FALL 2019

Framingham State

Creativity Multiplied

DANFORTH ART OPENS AT FSU, PAVING THE WAY WITH POSSIBILITIES FOR STUDENTS, FACULTY AND THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE
NEW PERSPECTIVES
An overhead view of Crocker Grove along the pathway between May Hall and Crocker Hall.

From President Cevallos
It is my pleasure to present to you a new look for Framingham State Magazine, designed with an updated layout and larger font to make it more readable, while maintaining many of the features that were popular in previous issues of the publication.

The main story for this issue is on the reopening of the Danforth Art Museum and School in a beautifully renovated new building, following a successful merger with Framingham State University. If you have not yet had a chance to visit The Danforth since it reopened last April, we could not be more thrilled to introduce you to this wonderful new resource.

Featuring six exhibition spaces, a permanent collection with over 3,500 pieces of art and a focus on highlighting contemporary regional artists, the museum and studio art school have so much to offer our students, faculty, alumni and the community at large. We hope to see you there soon.

F. Javier Cevallos, PhD
President
Framingham State University
What’s inside

Upfront
04 The snapshot
Fast news from FSU
06 2019 Distinguished Faculty Recipients
07 Ram in focus
Mary Kate O’Day ’20

2019 Distinguished Faculty Recipients
07 Ram in focus
Mary Kate O’Day ’20

Alumni
14 FSU Class of 2019
Alumni, friends and family gather to celebrate the graduates
24 Making an impact
Celebrating alumni who are making a difference in their communities

Class notes
Discover how your fellow classmates are spending their time
26 Class notes
Discover how your fellow classmates are spending their time
28 2019 Alumni Awards
29 Alumni spotlight
Paul Cisternelli ’80
30 Reunion weekend
Scenes from the celebration
32 Donor profiles
Nat and Ellen T. (O’Connor) ’73 Calamis
18 Creativity Multiplied
Danforth Art opens at FSU, paving the way with possibilities
for students, faculty and the community at large

Student spotlight
Mandip Singh ’21

Features
12 Getting a Full Ride to FSU
Olivia Renda ’23 and Meeghan Bresnahan ’23 are the first Mancuso Scholarship recipients, which covers the cost of comprehensive tuition and fees

18 Creativity Multiplied
Danforth Art opens at FSU, paving the way with possibilities
for students, faculty and the community at large

2019 Distinguished Faculty Recipients
07 Ram in focus
Mary Kate O’Day ’20

Alumni
14 FSU Class of 2019
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Additional content available online
framingham.edu
The event, which made headlines
Weston-Dyer, has spent years
snapshot
The Constitution in front of the crowd.

On July 4, 1854, a large group
Harmony Grove during those years. The
Dyer family, led by Edwina
movement. The family, which

founded the Harmony Grove
Research Center for the African
Diaspora, donated this historic
work to the FSU library archives
during a special ceremony in May.

“There are days in the life of an
institution that are exceedingly
important, and this is one of
those days,” FSU President F.
Javier Cavallós said during the
ceremony. “It is truly an honor
and a responsibility to accept
this gift from the Dyer family.”
FSU students and faculty, as
well as the local community, will
now have access to historically
significant primary research
documents on the abolitionist
movement in Massachusetts.
Dr. Charles A. Dyer, Rev. Adam
Lawrence Dyer and Mustafa
Abdu-“Ha’kin” Dyer were all on
hand for the donation ceremony.

U.S. Congressman John
Lewis Tells FSU Grads
to ‘Get in Trouble’
Growing up in the segregated
South, Congressman John Lewis
was encouraged by his family
to keep his head down and avoid
calling attention to the injustices
he witnessed every day.
“They said, ‘Boy, that’s the way
it is. Don’t get in the way. Don’t
get in trouble.’” Lewis told
Framingham State University’s
Class of 2019 during a packed
 ceremony at the DCU Center
in Worcester on May 26.

“But I was inspired to get in trouble:
good trouble, necessary trouble.”
Lewis was arrested more than
40 times on his way to becoming
a hero of the Civil Rights
Movement. His efforts helped
to desegregate the South and
win voting rights for African
Americans. Since being elected
to the U.S. Congress in 1986,
he has added to that arrest total
while participating in sit-ins
and peaceful protests, all in the
name of ensuring social justice
and protecting civil liberties.
“I’ll probably be arrested again,”
he told the graduates, earning
a loud cheer. “Go out there
and get in trouble. Help create
a beloved community. You can
do it. You must.”

The University conferred
an honorary Doctor of Public
Service degree to Lewis during
the ceremony.

Abolitionist Archive
Donated to FSU
On July 4, 1854, a large group of
abolitionists gathered at
Harmony Grove on the shores
of Farm Pond in Framingham,
where William Lloyd Garrison
gave a fiery speech condemning
the United States for supporting
slavery, before burning copies
of the Fugitive Slave Act and the
movement in Massachusetts.

“I visited Bosnia and loved my
time in Sarajevo, so I was looking
for opportunities to go back,”
says Ironside, who is working
toward his MEd in Secondary
Education at Framingham State.
“My mom sent me a link to an
English teaching assistant
opportunity through the Fulbright
program that seemed interesting.”
Ironside credits his parents with
instilling in him a passion for
travel and an interest in other
cultures, as they traveled to
Europe regularly when he was
growing up.

Nick Ironside G’19
Wins Fulbright Award
Framingham State graduate
student Nick Ironside G’19 was
recently selected for a prestigious
J. William Fulbright Foreign
Scholarship Award that will
enable him to pursue his passion
for teaching and traveling abroad.

The J. William Fulbright
Foreign Scholarship Award is devoted
to increasing mutual understanding
between the people of the United
States and the peoples of other
countries. The award will pay
for Ironside to teach English at
the secondary or university level
in Bosnia and Herzegovina in
Southeastern Europe.

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Winning a
Fulbright Foreign
Scholarship Award allows Nick
Ironside G’19 to pursue his passion
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Civil rights leaders,
including John Lewis
and Martin Luther
King, Jr., talk with
reporters after meeting
with President John F.
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Senior Finance major Michel
Fleurime was among those
honored by Governor Charlie
Baker and other officials during
the annual 29 Who Shine
Ceremony held at the State
Fleurime is an Honors student
at FSU who has excelled during
his time working at the University’s
Entrepreneur Innovation Center
(EIC). He plans to pursue a
graduate degree, with a focus
on finance and marketing.
Fleurime’s ultimate goal is to use
his business and marketing skills
to contribute to the economic
development of his hometown
of Brockton, MA.
2019 Distinguished Faculty Recipients

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING
Catherine Dignam
Associate Professor and Chair of Chemistry
Throughout her career, Dr. Dignam has made a conscious and directed effort to become a better teacher and to gain a deeper understanding of the types of students who attend FSU. She has put in an extensive amount of work to assess the predictors of student success in early chemistry coursework. Her training has allowed her to better understand the stress that students experience, which can hinder their ability to learn a subject. Dr. Dignam’s leadership, in terms of first-year programming, student career development and mentoring of students, is profound and has been recognized by her science faculty peers nationwide.

Dr. Dignam has made a conscious effort to become a better teacher.

EXCELLENCE IN SCHOLARSHIP AND CREATIVE WORK
Erika Schneider
Professor of Art History
Dr. Schneider is widely recognized as an active scholar in the field of art history. In 2015, she published a book titled The Representation of the Struggling Artist in America, 1870–1885. She was recently awarded a Fulbright-Terra Foundation Award in the History of American Art, which allowed her to travel to the Netherlands to teach at Radboud University in the fall of 2015. Her travel not only fostered many opportunities on-site in Europe, but also led to several opportunities to present to our students and the local Framingham community.

EXCELLENCE IN ADVISING AND MENTORING
Suzanne Neubauer
Professor of Food & Nutrition
Dr. Neubauer has directed the Coordinated Program in Dietsetics (CPD) since 1984. During that time, she has directed and mentored 760 Registered Dietitian-eligible students through the program. Framingham State’s CPD graduates have over a 95 percent first-time pass rate on the registered dietitian exam, which is well above national and regional pass rates. Students also have great success at finding employment in the field. Earlier this year, she was recognized with the Outstanding Dietitian of the Year Award by the Massachusetts Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

Dr. Neubauer has directed and mentored 760 registered Dietitians through the program.

EXCELLENCE IN PROFESSIONAL SERVICE
Robert Donohue
Professor of Psychology
Dr. Donohue has been elected by his peers as president of the FSU faculty and library union for the past 10 years, as well as vice president of the statewide union the past five years. During this time, he has been known for his collegial, inclusive leadership. His colleagues credit him with always keeping the best interests of students in mind in his work as head of the union. Dr. Donohue’s work is grounded in concern for equity, fairness and the well-being of all members of the academic community.

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Ram in Focus
Mary Kate O’Day ’20

Led by star captain Mary Kate O’Day and a talented group of fellow seniors, the Framingham State women’s basketball team is poised to make a run at the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC) Championship this year.

“We’ve come up a bit short in recent years,” says O’Day. “It’s a credit to my coaches and my teammates for putting me in a position to succeed.”

O’Day is a sharpshooter who for back-to-back years has been among the conference leaders in scoring, free throw percentage and three pointers made. Since coming to FSU, the team has made it twice to the MASCAC Championship game before coming up just short of the elusive conference title.

“I feel really good about our team,” she says. “This could be the year.”
A strong spring for FSU athletics

Framingham State University’s athletic programs enjoyed another strong spring season, highlighted by the third consecutive Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC) Championship for the softball team. The softball team knocked off top-seeded Bridgewater State University twice to claim the title and earn its third straight trip to the NCAA Tournament, where they suffered narrow defeats to Williams College and SUNY Cortland State. The team finished with a 24-21 record, and went 12-2 in conference play. During the season, Coach Larry Miller posted his 100th career win, while senior pitcher Kelsi Gunaratne became the program’s career strikeout leader. Also this spring, the women’s lacrosse team captured its first-ever MASCAC regular season title, finishing with a 15-4 record. The team came up just short in the conference tournament finals, following a 13-12 loss to Westfield State. The baseball team finished with a 22-19 record that featured left-hander Kyle Hodgson’s 200-plus strikeout season. The team lost a tight 4-3 game to Fitchburg State University in the semifinals of the MASCAC Tournament.

The baseball team finished with a 22-10 record that featured Kyle Hodgson’s 200-plus strikeout season.

The women’s softball team won its third consecutive MASCAC Championship.
Prepping students for success in the age of disruption

Having led multinational business groups and entrepreneurial technology startups for much of his career, Dr. Steve Moysey knows a lot about how and why companies succeed or fail.

Now, he’s looking to share that knowledge with FSU business students, as director of the University’s MBA program and a new Master of Science (MS) program he is developing.

“A large part of my research and background is focused on how and why companies fail in the face of disruptive technology,” says Moysey, who transitioned into teaching while earning his PhD in management and psychology from Tufts University. “This is a highly relevant topic for industry today, given the increasing influence of artificial intelligence (AI) in business and the lack of programs available to address it.”

Moysey hopes to fill that gap through the launch of an MS program with a concentration in Organizational Leadership. Unlike the MBA program, which is designed for people already in the workforce, the MS program is ideal for recent bachelor’s degree graduates. Moysey is working with his contacts at Tufts University, which has a program in Human Artificial Intelligence Interface, to develop two courses for the MS degree that look at how organizations will function in the age of artificial intelligence.

“It’s estimated that in 10 to 15 years, 45 percent of the world’s jobs will be impacted by AI in one way or another,” he says. “We want our leadership graduates to have a good appreciation for what that will mean and how to respond to it. This will also be a feature of the MBA program as we move forward, ensuring our program stays very relevant.”

Framingham State University is excited to announce the hiring of Dr. Angela M. Salas as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dr. Constanza Cabello as Vice President for Diversity, Inclusion and Community Engagement.

“I am thrilled to have Dr. Salas and Dr. Cabello join my executive staff,” says FSU President F. Javier Cevallos. “They bring a wealth of experience in higher education and a deep commitment to student success.”

Salas comes to Framingham State from Indiana University Southeast, where she served as the associate vice chancellor for academic affairs. She is a former faculty senate president at two colleges, and was a recipient of the Indiana University Southeast’s Distinguished Teaching Award in 2012. Salas replaces Dr. Linda Vaden-Goad, who retired in June following nine years serving as Provost at Framingham State.

“I see an institution here that is looking to be adaptable and agile in the 21st century when so many of the ground rules of higher education have changed,” Salas says. “But at the same time, the school has retained its historical principles and mission.”

Cabello had been working as assistant to the president for institutional diversity and director of intercultural affairs at Stonehill College prior to accepting her new position at FSU. In that role, she is credited with increasing support, resources and visibility for Stonehill’s students of color, LGBTQ+ students, international students and first-generation college students. Cabello takes over for Dr. Millie Gonzalez, who had been serving as the Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer on an interim basis.

“I’m really excited to work with the leadership at Framingham State, as well as the students and the larger community,” Cabello says. “I pride myself on being a visible leader, someone who is out there and really accessible. So, I’m looking forward to getting on campus and engaging with the students, faculty and staff.”
Olivia Renda ‘23 and Meeghan Bresnahan ‘23 are the first Mancuso Scholars and will get a full ride to FSU

Like many high school students during their college search, Olivia Renda spent a lot of time talking with her family about the debt she would face after earning her degree. So, it was a surreal moment for Renda when she learned that she would have the opportunity to attend Framingham State for free, as one of the inaugural recipients of the Mancuso English, Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences Scholarships.

Renda, who is from Westminster, MA, and Meeghan Bresnahan of Peabody, MA, enrolled at Framingham State this fall with 100 percent of their tuition, fees, and room and board covered by the scholarship during their freshman year. The two students have the opportunity to take all four years at Framingham State at no cost, but must meet certain scholarship requirements in order to have it renewed each year.

“Finding out that I had the opportunity to graduate without any debt was like a huge weight lifted off my shoulders,” says Renda, who is majoring in English and plans to become a teacher.

English Professor Halcyon Mancuso created the scholarships through a $2.5 million financial commitment to FSU that was announced in 2018. There will be two Mancuso Scholarships awarded at Framingham State every year moving forward. One will always be reserved for an English major, which is the subject Mancuso has taught for many years, and the second will rotate each year between majors in the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Mancuso designed the scholarship opportunity with an emphasis on career-readiness. Mancuso scholars will be required to participate in at least two meaningful internships prior to graduation and also will need to complete a curriculum offered by the Office of Career Services and Employer Relations.

“We know the humanities provide the soft skills that are sought after by employers,” she says. “Our Humanities majors need to understand this and learn how to talk about these skills in the language of business.”

Bresnahan, who is majoring in History and is interested in one day working in a museum or library, says the career component of the scholarship is exciting.

“Obviously, the fact that it’s a full-ride scholarship is amazing, but I also see myself really benefiting from the career preparation and extracurricular requirements,” she says.

Mancuso scholars must also maintain a 3.0 GPA or higher, participate in at least one extracurricular activity each semester and write a paper at the end of each academic year reflecting on their career and academic growth.

“These are students who might otherwise have to work at a job 25 hours a week to get by and would still graduate in debt,” Mancuso says. “My hope with the scholarship is that it will free them up to experience a robust college life, where they can take advantage of the many extracurricular activities that are available.”

“$2.5 Million
FINANCIAL COMMITMENT
TO FSU STUDENTS”
Do something that makes a difference and that brings you joy.

Thousands of family members, friends, faculty and students packed into the DCU Center in Worcester to celebrate the class of 2019 during two Commencement ceremonies in May.

U.S. congressman and civil rights icon John Lewis served as the undergraduate commencement speaker (more on page 5) and was presented with an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree. Massachusetts Senate President Karen Spilka also received an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree for her dedication to the community over the years. She encouraged the graduates to “heed the call to public service” during her remarks.

The University President’s Medal, which is the highest honor bestowed by the Office of the President, was awarded to FSU alumna Joan Murtaugh ’61 for her dedication to teaching and longtime support of FSU students through scholarships.

14
15

Three students were recognized as co valedictorians of the Class of 2019: Communication Arts major Audrey Ensor, Elementary Education major Jennifer Haberstroh and Psychology major Robin White.

Longtime Literacy professor Dr. Diane Lowe gave the keynote address during the graduate ceremony, telling students to keep learning by reading “far and wide” and helping to make the world a better place.

“Do something that makes a difference and that brings you joy,” she said.

“Teaching did that for me.”

849 UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES CONFERRED
401 GRADUATE DEGREES CONFERRED

President Cevallos and Congressman John Lewis pose for a photo prior to the start of the ceremony.

“Do something that makes a difference and that brings you joy.”
As a young child in India, Mandip Singh watched his father head off to America hoping to set up a new life for his loved ones. By the time he turned seven, the family was able to reunite in Melrose, MA, where they have worked extremely hard ever since running a restaurant and living out the American Dream. “My parents broke their backs so that I could have the opportunity to go to college,” Singh says. “I’ve put pressure on myself to achieve as much as possible in order to help the ones who have helped me.”

The junior Accounting major knew early on that one of the best ways to set himself up for a job right out of college was to land a relevant internship, so he quickly sought out the University’s Office of Career Services and Employer Relations. “I am constantly in the Career Services Office seeking advice from Internship Coordinator Jill Gardsdik and Director Dawn Ross. They helped me get two internships and got me involved in the Suitable Solutions Program, which teaches you about professional skills, provides you with $100 for attire and can help you land internships and jobs at companies like T.J.X.”

As a sophomore, Singh landed an internship at the CPA (Certified Public Accountant) firm Paresky Flitt & Co. Now a junior, he is set up for another high-impact internship next spring at Cohenznick LLP in Boston, one of the largest public accounting firms in the U.S. Singh is working to secure his CPA license shortly after he graduates and hopes to land a position with one of the “Big 4” accounting firms. But he is keeping his options open and would consider investment banking down the road. He is also passionate about giving back, and says he would love to start a nonprofit organization one day that provides psychological treatment to people in his native India, where mental health conditions are often ignored.
Creativity Multiplied

The opening of Danforth Art at Framingham State University paves the way with possibilities for students and faculty, the museum and studio art school, and the community at large.

SOMETIMES, WHEN YOU add two things together, you end up with more than the sum of its parts. And sometimes, you end up with much more: This is the case with the merger of Framingham State University and the Danforth Art Museum and School. The partnership between FSU and the MetroWest cultural treasure came to fruition this past April when The Danforth reopened its doors in the beautifully renovated and historic Jonathan Maynard Building on the Centre Common. The museum occupies the second floor of the building; the third floor is home to Danforth’s community art classes, while the first floor serves as a space for some of the University’s art courses.

By Maura King Scully
Photography Kent Dayton
We love it. It’s added depth to our mission to be able to support the University’s academic program. We feel like we’re finally settled in our future.

“We love it,” says Executive Director Debra Petke of the bustling multipurpose building. “It’s added depth to our mission to be able to support the University’s academic program. We feel like we’re finally settled in our future.” It also closes a turbulent chapter for the museum and studio art school, one where it was homeless for three years. The Danforth was evicted from its former Union Street location in 2016 due to the building’s broken boiler. When that happened, “I had an informal conversation with a Danforth board member about what it would take to bring the museum to Framingham State,” explains President F. Javier Cevallos. What started as a “what if” conversation grew into an enthusiastic discussion on both sides. It took 18 months to iron out all of the details.

CULTURAL RESOURCE
In a way, the merging of the two institutions brings The Danforth firmly back to its roots: D. Justin McCarthy, president of FSU from 1961 to 1985, was one of the founding members of the museum. “In fact, the first major meeting about starting the museum happened at Framingham State,” explains Marcia Rosenberg, who, with her husband, Paul, has been involved with The Danforth since the beginning. “The reopening of the museum is testimony to the fact that the college was so instrumental in the museum from the beginning.” Executive Vice President for Administration, Finance, and Technology Dale Hamel sees the partnership as a plus for all parties involved. “We added the ability to add art studios for sculpture and ceramics that we needed, as well as venue to offer community art classes,” says Hamel.

With the opening of Danforth Art at Framingham State, FSU became the only Massachusetts state university with a comprehensive art museum. “It’s always nice to be first,” says Cevallos. “We were the first state-supported public teachers college in the country, and now we’re the first public university in the state with a collecting museum. We could not be more excited about this opportunity. Students and faculty are going to have access to a resource found at few public universities across the country.” And it’s not just a boon to students in the Department of Art and Music. “The Danforth is open to staging exhibitions that cross over into other fields,” says Dean of Arts and Humanities Marc Cote. “They are already working with students in World Languages to translate museum and exhibit information into Spanish and Portuguese.”

The Danforth Permanent Collection is officially established, and the museum and school open in Framingham

The Fuller family gifts Danforth the contents (over 300 objects) of Meta Fuller’s studio, establishing the Meta Vaux Warrick Fuller Collection

Danforth is forced to leave the municipally owned Danforth Building because of issues with the facility’s boiler, putting the future of the museum and school at risk

Following nearly a year of negotiations, Framingham State University and Danforth announce plans to merge

Danforth reopens as part of Framingham State University in a newly renovated space in the Jonathan Maynard Building on the Framingham Centre Common

GROWTH POTENTIAL
According to Professor of Art Brian Bishop, a former Danforth board member and current chair of the collections committee, the museum benefits equally from the merger. “The Danforth gets financial stability—it can focus on growing and tailoring the collection rather than survival. It also gains the opportunity to showcase its collection and programs in new ways.” Partnering with the academic mission of the University “will give the permanent collection a new context.” With the start of a new academic year, Petke anticipates more faculty will take advantage of The Danforth to enrich their courses. “One of the first things I did was to send out an email to faculty letting them know we’re here to collaborate. We want to give them different ways to talk about their subject areas.” And with 3,500 objects in its collection, chances are good that faculty will find many fruitful avenues for exploration. The Danforth’s strength is American art from the mid-19th century to the present day. Its new home features six exhibition spaces, including one devoted to its exceptional...
Meta Vaux Warrick Fuller collection—a pioneering African American sculptor and Framingham resident. The museum will continue to feature changing exhibitions from its permanent collection and other historic and contemporary art works, with a special emphasis on regional artists.

Danforth Art School, which serves 1,000 students a year, is now a division of the University’s Department of Continuing Education. It offers a full range of classes for all age groups and ability levels in a variety of disciplines. Danforth Art School Director Noelle Fournier is enthusiastic about the FSU–Danforth merger. “The University has embraced us and what we’re doing,” says Fournier. “People who work at this university are remarkable—they are devoted, helpful and incredibly supportive. I’m impressed with the caliber of the instructors, the deans and the faculty. What happens here is exceptional.”

With the art school and museum, Bishop sees The Danforth as an invaluable bridge between the community and the University. “It’s always hard to get people to come to campus for programs,” says Bishop. “The Danforth gives the community another way to access the University. For many, it will be a front door to the University.”

One of the people manning that front door is Tara Donovan ‘21, an English major and Danforth Visitor Services associate. She enjoys watching visitors’ reactions as they enter the museum. “People step off the elevator and say, ‘Wow, I’m so glad this is here,’ or ‘I’m so glad The Danforth is back.’ The first week we opened, I met an art student from Fitchburg State University. She was visiting friends at Framingham State and wanted to see what The Danforth was all about.”

Cevallos is pleased that the partnership preserves a valuable resource for MetroWest. “Art and culture contribute to the quality of life in any community,” he says. “Maintaining The Danforth makes Framingham more attractive to visitors.” Cevallos, in fact, is working with Petke to support efforts to designate the Centre Common as a Cultural District—one of just 35 in the state. “There are a number of other facilities on the Centre Common; the Framingham Historical Society, Village Hall, historic churches and the cemetery. Designating the Centre Common as a Cultural District would have a positive impact on the city’s economy and appeal as a tourist destination.”

Assessing that impact will take time, just as it will take time for The Danforth to become fully assimilated into the life of the University. In the meantime, Petke is certain of a few things. “Framingham State University clearly and definitely saved The Danforth,” she says. “But it isn’t just about staying open. It’s about going to the next level of growth. We reopened better and stronger.” She is also confident that The Danforth, in finding a new home at FSU, found its perfect match. Petke points to the number of students visiting in the first few weeks “to see what their museum looked like. It wasn’t just Art majors. It was Biology, Nutrition and Education majors. With that kind of broad appeal, I knew we had landed in the right place.”
Making an impact

“I want to help people prosper and flourish by protecting their craft.”

Charlene Peña ‘16

Charlene Peña is the youngest of six and has the curliest hair in her family. With a degree in Dietetics and Clinical Nutrition Services from FSU, she loves being outdoors in the sun growing food. Unfortunately, long stretches of direct sunlight can wreak havoc on voluminous, curly hair. “I tried sun hats, but they flattened my hair,” says Peña. In 2017, she began sketching out designs for headwear that would protect her hair without ruining her curls. Around the same time, she took an opportunity to travel to her parents’ native Dominican Republic, where she met a seamstress living in poverty named Fela. Together, using Peña’s sketches, they created the first ever Afrona, the hat that keeps your curls and volume intact. “It was such a beautiful moment,” Peña says. Since returning home, she has taught herself to sew, enrolled in a business program and launched her own company, Woven Royal, which sells a line of various styles of the Afrona. The company is only a few months old, but so far the unique apparel item has resonated with the curly haired community, and is currently available online and in two hair salons. As of now, Peña continues to make every Afrona by hand. Her plan is to expand into other products that complement the headwear, and her ultimate goal is to garner enough business to allow her to contract with seamstresses back in the Dominican Republic. “I want to help people like Fela prosper and flourish by protecting their craft and supporting their work,” she says. To learn more about Peña’s company, visit WOVENROYAL.COM.

ALUMNI PROFILE

Mark Vital G’09

What began for Mark Vital as a passing comment to a homeless veteran about his sweatshirt has morphed into a massive fundraising operation to provide hundreds of new sweatshirts to veterans across New England. The origin of Vital’s organization, Sweats4Vets, began when he was volunteering at a Christmas Eve morning breakfast for homeless veterans in Worcester and attempted to strike up a conversation with one gentleman by commenting on the Washington Redskins sweatshirt he was wearing. “I said ‘you’re going to have a tough time wearing that sweatshirt in New England,’” Vital recalls. “He turns to me and says ‘It’s the only thing I’ve got.’” The comment struck a chord.

The next year, Vital attended the breakfast with 40 new sweatshirts to hand out. From there, it continued to grow every year, reaching veterans shelters across New England. In 2018, Vital’s organization handed out 1,600 new sweatshirts to homeless veterans. Each one was individually wrapped with help from various church groups and Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts organizations. His goal for 2019 is to raise 1,650 sweatshirts to hand out over the holidays. To learn more or to donate, visit SWEATS4VETS.COM.

ALUMNI PROFILE

Evelyn Wolfson ‘76

As an environmental teaching specialist for more than 30 years, Evelyn Wolfson spent many hours researching ideas for an effective outdoor teaching curriculum to model for schools in Massachusetts. What she discovered early on was that all the best quotes and insights into humanity’s impact on the planet came from Native Americans. “I wanted the students to look at the environment through the eyes of the first people who lived here,” Wolfson says. This idea took off and became a popular part of the sixth-grade curriculum at local schools. The program, which included building a wigwam exactly as Native Americans had, garnered a lot of attention when it was first introduced and was eventually modified for pre-school children as well. Wolfson would go on to write 13 books for children, many of them focused on the material culture of Native Americans. She also co-authored a textbook on environmental education and contributed to an anthology. Her books have been recommended by the Library of Congress Best of Children’s Books, among many other accolades. She and her husband own a substantial art collection and have donated works to the Danforth Museum at Framingham State University.

Learn how to be a part of the alumni community

FRAMINGHAM.EDU
Class notes

1970s
Barbara Cladwick ‘73 was named Volunteer of the Year at the Soule Homestead Education Center, Inc., in Middleboro, MA. She coordinates both the “Homestead Hookers” and “Spinners with Soul” fiber-related groups.

Keith Guemsey ‘76 reports that he just beat prostate cancer, which gave him time to write his third book, Overcoming the Odds, his story of triumphs over cancer, life-threatening brain surgery—twice—and obesity. Unfortunately, Keith has another form of cancer called multiple myeloma, but he is looking at it as another opportunity to write a book. He is still feeling great.

Lisa Foy ‘76 is pleased to report that one of her poems is being exhibited at City Hall until April 2020, and one painting will be exhibited at the Brookline Art Center through summer 2019.

1990s
David A. Harmon ‘91 has been promoted to senior vice president and chief lending officer at Clinton Savings Bank. David now chairs the bank’s loan committee and is responsible for providing leadership, direction and support for the bank’s lending functions. He began his banking career in 1991, and has a bachelor’s degree in Mathematics from Framingham State University.

Robbin Vipond-Lauzon ‘94 has been hired as the new director of finance at Rediker Software. Before joining the company, she was vice president of finance at Healthy Living Market and Cafe. In her new role, she will be responsible for managing the company’s finances, tracking cash flow and financial planning, as well as analyzing the company’s financial strengths and weaknesses and proposing corrective actions. Robbin holds a bachelor’s degree in Business and Accounting from Framingham State University and a master’s degree in finance from Georgia State University.

George King, G’96, Framingham City Councillor At Large, announced that he will seek re-election. He has been serving in the role of chairman for the council’s Finance Committee, while also serving on the council’s Rules Committee and Planning and Zoning Committee.

2000s
Hilary Glynn ‘03 was named head coach of women’s basketball at Northern Essex Community College. Hilary was a four-time MASCAC All-Conference selection and two-year captain at Framingham State. She is the FSU record holder for three-pointers made in a game (3) and in a career (183).

Loubaina Buxamusa G’03 was named to the board of directors at Vision-Aid. She is an occupational therapist and heads the department of the occupational therapy services in the Shrewsbury Public School district. Loubaina holds a bachelor’s degree in occupational therapy from the University of Mumbai, a Master’s degree in Special Education from Framingham State University and a doctorate degree in occupational therapy from the American International College.

Cynthia Roy ‘06 recently led a task force that researched and created brochures for high school and college students, educators and families dealing with opioid dependence. Delegates at the National Education Association’s annual Representative Assembly voted to make the information compiled by the task force a resource to be distributed at schools and colleges across the country.

Stanley Taquaiutuapu Iakopo ’08 was appointed to serve as the executive director of the Veterans Affairs Office under the Office of the Governor in Northern Mariana Islands. The former executive director for the Civil Military Liaison Office and a former environmental health officer and procurement and supply director for Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Stanley has served in the United States Air Force for the last 18 years in several capacities. He earned his master’s degree in Education at Framingham State University.

2010s
Stephen Mainantin ‘11 was inducted into the Marlborough Rotary Club as its newest member. Steve is currently the assistant vice president and commercial loan officer of Main Street Bank.

Kimberly Tyler ‘13 has been promoted to vice president and controller of MutualOne Bank. Kimberly joined the bank in 2014 and most recently served as assistant vice president and controller. A certified public accountant, she is a graduate of Assumption College, holds a master’s degree in Business from Framingham State University and is a graduate of the New England School for Financial Studies.

Cynthia Roy ‘06 earned her doctoral degree in education at Northeastern University in May. Tracy graduated from Framingham State’s International Education site in Costa Rica and says her journey would not have been possible without the support and opportunities she received through FSU.

Melina Bourdeau ’16 was recently hired as a reporter at the Greenfield Recorder in Greenfield, MA. Melina majored in English at FSU and earned a minor in photography. She also worked at The Greenfield Recorder, starting as a photographer and working her way up to associate editor.

Kelsey Morgan ‘19 recently received an award acknowledging her service to the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum in Poland, where she interned during her last semester before graduating from Framingham State University with a bachelor’s degree in History. “Your attitude toward this difficult lesson of history is a hope that we will preserve the truth about the fate of the victims of hatred and contempt and that the world around us will be a place of tolerance, respect and courage,” states the letter Kelsey received from the museum’s director.

Kelsey Morgan ’19 received an award acknowledging her service to the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum in Poland
2019 Alumni Awards

Recognizing alumni for their outstanding accomplishments

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Dr. Roberta Ward Walsh ’66

Dr. Walsh has distinguished herself as a post-secondary educator and public servant, while remaining active and connected with her alma mater. She currently holds the rank of professor emerita from Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU), having joined as founding faculty member and chairing the Department of Public Affairs. Recently, she established an annual scholarship to support a student from Billerica Memorial High School who enrolls at FSU.

ALUMNI EDUCATOR AWARD

Rhoda Berube ’60

Rhoda graduated from Framingham State University in 1960 with a degree in Home Economics. She was a dedicated home economics teacher for over 35 years in Massachusetts, spending the majority of those years at the Somerset Middle School. As a teacher, Rhoda was known to be patient, kind and well liked; she was respected by her students, the faculty and the greater community.

HONORARY ALUMNI AWARD

Robert Ramrath

Rob has been a dedicated volunteer and supporter of Framingham State for more than a decade. While working at Bose Corporation in Framingham, he was introduced to FSU and served on the University’s Information Technology Industry Advisory Board, which provides faculty with industry perspectives to help inform and update the curriculum. He joined the University Foundation’s Board of Directors in 2009 and currently serves as its president.

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE AWARD

Brian Moran ’82

Brian is presently serving as Virginia Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, a position he has held since 2014. Prior to his position as secretary, Brian was an Arlington County prosecutor, then a member of the Virginia House of Delegates. Brian has been invited to speak around the country about public safety, crime, punishment, mental health, substance abuse and disparities in education.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Paul Cisternelli ’80

“Financial support is obviously important, but I still have a desire to teach,” says Cisternelli, who earned his bachelor’s degree in Special Education at FSU. “I want to pass on to students any guidance and wisdom I can that I have gained over more than 25 years working in the high-tech industry.”

He connected with Dr. Sandra Rahaman in the College of Business and the Development and Alumni Relations Office to establish the Business Coaching Program at FSU. The program connects current students with business leaders throughout the region for group work, one-on-one feedback and networking.

“It’s been a wild success,” Cisternelli says. “We break the students up into groups of four or five and have them work through businesses cases. The coaches, many of whom are FSU alumni, observe the students working through the analytics of the case and arguing their points of view. And then they offer feedback afterward.”

Cisternelli serves as a perfect example of the divergent career paths that students can take after graduation. He initially taught for three years, but was laid off when the state changed the way that special education was funded following the passage of Proposition 2 1/2.

In need of a job, Cisternelli found that his teaching skills were quite applicable to a variety of positions. He found an ad from a computer software company in need of people who could teach clients how to use their software. Despite having no background in computer science, he applied for the position and quickly excelled at it.

Cisternelli eventually went back to school and earned his MBA, and has been serving in senior executive positions at high-tech companies ever since. Today, he is the director of strategic alliances for the Enterprise Business Unit at Samsung Mobile.

“The most important thing we can help students do is to land job number one.”
More than 100 alumni gathered at Framingham State University during a beautiful weekend in late May to celebrate Reunion 2019. Highlights from the weekend included a concert outside on the North Hall Green featuring games and live music, as well as the annual Alumni Luncheon, Golden Anniversary Dinner and Remembrance Ceremony.

More than 60 members of the Class of 1969, some who live as far away as Alaska and Arizona, came to celebrate their Golden Anniversary. The University also recognized this year’s Alumni Award recipients (see page 28). Other events during the weekend included a show in the FSU Planetarium and tours of the University’s newest residence halls.
Supporting students in crisis

All around the country, college students are facing financial challenges that rarely existed a generation ago, when the cost of higher education was more affordable. For some students, these issues include food insecurity, homelessness and a lack of transportation that can derail their dreams of earning a bachelor’s degree and the upward mobility that comes with it.

When Ellen ‘73 and Nat Calamis decided to make a significant financial commitment to Framingham State University, the idea of supporting students facing an emergency appealed to both of them.

“We wanted to make sure it went to a cause that we could define and understand,” says Ellen Calamis. “What better way to do that than by helping students facing an immediate emergency that has put them at risk of dropping out?”

The Nat and Ellen T. (O’Connor) ’73 Calamis Emergency Grant Fund does just that, providing students with a lifetime grant that can mean the difference between earning a degree and dropping out. Examples of students who have benefited from the fund include an athlete who was going to be homeless during the Christmas break. The fund was used to help the student stay in a hotel until the University was back in session.

“It hits home when you hear about a kid who doesn’t know where to go during break,” says Nat Calamis, who is the former president and CEO of Starkweather & Shepley Insurance Brokerage in Providence. “We take so many things for granted in life.”

Ellen Calamis, who enjoyed a long career as a middle school teacher and later as an assistant principal in Rhode Island, says it feels rewarding to be able to support today’s students.

“I’m one of five children and had to pay for half my education myself,” she says. “Now I’m fortunate to be in a position where I can help someone else out, so that’s what I want to do.”
RAMS BOOSTER GOLF TOURNAMENT

A special thanks to everyone who came out to the beautiful Highfields Golf and Country Club in July for our annual charity golf tournament to raise money for FSU athletics. We hope to see you again next year!