Gaining an Edge

Innovative Internships at Framingham State

WINTER COMMENCEMENT
A new group of graduates joins the FSU Alumni Association.

FSU AT THE CANNES FILM FESTIVAL
Professor Robert Johnson Jr. and a group of film students embark on the trip of a lifetime.

MERC AT 20
Students and faculty celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Framingham State MetroWest Economic Research Center (MERC).
Given the increasingly competitive job market in the country today, it is difficult to overstate the value of an internship experience during the undergraduate years. Internships provide students with applied experience in their field of interest, professional networking opportunities and, on occasion, a job immediately upon graduation. For many recent graduates seeking employment, relevant internship experience can set their application apart from the pack. That is why several academic departments at Framingham State University now require the completion of a meaningful internship in order to graduate, and many other programs recommend and facilitate internships.

This issue of FSU Magazine highlights a few of the many internship opportunities offered to students through our Office of Career Services and Employer Relations. The office serves as an intermediary between our faculty and employers in the MetroWest region, many of whom are eager to take on our talented and enthusiastic students as interns. By completing an internship prior to graduation, students leave Framingham State with both the knowledge and real-world experience required to land a job in today’s global economy. In fact, it’s quite common for our students to obtain employment with the company at which they interned. In addition to learning the basics of a business or profession, students often report that internships make clear the linkage between theory and practice, provide deeper understanding of theoretical concepts, and provide opportunities to polish the workplace skills that are critical to employment success.

Within these pages, you’ll hear from current and former students who can attest to the value of an internship. They include Spanish major Kim Sharpe ’11, who is currently working for U.S. Senator Scott Brown (R-MA), and Food Science major Josh Kruger ’12, who survived a rigorous interview process to land a product development internship with Ocean Spray Foods.

It’s a pleasure to share these stories about the exciting internships that students are participating in during their time at Framingham State and how these experiences augment learning in the classroom. They demonstrate our students’ drive to grow and learn—and the University’s commitment to provide the knowledge, skills, discipline and experience they will need to succeed today and tomorrow.

Best wishes,

Timothy J. Flanagan, PhD
President
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By junior year, a majority of students have selected a major, crafted a résumé and even targeted potential employers. Some have ridden in a police car on patrol, made cheese, developed food products, managed their own line of baby products or worked at the Massachusetts State House.

Although not every Framingham State University department requires internships, faculty members agree on the benefits. The semester-long sojourns allow students to forge vital connections, learn marketable skills, obtain certifications, gain a foothold on the competition and—if they’re especially fortunate—get hired before they graduate.

This is the story of a group of students and alumni who took divergent paths to success—and the faculty and staff who helped them arrive.
Yes, Ryan Bradshaw ’11 did file records during a fall semester 2011 internship with the Framingham Police Department, one of two internships he completed. But he also attended firearms and SWAT training and patrolled the city in a squad car.

Bradshaw not only received academic credit for his unpaid foray into law enforcement, but also became E-911 certified—qualified to answer 911 calls. “Career Services led me to both internships,” says Bradshaw, who used RAMTRACK and LinkedIn to connect with the opportunity that Deputy Chief Craig Davis ’96 proffered. Exclusive to FSU, RAMTRACK is a database that students use to search for internship or job opportunities.

Rich Davino, director of Career Services and Employer Relations, monitors the quality of RAMTRACK’s offerings. “We try to work with employers to figure out the best combination of what would create success for the student, the employer and the University,” says Davino. “Photocopying all day is not an internship. We want to make sure it’s a quality experience for the student.” This was certainly the case for Bradshaw.

In addition to his summer 2011 stint with the Framingham Police, Bradshaw served as a mentor for at-risk youth with the Youth Engagement Program. During that time, he worked with law enforcement professionals from the Boston suburbs.

Internships are required for sociology majors such as Bradshaw, who also must enroll in an internship course. There, faculty members work with students to help them make the connection between professional work and scholarship. Students also share their internship experiences with one another during the course.

Virginia Rutter, associate professor of sociology, guided Bradshaw through his internship. “I was so satisfied with our conversations in terms of his ability to think through some of the complexity. We explored what it’s like to be in an internship with different demands, both highbrow and ordinary,” says Rutter.

Internships also provide an opportunity for faculty members to receive feedback from local employers about students, according to Karen Druffel, associate professor, MIS. By all accounts, employers are thrilled with the quality of FSU’s interns. “Employers tell me that FSU students are very motivated; they arrive with a clear idea of what they can offer the organization, and are very willing to do whatever is required for the position,” says Druffel.

Thanks in part to his internship experience, Bradshaw is pursuing a graduate degree in criminal justice at Boston University. “Getting involved with the police station was a good start. I met lots of different people I’m still in touch with,” he says. Bradshaw has already taken the civil service exam—which is required for Framingham Police candidates—and he scored a 99%. 

Ryan Bradshaw’s internship with the Framingham Police Department has set him up for future success.

Learning by Doing

Ryan Bradshaw’s internship with the Framingham Police Department has set him up for future success.
A Foot in the Door

Fashion merchandising major Lisa Surprise will have real-world experience to draw upon when she looks for a job following graduation thanks to her experience at The Paper Store.

Fashion merchandising major Lisa Surprise ’12 fared so well at her fall ’11 internship—a senior-year department requirement—that The Paper Store, headquartered in Acton, Mass., extended the paid experience in the buying department for another semester. Although she applied through the usual channels, it didn’t hurt that Craig Hewitt ’08, director of operations for the organization, was her brother’s roommate. Career Services helped Surprise prepare for her interview.

In addition to teaching concrete skills such as informational interviewing, says Dawn Ross, internship coordinator for the Department of Career Services and Employer Relations, “we encourage students to dream big. Sometimes there are hidden internship opportunities we can uncover.”

The office also offers events throughout the year that allow students to network with local businesses and find out about internship opportunities.

Surprise’s internship has been invaluable. “I got a well-rounded view of what a buyer does,” she says. “I’ve put out some feelers about getting a job as a buyer at the company. But even if I join another organization, I still have this great experience under my belt.”

Some of Surprise’s duties have been typical—producing sales reports, contacting vendors and sitting in on vendor meetings, for example. Others, however, have been extraordinary. The Paper Store put Surprise in charge of her own line in the baby department. “It has been doing really well,” she says. “I’ve had to reorder twice.”
Food science major Josh Kruger has established contacts at companies like Dunkin’ Donuts and Ocean Spray through his internship experiences.

Perseverance propelled Josh Kruger ’12, a food science major, who completed internships at Oake Knoll Ayrshires in spring 2011 and at Ocean Spray in summer 2011. This May, Kruger will begin a third internship in product development at Dunkin’ Donuts. He’s certainly done ample homework to reach his goal of working in product development.

To obtain the Oake Knoll Ayrshires internship, Kruger contacted 17 farms seeking product development and quality control positions. Once he found the opportunity, Kruger milked cows, made cheese and created a procedural handbook. “If they need a food scientist, I would work for them,” says Kruger, who grew up on a farm in Washington State—this was his first time milking a Massachusetts cow.

“Josh was great,” says Terri Lawton, internship coordinator at Oake Knoll Ayrshires. “He made a nice finished product [the handbook] that we can use for our new hires. And we developed a program specifically for him. Now potential employers can look at his résumé and see that he’s not as ‘green.’”

After completing his first internship, Kruger kept going.

A resident of Lakeville, he lives near Ocean Spray’s headquarters. For two years, he inquired about opportunities at the company whenever he bumped into employees around town. “Everyone who worked there was so friendly…and they said it was a great company to work for,” says Kruger.

Kruger’s persistence—through five rigorous one-hour interviews—garnered him an internship at Ocean Spray, where he “got to meet all the higher-ups.” His efforts on processing and product development projects won him a temporary paid position in processing this winter.

“Big names like Dunkin’ Donuts and Ocean Spray will stand out on my résumé,” says Kruger, who hopes to work at Ocean Spray full time. “I made good contacts at both places.”
Kim Sharpe ’11 took an unorthodox approach to gaining real-life experience. In 2007, she finished an internship—one of two—before she matriculated at Framingham State University.

Sharpe’s family urged her to apply when they spied an advertisement in the Needham Times calling for interns for then state senator Scott Brown. During her internship, Sharpe learned how the State House worked and how a state senator’s office was run. “It was a fantastic experience,” says Sharpe. “I had never been involved politically like that before.”

As a Spanish major at FSU, she applied to the Washington Center Internship Program, which led to a spring 2011 internship with the Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies at the National Defense University in Washington, DC.

Sharpe used her Spanish skills to communicate with the bilingual staff and to conduct educational research using the language. “It was great to get to know such intelligent people who are making a difference,” says Sharpe. “I met many influential figures, such as the former president of Colombia.”

Call it serendipity. It was in DC that Sharpe stopped in to say hello to her former employer, U.S. Senator Scott Brown. Not long after she visited, a job opportunity arose in the senator’s office. Sharpe began as a staff assistant and now works as deputy scheduler for Brown. “I have a huge amount of respect for Senator Brown and for my coworkers. I have gone farther than I ever thought I would.”

Kim Sharpe spent her spring 2011 semester in Washington, DC, interning with the Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies. She’s still there today working for U.S. Senator Scott Brown.
Framingham State Honors Program Gets a New Home

by Sophia Gracia ’12

Students, faculty, staff and alumni gathered on campus in February to celebrate the opening of the new Framingham State University Honors Center at 22 Adams Road.

“I can’t think of any wiser investment a University can make than investing in its Honors Program, because the students give so much back to the University,” President Timothy J. Flanagan said during a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

English Professor Carolyn Maibor, who is director of the Honors Program, said the purpose of the new center was foremost to create a “better, brighter space” that supports collaboration among honors students as well as providing a gathering place for the entire honors community.

The Framingham State University Honors Program is designed to provide academically talented students with the opportunity to enrich their educational experience with courses both within and outside of their major program of study. Framingham State’s program grew by 40 percent between fall 2010 and fall 2011.

“This fall, we welcomed not only our largest, but also our most accomplished and most talented class,” Maibor said. “We have already begun to expect great things from them.”

Derek Pietras ’12 was one of several honors students who attended the opening and said the new center is warmer and more welcoming than the program’s former home in Foster Hall. Pietras said he was “a little sad it’s [his] senior year” because he could see himself “using the space a lot.”

Much to her surprise, Aleigh Jerome ’13 found her first internship in the one place she hadn’t looked—right here on campus. Unable to find an internship for summer 2011, she had resigned herself to a job answering phones in an office adjacent to Framingham State President Timothy J. Flanagan’s. Her proximity enabled lively exchanges between a former criminology major, President Flanagan, and a budding one, Jerome. “He was so great to talk to about criminal justice,” she says. President Flanagan, a board member of the Framingham Citizens Committee on the Police and the Community, offered her a summer 2011 internship helping to prepare research on SWAT teams. “He really went out of his way to offer me this opportunity,” says Jerome.

The momentum led to Jerome’s second internship for spring 2012 with the State Police. Each week, she explores an aspect of police work, from civilian positions to working as a state trooper. Jerome recently visited a crime lab, where she viewed evidence rooms, ballistics work and the water tanks where troopers discharge firearms. Jerome also met a dispatcher. “Hopefully, this internship will help me figure out what I like and don’t like. I don’t want to be a state trooper, but I really, really liked dispatch,” says Jerome.

Aleigh Jerome discovered that a meaningful internship opportunity can open up when you least expect it.

Right Place, Right Time
Sarah Ferguson is in her fourth and final year in the Framingham State University Honors Program. She is majoring in Biology with a pre-professional concentration and minoring in Biochemistry.

Looking Inside
FRAMINGHAM STATE’S HONORS PROGRAM

How did you become involved with the Framingham State Honors Program?
During my college search, I was looking for schools with a strong Biology Department, an Honors Program and cheerleading as a club sport. Framingham State offers all three, so it’s really a perfect fit. I took AP Biology in high school, and I figured enrolling in an Honors Program would ensure that the courses were academically challenging, which is something I was looking for. It’s been a great experience.

How is the Honors Program different? What are the additional requirements?
Students in the FSU Honors Program have to take five additional honors-level classes during their eight semesters at the University. You must also write an honors thesis paper prior to graduation. Every semester, you can choose from a variety of general education honors courses and courses that also align with your major. If none fit into your schedule, you have the option of turning a major class into an honors course. I did that when I focused my independent study on cancer biology.

Have you enjoyed the Honors Program? Would you recommend it to others?
The Honors Program has definitely enhanced my academic experience. One thing I really like about Framingham State’s program is that all your classes aren’t with just other honors students. It doesn’t set you apart socially from everyone else. I think it’s a great alternative for students who can’t afford to attend a top private school but are still looking to be academically challenged. And it’s now part of the Commonwealth Honors Program, so you get that esteemed recognition from the state in addition to graduating with a completed thesis paper. I think that has really raised the appeal of the program, which is why it’s grown so much in recent years.

What are your plans following graduation this spring?
I hope to spend a year working in a lab at a company or university before I apply to medical school. My ultimate goal is to be a medical examiner, so my focus would be on pathology. I’d love to do my residency in another country and do some traveling before coming home to hopefully work in a hospital. My time at Framingham State has prepared me well to take these next steps.
Dr. Vandana Singh has been a member of the Framingham State Department of Physics and Earth Sciences since 2003. In addition to being a physics professor, Singh is also an internationally renowned science fiction and fantasy author, with more than a dozen published short stories to her credit. She has won several literary awards for her work, which has been well received around the world. Her stories have been taught at various schools.

How long have you been a science fiction and fantasy author, and what led to your interest in that genre?

My first short story was published in 2003. I have always loved to write and I love science, so science fiction is a perfect combination. When I was a child growing up in India, I became interested in science fiction. I read voraciously in all genres, but science fiction gave me a sense of wonder and curiosity about the universe, and it ultimately led me to a career in science.

How much do you draw upon your knowledge of physics when writing science fiction?

My knowledge of physics is a necessary ingredient in my stories, even when I am writing fantasy rather than science fiction. In a sense, physics is a way of looking at the world, and it colors everything I write. Yet, for a story to be a story, it has to be about characters, whether human or alien. So, while a certain physics ether pervades the stories, it is not necessarily dominant. Depending on the story, the physics element may be slight and subtle, or very overt. One way that it does inform my stories is that I am very sensitive to how characters interact with the physical universe and with other species, which is something largely ignored in mainstream realist fiction.

Has your experience as a science fiction writer shaped how you teach your physics classes?

Yes, indeed! Science fiction is all about engaging the imagination and asking “what if” questions—and science would not exist without the imagination. One particular virtue of science fiction is that it allows human concerns and human emotions to interact with the science in the story. Unfortunately, much of traditional science teaching can come across as dry, impersonal and boring. Many non-science majors don’t see the value in taking a science course because they don’t see what it has to do with them. Bringing in science fiction—either explicitly as an exercise to better understand a physics concept or through a thought-experiment about the possible implications of a technology on society—can enliven the subject and engage the student at a much more personal level.

Has your experience as a professor shaped your science fiction writing?

One of the great things about being a scientist writing science fiction is that my two passions do feed off each other. I get a lot of story ideas through my teaching, although I have to forego writing stories until the summer! Sometimes, story ideas come through a student asking an amazing question and my having to think through the consequences; or a student might write an absurd answer to a question on a test, so I think, “What if the universe, or some other universe, were this way?”

Dr. Vandana Singh
Taking the Next Step at Winter Commencement 2012

548 Graduates Join the Alumni Association

Students, faculty, parents and friends packed into the Dwight Hall Performing Arts Center on February 4 for the 2012 Winter Commencement Ceremony.

Professor Emeritus Dr. Thomas Koshy, who taught mathematics at Framingham State for more than 40 years, served as the commencement speaker. Dr. Koshy encouraged the graduates to channel their energies into helping those who are less fortunate and to find a job they will enjoy.

"Love what you do,” he said. "Be determined to overcome the fears, challenges, complexities and uncertainties of an automated, global economy. Make yourself indispensable at work. Keep upgrading your skills. Always, always, welcome challenges."

President Timothy J. Flanagan told the graduates that they are well prepared to capitalize on the opportunities and meet the challenges that lie ahead of them.

“You’ve taken an important step in distinguishing yourself from the field in an increasingly competitive job market,” he said.

INSPIRING PERFORMANCE
Barbara Pierre ’12 got things started with a beautiful rendition of the national anthem.

FRONT OF THE LINE
Faculty Marshal Diane Lowe leads the way into the Dwight Hall Performing Arts Center.

FULL HOUSE
The Dwight Hall Performing Arts Center was filled to capacity for the ceremony.

CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENT

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CADET'S DEGREES CONFERRED

TAKING IT ALL IN
The graduates listened intently as they waited to receive their diplomas.

HARD WORK REWARDED
President Timothy J. Flanagan congratulated the graduates after they received their diplomas.

TIME TO CELEBRATE
The graduates celebrated their accomplishment with faculty and family during a post-ceremony reception.

WORDS OF WISDOM
Commencement speaker and Professor Emeritus Dr. Thomas Koshy urged the graduates to embrace challenges and find something they love to do.

THE HOODING
Professor Mary T. Rogers and Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs Ellen Zimmerman assist with the hooding.

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MASTER'S DEGREES CONFERRED

FULL SPEED AHEAD
As they left the ceremony, the graduates appeared confident and ready to meet future challenges.

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LATIN HONORS STUDENTS
Inside the Cannes International Film Festival

FSU Communication Arts students meet with industry professionals at the world’s most famous film festival.

For students aspiring to break into the film industry, there’s arguably no better learning opportunity than attending the Cannes International Film Festival and Market in France. The prestigious event is a gathering of all the major players in Hollywood, including agents, actors, writers, producers, distributors and studio executives.

Last spring, five Framingham State students had the chance to spend two weeks on an internship at Cannes, accompanied by Communication Arts Professor Robert Johnson, Jr. Nicole Girard ’12 describes the experience as an incredible whirlwind. “We didn’t sleep, which is fine, because we didn’t want to sleep,” Girard says. “We didn’t want to miss something.”

Johnson, who previously attended Cannes in 2009 with Communication Arts major Kevin Tierney ’09, taught two filmmaking workshops on this latest trip. He says the festival offers an incredible learning experience for students who are serious about making it in the industry.

“‘It’s a lot of work, but the more you put into it, the more you get out of it.’”

“In a bare minimum, students get insight into how the industry works and a chance to see a dozen or more films,” Johnson says. “But there are also opportunities to make important industry contacts, pitch film ideas to producers and screen your work.”

For those unfamiliar with Cannes, it’s much more than a series of film screenings. A huge aspect of the festival is the Marché du Film, or film market, which is the business counterpart of the festival and one of the largest film markets in the world. During the festival, thousands of film ideas are pitched and sold, negotiations are held, and new opportunities are uncovered. Essentially, it’s the industry’s largest networking event.

In order to get credentials to the festival, the students formally intern with the American Pavilion, which has operated at Cannes since the 1980s. Once students are officially registered, additional internship opportunities with some of the major groups on hand, such as Disney or the Weinstein Company, can also be scheduled. Each student worked for about six hours each day at the pavilion or industry internship. Afterward, they were free to explore the other pavilions and take in late-night Red Carpet film screenings.
Danielle Leonard ’11 says that she initially felt overwhelmed in the midst of the massive festival, but her confidence grew as she began meeting and talking with more people. “Eventually, you start to think, ‘I can do this,’” Leonard says. “You force yourself to meet with people and set up relationships through networking.”

Jake Luth ’12 says he tried to be a sponge and absorb every bit of information he could get from people as he made his way around the festival. “I wasn’t really trying to sell an idea, but just get pointers and tips on what I could do better in the future,” Luth says. “Everyone’s busy, so you have to get right to your point.”

Luth, whose dream is to own a production house one day, says it was great to meet other film students from around the country at the festival. “It gives you a chance to learn where you’re at compared to others and also collaborate on projects.”

Johnson set requirements for the students during their internship. Each had to keep a journal, attend at least two screenings or seminars daily, submit 1,500-word reviews of each film they viewed and pitch an idea for a film to an industry professional. A final self-examination paper was also required.

“It’s a lot of work, but the more you put into it, the more you get out of it,” Johnson says. Hollywood Producer Richard Wolf showed significant interest in an idea that Colleen Sutor ’12 pitched for a documentary on saving music in schools. Sutor is still working on the project.

A short documentary called “The Juice Bar,” by Communication Arts majors Ryan Mohamed ’11 and Craig Sawich ’11, was also screened at the “Emerging Filmmaker Showcase” during the festival.

Johnson is planning a return trip to Cannes with students in the spring of 2013 and hopes to eventually make it an annual opportunity.

Two Fashion Students Are Finalists in Prestigious Design Competition

For the second consecutive year, students from the FSU Fashion Design and Retailing Program qualified as finalists in a prestigious design competition put on by the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Designs by Amanda Simonelli ’12 and Kaitlyn Gonfrade ’13 were among the 11 featured on the runway prior to a show at Symphony Hall in Boston as part of Project Debussy in February.

Fashion students from colleges throughout New England are invited to participate in the annual competition, which is named each year after a different famous composer. The students are invited to submit a gown design that is inspired by the composer’s music—in this case Claude Debussy.

Simonelli and Gonfrade were selected as two of just 11 finalists who had their designs modeled on the runway prior to a concert.

Professor Arlene Handschuch says Framingham State’s Fashion Design and Retailing Program wasn’t even invited to participate in the competition until last year, but has now placed as finalist two years in a row. Last year, Ashley Boiardi took home one of two major awards given out when her design was selected as Patrons’ Favorite.

“It’s really helped to raise the profile of the excellent program we have here at Framingham State,” Handschuch says.
Framingham State took another leap forward in its efforts to be recognized as a leader in the areas of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) education with the University’s recent designation as a NASA Educator Resource Center. As one of just 60 Educator Resource Centers (ERCs) in the country, FSU will now serve as an access point to NASA’s vast library of educational resources.

“This is a big deal for Framingham State and something we’ve been working toward for a long time,” FSU President Timothy J. Flanagan said during a special announcement event featuring officials from NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland.

“We’re really proud of the fact that Christa McAuliffe—the first teacher in space—was an FSU alumna, and we’re keen to develop our role in STEM education. The life sciences represent a robust opportunity for our students to get good jobs in important fields that are growing.”

Framingham State Designated a NASA Educator Resource Center

The ERC will be housed in the Henry Whittemore Library and will provide teachers throughout the region with access to free professional development opportunities and educational materials.

“Our primary mission is to support teachers and their work,” says Mary Liscombe, director of the University’s Christa Corrigan McAuliffe Center for Education and Teaching Excellence. “Professional development is really the key, because without it teachers don’t know how to make use of the educational materials in their classrooms.”

Liscombe worked closely with Curriculum Librarian Kim Cochrane and Library Director Bonnie Mitchell to get FSU designated as an ERC. Jake Foster, the director of Science and Technology/Engineering at the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, said the new designation couldn’t come at a better time, as the state looks to enhance its efforts in the areas of STEM education.

“The ERC will be a central point where people can come in, get those resources and make them useful in their classroom.”

One of the biggest additions is a new technology resource center located in the lower mezzanine. The center includes a help desk and laptop repair station as well as several other useful resources for students, staff and faculty, according to Chief Information Technology Officer Patrick Laughran.

“The technology resource center staff can offer consulting support for different software and help students and faculty integrate technology into projects,” Laughran says. “It’s really a one-stop shop for all your technology-related needs.”

The center includes two study rooms where students can Skype using displays or perform other collaborative work.

“This is a great area for students to engage in self-directed learning,” Laughran adds. “Whether they’re working on a research paper or a project with other students, they have all the space, technology and support available to them in one spot.”

The new technology resource center is part of a series of improvements that have taken place at the library over the past few summers, including the addition of a café, as well as renovations to the circulation area, study spaces and foyer. Library Director Bonnie Mitchell says the goal is to continue updating furniture, ceilings and floorings throughout the building during future summers.

The new technology resource center includes two study rooms where students can Skype using displays or perform other collaborative work.

Framingham State Designated a NASA Educator Resource Center

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Each year, faculty at Framingham State University lead interested students on adventurous and educational trips to destinations around the world.

Trips during this year’s winter intersession included a visit to India led by English Professor Lisa Eck, where students were treated to private readings and conversations with Indian authors and scholars. Students got the chance to check out the Taj Mahal and learn about topics such as the role of religion in Indian society and the Indian Women’s movement.

Geography Professor Yaser Najjar also led students on a trip to tropical Costa Rica, where students visited active volcanoes, swam in hot springs, went on a mountain canopy ride and rode horses. The students learned about the natural diversity of the Costa Rican environment as well as the diversity of animals and species.

Trips such as these are organized every year through the University’s Office of International Education.

Gov. Patrick Announces Grant Awards During Visit to Framingham State

During a visit to Framingham State University last fall, Governor Deval Patrick met with students and announced the awarding of $2.5 million in grant money to further the state's status as a national leader in public higher education.

“Massachusetts students are outperforming their peers in every other state in America,” Patrick told a crowd of more than 150 faculty, staff, students, politicians and state education leaders who gathered in the McCarthy Center Forum. “I’m very, very proud of that. There is more innovation going on in classrooms today than there has been in decades. But this is no time to rest on our laurels.”

The grant money is part of the Vision Project—the master plan to establish the Commonwealth’s public higher education system as a national leader.

FSU will receive $59,100 to go toward an effort to redesign lower-level STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) courses in order to increase student interest in those academic subjects, which align with key areas of workforce needs in the Commonwealth.

Other objectives of the Vision Project include increasing college-going rates of high school graduates; improving college graduation and success rates; raising academic achievement on campus-level and national assessments of learning; and eliminating disparities in educational success among different ethnic/racial, economic and gender groups.

Prior to making the grant announcement, Patrick met with about 15 FSU students for a wide-ranging discussion that touched on college affordability, the job market and education.
Welcome, New Faculty

FSU welcomes a diverse group of highly qualified new faculty to keep up with enrollment growth.

Sarah Mulhall Adelman
Assistant Professor
History
BA Xavier University
MA PhD Johns Hopkins University

Kaan Agartan
Assistant Professor
Sociology
BS Bogazici University
MA PhD State University of New York, Binghamton

Lori Anderson
Assistant Professor
Economics and Business Administration
BA Lafayette College
MA PhD State University of New York, Binghamton

Emmanouil Apostolidis
Assistant Professor
Chemistry and Food Science
BS MS PhD University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Benjamin Atchison
Assistant Professor
Mathematics
BA College of New Jersey
MA State University of New York, Albany

Daisy Ball
Assistant Professor
Criminology
BA Roanoke College
MS PhD Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Dwayne Bell
Assistant Professor
Chemistry and Food Science
BS California Polytechnic State University
PhD University of Texas at Austin

James Cressey
Assistant Professor
Education
BA Georgetown University
MED Plymouth State University
PhD University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Matthew Davenport
Assistant Professor
Chemistry and Food Science
BA Greenville College
PhD University of Florida

Vincent Ferraro
Assistant Professor
Sociology
BA University of Connecticut Storrs
MA PhD Northeastern University

Sandra Gold
Instructor
Education
BA Tufts University
MA New York University
MED Boston University

Katherine Horn
Assistant Professor
English
BA Washington University
MA PhD Tufts University

Simeon Horvitz
Assistant Professor
Economics and Business Administration
BS JD Suffolk University

HaeWon Ju
Assistant Professor
Consumer Sciences
BS Yonsei University
MS PhD University of Minnesota, St. Paul

Jack McCann
Assistant Professor
Mathematics
AB AM Boston College
PhD Washington University

Ishara Mills-Henry
Assistant Professor
Biology
BS MS Clark Atlanta University
PhD Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Marta Rivera Monclova
Assistant Professor
English
BA New York University
MA PhD Tufts University

Rebecca Robbins
Instructor
Psychology and Philosophy
BS Emerson College
MS Wheelock College
MSW Boston University

Charles Sachs
Assistant Professor
Psychology and Philosophy
BA State University of New York
MA MS MPhil PhD Columbia University

Patricia Sanchez Connally
Instructor
Sociology
BA Framingham State University
MA University of Massachusetts, Boston

Alexander Swanson
Assistant Professor
Communication Arts
BS MFA Boston University
The United States was in the midst of a deep recession in 1991, and the MetroWest business community was reeling. A major problem for those struggling to create a business model back then was the absence of any reliable economic data for the region. "You could only get accurate economic statistics for Boston or Worcester," says FSU Professor Martha Meaney. "People in MetroWest, which has an entirely different economic profile, couldn’t get access to any good local data."

That year, with encouragement from the business community, four professors in the Department of Economics and Business Administration at Framingham State founded the MetroWest Economic Research Center (MERC).

Today, the center serves as a valuable source of information for businesses and community organizations and tracks a vast amount of economic data, including cost of living, unemployment rates, housing statistics, municipal revenue and expenditures, and public school enrollments. MERC is guided by a threefold mission of economic research, education through student internships and economic outreach through conferences, publications and annual economic reports.

“Our professors and student interns present to numerous groups in the region each year,” says Professor Donald MacRitchie who, along with Meaney and Professor Maureen Dunne, is one of three founding members of MERC still involved with the effort today. “People have really come to rely on the information that MERC provides.”

Dozens of business leaders, professors, state officials, and current and former MERC interns gathered at Framingham State last semester to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the center’s founding.

“My experience at MERC was an extremely valuable piece of my education at Framingham State,” says Daniel McGrew ’11, who recently landed a job as a tax analyst at the Bank of New York Mellon. “It definitely enhanced my résumé.”

FSU Senior Sherren Doyle says her experience as an intern at MERC has been overwhelmingly positive.

“You definitely learn a lot working with massive amounts of data,” says Sherren, a business administration major. “It feels good knowing that the work you’re doing is really important to the community.” Susanne Morreale-Leeber, president of the Marlborough Regional Chamber of Commerce and chair of the MERC Advisory Board, said the organization has been a tremendous community resource.

“It feels good knowing that the work you’re doing is really important to the community.”

“I use the information all the time when companies are considering relocating to the area,” Morreale-Leeber says. “I know that organizations such as Marlborough Hospital use MERC data when developing their marketing plans. It’s an incredible resource.”

For more information about MERC, visit www.merc-online.org
The sky is the limit for the Framingham State men’s soccer team next fall as they follow up on one of the most successful campaigns in school history, which ended with an appearance in the Division III NCAA Tournament.

The young team is led by sophomore midfielder Ronaldo Vieira ’14, who finished with a team high of 11 goals in 2011.

It’s tough to do much better than Vieira has his first two years with the soccer team. As a freshman, he was named Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC) Rookie of the Year. The very next year, he was selected as the MASCAC Player of the Year and named to the All-New England First Team.

But Vieira says the individual honors aren’t as important to him as team success is.

“The biggest accomplishment last year was winning the MASCAC regular season and conference tournaments, which earned us a spot in the NCAA Tournament,” he says. “The individual stuff doesn’t mean nearly as much to me.”

The team lost to Montclair State University in the first round of the NCAA Tournament last year. Vieira and his teammates have their sights set on bigger things next fall, as the team will lose just two seniors in Peter Maranto ’12 and Steve Lesiczka ’12.

“Both are great leaders who will be hard to replace, but as long as we put in the work, we should have a strong team again,” Vieira says.

“We definitely want to get back to the NCAA Tournament and hopefully win a few games this time.”

Head Coach Dean Nichols says Vieira is a great leader and the hardest-working player on the team.

“He’s our best player, and it always helps when your best player is also a tremendous leader,” Nichols says. “Ronaldo’s incredibly mature and a great character guy.”

Vieira has excelled both on and off the field while at Framingham State. The Brazilian native and Business Administration major earned an impressive 3.47 grade point average his freshman year.

“I’ve worked pretty hard to balance schoolwork with soccer,” he says. “I try not to miss any assignments or anything like that. It can be stressful at times, but the coaches do a great job of staying on everyone about their grades. There is a baseline everyone has to achieve in order to play.”

Vieira says his biggest strength as a soccer player is his ability to rise above pressure in big moments. That skill has also helped him cope with the demands of being a college athlete and top student. He hasn’t figured out exactly what he wants to do when he graduates, but accounting is a big interest of his.

“Right now, I’m just focused on doing well in school and hopefully repeating as MASCAC champions this fall,” Vieira says.
Alum Takes Coaching Post with NBA Development League

Former Framingham State men’s basketball team assistant coach Ethan Brilliant ’07 is quickly making a name for himself in professional coaching circles. Brilliant is in his first year as the assistant coach and head of basketball operations for the Idaho Stampede in the Development League of the National Basketball Association (NBA). Much of his responsibilities are behind the scenes, which is the way Brilliant likes it. “A lot of my job is breaking down video and performing statistical analysis, which is something I really enjoy,” he says. “It’s been a great experience.”

Brilliant isn’t new to the professional level. During his senior year at Framingham State, he served as an Internet Operations intern with the Boston Celtics. Brilliant also served as a team manager and assistant coach with FSU’s men’s basketball team from 2004 to 2009. He graduated with honors from Framingham State in 2007 with a degree in Communication Arts.

Brilliant broke into the NBA Development League through contacts he made while interning with the Celtics. His eventual goal is to work his way up to a position in the NBA. “I love what I’m doing now,” Brilliant says. “It’s a great organization and a great location. But I think everyone’s dream is to work their way up to the top.”

Brilliant credits the professors in Framingham State’s Communication Arts Department and members of the Athletic Department for getting him to where he is today. “I use all aspects of my degree in my current job,” he says. “I’m really grateful for my experience at Framingham State.”

Coach Kelley Wins Prestigious Award

Framingham State University Athletic Director and Head Football Coach Tom Kelley ’76 has been elected the 2011 Division II-III Head Coach of the Year by the Gridiron Club of Greater Boston. Kelley received the award in January at the Gridiron Club’s annual Bob Whelan College Football Awards Night.

In 2011, Kelley guided the Rams to their first New England Football Conference (NEFC) Bogan Division Title with a 6-1 divisional record. It was their first appearance in the NEFC Championship game, where they were defeated in overtime by Western New England. The Rams finished the 2011 season 7-4 overall and captured their second-straight Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC) Championship.

Kelley just completed his fifth season in his second stint as the Rams head coach and has a 35-42-1 overall coaching record. His first tenure as the Rams head coach ran from 1982 to 1984. Prior to Kelley resuming the head coaching duties in 2007, the Rams were just 4-41 in the previous five seasons.
Hundreds of FSU alumni returned to campus this past September to reconnect with old friends and cheer on the Rams during Homecoming and Family Weekend. The football team delivered with a thrilling 28-20 victory over Bridgewater State University.

1. Alumni packed into the stands to cheer on the FSU football team.
2. Alumni Association President Peter Salenius ’90 and his wife Cheri Salenius ’96 take in the festivities with their two daughters Katie and Elizabeth.
3. Meghan Barry ’09 and Meredith Amaral ’09 had their school spirit on full display.
Alumni meet with the First Lady at the White House

Two recent Framingham State alumnae were among approximately 1,000 school officials from across the country honored by First Lady Michelle Obama on the South Lawn of the White House in October.

Lauren Mancini ’08 and Charlotte Stephenson ’08 both work in the Food and Nutrition Services Department of the Somerville Public School System. They were invited to the White House for their efforts with the HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSSC). The HUSSC is a volunteer initiative established in 2004 to recognize schools participating in the National School Lunch Program, which helps to create more healthful school environments through the promotion of nutrition and physical activity. It is a key component of Michelle Obama’s Let’s Move! initiative to end childhood obesity.

Mancini says that highlights of the trip included hearing from the First Lady, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Tom Vilsack and Healthy Food Initiatives Senior Policy Advisor Sam Kass. Mancini is currently the assistant director of Somerville Food and Nutrition Services, while Stephenson is the nutrition outreach coordinator. Four schools in Somerville have been awarded HUSSC honors—one gold, one silver and two bronze levels.

Mancini worked at Framingham State’s John C. Stalker Institute of Food and Nutrition while a student at the University. This semester, the Institute will be working in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; the Office of Nutrition, Health and Safety; and the USDA to assist other school nutrition programs across the Commonwealth in meeting the rigorous standards of the HUSSC.
FSU Alums Tie the Knot on Campus

Each year, more and more couples who fell in love during their time as students at Framingham State are tying the knot. Some are even choosing to return to campus on their wedding day.

Last year, Ricardo Cano ’05 and Elizabeth (Gill) Cano ’05 exchanged vows during a beautiful ceremony inside the Framingham State Ecumenical Center.

“When we began looking at wedding venues, we kept finding that, while beautiful, the places were lacking a certain ‘something,’” Elizabeth Cano says. “As we continued our search, we found that none of the venues had special meaning to us. One night, we began to think about all the great times that we shared at Framingham State. We thought about how great it would be to get married at the place where we first became great friends, not knowing at the time that it would lead to more.”

So the couple reached out to the Office of Development and Alumni Relations to see if it would be possible to hold their wedding ceremony on campus.

“We were happy to find that, while beautiful, the places were lacking a certain ‘something,’” Elizabeth Cano says. “As we continued our search, we found that none of the venues had special meaning to us. One night, we began to think about all the great times that we shared at Framingham State. We thought about how great it would be to get married at the place where we first became great friends, not knowing at the time that it would lead to more.”

The entire Hastings wedding party outside Dwight Hall.

Other couples have chosen to stop by campus to have photos taken between their ceremony and reception. That was the case for Lauryn (Graham) Hastings ’08 and Jimmy Hastings ’05, who also were married last year.

“It was so much fun being able to visit the campus on our wedding day with our family and close friends from Framingham State,” Lauryn Hastings says. “We were so honored that President Flanagan and his wife stopped by to greet us and wish us well. It was a very special part of our day, and we are so appreciative of having the opportunity to take our wedding photos where we first met.”

Assistant Director of Alumni Relations Robert Walmsley ’02 says that every year he hears stories from married alumni who met on campus.

“Many of our alumni fell in love at the University and have a lot of special memories from their time as students,” Walmsley says. “We’re happy to accommodate those who want to come to campus on their wedding day.”

Walmsley himself is among the growing number of FSU alumni who met their significant other as a student. He is married to Jaclyn (Neill) Walmsley ’02.

Other Married Alumni who Responded to Our Met and Married Request Include:

- Dennis Alves ’78 & Lauren (Cavanaugh) Alves ’78
- Jesse Fennelly ’04 & Jennifer-Lee (Wilkinson) Fennelly ’05
- Robert Hamilton ’92 & Emilie-Noelle Provost ’93
- Bryan Ibbitson ’09 & Jessica (Barbuzzi) Ibbitson ’08
- Robert Kairnes ’05 & Alexis (Bradley) Kairnes ’06
- Paul Langlois ’02 & Beth (Reardon) Langlois ’01
- Ryan McKeen ’01 & Allison (Szewczyk) McKeen ’01
- Adam Tocci ’87 & Kimberly (Graham) Tocci ’91
- Tom Wright ’86 & Jean (O’Connell) Wright ’89
AUGUST 14, 2011 TANGLEWOOD, LENOX, MA

The Office of Alumni Relations hosted a group of alumni at the Leonard Bernstein Memorial Concert, featuring the Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra and Festival Chorus.

AUGUST 8–12, 2011 CAPE COD ALUMNI WEEK

President Timothy J. Flanagan and his wife Dr. Nancy Flanagan hosted Framingham State alumni for several events throughout Cape Cod. Highlights included a golf outing, a sunset dinner cruise and a Cape Cod League baseball game.

earn your Master’s degree at Framingham State

Framingham State alumni who are thinking about advancing their education are encouraged to check out the expanding and affordable educational offerings in the Division of Graduate and Continuing Education (DGCE).

DGCE currently offers 30 online or in-person graduate degree programs in a wide variety of subjects. Some recently launched programs include:

Master of Education in Educational Technology
This innovative program emphasizes the integration of educational technology in instruction and training across learning environments. All courses are offered online.

Master of Education in Nutrition Education
All courses are offered online.

Master of Education in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)
Designed for current teachers seeking increased comfort with science, technology, engineering and math content.

Graduate Certificate in the Teaching of English as a Second Language
Intended for mainstream teachers whose classrooms include English Language Learners.

Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Business Administration
Designed for college graduates who wish to develop the necessary business skills and knowledge to compete in today’s challenging business environment.

For more information about these and other programs, visit www.framingham.edu/dgce
Of Special Note...

ALUMNA’S BOOK DISSECTS VARIOUS WORKPLACE PERSONALITIES

Anyone who has ever worked in an office setting knows there are all sorts of different characters out there. Framingham State alumna Pia Bertone-Gross ’04 attempts to define these different office personality types in a hilarious new book she co-authored and illustrated called The ABC’s of That Office Guy.

“The book is a culmination of all our experiences working with different types of people,” Bertone-Gross says. “So much of success in business is about how you’re able to interact and get along with these various personality types.”

The book is funny and satirical, but also aims to provide “somewhat practical” solutions for dealing with each different type of office personality, says Bertone-Gross, who majored in Visual Communications at FSU.

“There is some good advice in there about dealing with difficult people, but we bring more of a lighthearted view to it and try to make it fun,” she says.

The book lays out 26 different personality types—one for each letter of the alphabet. Examples include Aberrant, Dowdy, Gauche and Zooty. Bold imagery and witty writing are used to break down each stereotypical office guy.

Bertone-Gross and co-author Matt Rossini are already well underway on a follow-up book called That Office Girl, which will detail various personalities of women in the workplace.

To learn more about both books, or to order a copy through Amazon.com, visit www.thatofficeguy.com

ALUMNI BY YEAR

‘55 Emily Eisenhaure celebrated her 55th wedding anniversary in August. Eisenhaure retired in 1991 after teaching Home Economics for 20 years. She has five children, 11 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

‘74 Patti Babson Donahue (’74, ’81) retired in June 2011 from Bristol-Plymouth Regional Technical School after 37 years. She was the lead teacher of the high school’s Early Childhood Education Program and director of the on-site laboratory Child Care Center.

‘75 Amy Yanni is excited to report that she recently joined Teach For America’s 2011 teaching corps. Following 25 years in public interest law (legal services and as a public defender), she is now teaching first grade at Hazlehurst Elementary School in Hazlehurst, Mississippi. As one of 9,300 corps members teaching in high-need public schools in 43 regions around the country, she’s thrilled to be working alongside other dedicated educators to give students the educational opportunities they deserve.

‘81 Dr. Desmond McCarthy of the Framingham State Department of English moderated a forum on finding jobs in journalism and related fields on November 8, 2011. Sponsored every semester by the Department of English, the panel features recent alumni who were editors at Framingham State University’s independent student newspaper, The Gatepost. This semester’s panelists were Patrick Ball ’07, local editor, Lexington Patch; Lauren Byrnes ’11, web content manager, DestinationWeddings.com; Lindsay Chase ’11, assistant site editor, TechTarget; Amy Cunningham Flynn ’06, account manager, Magnet Direct; Samantha Hamel ’11, technical writer, Technology Solutions Experts, Inc.; and Megan Turner ’07, senior associate editor, Jones & Bartlett Learning.

‘92 Sandra Ionelli is the executive producer and director of programming for the Scripps Networks Interactive branded entertainment group. In this role, she oversees the development, production and delivery of sponsored content for Scripps’ portfolio of lifestyle networks—HGTV, DIY Network, Food Network, Cooking Channel, Travel Channel and Great American Country (GAC)—and all digital platforms.


‘96 Jude Tomasino, assistant director of Admissions at the Community College of Rhode Island, has been named president of the Rhode Island Association of Admissions Officers (RIAAO) for the 2011-2012 academic year.

‘97 Patricia E. Sweder has been awarded a Doctoral in Nursing Practice (DNP) 2011 from Regis College in Weston, Mass.

‘98 Rose Marie (McCaul) Higgins is proud to announce that her niece Sarah Carr recently enrolled at Framingham State as a Psychology major. Rose Marie earned a bachelor’s degree in English with a concentration in writing.

Timothy J. Walker, Jr., married Danielle Renaud in October 2011. They recently bought a home in North Grafton, Mass., where Timothy owns the landscaping company, General Yard Maintenance, Inc.

Kristen A. Bard married Thom A. Serra on December 10, 2011, at the Renaissance Golf Club in Haverhill. The couple lives in Wakefield. Kristin recently started a new job at Nuance Communications in Burlington working in the Legal department.
When native German Monika Raesch ’02 first came to the United States in 1998 seeking a degree in media production, she never imagined that one day she’d wind up a permanent U.S. resident.

Raesch developed a keen interest in the subject while in high school, but quickly learned there wasn’t a lot of opportunity to study it in Germany.

“At the time, there were only three colleges in the entire country that offered a media production major, and the chances of getting into any of them were very slim,” says Raesch, who is currently a professor in the Department of Communication and Journalism at Suffolk University in Boston. “I fully intended to return to Germany. Coming over here truly changed my life.”

When Raesch arrived in the States, she wound up living in Wayland, Mass., and soon enrolled in Framingham State’s Communication Arts Program. Raesch was the only German student at the University, but her professors went out of their way to make her feel at home. She fondly recalls the late Professor Gene Michaud always greeting her in German when they met in the hallway.

“That was so kind,” she says. “It’s just a small thing, but it makes a big difference. My teachers and classmates made me feel right at home.”

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“That was so kind,” she says. “It’s just a small thing, but it makes a big difference. My teachers and classmates made me feel right at home.”

English is a required subject in Germany, so Raesch had a good command of the language when she arrived at FSU, but still struggled with some of the vocabulary.

“There were many times when I wouldn’t understand exactly what was being said in class,” she says. “But everyone was very helpful. It took about a year and a half before I started thinking and dreaming in English.”

Raesch says that she would not be where she is today without the inspiration she received from her professors at Framingham State. She credits Professor Arthur Nolletti with convincing her to go on to graduate school. Nolletti would later serve as an outside advisor for her master’s thesis at Emerson College.

After she earned a master’s degree, Professor Derrick TePaske, current chair of the Communication Arts Department, invited her back to Framingham State in 2004 to serve as an adjunct faculty member for one year. “The entire faculty is so supportive, even long after you leave,” Raesch says. “I’m still in touch with many of them today.”

Following her year teaching at FSU, Raesch enrolled in the European Graduate School in Switzerland, where she earned a doctoral degree. Raesch was teaching in the United Kingdom when she applied for an open position at Suffolk University in 2008. “That opening caught my eye because I love Boston and was thrilled to return,” she says.

Today, she teaches courses in Media Production, Advanced Media Production, World Cinema, Silent Cinema and Film Adaptation. “It’s a wonderful mix of courses for me, because some are more creative and practical, while others deal with film theory and the more academic side of things.”
Three Alums Bring Theater Back to the Community

by REBECCA MUELLER ’12

In a world of long work days, tight budgets and starving artists, three Framingham State University alumni continue to restore the art of theater and foster the talent of volunteers who uphold local artistry as an integral part of a strong community.

When they aren’t going to class, writing theses or working full-time jobs, Brian Boruta ’07, Shantelle Nunes ’08 and Nicole Shay ’09 are hard at work preparing the next big project for their Boston-based production company, Theater 906.

The organization—first conceived by its founder, Boruta, in the winter of 2007—has done nothing but grow in size since its humble beginnings as Boruta’s personal side project, which he developed within the rehearsal space of the Performing Arts Center of MetroWest in downtown Framingham.

As Boruta describes, he had seen the space while working there on design projects for other theater production programs and decided to inquire about its availability.

“The directors and I worked out a really great deal where I bartered my design services for rehearsal space of the Performing Arts Center of MetroWest in downtown Framingham. As Boruta describes, he had seen the space while working there on design projects for other theater production programs and decided to inquire about its availability.

“The relationships that we have with the professors, the faculty and the general administrative staff are what keep us going,” Nunes says. “We love Framingham State and always find a reason to come back.”

For more information about Theater 906, visit www.theater906.org
IN MEMORIAM

Gladys Woodbury Davis ’34 — Aug. 5, 2011
Anna McGinnis ’34 — Oct. 15, 2011
Agnes Rawstron Schleicher ’34 — May 16, 2011
Mamie Alice Valentine Shattuck ’36 — Dec. 8, 2009
Janet M. Barrows ’37 — Nov. 29, 2010
Anita Chausse ’39 — May 4, 2011
Levona Lamb Hartley ’39 — Sept. 16, 2011
Lois Chouinard Howe ’39 — Sept. 21, 2011
Madeline Larner Thompson ’39 — June 17, 2009
Jean White Wild ’39 — Nov. 21, 2011
Cora Webb ’41 — Oct. 24, 2011
Josephine (Biancardi) Christo ’42 — March 27, 2011
Amy Virginia (Wartiainen) Van Hazinga ’42 — June 2, 2011
Helen Bartley Rich ’44 — June 27, 2008
Bertha Likshis Chase ’44 — Dec. 8, 2011
Beatrice Mastrodomenico Keeffe ’44 — June 9, 2010
Eleanor Harrington Rollins ’45 — Nov. 23, 2011
Sally Palmer Field ’45 — July 1, 2011
Julia Trodella Covino ’46 — June 22, 2011
Mary (Raihenberg) Jalbert ’49 — May 5, 2011
Kathleen Madden ’50 — July 9, 2011
Pauline Vigeant Pedersen ’50 — April 29, 2010
Barbara Read Shea ’51 — Aug. 16, 2011
Mary A. Lyons ’52 — Oct. 24, 2011
Jean Blanchette Romig ’54 — June 11, 2010
Margaret Barnicle ’55 — June 1, 2011
Nancy (Treasor) Kennedy ’57 — Dec. 6, 2011
Elizabeth Sheehan Taylor ’61 — April 17, 2011
Mary E. Fitzpatrick ’63 — Oct. 18, 2011
Evelyn Pires Whitcomb ’63 — Aug. 29, 2009
Cheryl Lawton Carter ’67 — Nov. 6, 2010
John Snigrove ’68 — Nov. 28, 2010
Lucille Miller Crosby ’70 — April 4, 2011
Richard E. Bassette ’71 — Feb. 27, 2010
Lauren Hurtubise Keating ’71 — Aug. 16, 2011
Patricia (Quinn) Pollard ’71 — Nov. 9, 2008
Linda Thomas Garrett ’71 — Aug. 18, 2006
Roger C. Gentilhomme ’72 — June 18, 2011
Dorothy Wilson Kimble ’76 — July 1, 2011
David A. Pimentel ’80 — Nov. 25, 2011
Beverly Heeley Amazeen ’81 — July 24, 2011
Mary Jane Grady Coburn ’81 — Aug. 30, 2011
Bruce D. Linnell ’81 — Sept. 30, 2011
Jane Gaffney Hill ’82 — June 18, 2009
Carolyn Jolda Pailler ’84 — Nov. 10, 2011
Susan A. (Friar) Dyer ’86 — Nov. 12, 2011
Robert M. Burns ’89 — April 5, 2010
Colleen A. Sears ’93 — Sept. 13, 2011
Mark A. Rundlett ’90 — March 17, 2011
Matthew J. Denice ’91 — Aug. 20, 2011

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

Of Special Note...

EMILY MCNEIL ’03 — FROM STUDENT TO TEACHER

Emily McNeil ’03 admits to being frightened when she returned to Framingham State University this semester to teach a course on the Legal Environment of Business.

“This is my first teaching experience,” says McNeil, who earned a bachelor’s degree in English at FSU, prior to earning a law degree. “It’s pretty scary standing up for the first time in front of a classroom of students, but it also felt like I’d come home. I love Framingham State.”

McNeil jumped at the chance to teach at her alma mater when she learned about the opening from her friend Chantal vanLede Lyon, who previously taught the course. She recommended McNeil to Professor Sandra Rahman, chair of the Department of Economics and Business Administration.

A required course for business majors at FSU, the Legal Environment of Business teaches students about the aspects of law that can apply to a business career.

“It’s basically a broad overview of laws that apply to business,” McNeil says. “It covers everything from the court system to employment-related issues.”

In addition to teaching this semester, McNeil works as a real estate planning attorney at Vaughn-Martel Law, a South Boston law firm. She is also a member of the Framingham State Alumni Association Board of Directors.
FSU Welcomes Executive Director of Development and Alumni Relations

In February, Framingham State University announced the hiring of Eric Gustafson as the new executive director of Development and Alumni Relations.

“I’m thrilled to join the University and am excited about the role I’m going to play,” says Gustafson. “I’m particularly looking forward to meeting with our alumni.”

Gustafson comes to Framingham State from Anna Maria College, in Paxton, Mass., where he had been serving as the director of Advancement since 2008. At Anna Maria, he successfully increased alumni engagement in the college and rebuilt the advancement program from the ground up. Prior to joining Anna Maria, Gustafson served as the director of the Annual Fund at Muskingum College in Ohio.

At FSU, Gustafson will lead all fundraising and alumni engagement efforts.

“This course is part of a growing trend toward experiential learning within colleges and universities,” said Dr. Ira Silver of FSU’s Department of Sociology. “Many schools in the Boston area—and indeed around the country—are exposing students to how the nonprofit sector can address pressing social problems. This is a significant development given that we live in an era of declining public trust in the government’s capacity to solve problems.”

Called “Future Philanthropists,” the program is run by the Volunteer Family, a Boston-based virtual volunteer center. The organization offers the class each year at different schools.

The FSU course focuses on a problem that has dominated the airwaves in recent months: rising economic inequality in the United States. Students will learn about the social contexts giving rise to this problem as well as the nuts and bolts of how effective philanthropic giving works. They will identify organizations in the MetroWest area that are addressing this issue and a grant process for determining which ones they deem as most promising to fund.

The Highland Street Foundation has agreed to provide $5,000 for the class to distribute. “Although the work of most nonprofits sounds really good, this doesn’t mean that they are making a significant impact,” Dr. Silver said. “The course teaches students about how to evaluate the effectiveness of organizations by looking at such factors as how strong their leadership is and whether they are making good financial decisions. Students come away with an understanding of how to determine organizations that are truly worthy of support—nonprofits that will make good use of the grant money.”

Dr. Silver is currently writing a book, *Investing in Opportunity: How You Can Help Restore the American Dream*, which identifies nonprofits around the country that are successfully mitigating economic inequality in the United States. He also blogs about charitable solutions to inequality at www.oppforall.com.

The course is being co-taught by Susan Nicholl, whose focus is on helping students to formulate a grant application and subsequently evaluate proposals. Nicholl is chair of the MetroWest Nonprofit Network, executive director of the MetroWest Visitors Bureau and contributing editor for www.massnonprofit.org, an online news service.

The students will award the $5,000 to organizations of their choosing at an awards ceremony at Framingham State University on Wednesday, May 2, 2012.
Young Alumni Support
Current Students at FSU

As is the case for so many students who attend Framingham State, Jan-Marie (Belliveau) Murray ’03 relied on financial aid to pay for a portion of her education.

Since graduating in 2003, she and her husband James Murray ’08 have been consistent donors to the University’s Annual Fund, which supports student scholarships, academic and cultural programming, faculty development, athletics and alumni activities.

“Having benefited from financial aid ourselves, we feel very strongly that it’s important to give back to the school and continue the tradition of alumni supporting current students,” Jan-Marie Murray says.

Among all students at Framingham State University, 75 percent receive some form of financial aid. The University awarded nearly $28 million in financial aid last academic year in the form of loans or grants.

“It feels good to know you’re helping out the next generation of FSU students,” James Murray says. “It’s important because tuition alone doesn’t cover the cost of all that FSU provides students. Gifts made to the Annual Fund also support athletics, student activities outside the classroom and the faculty.”

Jan-Marie Murray says she first began to appreciate the importance of alumni financial support when she worked as a student in the FSU Advancement Office. The experience had a huge impact on her future, as today she is the associate director of the Bentley Fund at Bentley University.

“More and more schools are relying on alumni support to fund student scholarships and programming,” Murray says. “Alumni participation also boosts the rankings and overall profile of the institution, which raises the value of your degree. My husband and I graduated from Framingham State College, for example, but now we can say our degrees are from Framingham State University.”

We hope that you will help continue the tradition of alumni supporting current students at Framingham State University.

To make a gift online visit www.framingham.edu/give
Commencement and Alumni Reunion Weekend

MAY 19 & 20, 2012

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.

2012 Rams Booster Club Golf Tournament

JUNE 18, 2012 | 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

WEEK OF JULY 22, 2012

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

Tanglewood

AUGUST 12, 2012

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

SEPTEMBER 28–30, 2012

Discover what Ram Pride is all about at the 2012 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 2013 Red Sox and Bruins Games

DECEMBER | DATE TBD

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

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

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

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