Massachusetts needs more—and better educated—nurses. Framingham State’s popular nursing programs are helping to meet that growing demand.
SERVING THE COMMONWEALTH

It’s no secret that Massachusetts is home to one of the most innovative and forward-looking economies in the nation. Powered by our highly educated workforce, it’s an economy that attracts employers in booming industries such as healthcare, biotechnology and information technology. While elite private colleges like Harvard University and MIT are typically credited with this phenomenon, it’s our public colleges and universities that are educating a majority of the Commonwealth’s workforce, as a much higher percentage of our graduates choose to stay and work in Massachusetts.

Since our founding in 1839 as the nation’s first public teachers’ college, Framingham State has continually sought to adapt to meet the economic needs of the Commonwealth, while also remaining true to our mission of providing access to an excellent and affordable education. In recent years, this has meant adding or expanding programs in areas such as biotechnology, computer science and nursing, the last of which is the focus of our cover story for this issue of Framingham State Magazine.

Nationally, more nurses are needed to keep up with the demands of an aging population. Massachusetts has a relatively healthy number of registered nurses (RNs), but there is a shortage of nurses with advanced degrees that provide the expertise needed to navigate increasingly complex patient care settings.

FSU offers two important programs specifically structured to meet this need—our bachelor of science completion program (RN-to-BS) is designed for RNs who already possess associate’s degrees or diplomas in nursing, and our Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program offers concentrations in Nursing Education and Nursing Leadership.

The University has added new simulation labs in Hemenway Hall that provide our nursing students the opportunity to apply their skills in a high-tech and innovative environment right here on campus. Recently, the University also began partnering with agencies such as Newton-Wellesley Hospital to help get their RNs into our bachelor of science completion program.

Framingham State is helping to train the next generation of nursing administrators and leaders. It’s another example of how the University continually adapts to meet the needs of the Commonwealth.

Best wishes,

F. Javier Cevallos, PhD
President
Framingham State University

www.framingham.edu

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

It’s no secret that Massachusetts is home to one of the most innovative and forward-looking economies in the nation. Powered by our highly educated workforce, it’s an economy that attracts employers in booming industries such as healthcare, biotechnology and information technology. While elite private colleges like Harvard University and MIT are typically credited with this phenomenon, it’s our public colleges and universities that are educating a majority of the Commonwealth’s workforce, as a much higher percentage of our graduates choose to stay and work in Massachusetts.

Since our founding in 1839 as the nation’s first public teachers’ college, Framingham State has continually sought to adapt to meet the economic needs of the Commonwealth, while also remaining true to our mission of providing access to an excellent and affordable education. In recent years, this has meant adding or expanding programs in areas such as biotechnology, computer science and nursing, the last of which is the focus of our cover story for this issue of Framingham State Magazine.

Nationally, more nurses are needed to keep up with the demands of an aging population. Massachusetts has a relatively healthy number of registered nurses (RNs), but there is a shortage of nurses with advanced degrees that provide the expertise needed to navigate increasingly complex patient care settings.

FSU offers two important programs specifically structured to meet this need—our bachelor of science completion program (RN-to-BS) is designed for RNs who already possess associate’s degrees or diplomas in nursing, and our Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program offers concentrations in Nursing Education and Nursing Leadership.

The University has added new simulation labs in Hemenway Hall that provide our nursing students the opportunity to apply their skills in a high-tech and innovative environment right here on campus. Recently, the University also began partnering with agencies such as Newton-Wellesley Hospital to help get their RNs into our bachelor of science completion program.

Framingham State is helping to train the next generation of nursing administrators and leaders. It’s another example of how the University continually adapts to meet the needs of the Commonwealth.

Best wishes,

F. Javier Cevallos, PhD
President
Framingham State University

www.framingham.edu

ANSWERING THE CALL

Framingham State’s popular Nursing Programs are helping Massachusetts meet a growing demand for highly-educated nurses.

SPRING COMMENCEMENT

Alumni, family and friends gather on campus to celebrate the graduates.

DEPARTMENTS

10 STUDENT VOICE Chemistry major Rachel Duffy ’19 is bringing the fight to cancer.
11 ON COURSE Dr. Deborah Mckinlin ’92 coordinates the University’s Inside-Out Program.
12 SPRING COMMENCEMENT Alumni, family and friends gather on campus to celebrate the graduates.
14 CAMPUS LIFE Learn about new upgrades to the FSU Dining Commons.
16 FACULTY NEWS FSU receives $1 million Inclusive Excellence Grant.
18 RAM NATION Softball repeats as MASCAC Champions.
20 ALUMNI CORNER Check out the scenes from Reunion Weekend in June.
24 CLASS NOTES Learn how your classmates are spending their time.
28 HAPPENINGS President Cevallos joins CEO pledge to advance diversity and inclusion in the workplace.
18C DONOR PROFILE Professor Halyen Mcentus Krebs and her husband Thomas Krebs make University’s largest-ever gift.
Massachusetts needs more—and better educated—nurses. Framingham State’s popular Nursing programs are helping to meet that growing demand.

“Framingham State offers a lot of opportunity. It’s helping me grow to be a better nurse.”

—Bridget Blake ’18
The job market for nurses in the United States is booming, and there’s no slowdown in sight. In fact, according to the American Nursing Association, the country will need an additional 1 million nurses by 2022.

“The demand is nearing the highest it’s ever been,” says Dr. Susan Mullaney, chair of the Department of Nursing at Framingham State University. “It’s attributed to a variety of factors, including the overall aging of our population and the number of baby boomer nurses who are retiring or nearing retirement age.” It’s not a one-size-fits-all shortage, but rather varies geographically. Massachusetts, for instance, has a fairly healthy number of registered nurses (RNs). What the Commonwealth really needs, she notes, is more nurses with advanced education.

Framingham State is helping to answer the call with two programs: a bachelor of science completion program (RN-to-BS) for RNs with associate’s degrees or diplomas in nursing and a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree with concentrations in Nursing Education and Nursing Leadership. Both programs are designed for working professionals. Offered in hybrid format, classes meet on campus every other week, with alternating weeks taking place online. “Hybrid classes offer a lot of flexibility, allowing students to take two courses at a time and only come to campus one evening a week,” says Dr. Cynthia Bechtel, professor and coordinator of the MSN program. “We know that nearly all of our Nursing students are working full-time.”

Framingham State’s Nursing programs are not just about quantity—producing more nurses—they’re also very much about quality. In 2010, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) released a report, The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health, calling for 80 percent of nurses to have a bachelor of science degree in nursing by 2020. This increased level of education, IOM asserts, helps prepare nurses to meet the increasing demands placed on them and to take on specialty care roles, such as surgical, intensive care and emergency nursing.

“Patient care within both hospital and community settings has become more complex,” Mullaney explains. “In hospitals, nurses are caring for sicker, frailer patients. They need to be skilled at assessment and decision-making when issues arise. They’re also working with sophisticated technology on a daily basis.” In the community, she observes that nurses also help patients manage chronic illnesses to prevent acute episodes. “Nurses with advanced degrees, typically considered to be the baccalaureate degree and higher, are best prepared to do this. Degrees beyond the associate’s degree typically allow for smoother career advancement and more flexibility in the choice of nursing roles beyond that of staff nurse.”

Nurses looking to take on advanced roles—clinical instructors, professional development educators or nurse managers—definitely need to have master’s degrees. “Our master’s programs prepare much-needed nurse leaders and nurse educators,” adds Bechtel. “Graduates are typically hired right away.”

Our master’s programs prepare much-needed nurse leaders and nurse educators. Graduates are hired right away.”

—Dr. Cynthia Bechtel
Nursing at Framingham State began in 1983 with the RN-to-BS program, which has recently been expanded to reach more students. “Our numbers typically hover around 90 to 100,” says Mullaney. “Currently, we have 96 students at varying stages of progress in the undergraduate program.” Three years ago, the University started to offer bachelor in science completion courses to RNs at Newton-Wellesley Hospital, at the request of the hospital. “Our first Newton-Wellesley cohort had 24 students with a 100 percent retention rate; our second cohort, which began in fall 2017, currently has 19 students who plan to graduate in May 2019,” she notes. Discussions are now underway about possibly providing the same for nurses at MetroWest Medical Center in Framingham. This year, Framingham State launched a joint admissions program with Massachusetts Bay Community College, providing a seamless path from an associate nursing degree to a bachelor’s degree. “The idea is that students entering MassBay who plan to earn their bachelor’s degrees are conditionally accepted to Framingham State and can continue right on,” Mullaney explains. “It provides for a smoother transition. Students don’t have to apply separately; it may also minimize the number of general education courses they need to complete.” This cooperative program is a great advantage for motivated nursing students—the kind Framingham State attracts. “Our undergraduates are students with a plan. They are committed to nursing and seeking the flexibility to take on roles other than the bedside nurse. Our program gives them a wider variety of choices.” Hard-working graduates like Bridget Blake ’18 appreciate this kind of flexibility. Blake earned her RN from MassBay (prior to joint admissions) and came to Framingham State for the bachelor in science completion program. “I did my bachelor’s in two years, taking two courses a semester while working at McLean Hospital full-time,” she says. “The faculty at Framingham are so helpful and supportive. They’re definitely willing to work with you so you can be successful. They understand that everyone in the program works, and that many people have families.” Blake enjoyed her BS degree experience so much, in fact, that she’s continuing on for her Master of Science in Nursing with a concentration in Nursing Leadership. “I want to be able to advance,” she explains. “At McLean, my clinical coordinator left in April. I was promoted into her position because I was earning my bachelor’s degree. And my boss, the floor supervisor, is encouraging me to get my master’s so I can move up into her position. Both my clinical coordinator and floor supervisor earned their MSN in Nursing Leadership from Framingham State.” In that respect, continuing on for her master’s degree was an easy decision. “Framingham State offers a lot of opportunity,” Blake concludes. “It’s helping me grow to be a better nurse.”

The faculty are so knowledgeable, and they treat students with respect. They have a genuine, vested interest in students doing well. Their care goes far beyond academics.”

—Adam Munroe ’15, G’17
Looking back, Munroe says he especially enjoyed the master’s program cohort model. Each year, “we have 25 students start together in each cohort and stay together for all of their courses,” explains Bechtel. “The cohort helps them be successful and gives them a built-in network. By the end of the first semester, it’s like a second family for them.” Munroe agrees. “I made connections through my cohort that will be lifelong. We still communicate regularly—we just got together for dinner.” In addition to appreciating his cohort, Munroe raves about the Nursing faculty. “They’re amazing,” he says. “The faculty are so knowledgeable, and they treat students with respect. They have a genuine, vested interest in students doing well. Their care goes far beyond academics.” Munroe is now enrolled in the nursing doctorate program at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, a fact he credits to the encouragement of Framingham State Nursing faculty. “My long-term plan is to teach,” he says. He is now test-driving that plan, assisting in the Nursing Theory and Research I course at Framingham State even as he finishes his PhD.

Question  What’s not human but blinks, breathes and has a pulse?

Answer  The high-fidelity mannequins in the Hemenway Hall Simulation Lab.

It’s here that bachelor in science completion students try out new skills and master’s students practice teaching others.

The spacious new facility, which opened in January 2017, has three separate simulation rooms, along with a control room and debriefing classroom. “We can run three different scenarios at the same time,” explains Dr. Cynthia Bechtel, professor and coordinator of the MSN program.

Students in the Nursing Education cohort of the MSN program monitor the simulations from the control room. Following each scenario, they lead a debriefing session to clarify the major concepts covered. “That’s where the most important learning takes place,” says Bechtel.

The simulations count as part of the students’ clinical experiences. Undergraduates use the lab for a few courses, including health assessment practice and informatics, while master’s students use it to practice ethical, social and cultural competencies.

The new space is a boon to both programs. “It provides a very realistic atmosphere,” Bechtel concludes. “It’s easier for students to immerse themselves and react appropriately to the situations.”

Answering the Call

…we’re most proud, of course, of our graduates who have gone on to provide high-quality, safe and effective care to the patients and communities that they serve.”

—Dr. Susan Mullaney, Chair
Department of Nursing

Finishing School

Munroe is excited to be back on the Framingham State University campus instructing other students. “The reputation of the Nursing program is so good,” he reflects. “The location is great, the campus is beautiful, and the program is definitely one of the best bargains going. Framingham State produces well-rounded, sought-after nurses.” Mullaney and Bechtel agree. “Our Nursing programs, which are fully accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, foster self-directed, lifelong learning and critical thinking and decision-making,” says Bechtel.

“In addition, we strive to instill in students independent nursing action and professional awareness.”

“Our faculty is very proud of the growth our programs have undergone in the last five to 10 years,” Mullaney concludes. “And we’re most proud, of course, of our graduates who have gone on to provide high-quality, safe and effective care to the patients and communities that they serve.”
**Rachael Duffy ’19**

Rachael Duffy is a senior Chemistry major with a concentration in Biochemistry and a minor in Biology. During the summer and fall of 2017, she took part in an internship at CreaGen Biosciences, Inc., which was funded by the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center. While working with PhD chemists to synthesize cancer-fighting molecules, she discovered her passion.

**Professor Deborah McMakin**

Dr. Deborah McMakin ’92 has been a professor in the Psychology and Philosophy Department at Framingham State University since 1998. She teaches courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels, including Psychology of Development, Abnormal Psychology, Group Dynamics and Research Methods. Dr. McMakin coordinates the FSU Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology and the Inside-Out Prison Exchange programs. In addition, she is the co-advisor to the Psi Chi Honor Society.

---

**Why Did You Choose Framingham State?**

A: I originally majored in Food and Nutrition and chose Framingham State because the Coordinated Program is highly regarded. I had no intention of changing majors, but while taking my first Chemistry course, I fell in love with the subject and the faculty in the department and was inspired to switch over. I’ve always been interested in the idea of using food to help people get better, which is why I started out in Nutrition. But I’ve come to realize there are even broader applications of that interest within chemistry.

**What Have You Enjoyed Most About Teaching at Your Alma Mater?**

A: It’s been amazing. The staff are so personable and really care about every student, their success and their lives in general. The courses I’ve taken are so interesting and have real-world applications which I’ve been able to utilize in my experience in the lab. Science has always been interesting to me, but I didn’t have a great experience with chemistry in high school due to my teacher at the time. I wasn’t sure that I would vocal at it in college, but the faculty have made all the difference.

**What Do You Enjoy Most About Teaching at Your Alma Mater?**

A: The students, who work so hard, and the resources for faculty to pursue their passion for teaching and scholarship. I am a first-generation college student, and a lot of our students are as well. Students invest so much time and effort just to be here; they are working to finance their education and trying to do well by their families. In addition to our students’ commitment to their education, I appreciate the encouragement and flexibility to pursue teaching and scholarship interests, both within my department and across the University overall.

**What Are Your Plans for the Future?**

A: I want to work in a research lab. Even given the frustration and downturns that can come with research, the reward is so worth it. It’s so motivating to go in every day and know that you are working toward finding a better treatment or cure for cancer or some other rare disease.

**How Does the Inside-Out Program Work?**

A: The Inside-Out program is an international program for institutions of higher education. The program brings to incarcerated students (insiders) together with 10 students who are not incarcerated (outsiders) to take an undergraduate course together. Consistent with FSU’s mission, Inside-Out is grounded in the belief that people can learn from one another and that transformative education leads to social change. Classes are held within the walls of a correctional facility, and course meetings are held once a week. FSU has offered courses at MCI Framingham, a women’s prison, and at the Middlesex Jail and House of Correction in Billerica, a men’s prison. There are three faculty teachers to offer Inside-Out courses.

**What Do You Think Inmates and Our Students Get Out of the Program?**

A: I consistently hear from all students that Inside-Out provides them with unique ways to learn outside of their comfort zones. Incarcerated (inside) students face their fears of being judged, as people and as students. They renew or begin a commitment to education, which in turn can yield a positive ripple effect on families and communities. For example, incarcerated students talk with their parents and children about their studies. Similarly, outside students confront the stereotypes and misconceptions associated with living in an age of mass incarceration. Students often find they have more in common with one another than they originally thought. Incarcerated students, for instance, are often just as busy within the walls of the correctional facilities and work release programs as students who take courses on campus.
Choose diverse experiences. Be courageous. Step out of your comfort zone.

CELEBRATING COMMENCEMENT

Thousands of friends, family, faculty and staff packed into the DCU Center in Worcester on Sunday, May 20, to celebrate the Framingham State University Class of 2018.

“As a result of their hard work, all of our graduates this morning have deepened their knowledge, strengthened their analytical and communication skills, demonstrated their commitment to lifelong learning and taken an important step in separating themselves from the field in an increasingly competitive job market,” Framingham State President F. Javier Cevallos told the audience during his welcoming remarks.

Dr. Yvonne Spicer, who made history last year when she was elected the first mayor of the newly formed City of Framingham, urged the students to take advantage of their position as college graduates and “sound the alarm” on injustice.

“You must take your place in the world as a change agent,” said Spicer, who is the first African American woman to be a popularly elected mayor in the history of Massachusetts. “Choose diverse experiences. Be courageous. Step out of your comfort zone.”

The University presented Spicer with an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree during the ceremony.

During the afternoon graduate ceremony, Dr. Carlos Santiago, Massachusetts Commissioner of Higher Education, addressed the master’s degree recipients, telling them that they are the key to the success of the Commonwealth’s education economy.

“You have taken the first steps toward lifelong learning,” said Santiago, who received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from the University following his speech. “Massachusetts needs you. Our future relies on your expertise, on your innovation.”

Framingham State presented the University’s President’s Medal to Nancy and Janina Swiacki in honor of their support and dedication to the FSU community.
Major Renovations to FSU Dining Commons

Major renovations to enhance the seating, layout and overall environment of the Framingham State Dining Commons were completed in the McCarthy Center over the summer.

The enhanced space features a wider variety of seating options and a better traffic flow, with food stations located around the perimeter of the space and seating in the middle, according to Dining Services Director Ralph Eddy ’96.

Other highlights of the renovations include a new vegan station and allergen-friendly platform. The University’s food service operation, which is run by Sodexo, has previously been recognized for its efforts to cater to students with food allergies and other dietary restrictions.

“The entire space is a lot more welcoming,” says Eddy. “It’s easier to maneuver and better designed for customer behaviors.”

“The project builds upon a previous phase of renovations to the Dining Commons, which included adding a UCook station where students can create their own meals, and also incorporated a portion of the FSU marketplace into the student dining area. New seating options include bar counters that overlook food stations, individual tables with booths and chairs, larger community tables and picnic-style benches.

“The entire space is a lot more welcoming,” says Eddy. “It’s easier to maneuver and better designed for customer behaviors.”

The renovations also involving replacing the Starbucks in the McCarthy Center with a full-service Dunkin’ Donuts. Eddy says that a survey of more than 900 students demonstrated a strong preference for New England’s favorite coffee shop.

Sodexo is paying for the large majority of the upgrades as part of its contract with Framingham State, which is run by Sodexo, has previously been recognized for its efforts to cater to students with food allergies and other dietary restrictions.

“Michael is so small that we are able to do a lot of research as undergraduates,” says Montemurro, who hopes to design and engineer new food technology products in the future. “We also have gotten to personally know our professors, which definitely helps.”

Sokol, who took home the Melvin I. Darack Award as the top undergraduate student in the region, landed a full-time job with Brady Enterprises in East Weymouth prior to graduating in the spring.

Despite coming from the smallest program represented at the Northeast Institute of Food Technologists’ student recognition night, Framingham State food science students claimed one-third of the awards in May, including the award for the top undergraduate student.

Stephanie Sokol ’18, Ben Montemurro ’18 and Bill Wolfe’18, as well as graduate student Lai Yee Phoon, were each awarded scholarships in recognition of their impressive academic track records, research and extracurricular activities in food science. The scholarships range in size from $1,500 to $2,500, and the students have chosen to use the money to cover the expense of attending the Northeast Institute of Food Technologists’ Annual Event and Food Expo in July, which is expected to draw 25,000 people from across the globe.

“This recognition is a great opportunity to recognize the hard work of these students and hopefully inspire younger students to strive for similar success,” Sokol, who took home the Melvin I. Darack Award as the top undergraduate student in the region, landed a full-time job with Brady Enterprises in East Weymouth prior to graduating in the spring.

Food Science Students Win Big

Major renovations to enhance the seating, layout and overall environment of the Framingham State Dining Commons were completed in the McCarthy Center over the summer.

The enhanced space features a wider variety of seating options and a better traffic flow, with food stations located around the perimeter of the space and seating in the middle, according to Dining Services Director Ralph Eddy ’96.

Other highlights of the renovations include a new vegan station and allergen-friendly platform. The University’s food service operation, which is run by Sodexo, has previously been recognized for its efforts to cater to students with food allergies and other dietary restrictions.

“The entire space is a lot more welcoming,” says Eddy. “It’s easier to maneuver and better designed for customer behaviors.”

“The project builds upon a previous phase of renovations to the Dining Commons, which included adding a UCook station where students can create their own meals, and also incorporated a portion of the FSU marketplace into the student dining area. New seating options include bar counters that overlook food stations, individual tables with booths and chairs, larger community tables and picnic-style benches.

“The entire space is a lot more welcoming,” says Eddy. “It’s easier to maneuver and better designed for customer behaviors.”

The renovations also involving replacing the Starbucks in the McCarthy Center with a full-service Dunkin’ Donuts. Eddy says that a survey of more than 900 students demonstrated a strong preference for New England’s favorite coffee shop.

Sodexo is paying for the large majority of the upgrades as part of its contract with Framingham State, which is run by Sodexo, has previously been recognized for its efforts to cater to students with food allergies and other dietary restrictions.

“Michael is so small that we are able to do a lot of research as undergraduates,” says Montemurro, who hopes to design and engineer new food technology products in the future. “We also have gotten to personally know our professors, which definitely helps.”

Sokol, who took home the Melvin I. Darack Award as the top undergraduate student in the region, landed a full-time job with Brady Enterprises in East Weymouth prior to graduating in the spring.

Despite coming from the smallest program represented at the Northeast Institute of Food Technologists’ student recognition night, Framingham State food science students claimed one-third of the awards in May, including the award for the top undergraduate student.

Stephanie Sokol ’18, Ben Montemurro ’18 and Bill Wolfe’18, as well as graduate student Lai Yee Phoon, were each awarded scholarships in recognition of their impressive academic track records, research and extracurricular activities in food science. The scholarships range in size from $1,500 to $2,500, and the students have chosen to use the money to cover the expense of attending the Northeast Institute of Food Technologists’ Annual Event and Food Expo in July, which is expected to draw 25,000 people from across the globe.

“This recognition is a great opportunity to recognize the hard work of these students and hopefully inspire younger students to strive for similar success,” Sokol, who took home the Melvin I. Darack Award as the top undergraduate student in the region, landed a full-time job with Brady Enterprises in East Weymouth prior to graduating in the spring.

Despite coming from the smallest program represented at the Northeast Institute of Food Technologists’ student recognition night, Framingham State food science students claimed one-third of the awards in May, including the award for the top undergraduate student.

Stephanie Sokol ’18, Ben Montemurro ’18 and Bill Wolfe’18, as well as graduate student Lai Yee Phoon, were each awarded scholarships in recognition of their impressive academic track records, research and extracurricular activities in food science. The scholarships range in size from $1,500 to $2,500, and the students have chosen to use the money to cover the expense of attending the Northeast Institute of Food Technologists’ Annual Event and Food Expo in July, which is expected to draw 25,000 people from across the globe.

“This recognition is a great opportunity to recognize the hard work of these students and hopefully inspire younger students to strive for similar success,” Sokol, who took home the Melvin I. Darack Award as the top undergraduate student in the region, landed a full-time job with Brady Enterprises in East Weymouth prior to graduating in the spring.
FSU Receives a $1 Million Inclusive Excellence Grant

2018 Distinguished Faculty Recipients

Dr. Amanda Simons has taught in the Department of Biology at Framingham State University since 2009. She earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Delaware and a Ph.D. from Harvard University. Dr. Simons is an excellent teacher who cares about what her students are learning, how they are learning it and the experiences that they have during their undergraduate education. She has been an innovator in investigating and introducing new teaching techniques in the classroom. This includes moving away from lecture-based classrooms and reducing the number of exams in her courses in favor of small assignments that focus on learning and applying material, rather than on memorization. She has also introduced peer-led instruction in her genetics course, which utilizes peer-based assistance in small groups. His assessment of class results and her positive feedback on her student evaluations clearly demonstrate the success of these changes on student learning.

Dr. Simons was selected in the establishment of the Professional Science Masters (PSM) program on campus.

Dr. Kelly Matthews has taught in the Department of English at Framingham State University since 2000. She earned a bachelor’s degree from Harvard University and a Ph.D. from the University of Utah.

In addition to being an outstanding teacher, Dr. Matthews puts an amazing amount of time and care into her role as an academic advisor on campus. She serves as the head of three education liaisons within the English department. In this role, she advises a high percentage of three education liaisons within the English department. She establishes a network of professional partnerships with school districts in the region, which includes working closely with school districts and helping them navigate the academic major. Dr. Matthews is also the program coordinator for Liberal Studies. This is a challenging role, as the major combines coursework from multiple academic disciplines, which requires her to keep abreast of the academic requirements of various departments.

Dr. Xavier Guadalupe-Diaz has been a Criminology professor within the Department of Sociology at Framingham State University since 2015. He earned an undergraduate degree at Virginia Commonwealth University and a Ph.D. from the University of Central Florida.

Despite being in the early stages of his career, Dr. Guadalupe-Diaz’s scholarly productivity at Framingham State is extensive. His areas of research specialization include violence in intimate relationships, gender and sexuality, social inequalities, and the criminal justice system; and applied sociology. The work has been published in several peer-reviewed journals, books, and encyclopedias. He also has two book manuscripts under contract at New York University Press that are scheduled to be published over the next two years. Dr. Guadalupe-Diaz has applied for several major fellowships and has three research projects in progress. In addition to his own scholarship and research, he has served as a mentor to students in research methods and beyond. He empowers students and leads them to build skills and appreciation for the conduct of social research.

Dr. Elaine Beilin has been a invaluable member of the Department of English at Framingham State University for 33 years. She holds a BA from the University of Toronto and a PhD from Princeton University.

Dr. Beilin was the founding co-director of the Center for Excellence in Learning, Teaching, Scholarship and Service (CEL TSS) when it was established in 2007 and serves as the center’s director today.

Nearly half of the English department’s full-time faculty were hired during Dr. Beilin’s 11 years as chair of the department, and she has played an important role in their professional development as teachers, scholars and citizens in our community.

In 2014, Dr. Beilin served as co-chair of the University’s 2014 Self-Study for Reaccreditation with the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. She also guided the English department through two successful outside reviews, and has been an invaluable member of the committee leading the Reimagining the First Year Initiative. Dr. Beilin also played a critical role in writing Framingham State’s updated mission statement in 2010.

Framingham State University has been awarded a $1 million grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) to fund a five-year project aimed at increasing the academic success and persistence of first-generation and underrepresented students in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).

“This extraordinary opportunity has come about because of the hard work and dedication of so many faculty and staff at FSU,” says Dr. Catherine Dignam, chair of Framingham State’s Chemistry and Food Science department, and the project lead on the grant application. “We believe that all students here, regardless of their background, are equally deserving of the highest-quality education. This grant will give us the resources to make significant progress toward our goal of closing the achievement gap between students in STEM disciplines.”

Framingham State University is one of just 33 schools across the country to receive a grant from the HHMI Inclusive Excellence initiative this year. Another 24 schools were selected in 2017.

The grant will fund FSU’s Transparent Pathways in STEM project, which aims to redesign academic pathways and curricula in a way that removes obstacles to student success and levels the playing field for all students, particularly those from underrepresented groups.

“This is an incredible opportunity for the University to enhance its longstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion.”

Framingham State University is one of just two Massachusetts public institutions of higher education to receive the HHMI Inclusive Excellence initiative this year. Another 24 schools were selected in 2017.

The grant will fund FSU’s Transparent Pathways in STEM project, which aims to redesign academic pathways and curricula in a way that removes obstacles to student success and levels the playing field for all students, particularly those from underrepresented groups.

“This is an incredible opportunity for the University to enhance its longstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion,“ says FSU President F. Javier Cevallos. “Science and technology are crucial to the Commonwealth’s innovation economy, but there is still a large achievement gap for first-generation and minority students training in these important fields. We are truly grateful to the Howard Hughes Medical Institute for awarding us this grant as we seek to take important steps to close that gap.”

The project will involve approximately 60 STEM faculty from FSU and MassBay Community College (FSU’s largest feeder school) in an evidence-based intensive faculty development model that will lead to improvements in the individual and collective faculty practice, creating a lasting culture of inclusive excellence in the STEM curriculum and faculty ranks. Most importantly, it will foster and create the faculty leadership that is critical for effecting a sizable impact to institutional culture.

Dr. Mark Nicholas, Director of Institutional Assessment, served as co-principal investigator for the grant, and will work with faculty to create inclusive and explicit pathways for success in the STEM curriculum for all students.

“We are very excited to become part of the HHMI higher education community,” added Dr. Margaret Carroll, Founding Dean of the College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics at FSU.

“This grant will allow us to advance our commitment to diversity and inclusion in our STEM programs.”

During two rounds of selection in 2015 and 2017, HHMI received applications from 594 schools, according to the organization’s award announcement. Of these, 140 schools were invited to submit full proposals for plans to develop more inclusive environments for their students. Framingham State is one of just two Massachusetts public colleges to receive the HHMI grant, along with the University of Massachusetts Amherst.
Meaghann Ackerman initially planned to join the basketball team at Framingham State University when she first visited campus, but the four-sport star high school athlete ultimately decided to stick with her first love of field hockey after enrolling.

“I’ve been playing field hockey since I was in second grade,” says Ackerman, who played field hockey, basketball, softball and lacrosse in high school. “It has always been my favorite sport.”

At Framingham State, Ackerman has had to get accustomed to something she wasn’t very familiar with growing up: losing. The program has struggled to string wins together each year, despite obvious signs of progress.

“In high school, we had an undefeated season and won the league championship,” she says. “So it’s tough coming from a winning program to a losing program. But we are working hard to push things in the right direction and stay positive about our overall direction.”

As a co-captain on the field hockey team, Ackerman has focused on bonding and building strong relationships within the team. Losing can stress that process, but the team has managed to remain close, she notes.

“When you’re down, the only place to go is up,” she says. “We know there are better days ahead for the program, but it can be tough.”

This fall, Ackerman is optimistic that the team’s efforts to improve will start to pay dividends.

“You’ve done a ton of recruiting, which is where it starts,” says Ackerman. “The team is definitely headed in the right direction. A lot of us were in the area over the summer and worked out together, so we’re ready.”

Outside of athletics, Ackerman is a Criminology major who recently interned with the Massachusetts State Police. She hopes to follow in the footsteps of her grandfather and uncle and go into law enforcement, and also plans to coach field hockey in the future.

“My mom played field hockey when I was younger, and she definitely passed her passion for the sport on to me,” she says. “So I would like to stay involved with it.”

Catch the team at Homecoming!

Softball Team Repeats as MASCAC Champions

The Framingham State University softball team captured their second-straight Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC) softball tournament title in May.

Tournament MVP Kelsi Gunarathne pitched a complete-game shutout with a career-high 13 strikeouts to help the second seeded Rams prevail 1-0 over the third seeded Westfield State Owls.

The Rams earned an automatic bid into the NCAA Tournament, where they would advance one round with a win over UMass Boston before falling to Tufts University. The team finished another successful season with a 26-17 record.

Senior outfielder Dayna Marchant and junior Gunarathne were named to the 2018 National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) All-New England Region teams.

Marchant, a four-time All-MASCAC first team honoree, had an outstanding senior season that saw her hit .493 with 71 hits, including seven doubles, five triples and 28 RBI. Marchant, who is the FSU career hit leader, surpassed the 200 career hit mark during the season and also holds the record for hits in a season (71).

Gunarathne, the 2017 MASCAC Pitcher of the Year and two-time All-MASCAC honoree, led the league in just about every pitching category during the season. She went 16-8 in the circle with a 1.88 ERA in 145.1 innings of work. Gunarathne led the MASCAC in ERA, strikeouts (129), innings pitched and wins.

Keep up with the Framingham State University athletic teams online at fsurams.com

Four Rams Make All-MASCAC Baseball Team

Four members of the Framingham State baseball team earned All-MASCAC (Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference) honors during the team’s 2018 season, which finished with a 21-19 record and a trip to the championship finals.

The honorees included second baseman Anthony Venuti ‘20, outfielder Aaron Williams ’19 and designated hitter Cameron Berrier ’18, who were each selected to the first team. Catcher Jordan Pelazza ’19 was chosen for the second team.
JUNE 1–3, 2018

REUNION WEEKEND
2018 Alumni Achievement Awards

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
KEVIN FOLEY ’84

Kevin Foley ’84 has distinguished himself professionally and through his service to Framingham State University and the greater MetroWest community.

In 2014, Kevin joined the Board of Directors of Framingham State University Foundation, Inc., serving first as treasurer and then as president for seven years. Bringing strong leadership skills and finance experience to the Board, he led the Foundation through a period of explosive growth of its endowment and oversaw a more than 300 percent increase in the amount of scholarship funding provided to FSU students annually through the Foundation. In 2014, Governor Charlie Baker appointed Kevin to the Framingham State Board of Trustees, the governing board of the University. As a trustee, he has been an advocate for controlling annual increases in student fees to keep an FSU education affordable and accessible to all. Recently, Kevin was elected chairman of the Board of Trustees for academic year 2018-2019.

ALUMNI EDUCATOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
ROBERT SMITH ’G’10

Robert Smith ’G’10 has been an educator for more than 15 years, and is the current head of the Science department in the Upper School at the Pika School, an independent, co-educational day school for pre-kindergarten through ninth grade. Robert co-chairs the reaccreditation team for the Pika School, and has served as the Upper School athletics director for the past two years. He also coaches girls’ varsity soccer and boys’ and girls’ track.

Robert received a Bachelor of Science in Education from the College of Saint Rose, and then earned a Master of Education in Special Education from Framingham State. Robert’s colleagues describe him as an innovator and the embodiment of lifelong learning. While at the Pika School, he developed an elective program for students. As Science department head, Robert led an initiative to review, redesign and create a new Upper School science curriculum, and in 2016, he was honored as the State Science Educator of the Year.

ALUMNI LEADERSHIP & SERVICE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
DAWN ROSS ’08, G’14

Dawn Ross ’08, G’14 is the director of Career Services and Employer Relations at Framingham State and has worked at FSU for over 15 years. Within this role, she works to develop strong partnerships with local businesses, nonprofits and community organizations, as well as to provide excellent career support and mentoring to students; alumni and the campus community. In addition to her participation on over a dozen FSU committees/initiatives, including the Committee on Diversity and Inclusion (CCDI) and the Suicide Prevention Task Force, Dawn is also active in supporting various community organizations in the MetroWest area. As a proud U.S. Navy veteran, she is particularly active in the local veterans’ community and serves on the Framingham Veterans’ Council.

ALUMNI EDUCATOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
ROBERT SMITH ’G’10

Robert Smith ’G’10 has been an educator for more than 15 years, and is the current head of the Science department in the Upper School at the Pika School, an independent, co-educational day school for pre-kindergarten through ninth grade. Robert co-chairs the reaccreditation team for the Pika School, and has served as the Upper School athletics director for the past two years. He also coaches girls’ varsity soccer and boys’ and girls’ track.

Robert received a Bachelor of Science in Education from the College of Saint Rose, and then earned a Master of Education in Special Education from Framingham State. Robert’s colleagues describe him as an innovator and the embodiment of lifelong learning. While at the Pika School, he developed an elective program for students. As Science department head, Robert led an initiative to review, redesign and create a new Upper School science curriculum, and in 2016, he was honored as the State Science Educator of the Year.

YOUNG ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
DR. KYLE LANDRY

Dr. Kyle Landry majored in Food Science and Technology at FSU, where he was an active member within the Department of Chemistry and Food Science, creating and piloting new laboratory experiments and preparing supplies for general chemistry courses.

Following graduation from Framingham State, Kyle attended the University of Massachusetts Amherst for his MS and PhD degrees in food science. While at UMass Amherst, Kyle published eight peer-reviewed papers, presented at nine academic conferences, filed a patent and mentored numerous undergraduates and honors college research students. He also taught the course, The Science of What You Eat.

Kyle continued his work and post-doctoral training at Harvard Medical School in the Department of Genetics. Since 2018, Kyle has taught in the Department of Health Sciences at Boston University. He is currently the chief scientist/director of research for the Expeditionsary and Special Programs division of Liberty Biosecurity, a subsidiary of ERS Life Sciences.

HONORARY ALUMNUS AWARD
FRED BROWN

Fred Brown embodies a dedication to education and to students that is reflected in his commitment to Framingham State. Fred married alumna and teacher Marjorie (Morgan) Brown ’58 and, through her, learned of Framingham State. An educator himself, Fred taught physical education to elementary students for more than 31 years. Although Marjorie passed away in 2010, Fred continued her legacy through generous gifts to the University. The Marjorie Morgan Brown ’58 Endowed Scholarship honors these two educators by permanently providing financial support to Framingham State students who are majoring in education.

Fred’s support of education and of students is evident through his charitable work and his longstanding commitment to Framingham State as well as the Rockland Public Schools.

Felicia Riffelmacher

The Office of Development and Alumni Relations is pleased to announce the hiring of Felicia Riffelmacher as the new director of Development at Framingham State University.

Riffelmacher comes to FSU from Clark University, where she was the associate director of corporate and foundation relations. She is a seasoned non-profit professional accomplished in locating and securing funding from corporate, foundation, government and individual sources.

“We are thrilled to have Felicia join our team,” says Eric Gustafson, vice president of Development and Alumni Relations.

“She has outstanding experience fundraising for non-profit agencies, and will play a big role in ensuring that we can raise the funding needed to support our students.”

Riffelmacher holds an MBA from Suffolk University and previously worked at the Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts and the Learning First Foundation.

“Young Alumni Achievement Award”

The 2018 Young Alumni Achievement Award recognizes the following:

Kevin Foley ’84

Robert Smith ’G’10

Dawn Ross ’08, G’14

Fred Brown

Felicia Riffelmacher

Alumni Achievement Awards

FROM THE DESK OF THE ALUMNI RELATIONS DIRECTOR

As an adopted New Englander, I love October: cooler nights, the changing leaves and lots of apples! October is also the perfect time to update your contact information and calendars before the rush of winter begins. If you haven't updated your address and email with us lately, you may be missing out on special FSU events and activities. Last year, we hosted more than 40 events! From regional events in Boston, Los Angeles, Florida and New Hampshire, to can’t-miss activities at Alumni Weekend and Homecoming, we hope you’ll come back and show your Ram Pride. Join us online for even more fun with exclusive contests, groups and alumni news.

• Update your contact information any time at FRAMINGHAM.EDU/CONTACT-UPDATE

• Stay in touch on Facebook at FACEBOOK.COM/FRAMINGHAMSTATEALUMNI/

• Join our mailing list by texting FRAMSTATEALUMNI TO 22828

I hope to see you soon!

Best wishes,
Jennifer DeFranzo
2000s

JASON LANE ’01 was recently appointed vice principal of Woodrow Wilson Elementary School in Framingham, MA. Sheila Hoffman ’03 is returning to Agawam High School as assistant superintendent for curriculum, instruction and human resources. Sheila was previously principal at the Mary A. Dryden Veterans Memorial School.

JESSICA GAGNON ’04 has published her first single-authored article titled, “Bastard: Daughters in the Ivory Tower: Hegemony and the Higher Education Experiences of the Daughters of Single Mothers in the UK”, in the March 2018 volume of Teaching in Higher Education. Dr. Gagnon is a senior research fellow in the School of Education and Childhood Studies at the University of Portsmouth.

MOMODU GSENI ’05 recently joined Presbyterian Medical Group Urgent Care in Albuquerque, NM, as a nurse practitioner.

OF SPECIAL NOTE MATTHEW DERNOGA ’08

RESEARCH DIRECTOR AT EDELMAN INTELLIGENCE

A switch in majors from Communications to Sociology while at Framingham State University proved to be a fortuitous move for Matthew Dernoga ’08. But at the time, he wasn’t sure where his new major would lead.

“I was really interested in all the Sociology courses I was taking, so it got to the point where I decided to switch majors,” he says. “But the funny thing was I wasn’t sure what a Sociology major does.”

It turns out that despite graduating at the height of the economic recession, the specialized skillset Demoga learned as a Sociology major enabled him to quickly land a job as a community associate at Boston-based C Space.

“There was a market for people who knew statistics and how to design research surveys, and that’s exactly what I ended up doing,” he says.

Following his time at C Space, Demoga accepted a job at Forrester Research in New York focused on management consulting. From there, he became a research manager at Ketchum, a global PR agency in New York. That position led to an opportunity to move out to the West Coast, where he resides today.

“The company wanted to build out our business, and I was asked to go out west for six to eight months and help put together a team,” he says.

The move turned out to be indefinite, and Demoga worked his way up to research director responsible for all research and analytics business in the Los Angeles and San Francisco offices.

At the start of 2018, Demoga accepted his current position as a research director at Edelman Intelligence, a global research and analytics consultancy. He is based out of San Francisco but spends his time between Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle advising clients such as Samsung and Facebook on what their customers are seeking in future products.

“Before these companies roll out a new product or feature, they want to connect with their customers to make sure they are hitting the mark,” says Demoga. “We provide them with that research and insight. It can be a really interesting job.”

ALUMNI PROFILE LOUISE TOLER ’49

FOUR GENERATIONS OF TEACHERS EDUCATED AT FRAMINGHAM STATE

When Marion Anthony, Class of 1948, enrolled at what was then Framingham Normal School over 100 years ago, she had no way of knowing that she would be the first of four generations of teachers on her family who would be educated at Framingham State University. “Teaching is a passion that runs throughout our family,” says Anthony’s daughter Louise Toler ’49, “as it is our love for Framingham State, which has such a wonderful reputation.”

Anthony attended Framingham Normal School for three years, living of campus with a group of friends.

“There were no dorms at the time,” Toler says. “She lived in a home with a few girls that would become her friends for life, including several that I referred to as ‘auntie’ growing up.”

Anthony would teach Household Arts for many years, while passing on her passion for teaching to her daughters Toler and Ruth Olson ‘47, who both graduated from what had by that time become Framingham State Teachers College. Toler would go on to teach Home Economics while Olson taught at the elementary school level.

The family’s connection to Framingham State grew from there. Toler’s daughter Peggy (Toler) Richard ’76 would earn her degree in Art and teach in Ashburnham right up until her retirement a few years ago. Her daughter (Toler’s granddaughter) Lindsey Richard graduated in 2012 with a degree in Art and currently teaches in Somerville.

Toler says that affordability was one of the primary factors in her family’s connection to the School, as well as its quality and reputation. “I push the school to my friends and their children and grandchildren,” says Toler. “Everyone I know who has gone there has loved Framingham State. I love going back when I can to see how the school has grown and changed. It’s quite amazing.”

F. JAVIER TORRES ’05 recently joined the Sudina Foundation as the new director of its thriving cultures program. In this position, Torres will be in charge of a $5 million grantmaking portfolio as well as the development of new initiatives and the expansion of existing strategies. He comes to the Sudina Foundation from the national collaborative community fund, ArtPlace America, serving as its director of national grantmaking since 2014. During his tenure and under his leadership, ArtPlace supported 275 creative placemaking projects in 46 states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

KELLY ROONEY ’06 recently joined the Board of Directors of IC Federal Credit Union. Kelly is director of marketing and communications for UMass Memorial HealthAlliance—Clinton Hospital. She serves as a board member for the Laumesa Education Foundation and the Beacon of Hope Community Services, an organization that is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life of individuals with developmental disabilities. Mrs. Rooney earned a BA in Communication Arts from Framingham State University and an MS in Applied Communication Studies from Fitchburg State University.

ALEX MORRASH ’08 recently joined the National LGBTQ Task Force as director of media and public relations. Prior to joining the task force, Alex wrote about economic policy for Media Matters.
Fall 2018

YOUNGSU LIM ’18 MAKES IT TO THE IVY LEAGUE

YOUNGSU LIM ’18 is proof that it does not require a traditional path to dream big and accomplish your goals.

For many years, Lim knew that she wanted to earn her doctor of nursing practice (DNP) degree from Columbia University’s School of Nursing, one of the top programs in the world. So some people advised her that she was making a mistake in 2013 when she enrolled at MassBay Community College to earn her practical nursing diploma and associate’s degree.

“In high school, people told me I was crazy to go to a two-year college, but I didn’t have any money so I decided to take a different route to achieve my goals,” Lim says. “I wanted to prove to myself and other people that things are possible if you work hard.”

Lim has certainly worked hard over the years. She and her single mother immigrated to the United States from Korea in 2007 and settled in Montana.

“We didn’t speak the language when we first came here. My mother chose Montana so that I would be forced to learn English quickly since there aren’t any Korean immigrants there,” Lim says.

In 2010, Lim moved to Framingham. After graduating from MassBay, she took advantage of the savings offered through MassTransfer to seamlessly enter Framingham State University, where she majored in Sociology.

“The first day I met with my academic advisor, Dr. Lina Rincón, I told her that I wanted to go to Columbia University and asked her what I needed to do and how to get there.”

Lim quickly fell in love with Framingham State’s campus and established close relationships with most of her professors. She also spent a lot of her time in the Center for Academic Success and Achievement (CASA) working on essays and improving her English skills. When she wasn’t there, she could often be found meeting with advisors in the Career Services and Employer Relations Office, which helped her set up an internship at Call2Talk, a suicide prevention hotline.

“I can’t say enough about the support I received here,” Lim says. “There are many great services that students can take advantage of if they are willing to put in the work.”

Lim graduated from FSU in May, a few months after learning that her dream of attending Columbia University had become a reality, as she was accepted into the School of Nursing’s DNP program to pursue her doctorate.

“My mother was very proud,” Lim says. “I am a little bit nervous about moving to New York City, but I am mostly excited.”

Dr. Patricia Kelley G’03 Honored with Alumni Educator of the Year Award

Framingham State alumni Dr. Patricia Kelley G’03 was honored at the Massachusetts State House on May 22 with an Alumni Educator of the Year Award.

Dr. Kelley earned a master’s degree in Literacy and Language at Framingham State, and is currently a Title I director, curriculum team leader coordinator and reading specialist in the Milford Public Schools.

Educators representing the nine campuses across the State Universities of Massachusetts were recognized for teaching excellence as part of the annual ceremony.

“The State University System is proud to educate the majority of teachers in Massachusetts and honor our legacy as the first public normal schools in the nation,” said FSU President F. Javier Cevallos. “When we have grown into a comprehensive university over the years, teacher education remains a fundamental part of our mission.”

Dr. Kelley was an elementary classroom teacher at the Woodland School in Milford for nine years when she decided to enroll in the Literacy and Language master’s degree program at Framingham State. The degree enabled her to apply for the reading specialist position at Stacy Middle School in Milford. In 2007, the administration recognized her strengths and appointed her to the position of curriculum supervisor for reading, language arts and social studies, PreK-12, a position she held for five years. In May 2016, she received her Doctor of Education degree in curriculum leadership at Northeastern University.

Dr. Kelley is active in professional literacy organizations and served as president of the Nobscot Reading Council. She continues to serve on the executive board of Nobscot and also co-chairs the Exemplary Reading Committee for the Massachusetts Reading Association. Dr. Kelley also shares her professional expertise by presenting at local and state conferences.
FSU HELPS CREATE FAST TRACK TO A LAW DEGREE

Framingham State University and the University of Massachusetts School of Law have established a 3+3 agreement that streamlines the process for pre-law majors to earn their bachelor and law degrees.

Students who take advantage of the 3+3 agreement spend three years at Framingham State University satisfying the major requirements for their bachelor’s degree. During their fourth year, they transfer into UMass Law, and the credits they earn during their first year come back as electives toward their bachelor’s degree at Framingham State.

“We are excited to partner with UMass Law to help create fast tracks for academic institutions.”

Students who take advantage of the 3+3 agreement spend three years at Framingham State University satisfying the major requirements for their bachelor’s degree. During their fourth year, they transfer into UMass Law, and the credits they earn during their first year come back as electives toward their bachelor’s degree at Framingham State.

“FSU helps create fast tracks for academic institutions.”

FSU President F. Javier Cevallos Joins Nationwide CEO Pledge on Diversity and Inclusion

President F. Javier Cevallos is committing himself and Framingham State University to advance diversity and inclusion in the workplace as part of the CEO Action for Diversity & Inclusion™ pledge. By signing on to this commitment, Framingham State University is pledging to take action to cultivate a workplace where diverse perspectives and experiences are welcomed and respected and where students and employees feel encouraged to discuss diversity and inclusion. The collective of more than 450 signatories has already shared more than 900 best-known actions, exchanging tangible learning opportunities and creating collaborative conversations via the initiative’s unified hub, CEOAction.com.

“Framingham State University has for many years recognized that the different perspectives and students and employees share the same goals of enhancing the quality of the education we provide,” says President Cevallos. “I’m thrilled to reaffirm our unwavering commitment to diversity and inclusion by signing this pledge.”

Organizations joining the pledge are taking a step toward effecting positive change. A diverse and inclusive workforce not only facilitates community, but also drives innovation and creativity. A recent study found that 89 percent of those surveyed reported that diversity is a key component to fostering innovation.

One of his first major decisions as president of FSU in 2014 was to hire a chief diversity and inclusion officer. Since that time, the University has launched a Center for Inclusive Excellence, developed a Diversity Fellowship program for faculty, launched a College Planning Center dedicated to supporting low-income and non-traditional students seeking to go to college and undertaken several other initiatives to cultivate diversity and inclusion on campus.

“I have chosen to support academic majors that often do not get the financial support that they deserve,” she says. “More than ever, businesses and government is desperately need employees who have studied the Humanities and Social & Behavioral Sciences. Such employees possess the ability to think critically and abstractly, with nuance and compassion for others, and therefore are prepared to imaginatively confront the challenges of our diverse world. Their learning does not channel them into one narrow area, but rather affords the flexibility that their future careers will require.”

The Mancuso Scholarships will support academically strong FSU students who demonstrate financial need and who choose to major in English or specified majors in the Humanities and Social & Behavioral Sciences.

This donation reaffirms Framingham State’s longstanding commitment to providing an outstanding liberal arts education.”

To learn more about the Mancuso English, Humanities, and Social & Behavioral Sciences Scholarships, visit: framingham.edu/mancuso-scholarships

English professor Halcyon Marcuso Krebs and her husband Thomas Krebs recently made the largest financial commitment in Framingham State University’s history to establish full-ride scholarships for students in the Humanities and Social & Behavioral Sciences.

The Mancuso English, Humanities, and Social & Behavioral Sciences Scholarships will cover 100 percent of the cost of tuition, fees, and room and board for up to four academic years. The scholarships, which incoming students will be eligible to apply for starting in fall 2019, are funded entirely through a financial commitment by Halcyon and Thomas Krebs of approximately $2.4 million.

“T’is difficult to put into words how grateful the entire FSU community is to Halcyon and Thomas for making this incredibly generous donation to the University,” says FSU President F. Javier Cevallos. “At a time when the humanities and social sciences are being pared down at institutions across the country, this donation reaffirms Framingham State’s longstanding commitment to providing an outstanding liberal arts education.”

There will be two Mancuso Scholarships awarded every year, starting in fall 2019. One will always be reserved for an English major, which is the subject Marcuso Krebs has taught for many years, and the second will rotate each year between majors in the Humanities (Art History, Communication Arts, History, Liberal Studies, Spanish and World Languages) and Social & Behavioral Sciences (Geography, Global Studies, Political Science, Psychology and Sociology).

Faculty Member and Husband Commit $2.4 Million to FSU

For more information visit framingham.edu/mancuso-scholarships
Swiacki Children’s Literature Festival at Framingham State

Thursday, November 1, 2018 | 3:00PM

Celebrate children’s literature at our annual festival recognizing the best in children’s and young adult literature. This year, we welcome Matt de la Peña and Wendell Minor. Matt de la Peña is the New York Times–bestselling, Newbery Medal–winning author of six young adult novels and four picture books. Celebrated artist Wendell Minor is nationally known for the artwork he has created as the cover artist and designer for more than 2,000 books, and his paintings have been exhibited widely throughout the country.

Boston Holiday Reception

Friday, November 30, 2018

Start winter right! Join fellow alumni for this unforgettable event at the Seaport WinterGarden Atrium.

Details online at eventbrite.fsuwinter.com

FSU in Florida

March 2019

Join us in the sun for an event series that’ll knock your (Red) Sox off!

Alumni Weekend and Reunion

May 31–June 2, 2019

Kick off summer with your friends at FSU. Come back and celebrate our reunion classes (years ending in ‘9 and ‘4) in style while you make new memories. We’re designing a weekend of events and activities that are all about YOU! Join us as we toast the Golden Anniversary Class of 1969 and honor the latest group of Alumni Achievement Award Winners.

For more information or to register for alumni events, contact the Office of Alumni Relations:

Email: alumni@framingham.edu
Phone: 508–626–4012
Online: framingham.edu/alumni

Parents: If this issue of Framingham State Magazine is addressed to your son or daughter who now lives at a separate permanent address, please let us know.