

For more information on class gifts and directed giving options, please contact the Office of University Advancement at 508-626-4012. Together with your classmates, you can provide a gift that will make a real difference at Framingham State University. 
Commencement and Alumni Reunion Weekend  
**MAY 21 & 22, 2011**

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.

2011 Rams Booster Club Golf Tournament  
**JUNE 27, 2011 | 10 A.M. SHOTGUN START**

Join us for 18 holes of championship golf in a scramble format at Highfields Golf & Country Club in Grafton, Mass., in support of Framingham State University Athletics. A raffle, silent auction and awards dinner will round out the day.

Cape Cod Alumni Events  
**AUG. 8–12, 2011**

Catch up with fellow alumni and friends on beautiful Cape Cod. Events will include a golf outing, a sunset dinner cruise aboard the Lobster Roll, a social gathering and much more.

Tanglewood  
**AUG. 14, 2011**

Join fellow alumni, family and friends at this acclaimed summer venue: The Leonard Bernstein Memorial Concert, featuring The Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra and Festival Chorus.

Homecoming and Family Weekend  
**SEPT. 23–25, 2011**

Discover what Ram Pride is all about at the 2011 Framingham State University Homecoming and Family Weekend. Come cheer on the Rams and stop by the alumni tent for a free pre-game brunch and alumni gift.

Alumni Holiday Ticket Sales for 2012 Red Sox and Bruins Games  
**DEC. 21, 2011 | 10 A.M.**

See two of Boston's best sports teams with a group of Framingham State alumni. Tickets are sold by phone only and they go fast, so call early and often!

Visit our fan page at www.facebook.com/framinghamstatealumni

Purchase tickets for certain events online at www.framingham.edu/alumnievents

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

Framingham State University is committed to sustainability and chose to print this Magazine on Utopia 2 paper, which is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and contains a minimum of 10% post-consumer recovered fiber.