

FALL 2020

# Framingham State



## Ram-ping Up

CELEBRATING A DECADE OF  
ATHLETIC SUCCESS AT FRAMINGHAM  
STATE UNIVERSITY



**MILES BIBB HALL**

A look at Miles Bibb Hall, which was recently renamed in honor of Mary Miles Bibb (Class of 1843), FSU's first African American graduate.

## Framingham State

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### From President Cevallos

Normally, I use this space to introduce the cover story for the current issue of *Framingham State Magazine*, but these are not normal times. Instead, I would like to express my deepest sympathies and support to any members of the FSU community of alumni, families and friends who have fallen on difficult times due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This crisis has taken a toll on all of us and has been truly devastating to those who have lost loved ones.

I have been heartened by the support so many of you have shown our students. We have seen a large increase in donations to our student Emergency Grant Fund, which has been critical in enabling us to support our most vulnerable students during this time. Through your generous support, we will get through this together and emerge stronger for it.

I would also be remiss if I did not mention the nationwide conversation happening over systemic racism and social justice following the murder of George Floyd this past summer. We are living in a moment of history that we will look back on and ask ourselves: "What side was I on?" and "What did I do to advance liberation for the Black community?"

I want to be clear about the University's anti-racist stance. We recognize the damaging effects of systemic racism on the experience and success of communities of color. FSU has begun an intentional process of evaluating and restructuring policies and programs to ensure inclusion and equitable success. I look forward to sharing more information about our efforts with you in the near future.

SINCERELY,



*F. Javier Cevallos*

**F. Javier Cevallos, PhD**

President  
Framingham State University

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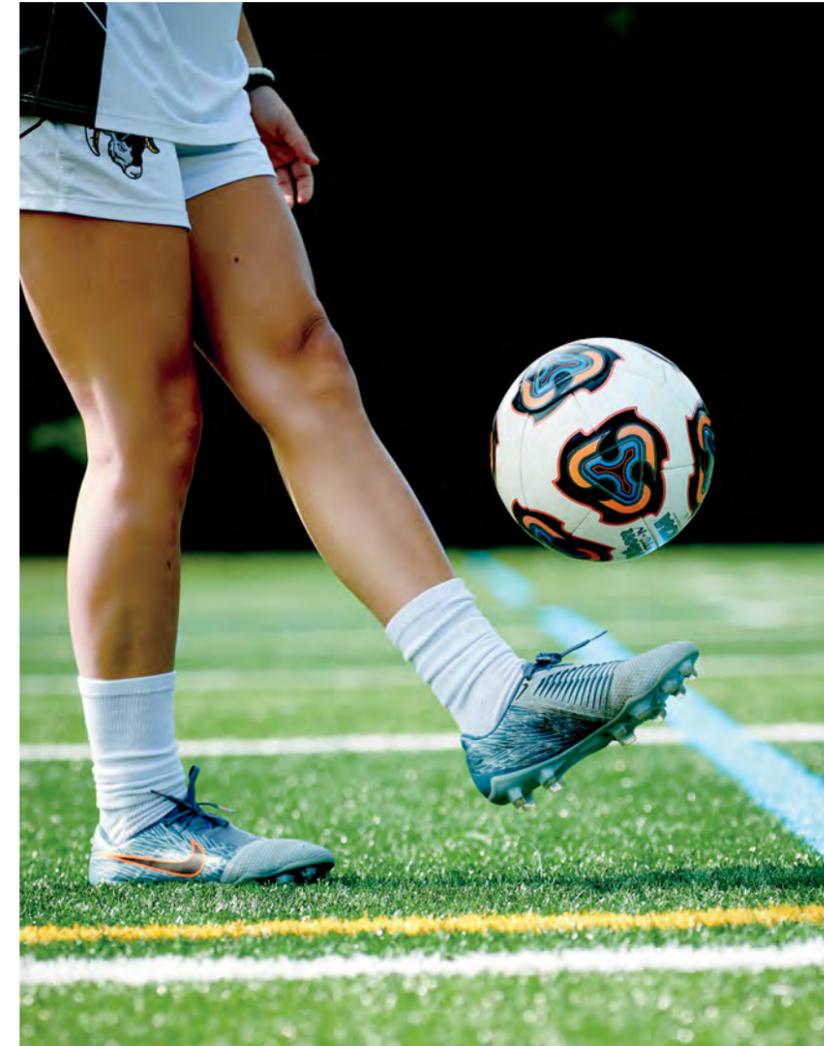
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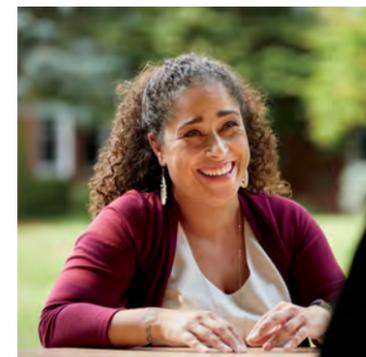
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newest Veterans Services Director,  
Leanna Lynch '18



# The snapshot

04



**CAMPUS NEWS**

## New Self-Care Station Provides Students 24/7 Access to Free Healthcare Products

Until recently, the McCarthy Campus Center alcove by the third-floor stairwell was only home to a soda and candy machine.

Now, students can find a 24/7 “Self-Care Station” complete with healthcare items such as flu medicine, contraceptives and feminine products—all offered free of charge.

The Health Center and SEALS Peer Health Educators unveiled the station to a huddled crowd of students, faculty and administrators on Thursday, January 23, during a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Ilene Hofrenning, director of the Health Center, said the Self-Care Station was made in an effort to

reduce barriers to student health access in a centralized, convenient location.

“The feedback we always get is [that] the Health Center should be open more hours,” she says. “We tried to come up with ways we could provide more outreach and services to students without breaking the bank, and that’s why we decided to do the Self-Care Station.”

Working with a \$2,000 budget, student leaders were involved in the process from the beginning, helping set up “kits” to put in the machine, getting information on student needs and participating in committee meetings.

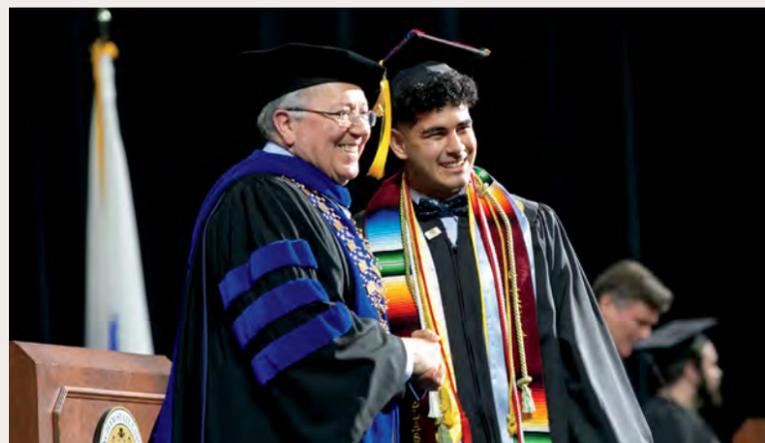
“We tried to come up with ways we could provide more outreach and services to students without breaking the bank....”

**CAMPUS NEWS**

## FSU Recognized as an Emerging Hispanic-Serving Institution

Framingham State University has been recognized as an emerging Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) by the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU).

The percentage of Framingham State’s full-time undergraduate population who identify as Hispanic or Latinx has grown from 4 percent to 17 percent over the last decade. Overall, only 23 public and private colleges in Massachusetts are recognized as either HSIs or emerging HSIs.



05



**CAMPUS NEWS**

## FSU Recognized as a “Best Value College for 2020”

Framingham State University has been ranked a top 25 “Best Value College for 2020” in the United States by the rankings website College Consensus.

The College Consensus methodology aggregates rankings from *Forbes*, *Money*, *U.S. News & World Report*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Wallethub* and *Washington Monthly*. They also average student reviews from sites like Cappex, Niche, StudentsReview and more, to get the full picture of how students see their colleges. Those scores combine to create their College Consensus Ranking.

Finally, for the “Best Value” ranking, they factor in the cost of tuition and fees.

“We are constantly trying to emphasize the value of an FSU education to students and families, so it’s nice to receive this type of national recognition,” says Framingham State President F. Javier Cevallos. “We are fortunate to have an outstanding group of faculty; a small, beautiful New England campus; and excellent academic and residential facilities. When you get all that at a cost much lower than most private schools, you can see why Framingham State is considered to be an excellent value.”

The ranking, which was recently featured on Yahoo! Finance, places Framingham State at #23 in the country for Best Value. To learn more, visit:

[COLLEGECONSENSUS.COM](http://COLLEGECONSENSUS.COM)

All HSIs have 25 percent or more of Hispanic student enrollment. More than half of them are located in California and Texas. Emerging HSIs, such as Framingham State, have a Latino population of between 15 and 25 percent.

“We’ve worked hard in recent years to diversify our student body at FSU to keep up with the changing demographics in Massachusetts,” says Framingham State President F. Javier Cevallos. “Recognition as an emerging HSI validates this work and hopefully makes us a more attractive option to other Hispanic and Latinx students around the state seeking to pursue their bachelor’s degree.”

“We’ve worked hard in recent years to diversify our student body at FSU to keep up with the changing demographics in Massachusetts,” says Framingham State President F. Javier Cevallos.

Dr. Constanza Cabello, FSU’s first Vice President for Diversity, Inclusion and Community Engagement, says enrolling more Hispanic and Latinx students is only part of the equation.

“We want to be truly Hispanic serving and not just Hispanic enrolling,” says Dr. Cabello, who leads an HSI taskforce at Framingham State.

“We are looking at close to 20 recommendations about how we can create, promote and inspire an environment that acknowledges the unique talents, strengths and lived experiences of our Latinx students and their families.”



Find out  
more about  
scholarships

[FRAMINGHAM.EDU](http://FRAMINGHAM.EDU)

## CAMPUS NEWS

## 2nd Annual Mancuso Scholarships Awarded

**Nicolle Fernandes has dreamed of going to college since she was a young child, motivated in part by having opportunities her mother lacked growing up in Brazil.**



Nicolle Fernandes is a Political Science major from Gloucester, MA.

"To have the opportunity to attend college at no cost eradicates the financial pressure that stems from immense college loans," says Hadge. "As an English major with no debt, I see my opportunities as endless so long as I apply myself to all degrees of interest that I seek out."

at Framingham State every year. 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.

Hadge says that she is excited to pursue her passions at FSU, which include journalism and American Sign Language (ASL). Fernandes is majoring in Political Science at FSU, which includes a pre-law concentration. She hopes to eventually become an attorney.

English Professor Halcyon Mancuso created the scholarships through a \$2.5 million financial commitment to FSU that was announced in 2018. There are two Mancuso Scholarships awarded

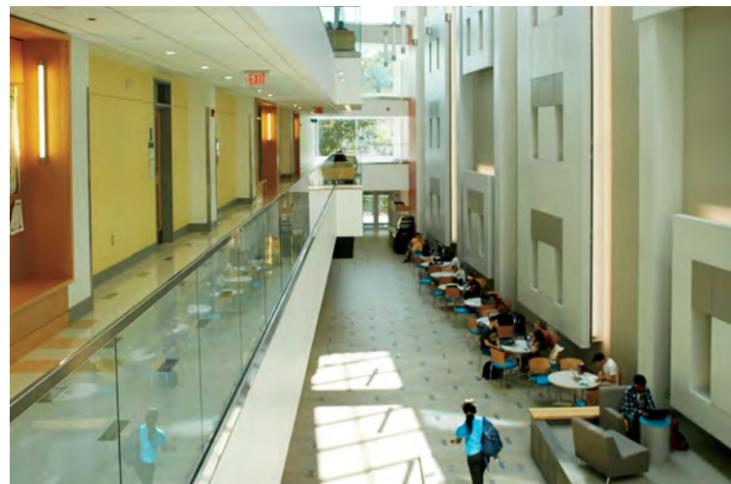


Haley Hadge is an English major from Sutton, MA.

"I was constantly encouraged by my mother to be involved with my community and take my studies seriously," says Fernandes, of Gloucester, MA.

It turns out that listening to mom pays off. Fernandes and Haley Hadge, of Sutton, MA, are the second pair of recipients of the Mancuso English, Humanities, and Social & Behavioral Sciences Scholarships. They will enroll at Framingham State this fall with 100 percent of their tuition, fees, and room and board covered by the scholarship. The two students will 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.

The news, coming in the midst of a tragic global pandemic that has upended the economy, provides major relief to both students and their families.



## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

## Jennifer De Leon



Though technically a work of fiction, it draws heavily from De Leon's personal experiences growing up in the Boston area with Guatemalan parents and becoming the first in her family to attend college.

"All projects and stories are special to me, but this one is the book that I would have loved for someone to have given me when I was in high school or college," says De Leon. "It's the story of a girl literally living in two worlds, and never truly feeling like she belongs to either one."

De Leon says the main character in the book has been "swimming around in her mind" for about 10 years, and that it took her about five years to complete the novel.

"I received a fellowship with the Boston Public Library, which included a stipend and my own office," she says. "I wrote the draft and sold it about two years ago."

De Leon taught middle and high school ESL and English Language Arts in the Boston Public Schools for more than a decade before transitioning to higher education, in part, so that she could have more time to focus on her personal writing projects. She has been at Framingham State for three years, and was a recipient of the University's Mary Miles Bibb Teaching Fellowship. Named in honor of the University's first African American graduate, the fellowship is designed to increase diversity on campus by putting junior faculty from diverse backgrounds on a pathway to a tenure-track position.

De Leon has received several awards for her writing during her career, and her work has been published in more than a dozen literary magazines and anthologies. At FSU, she designed the University's first Contemporary Latinx Literature course.

"It feels really rewarding to teach that class, and say, 'Look, we can all continue to write in this tradition,'" notes De Leon. "I talk with them about the process of writing this book, the ups and downs. I want them to know that they can do it, too."

Copies of *Don't Ask Me Where I'm From* are available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble and most local independent book stores.

DEPARTMENT:  
English

TEACHING AND  
RESEARCH  
INTERESTS:  
Creative  
Writing;  
Latino/a  
Literature;  
Contemporary  
American  
Literature;  
Poverty,  
Literature and  
the American  
Dream

EDUCATION:  
Master of  
Teaching;  
Master of  
Fine Arts

## FACULTY NEWS

## 2020 Distinguished Faculty and Librarian Awards



## EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE

### Dr. Jon Huibregtse

Dr. Jon Huibregtse, current director of the Center for Excellence in Learning, Teaching, Scholarship and Service (CELTSS), has been a vital member of Framingham State University's Department of History for many years. During his lengthy tenure as department chair (2005–2013), Dr. Huibregtse oversaw the recruitment of many new full- and part-time faculty, spearheaded a departmental program review and developed the department's first learning outcomes assessment plan. Under his direction, the Department of History experienced significant curricular and personnel changes, all of which ultimately strengthened it.

Since stepping down as chair, Dr. Huibregtse has remained actively involved in composing content for the department's new website, serving as a liaison to major alumni and holding a seat for several years on the departmental curriculum committee.

Recognizing faculty for their outstanding accomplishments



## EXCELLENCE IN ADVISING

### Prof. Pamela Sebor-Cable

On any given day, Professor Pamela Sebor-Cable, chair of the Department of Fashion Design and Retailing, can be found in one of the apparel design or textile labs surrounded by mountains of fabric, dress forms, sewing machines, historic garments and, most importantly, students. She seamlessly mentors students and colleagues by example.

As department chair, Professor Sebor-Cable advises many students over and above the regular load and is always looking for ways to celebrate their work. This includes organizing a fashion show at the City of Framingham Senior Center in the spring of 2019, and collaborating with FSU's Danforth Art Museum on an exhibit of student work in the fall of 2019.

EXCELLENCE IN SCHOLARSHIP/  
CREATIVE WORK

### Dr. Satish Penmatsa

Since 2014, Dr. Satish Penmatsa, assistant professor in the Department of Computer Science, has published 12 peer-reviewed papers, all as first author. This is an excellent record for any scientist, but an exceptional one for a faculty member at a teaching-focused university.

Dr. Penmatsa's research is focused on parallel and distributed computing systems, grid computing, high-performance computing, wireless networks, game theory, science and engineering applications. His longstanding record of excellence includes research articles published in peer-reviewed journals, presentations at professional conferences, and extensive work as a peer reviewer.



## EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

### Dr. Patricia Sánchez-Connally '01

Dr. Patricia Sánchez-Connally '01 has been an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology at Framingham State University since 2016. She was voted the 2017 Faculty Member of the Year by FSU students, and is a 2019 recipient of the University's Women Making History Now award.

Dr. Sánchez-Connally maintains high standards of excellence for herself, her students, her colleagues, the University and the social movements she helps to lead. Her deep commitment to preparing students extends well beyond their time at FSU. During her many courses, for example, she establishes links with professionals in the field, particularly those who are alumni of FSU.

## CAMPUS NEWS

### O'Day Earns Two Major Honors

Reigning Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC) Women's Basketball Player of the Year, guard Mary Kate O'Day '20, has been chosen as the 2020 MASCAC Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year by the conference's eight athletic directors. In addition, O'Day has been selected as the conference's nominee for the NCAA Woman of the Year Award.

O'Day closed out her career with the Rams earning a number of accolades for her athletic accomplishments.

She leaves the program second on the FSU All-Time Women's Basketball Scoring list with 1,557 career points, including 502 during her final season for the Rams. O'Day helped lead the 2019–2020 Rams to a school-record 22 victories and a perfect 12-0 mark in league play, which included the program's first MASCAC Regular Season and Tournament Titles as well as the team's first appearance in the NCAA Division III Women's Basketball Tournament.

Her success extends beyond the basketball court to the classroom where her list of academic accolades is comparable. O'Day recently completed work on a



O'Day helped lead the 2019–2020 Rams to a school-record 22 victories and a perfect 12-0 mark in league play.

degree in Sociology with a minor in criminology, attaining a 3.93 GPA that qualified her for membership in the Alpha Phi Sigma and Alpha Kappa Delta honor societies.

The NCAA Woman of the Year Award honors graduating student-athletes who have distinguished themselves throughout their collegiate careers in the areas of academic achievement, athletic excellence, service and leadership.



Mary Kate O'Day has been selected to the All-MASCAC First Team three times during her four seasons with the Rams.

## RAM IN FOCUS

## Camille Desrochers '21

**Balancing the demands of one NCAA sport, never mind two, with a college education can be too much for some students. But dual-sport FSU senior Camille Desrochers finds that the commitment of playing on both the women's basketball and softball teams helps her manage her time.**

"I've been playing basketball and softball my whole life, so coming into college it felt like a continuation of what I did in high school, even though there is a greater time commitment," says Desrochers, who is also an Honors Program student at Framingham State. "During the offseason, I feel like I have so much time on my hands, because I'm used to having a very busy schedule."

Despite losing her junior season of softball to the COVID-19 pandemic this past spring, Desrochers has already been a part of three conference championship teams at FSU, including the basketball team's first-ever conference championship in 2020.

"It's been really cool being part of two successful programs," she says. "Making the NCAA tournament is an experience no one will ever forget. I'm super grateful to have made it three times, and I'm hoping for more."

Desrochers is a guard on the basketball team and the starting shortstop for the softball program. During her sophomore year, she was second on the team with a .349 batting average. Her sister, Rachel Desrochers '17, was also a standout for the softball program, and since 2019 has been serving as an assistant coach, first as a volunteer and now in an official capacity.

"It's been awesome," Desrochers says of having her sister as a coach. "A few girls were freshmen when Rachel was a senior, so she brings a player perspective and knows a lot about the game. She has always been a big supporter of mine."

Desrochers enrolled at Framingham State without declaring a major, but has since decided to follow in the footsteps of her sister and mom, who are both teachers.

**MAJOR:**  
Math,  
Education

**HOMETOWN:**  
Westford, MA

**AGE:**  
21

**FAVORITE ATHLETE:**  
Steph Curry



Carla Cataldo, President F. Javier Cevallos and Dr. Lorretta Holloway celebrate receiving a Cummings Grant.

## CAMPUS NEWS

# FSU Receives \$100,000 from Cummings Foundation

Framingham State University (FSU) has received a \$100,000 grant spread over four years from Cummings Foundation to create a Summer Bridge Program for underrepresented and first-generation students from low-income households.

The focus of the Bridge Program, which will launch summer of 2021, will be on academics, financial literacy, mental wellness and inclusive leadership.

Chosen from a total of 738 applicants during a competitive review process, FSU is one of 130 local nonprofits to receive grants through Cummings Foundation's \$20 Million Grant Program.

"During this time of extreme economic stress and anxiety, we are so grateful to receive this award from Cummings Foundation," says Framingham State University President F. Javier Cevallos. "These critical funds will be used to provide direct assistance to our most vulnerable students as they make the difficult transition from high school to college. A college education remains the most tried-and-true way to move up the socioeconomic ladder. This program

## \$100K

**FSU HAS RECEIVED A \$100,000 GRANT SPREAD OVER FOUR YEARS FROM CUMMINGS FOUNDATION.**

is going to help us ensure that more students are successful when they reach FSU."

The student body at FSU includes several populations at particularly high risk for leaving college prior to graduation with an undergraduate population that is 37% Pell grant eligible, and 39% racial/ethnic minorities. Over 50% of the University's incoming class for fall 2019 were the first in their family to attend college.

The Cummings \$20 Million Grant Program supports Massachusetts nonprofits that are based in and primarily serve Middlesex, Essex and Suffolk counties. Through this place-based initiative, Cummings Foundation aims to give back in the area where it owns commercial buildings, all of which are managed, at no cost to the Foundation, by its affiliate, Cummings Properties. Founded in 1970 by Bill Cummings, the Woburn-based commercial real estate firm leases and manages 10 million square feet of debt-free space, the majority of which exclusively benefits the Foundation.

# .349

**DURING HER SOPHOMORE YEAR, CAMILLE WAS SECOND ON THE TEAM WITH A .349 BATTING AVERAGE.**



Alumna Leanna Lynch '18 Discovers  
Her Passion as FSU Veterans Coordinator

**Leanna Lynch enrolled at Framingham State University in 2015 intent on becoming a registered dietitian, following a 16-year career in the U.S. Army. While she would go on to earn a degree in Food and Nutrition, it was her experience as a student worker with the FSU Office of Veterans Services that helped Lynch find her calling.**



For more FSU-  
related content,  
visit us online:

[FRAMINGHAM.EDU](https://www.framingham.edu)

"It grew out of my experience working with former Veterans Services Coordinator Jackie Wolf," says Lynch. "The more I worked with her, the more I learned about myself. I wanted to be in a position of helping veterans and their family members."

When Wolf took a new position in 2019, Lynch jumped at the opportunity to interview for the job and was hired last November as Framingham State's Coordinator of Veteran and Military Student Programs. Lynch came onboard just as FSU was opening its first dedicated permanent Veterans Services Center space in Dwight Hall, which is something that she and a fellow veteran approached President Cevallos to strongly advocate for as students.

**"I wanted to be in  
a position of helping  
veterans and their  
family members."**

— ALUMNA LEANNA LYNCH '18

"I'm super proud of that space," says Lynch. "I'm also very happy we got the Yellow Ribbon Program going (see sidebar). Jackie started that effort, and I made it a priority when I took over."

Framingham State has about 200 military-connected students, and Lynch is dedicated to supporting each and every one of them. The Veterans Services Center she oversees provides a communal space for military veterans, service members and their family members to study, socialize, relax and watch TV. It also provides information about state and federal benefits available to veterans.

A group of VA work study students help with answering phones, assisting with questions for potential students, connecting with new students at Orientation and mentoring current students to help them navigate the challenges of being a student veteran.

**FSU JOINS THE YELLOW  
RIBBON PROGRAM TO  
SUPPORT STUDENT VETERANS**

Veterans from out of state who are interested in attending Framingham State University no longer have to worry about covering the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition now that FSU is part of the Veterans Administration's Yellow Ribbon Program.

"We are thrilled that we can offer this benefit to out-of-state veterans," says FSU Coordinator of Veteran and Military Student Programs Leanna Lynch '18.

Under the Post-9/11 GI Bill, the VA will only cover the cost of in-state tuition up to the percentage of benefits a veteran qualifies for. So, if a veteran or qualifying dependent in Rhode Island wants to attend Framingham State, he or she will be required to pay up to \$3,040 per semester out of pocket to cover the difference. By joining the Yellow Ribbon Program, Framingham State has committed to picking up half that expense, with the VA paying the other half.

"This is important because a lot of students from Rhode Island and Connecticut choose to come to Framingham State," says Lynch. "FSU is the farthest west you can go outside the City of Boston while still receiving the housing rate for Boston. Now these students can come to FSU knowing that the GI Bill will cover the entire cost of their education."

**“Dr. Cabello has demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities during her time at Framingham State University.”**

— PRESIDENT F. JAVIER CEVALLOS

## ALUMNI NEWS

## Dr. Cabello Named to Prestigious Leadership Initiative

Dr. Constanza Cabello, Framingham State University's first Vice President for Diversity, Inclusion and Community Engagement, has been named to a prestigious leadership initiative that has been successful in shaping future college presidents and chancellors from underrepresented backgrounds.

The Millennium Leadership Initiative (MLI), a premier leadership development program of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), has produced 632 graduates over its 20-year history, of which 131 have become first-time presidents or chancellors. Dr. Cabello joins 30 other higher education leaders from around the country in the Class of 2020.

“I am thrilled to represent Framingham State University as a member of the 2020 MLI class,” says Dr. Cabello. “I look forward to learning and leading alongside

some of the nation's most talented and promising leaders in higher education.”

MLI provides individuals traditionally underrepresented in the highest ranks of postsecondary education with the opportunity to develop skills, gain a philosophical overview and build the network and knowledge needed to advance to the presidency.

“Dr. Cabello has demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities during her time at Framingham State University,” says FSU President F. Javier Cevallos, who serves on the AASCU Board of Directors. “I'm excited that she will get this opportunity to advance her skills and learn from other top leaders in the field of higher education.”



“I am thrilled to represent Framingham State University as a member of the 2020 MLI class,” says Dr. Cabello.

## CAMPUS NEWS

# Race and Equity training for STEM Faculty

**This past summer, 11 faculty members from Framingham State University and four from MassBay Community College took part in the Framingham State University STEM Racial Equity Institute, which is the centerpiece of a \$1 million grant FSU received from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) in 2018.**

The participants spent five weeks learning about a range of issues pertaining to race and equity with the goal of developing professional skills and pedagogy to actively fight racism through their work as faculty. Ultimately, the goal is to increase the success of first-generation and underrepresented students in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) subjects, and reduce the significant opportunity gaps that exist nationwide.

The institute participants included both full-time and part-time STEM faculty members.

“Among our peers with HHMI Inclusive Excellence grants, we appear to be the only university being this aggressive in trying to educate STEM faculty about these issues,” says Dr. Catherine Dignam, chair of Framingham State's Chemistry and Food Science Department, who led FSU's efforts to obtain the HHMI grant.

As a precursor to the development of the institute, during the summer of 2019 FSU had 10 faculty members and 10 administrators participate in the



“Among our peers with HHMI Inclusive Excellence grants, we appear to be the only university being this aggressive in trying to educate STEM faculty about these issues,” says Dr. Catherine Dignam.

University of Southern California (USC) Equity Institute, which helped them develop a shared model for inclusive excellence and racial equity. That group developed the curriculum and program for this summer's institute.

Learning objectives included gaining an understanding that all STEM teaching is racialized, developing a project that will expand anti-racist pedagogy and having each participant become a leader and an advocate for anti-racism at FSU.

Participants were provided with a stipend and were asked to clear any other professional obligations from their schedule so they could focus solely on the institute. With the first year of the institute completed, the focus has moved to assessing the effectiveness of the program. That includes looking at student success in the classrooms of the participating faculty to see if racial gaps that exist between white students and students of color in the STEM subjects are positively impacted. There will also be focus groups with students who have taken classes with faculty who took part in the institute.

“This is our pilot year, so there will be refinements to the institute based on what we learn,” says Dignam. “We have funding from HHMI to run the institute for two more years. After that, we will need to figure out a model to make it self-sustaining.”



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

**Abigail Salvucci '21**

**Growing up in a family that faced housing and food insecurity for several years instilled in FSU senior Abigail Salvucci a desire to help others in similar situations as she grew older.**

**“I believe that what you put out into the world is what you get back,” Salvucci says.**

**“The more you want what’s better for the world, the more positive things will happen for you and those around you.” The Sociology major was selected as a Newman Civic Fellow by Campus Compact, which recognizes students who are public problem-solvers.**

She was nominated by FSU President F. Javier Cevallos on the basis of her potential for public leadership.

“Abigail is an outstanding student, but what impresses me most is her ability to engage her fellow students in issues that are important to her, including homelessness and food insecurity,” says President Cevallos.

As vice president of the Student Government Association, Salvucci has been researching ways to assist students on campus dealing with food and housing insecurity. While this work is ongoing, it has already led to the development of a program called “Weekend Bags,” which provides personal hygiene items to students who lack resources when the University is closed.

As a Newman Civic Fellow, Salvucci will be working with stakeholders to foster a stronger connection between local nonprofits and FSU students.

“I’m hoping to create a bridge between the City of Framingham’s nonprofits and the FSU campus,” she says. “There are partnerships that exist now, but I think there is an opportunity to enhance that connection in many ways.”

Through the fellowship, Campus Compact will provide Salvucci with training and resources that will help her develop strategies for social change. The yearlong program includes virtual learning opportunities and networking as part of a national network of engaged student leaders and an optional in-person convening.

After she graduates, Salvucci is interested in pursuing social research.

**MAJOR:**  
**Sociology**

**PRESIDENT:**  
**Class of 2021**

**VICE PRESIDENT:**  
**Student Government Association**

**FIRST-GEN:**  
**First Generation College Student**



# Ram- ping up



18



19

Celebrating a decade  
of athletic success  
at Framingham  
State University

**STORY**

Maura King Scully

**PHOTOGRAPHY**

Kent Dayton

## Look up into the rafters of the Athletic and Recreation Center gym, and you'll see a sea of Massachusetts State College Athletic Conference (MASCAC) championship banners.

Each of the years on those banners signifies that a Framingham State Rams team earned a berth in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III tournament—playoffs among the country's top 64 teams.

Look more closely, and you'll notice that this celebrated milestone has been achieved 15 times by five teams over the last 10 years (see sidebar, "And the Winner Is...").

To women's basketball standout Mary Kate O'Day '20, the number of winning programs is impressive. "A lot of schools have one standout sport," says O'Day. "It says something about the Athletics program at Framingham State that so many teams have made it to the NCAA tournament."

According to athletic director Tom Kelley '76, the University is now recognized as a force within



MASCAC. "We weren't before, but we are now," he says. "Over the last decade, athletics has become part of the fabric of Framingham State. Under the leadership of President Cevallos, Executive Vice President Dale Hamel and the Board of Trustees, athletics is very much on the agenda."

Deputy Director of Athletics Carey Eggen traces that fact directly back to Kelley, who has served as athletic director since 1996. "Tom has made sure Athletics is run properly, staffed properly and budgeted properly," she says. "He cares so much about this program. You can't tell the story of a decade of success in athletics without talking about Tom."

#### SHARED VISION

Kelley, in turn, is adamant that he is one part of a much larger equation. Athletics success, he says, stems from leadership—of President F. Javier Cevallos, Dr. Hamel and Board of Trustees Chair Kevin Foley '84 and Vice Chair Dick Logan '70. "They are at the games—and they're fans. Student-athletes see that and appreciate it. They know the administration is supportive."

Another key has been attracting great coaches who appreciate the academics-first philosophy of Division III. "We're here to support the academic mission first and foremost," Kelley continues. "Our goal is for student-athletes to have a great experience, earn a degree and go on to get a great job. Coaches have to convince student-athletes that Framingham State is the place for them, and our coaches do this as well as anybody."



### AND THE WINNER IS... NCAA Division III Tournament Appearances (Since 2011)

#### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

2020

#### FOOTBALL

2012

2013

2015

2018

2019

#### MEN'S SOCCER

2011

2019

#### SOFTBALL

2017

2018

2019

#### WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

2012

2014

2015

2016



Isaac De Souza '20 helped lead men's soccer to a MASCAC title during his senior year.

Student-athletes agree. Former quarterback Matt Silva '16 credits persuasive coaches like Aynsley Rosenbaum '97, G'16 for bringing him to FSU. "Framingham State has a great group of coaches who do a great job of recruiting," Silva says. "They end up getting high-caliber players who were maybe overlooked by Division II schools."

According to Kelley, everyone from the executive suite to the coaches recognizes that athletics is a strong driver for student recruitment. "Retention of student-athletes is also very

**"You can't tell the story of a decade of success in athletics without talking about Tom."**  
— CAREY EGGEN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

strong," he notes. "They love the institution." One indication of that? All five of the winning programs have graduates involved as assistant coaches. "Student-athletes love the program and want to give back," Kelley adds. "It shows loyalty and commitment."

Silva notes that Kelley himself is part of that virtuous feedback loop. Freshman football players, he explains, have a mandatory weekly study hall to make sure they are keeping up with their schoolwork. Every week, he notes, "Tom Kelley was there. It said a lot to me that he took time each week to go."

#### CHARACTER MATTERS

In addition to working hard in the classroom and on the playing field, Kelley stresses that FSU student-athletes must do more: "You also need to be a good person," he says.



Head Football Coach Aynsley Rosenbaum '97, G'16 is excited to build on the team's unprecedented run of success.

"Framingham State is like a small town. If you're going to come here, you have to add something to the institution and the community."

Current and former student-athletes say they were drawn by this whole-person approach. A number also cite the fact that the University is Division III, which gives them flexibility to play more than one sport. This includes Camille Desrochers '21. "I always played both softball and basketball," she says. "I was initially recruited for basketball, and then the basketball coach talked to the softball coach. I jumped at the opportunity to play both."

Close relationships among coaches and multi-sport athletes heighten the spirit of camaraderie among the 275 athletes on the University's 14 varsity teams. "All the student-athletes really support one another," notes O'Day. "That

made my Framingham State experience super special."

According to men's soccer forward Isaac De Souza '20, that esprit de corps also builds winning teams. "The first couple of years, our team didn't have great chemistry," De Souza says. "This last year, we were so together on and off the field, and we won the league." In that championship game against Salem State, "it wasn't just the 11 guys playing on the field," he continues. "It was everyone on the field and on the bench cheering. It was incredible."

And there is nothing quite like winning, says Desrochers. "Every college athlete's dream is to make it to the NCAA tournament. Walking in as a freshman and having that experience in softball was incredible. Then to do it this year in basketball for the first time in the program's history was amazing."

## Passing the Torch

This fall starts a new era in Framingham State football. After 13 seasons as head coach, Director of Athletics Tom Kelley '76 is stepping down from coaching. Offensive coordinator and former Rams football player Aynsley Rosenbaum '97, G'16 will be taking his place.

Rosenbaum has been the Rams offensive coordinator for the past 12 seasons and joined the Rams Athletics Department as a full-time staff member in 2014. In 2017, he was promoted to assistant athletic director, overseeing the Rams club sport program and serving as the department's recruiting coordinator.

During Rosenbaum's 12 seasons on the sidelines, the Rams have won nine conference championships, made five appearances in the NCAA Division III Football Tournament and won four bowl games.

"I'm honored to take over at my alma mater as its head football coach and follow in the footsteps of Tom Kelley, my mentor and friend," Rosenbaum says. "Framingham is a special place with people I truly care about, and I look forward to continuing relationships with the players, administration and alumni."



### BUILDING SKILLS

Championship or not, student-athletes take more from their collegiate careers than wins and losses. Those interviewed detailed the invaluable life lessons they say they learned by playing a varsity sport at Framingham State.

"Being a student-athlete means you're juggling a lot," recalls Alycia Rackliffe '17, who played both volleyball and basketball. "Many times, I remember getting back from a game at 10 p.m., going back to my room and grabbing my books to study for an exam." A Food Science major, Rackliffe now works on the product development team at WellPet, a holistic pet food company in Tewksbury, MA. "Another thing I took away was the ability to work with people to reach a goal."

"I learned how to be a better leader," adds De Souza. "A lot of freshmen and sophomores were looking up to me and the other seniors on the team for direction on staying focused as a player and as a person."

Silva sums up the experience simply: "Come in, work hard and don't take anything for granted." He says that he has brought this no-nonsense approach to his job as a court officer at the Lowell Juvenile Court and as offensive coordinator for the Andover High School football team. He is grateful for the opportunity to have been an FSU student-athlete and to coaches like Kelley and Rosenbaum for "making you feel like you were family—like you were meant to play football at this school."

### THE DECADE AHEAD

Kelley plans to keep that family feeling alive and thriving even as he continues to foster championship programs. Though he has stepped down from coaching (see sidebar, "Passing the Torch"), he is very much staying on as athletic director. "I was born at Framingham State," he says, with a chuckle. "I came in as a student-athlete in 1972 and played on the first football team. I came back in 1978 as an assistant coach and then was head football coach from 1982 to 1984." From 1985 to 1996, Kelley served as assistant athletics director before taking the top job.

What has kept him at the University for all these years? "That's easy: the young people," he concludes. "Watching them come in as 18-year-old freshmen and then seeing how they've grown as seniors. To see them go off and be successful...that's what motivates me."

# Class notes

## 1970s

**Robert Canton '72** is teaching statistics as a visiting lecturer at Framingham State and reports that it's been wonderful teaching in Hemenway Hall, where he attended classes as an undergrad!

**Joyce (Lambert) English '77** retired from teaching after more than 30 years. For the last 25 years, English taught first and second grades in Winthrop and is now excited to be welcoming her first grandchild in September.

## 1980s

**Kevin Foley '84** has been reappointed to a second five-year term on Framingham State University's board of trustees. Foley is the financial and general accounting director of the Marmaxx Group at TJX Cos. in Framingham.

## 1990s

**Mike Antonellis '97**, longtime Sea Dogs radio broadcaster, is moving up to Triple-A Pawtucket, one of the largest networks in all of Minor League Baseball. He leaves after 15 seasons as the "Voice of the Sea Dogs."

**Suzanne Galusi '97** was appointed to the position of assistant superintendent for elementary education for the Medford Public Schools. Galusi has served as principal at the Brooks Elementary School for the past six years.

## 2000s

**Joshua Hanna '00** has been named principal of Franklin High School in Franklin. Hanna has been the assistant principal at Hopkinton High School since 2013.

**Chris Williams G '00** has remained active in the Springfield Education Association since retiring in 2008 following more than 40 years working as a reading specialist. She is proud to be part of a group of activists who have created Tools 4 Teaching, a nonprofit recycling "store" for educators. The group can be found on Facebook.



**Kristina Wickman MSN '10** and her family were recently featured on NBC's *TODAY* show.



**Kevin Foley '84** was reappointed to a five-year term on the FSU board of trustees.



**Mike Antonellis '97** is moving up to broadcast games with the Red Sox Triple-A affiliate.

**Dr. Joseph Tennyson '01** became the new chief of emergency medicine at UMass Memorial HealthAlliance-Clinton Hospital. In this new position, Dr. Tennyson will be responsible for the hospital's emergency department and its Leominster urgent-care location.

**Dr. Loubaina Buxamusa G '03** was named to the leadership team of Vision-Aid, a Lexington-based nonprofit organization serving the visually impaired.

## 2010s

**Kristina Wickman MSN '10** and her family were featured on social media and NBC's *TODAY* show in May. Wickman's mother, Rosemary, has been a nurse for 40 years. Daughters Katie and Kristina and son-in-law Brad have followed in her footsteps, as all work as nurses in Boston.

**Maria Katinis '11** joined DraftKings, Inc. as production design manager in June 2020.

**Richard Poor '11** has been named principal of the Constantino School in Haverhill, after serving as assistant principal for the past three years. Poor is a former "Teacher of the Year" in Lawrence.

**Samuel Dowd G '14** and Emily Herzberg were married in April 2020 at the home of the groom's parents in Dennis.

**Aaron Ferreira '14** recently started work as a financial analyst II at Raytheon Technologies.

**Tony Iafolla '14** was recognized by the *Boston Globe* as a standout player in the amateur Yawkey League of Greater Boston, and a factor in helping the Revere Rockies to the league championship in 2019. Iafolla resides in Walpole and is a residential and commercial property manager.

**Erin Cohen '15** recently joined Road to Responsibility as director of development, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing support to individuals with challenges. She and her husband are expecting their first child in February.

**Malkaye Kpante '16** began his new role as R&D manager at DJ MicroLaminates, Inc., which researches, develops and markets innovative dry film resistant materials internationally.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Mary (Hibbard) Roberts '46**  
4/8/2020

**June (Morse) Marchant '50**  
2/1/2020

**Evelyn Testa '52**  
4/28/2020

**Joann (Jackson) Baker '53**  
2/2/2020

**Barbara (Sunter) Campion '53**  
2/3/2020

**Elizabeth Granfield '53**  
4/9/2020

**Edythe (Sullivan) McGoldrick '53**  
6/1/2020

**Joan (Mondino) Ristuccia '56**  
1/2/2020

**Joan (Lafford) McCann '58**  
1/1/2020

**Carlene (Mello) Haughey '58**  
2/29/2020

**Marylyn (Nelson) Anderson '58**  
5/4/2020

**Maureen (O'Brien) Fessenden '59**  
5/31/2019

**Sandra (DeLuca) Ganter '61**  
2019

**Sheila (Ryan) Scheufele '62**  
3/10/2020

**Alice (Lyons) McCarthy '63**  
4/21/2020

**Sylvia Diamond '64**  
12/19/2019

**Patricia (Chambers) Johnson '65**  
4/30/2020

**Virginia (Packard) Erwin '69**  
5/1/2020

**Beverly (Sears) Thomas '70**  
1/17/2020

**Elizabeth (Murphy) Capstick '73**  
1/30/2020

**Ruth Crow '73**  
4/17/2020

**Mary Messina '73**  
4/19/2020

**Evlyn Feldman '74**  
1/12/2020

**Brian Mooney '75**  
2/20/2020

**Sally Cook '76**  
1/10/2020

**Ethel McCoy '76**  
2/1/2020

**Sally Walker '76**  
5/11/2020

**Mary Miley '77**  
1/18/2020

**Anna Thorpe '77**  
3/3/2020

**Jose Luis '77**  
5/12/2020

**Roberta (Riel) Cantor '78**  
5/29/2019

**Katharine Haselton '79**  
2/12/2020

**Elaine Farrand '80**  
5/23/2020

**Shirley Stahl '80**  
12/23/2019

**Glenna Smith '84**  
5/13/2020

**Irvin Duclos '90**  
6/15/2020

**Linda Lewis '91**  
5/8/2020

**Wendy Powell '93**  
2019

**Rose Taldon '98**  
4/12/2020

**Fernando Morales '01**  
4/7/2020

**Richard Jackman '01**  
6/28/2020

**Margaret Warner '02**  
1/19/2020

**Patricia Mahoney '02**  
2/5/2020

**Michelle Boutilier '11**  
1/16/2020

**Kimberly Altavesta '14**  
5/12/2020

**Amy Burlingame '16**  
2/15/2020

**Patricia Hutson '20**  
4/17/2020

**Daniel Larrivee '17** recently celebrated his one-year anniversary and a promotion to senior associate deal manager at Adaptive Insights.

**Charlene Pena '17** was the 2019 winner of the North of Boston Business Plan Competition. Her Peabody company, Woven Royal, sells a unique hat, "The Afrona," designed to protect and preserve the volume of curly hair.

**Keith Barnaby '18** was recently promoted to division manager at Resource Options, Inc.

**Sarah Charland '18** recently shared the good news of her promotion to site affairs and operations senior manager at Pfizer.

**Michael Dutcher '18**, a 23-year veteran of the Framingham Fire Department, was appointed chief. Dutcher is also the assistant emergency management director and operations chief for the Central Massachusetts technical rescue team.

**Thalia Jimenez '18** began her new role as education advisor at MassEdCO, the Commonwealth's largest provider of community-based education and career-readiness services for underrepresented middle/high school students and adults.

**Marcin Mruk '19** recently began a new position as operations support specialist at Pioneer Valley Financial Group, which provides financial services to Western Massachusetts.

## 2020s

**Aleksandra Jensen '20** began working with Youth Villages as a family intervention specialist last July. Jensen is currently attending Simmons University to earn her MSW.

**Richie Svopa '20** accepted a position as epic credential trainer at Ettain Group, helping clients design, develop and deliver critical technology and business initiatives in 25 offices located in 17 key markets.

**Emily Veloza '20** is heading to Donegal, Ireland, and will play basketball for Letterkenny Institute of Technology, while she works on a master's degree in computing and data analysis. Veloza was the second-leading scorer on a Rams squad that won the MASCAC championship and advanced to the NCAA Tournament.

# Making an impact



Learn how to be a part of the alumni community

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## ALUMNI PROFILE

### Juliana Marra '15



**Juliana Marra '15**  
Helps Develop Leaders at Kaiser Permanente

If you told Juliana Marra '15 five years ago that by 2020 she'd be living on the West Coast working in leadership development at one of the largest nonprofit healthcare organizations in the United States, she would have thought you were crazy.

"I did not stick to the life plan that I set out for myself," says Marra, a Brazilian American who grew up in Natick. "I was adamant about getting straight into a master's degree program and going into education. But I received some great advice, and that's to be open to whatever life brings you."

While working as a program coordinator for Harvard Business School's leadership professional development programs, Marra hit it off with her contact at Kaiser Permanente, which was one of the clients she assisted.

"She asked me if I would consider moving out to the West Coast," says Marra, who majored in Corporate Communications at FSU, with minors in Spanish and Diversity Studies. "I thought it was a joke. I told her to give me some time. In 2018, she came back and said, 'This is for real. We want you over here.'"

Today, Marra is living out in Oakland, CA, working as a senior human resources programs coordinator at the Kaiser Permanente headquarters.

**"I like finding potential in people and seeing how that translates into their business outcomes."**

JULIANA MARRA '15

## ALUMNI PROFILE

### Dorothy M. Keeney G'91

A trip with colleagues to New York City to celebrate the 100th anniversary of school nursing in 2002 would end up being the spark that inspired many years of research by Dorothy M. Keeney G'91 into the history of nursing within the Boston Public Schools.

When asked by the president of the Massachusetts School Nurse Organization who was the first school nurse in Massachusetts, Keeney realized she had no idea, but pledged to find out.

"I wound up researching and writing about Annie McKay, a Canadian, who became Boston's first public school nurse in 1905," says Keeney, who has over four decades of nursing experience, including 20 within the Boston Public Schools. "There was so much enthusiasm about who she was and how

it all got started. In the back of my mind, I was thinking I would like to move the research forward into something bigger."

Her efforts culminated in May with the publication of her first book, *The Untold Story of Annie McKay and the Boston Public School Nurses 1905-1988: The Formation of the Massachusetts School Nurse Organization*.

As the nation combats the COVID-19 pandemic, Keeney's book allows you to discover how Boston school nurses dealt with the 1917-1918 influenza pandemic, contagious diseases such as diphtheria, scarlet fever and the polio epidemics that occurred during the 20th century.

To learn more about the book, or purchase a copy, visit

[BOSTONSCHOOLNURSING.COM](http://BOSTONSCHOOLNURSING.COM)



**Dorothy M. Keeney G'91**  
Documents the History of the Boston Public School Nurses

## ALUMNI PROFILE

### Armen M. Zildjian '95



**Armen M. Zildjian '95**  
Helps Companies Connect with Customers

One of the most satisfying aspects of Armen M. Zildjian's job as a senior sales executive is watching his employees advance in their careers as his companies grow.

"I like building companies," says Zildjian, who has worked at several startups that have experienced enormous growth. "You get to see people who come into entry level sales roles and now lead sales teams at other companies in Boston. It feels good to know you had a hand in their success."

Zildjian is currently the vice president of sales at Drift, a conversational marketing platform founded in 2015 that is used by more than 50,000 companies. Drift uses programmed chatbots to engage customers on a company's website by

answering their questions and providing them with the specific information they need.

"No one ever sold anything without a conversation," Zildjian says. Rather than having customers fill out a static form and provide their personal information in order to ask questions about a product, Drift allows them to engage directly on the website.

Zildjian speaks very highly about his time at Framingham State University and even maintains an interesting connection to FSU. He is the Master of the Masonic Lodge in Lexington, MA, which from 1839 to 1843 was home to the Lexington Normal School, the nation's first ever public teachers college, which, of course, would go on to become Framingham State University.

## ALUMNI NEWS

# 2020 Alumni Awards

Recognizing  
alumni for their outstanding  
accomplishments



HONORARY ALUMNUS

## Robert "Bob" Fields

Bob started his career working in marketing at leading companies like Gillette, Braun and Foster Grant, before starting his own firm, CommCreative, in 1996. Based in Framingham, Bob and his team grew the advertising, marketing and public relations firm into a national leader in the industry. He recently established the Beatrice Rittenberg Fink Endowed Scholarship Fund through the FSU Foundation in memory of his mother.

ALUMNI LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE  
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

## Robert Pulster '80

Bob is currently a regional coordinator at the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, an organization which coordinates and catalyzes the federal response to homelessness, working in close partnership with senior leaders across 19 federal member agencies. In his role, Bob is responsible for facilitating the strategic implementation of Opening Doors, specifically in the Northeast and South Central United States.

ALUMNI EDUCATOR  
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

## Priscilla Douglas '56

After graduating from Framingham Teachers College, Priscilla went on to earn a master's degree in nutrition from UMass Amherst and a PhD from the University of Connecticut, where she taught as a professor in their Allied Health program and now serves as Professor Emerita in UConn's Allied Health program. She and her husband have collaborated on research surrounding the relationship around physical activity and nutrition.



YOUNG ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

## Lawrence "Larry" Liuzzo '14

While at Framingham State, Larry was the SGA president, Vice President of the Class of 2014, an Academic Success Peer Tutor and a Black and Gold Orientation Leader. Larry is currently the government affairs manager for the Massachusetts Society of Certified Public Accountants (MSCPA), which has more than 11,000 members in public accounting, industry and business, government and education.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI  
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

## Kathleen "Kathy" Lennon G'85

Kathy has led a multifaceted life spanning family, career and music, and has distinguished herself throughout. She earned a PhD in developmental and educational psychology from Boston College and later co-wrote the book, *Understanding Creativity: The Interplay of Biological, Psychological, and Social Factors*, with one of her doctoral faculty. She also joined the psychology faculty at Boston College, teaching there for a decade. In 2015, she established the Kathleen H. and John E. Lennon III Endowed Scholarship Fund through the FSU Foundation.



The 2020 award presentations, normally held in June during Reunion, were postponed due to the pandemic. If you would like to send a congratulatory note to one of the recipients, you can write to

[ALUMNI@FRAMINGHAM.EDU](mailto:ALUMNI@FRAMINGHAM.EDU)



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## Brian T. Kench '94

# Brian T. Kench '94 Leads University of New Haven's College of Business to New Heights

**Under the leadership of Dean Brian T. Kench, the University of New Haven's Pompea College of Business has thrived over the past five years, launching unique STEM-certified business analytics programs and becoming a national leader in the growing field of esports business education.**

Kench, who is a nationally recognized expert and consultant in the area of economic damage and economic impact analysis and unemployment, traces the roots of his career success back to his freshman-year Principles of Microeconomics class at Framingham State University.

"My very first class was with longtime economics professor Robert Wallace, and it didn't go particularly well," says Kench. "But I signed up for an Intermediate Microeconomics course with him after that, and it frankly changed my life. The whole model of economics he elegantly displayed to students in their late teens was powerful."

It wasn't until his senior year at FSU that Kench officially changed his major from business to economics. He would go on to earn his PhD in economics from the University of Connecticut and later taught at the University of Tampa for 13 years. During that time, he became the head of the Economics Department, and helped it grow from just 20 to 150 students.

"We were able to transform that unit," says Kench. "We brought in a lot of new faculty who invigorated the program and centered it on student success. When the opportunity to serve as Dean at New Haven became available, I felt that I could have similar success."

Since taking over as Dean in 2015, the Pompea College of Business has achieved full accreditation with the AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) and has seen its international enrollment grow to a third of its graduate business population. Much of that is due to the creation of eight first-of-their-kind STEM-certified business analytics programs, which help students differentiate themselves in the labor market.

The college, which was recently named the Pompea College of Business in honor of its largest-ever gift from alumnus Charles E. Pompea, is also the first in the nation to have an AACSB-accredited esports management undergraduate degree program, and will be the only U.S. provider with an esports business degree at the master's level.

"There has been a lot of hard work over the past five years to transform the college," says Kench. "We've gone from surviving to thriving, and we're still just getting started. And all of it traces back to a class I took at FSU."

**“We are grateful to the Walmart Foundation for their support of this vital resource.”**

— DR. LORRETTA HOLLOWAY



ALUMNI CORNER

# Walmart Foundation donates to the Rams Resource Center

30



Framingham State University received its first grant from the Walmart Foundation this past academic year, for the Rams Resource Center, which provides nonperishable food items, toiletries and resource referral for FSU students, faculty and staff.

The \$4,750 award will go toward restocking shelves with food and other resources.

Former manager Mike Lombardi noted that several Framingham State (FSU) students work at his Walmart, and that

a lot of FSU students also shop there. He was happy to award a grant to a local Framingham institution with strong ties to his business, on many levels.

Walmart Giving Local Community Grants focuses on access to healthy food and retail opportunities, in an effort to strengthen communities. The Walmart Community Grant Program is highly competitive, receiving more than 150,000 applications each year nationwide.

**YOUR LEGACY. THEIR FUTURE.**

## Create a better future for students today, with a gift that costs nothing during your lifetime.

**A planned gift through your will or trust (a “bequest”) makes it possible:**

- It won’t reduce your savings or cash flow.
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Your gift will help ensure that the University can purchase needed equipment, create powerful new educational opportunities, fund needed scholarships and change lives by showing the students of today how to become the leaders of tomorrow.

Make an impact today by providing significant support to future generations and leaving a lasting statement to the world that reflects who you are and what you value.

**More simple ways to change lives:**

- Give life insurance you no longer need.
- Designate the Framingham State University Foundation as a successor on bank accounts, retirement plans or insurance policies.
- Donate appreciated stock and save on taxes.
- Consider a gift of real estate.

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For more information about planned giving opportunities, visit:

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OR CONTACT:

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DONOR PROFILE



DONOR PROFILE

## Marcie Mills '84

Interested in learning more about how you can support FSU students?

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508-626-4012

# Marcie Mills wants FSU Students to 'Dream Big'

32

Whenever Marcie Mills gets the opportunity to return to campus to speak with FSU students, the first thing she seeks to do is build up their self-confidence.

"You have a lot of students at FSU who are the first in their family to attend college and will take longer than four years to graduate, as they are funding their own education by working multiple jobs," says Mills, a senior sales executive at Pandora who guest lectures to Communication Arts students studying digital marketing or online media.

"Rather than viewing this as a negative, I tell them they need to be leading their job interviews with it. Many FSU students have taken a tougher road than students at more privileged colleges. I want them to be proud

of that and lean into that. As I'm telling them this, you can see them start to shift in their seats and perk up a bit."

Her main takeaway is always the same: Don't be afraid to dream big.

"Don't cap your own dreams, because there will be plenty of people out there trying to do that for you," says Mills. "You better be reaching for the moon."

She recently made a gift to FSU through her estate in order to establish the Marcie Mills Dream Big Scholarship, a process she said was made easy by FSU Vice President of Development and Alumni Relations Eric Gustafson. She even had the words "Dream Big" etched on a bench she funded on campus.

Mills is a longtime supporter of FSU students. A Wellesley native who now lives on the West Coast,

Marcie recently made a gift to FSU through her estate in order to establish the Marcie Mills Dream Big Scholarship, a process she said was made easy by FSU Vice President of Development and Alumni Relations Eric Gustafson.

she and three of her siblings attended Framingham State and earned degrees that helped them launch successful careers. Mills says she has loved every minute of her career, but today she takes the most joy from being in a position to help others.

That effort includes working closely with anti-poverty and environmental organizations around Los Angeles. It also includes advocating for FSU support when she meets with fellow alumni during events in her area.

"The fastest road out of poverty is education," says Mills. "So I'm passionate and enthusiastic about turning people into givers and participants. These students need our help, and they need our mentorship."



MASKED UP

The global pandemic has led to many new safety measures on campus, including a strict face covering policy.

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

[ALUMNI@FRAMINGHAM.EDU](mailto:ALUMNI@FRAMINGHAM.EDU) 508-626-4012  
[FRAMINGHAM.EDU/ALUMNI](http://FRAMINGHAM.EDU/ALUMNI)

# Events

OCTOBER 28, 2020 · 3:30 PM · VIRTUAL SEMINAR  
Career Coaching for Mid-Professionals

Join Mark Hardie, Career Mentor and Coach, for a 90-minute seminar designed to help you evaluate your strengths, identify opportunities and guide your career decisions.

NOVEMBER 5, 2020 · VIRTUAL EVENT  
Swiacki Children's Literature Festival

Our annual celebration of Children's Literature goes virtual, featuring author Joseph Bruchac, a proud Nulhegan Abenaki citizen and author of more than 120 books for children and adults.

SUNDAY, MAY 23, 2021 · DCU CENTER, WORCESTER, MA, MORNING CEREMONY  
Class of 2020 Commencement Ceremony\*

Our long-awaited celebration of the Class of 2020, whose Commencement was postponed due to COVID-19. We cannot wait to celebrate this wonderful group of graduates.

SUNDAY, MAY 23, 2021 · DCU CENTER, WORCESTER, MA, AFTERNOON CEREMONY  
Class of 2021 Commencement Ceremony\*

For the first time in FSU history, we'll be celebrating two graduating classes in one day! Alumni are always encouraged to join us as we send the latest group of FSU grads off into the world.

\*These events are subject to postponement depending on the status of COVID-19 in the spring.



**Framingham**  
State University

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