Small Office, Big World

Students learn the skills to launch their careers
From President Cevallos

The feature story for this issue of Framingham State Magazine looks at the University’s indispensable Office of Career Services and Employer Relations (CSER), which has seen its demand for services explode over the past decade.

Interview coaching, résumé review, workshops, recruiter events and internship coordination are just some of the services provided by the office to students and alumni. Last year alone, CSER hosted 759 recruiters on campus from prominent corporations, government organizations and nonprofit industries throughout the region. The semester-long internship remains the best way for students to get a jump on their careers—and each year we see more and more of our students graduate with job offers already in hand.

It all speaks to the value of the Framingham State University experience.

BEST WISHES,

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

Upfront

04
The snapshot
Fast news from FSU

06
Veterans Center
dedication

07
Ram in focus
Isaac De Souza ’20

10
Faculty spotlight
Dr. Bryan Connolly

11
Dr. Joseph M. Adelman accepted into Worcester Antiquarian Society

12
Alumni spotlight
Six FSU Food Science alumni work on the culinary teams for Dunkin’ Brands

14
Donor profile
Dr. Diane L. Lowe

18
Student spotlight
Nathalie Camargo ’21

20
Making an impact
Celebrating alumni who are making a difference in their communities

22
Class notes
Discover how your fellow classmates are spending their time

24
Upcoming events and announcements

Alumni

20
Making an impact
Celebrating alumni who are making a difference in their communities

22
Class notes
Discover how your fellow classmates are spending their time

24
Alumni spotlight
Six FSU Food Science alumni work on the culinary teams for Dunkin’ Brands

26
Donor profile
Dr. Diane L. Lowe

27
FY’19 President’s Report

28
Honor Roll of Giving

29
Upcoming events and announcements

Features

12
Small Office, Big World
The Office of Career Services and Employer Relations helps students learn the skills to launch their careers

08
Miles Bibb Hall
Framingham State has renamed North Hall in honor of the University’s first African American graduate, Mary Miles Bibb, Class of 1843
The snapshot

FSU Honored for Its Diversity Efforts

Framingham State University has again been recognized for its efforts to support diversity, equity and inclusion on campus with a Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award.

The award is given by INSIGHT Into Diversity, the oldest and largest diversity magazine and website in higher education today. Framingham State University has been honored with the HEED Award since 2014, and FSU is the only public college in Massachusetts included on this year’s list.

Being a five-time recipient of the HEED Award has helped Framingham State University demonstrate to the community that diversity, equity and inclusion aren’t just issues we pay lip service to, but core values that are at the very heart of who we are as an institution,” says FSU President F. Javier Cevallos.

Earlier this year, Framingham State University’s first Vice President for Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement. In that role, she provides broad vision, management, counsel and strategic planning to enhance the learning, living and working community of all campus members. The University also recently hired Patricia Birch to serve as the Director of Inclusive Excellence Initiatives on campus.

McAuliffe Center Receives Neil Armstrong Spacesuit Replica

Framingham State University’s Christa Corrigan McAuliffe Center for Integrated Science Learning is the new home of a 3D replica statue of Neil Armstrong’s Apollo 11 spacesuit, thanks to a donation from the Smithsonian’s National Air and Space Museum.

The statue was created using 3D scans that were taken in an effort to conserve and digitize Neil Armstrong’s spacesuit leading up to the 50th anniversary of the moon landing. A total of 15 replica statues were created and displayed at baseball parks throughout the country this past summer as part of the museum’s “Apollo at the Park” program.

The replica donated to Framingham State University had been on display at Fenway Park in Boston.

“The thing that visitors to the McAuliffe Center will be able to enjoy for years to come,” says Dr. Irene Porro, director of the Christa Corrigan McAuliffe Center for Integrated Science Learning. “We are thankful to the Smithsonian for thinking of us when considering how best to utilize these unique statues.”

UN Millennium Fellowship

A group of eight Political Science students and one History student at Framingham State University were selected by the United Nations Academic Impact and Millennium Campus Network (MCN) as Class of 2019 Millennium Fellows.

The students spent the fall semester working on a sustainable project to expand awareness of and access to English as a Second Language (ESL) programs to immigrant communities in Framingham and beyond. The project proposal was developed by seniors Christine Sifre ’20 and Ana Luisa Asmar ’20—who served as FSU’s two Campus Directors—as well as sophomore Melissa Hayes ’22.

“My family immigrated to the United States from Brazil,” says Asmar. “I was able to get regular ESL in school, but my parents did not have that opportunity. It can be very lonely for immigrants in the community. I remember how much my ESL education helped me to make friends.”

The Millennium Fellowship is a semester-long leadership development program that happens on campus, and is supported by local program directors from United Nations Academic Impact and MCN.
FSU Named a Green College for Eighth Time

Framingham State University has again been placed among the most environmentally responsible colleges in the country, according to The Princeton Review’s latest Guide to Green Colleges.

This marks the eighth time FSU has been included in the guide, which this year recognizes 213 colleges throughout the United States. “The FSU community takes a lot of pride in its efforts to be a more sustainable and environmentally responsible university,” says FSU President F. Javier Cevallos.

FSU Dedicates Student Veterans Services Center in Honor of Captain Michael Haskell ’76

On Tuesday, November 12, 2019, Framingham State University dedicated its student Veterans Services Center in honor of alumnus Michael Haskell ’76, a captain in the U.S. Marine Corps who died in combat in 1983.

“We could not be prouder to dedicate our Veterans Service Center in honor of Captain Michael Haskell,” said FSU President F. Javier Cevallos. “We appreciate our continued national recognition from The Princeton Review. I’m especially grateful to members of our Facilities Department, our student Green Team and University Sustainability Coordinator Carl Hakansson for their leadership in making Framingham State a model of environmental stewardship in the Commonwealth.”

Captain Haskell was originally from Beverly, MA, and entered the U.S. Marine Corps in 1968. He served in Vietnam and later became a drill instructor. When he separated from service in 1973, he returned home to attend Framingham State, where he played varsity hockey. During the summers, he attended military leadership school. Captain Haskell graduated summa cum laude from Framingham State in 1976.

He later was commissioned as an officer in the Marine Corps and went on to complete a master’s degree at Georgetown University. On October 23, 1983, Captain Haskell was a casualty of the Marine Barracks bombing in Beirut, Lebanon.

Members of Captain Haskell’s family were on hand for the ceremony, including his daughter Michelle Miller, brother Jeff Haskell and sister-in-law Mary Lorente.

The idea of naming the Veterans Services Center in honor of Captain Haskell was first proposed by FSU alumnus Warren Grifffen ’76, a fellow veteran who attended the University with Haskell.

FSU's latest recognition from The Princeton Review will now be preserved at Framingham State.

“I’m especially grateful to members of our Facilities Department, our student Green Team and University Sustainability Coordinator Carl Hakansson for their leadership in making Framingham State a model of environmental stewardship in the Commonwealth.”

“While the idea of naming the Veterans Services Center in honor of Captain Haskell was first proposed by FSU alumnus Warren Grifffen ’76, a fellow veteran who attended the University with Haskell, members of Captain Haskell’s family were on hand for the ceremony, including his daughter Michelle Miller, brother Jeff Haskell and sister-in-law Mary Lorente.”

“The idea of naming the Veterans Services Center in honor of Captain Haskell was first proposed by FSU alumnus Warren Grifffen ’76, a fellow veteran who attended the University with Haskell.”

“Members of Captain Haskell’s family were on hand for the ceremony, including his daughter Michelle Miller, brother Jeff Haskell and sister-in-law Mary Lorente.”

Senior forward Isaac De Souza finished his stellar soccer career at Framingham State this past fall by helping deliver the Rams their first conference championship since 2011.

“It felt really good to finally reach our goal,” says De Souza, who earned his bachelor’s degree in Psychology in December. “The team really came together. During my fr st two years, I think a lot of us were looking out for our own minutes and not really trying to lif each other up. This year, we were like a family, and it showed on the feld.”

The Rams blanked Salem State 1-0 in the conference finals to finish as champions of the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC). They finished with a near-perfect 8-0-1 record in conference play.

De Souza, who transferred to Framingham State from Dean College, finished with eight goals and two assists to earn a spot on the All-MASCAC First Team for the third consecutive year.

Born in São Paulo, Brazil, De Souza’s family moved to the United States when he was 9 years old. He picked up soccer when he turned 14, excelled throughout high school and was recruited to play in college. De Souza redshirted his freshman year at Dean College due to injury and then decided to transfer to Framingham State following his sophomore year.

“I really like the environment at FSU,” he says. “I’ve enjoyed my classes and the friends I’ve made. It’s been a great experience.”

After graduating in December, De Souza returned to Brazil for the fr st time in 10 years to visit with family, relax and explore his native country. He plans to return to school soon to earn his graduate degree in forensic psychology. Eventually, he would like to work for a police department.

RAM IN FOCUS

Isaac De Souza ’19

“I really like the environment at FSU,” he says. “I’ve enjoyed my classes and the friends I’ve made. It’s been a great experience.”

After graduating in December, De Souza returned to Brazil for the first time in 10 years to visit with family, relax and explore his native country. He plans to return to school soon to earn his graduate degree in forensic psychology. Eventually, he would like to work for a police department.

“I really like the environment at FSU,” he says. “I’ve enjoyed my classes and the friends I’ve made. It’s been a great experience.”

After graduating in December, De Souza returned to Brazil for the first time in 10 years to visit with family, relax and explore his native country. He plans to return to school soon to earn his graduate degree in forensic psychology. Eventually, he would like to work for a police department.

“I really like the environment at FSU,” he says. “I’ve enjoyed my classes and the friends I’ve made. It’s been a great experience.”

After graduating in December, De Souza returned to Brazil for the first time in 10 years to visit with family, relax and explore his native country. He plans to return to school soon to earn his graduate degree in forensic psychology. Eventually, he would like to work for a police department.
Mary Elizabeth Miles Bibb became the first African American to graduate from Framingham State University in 1843, more than 20 years prior to the end of the American Civil War. Now, more than 175 years later, her name will forever be remembered on the campus of FSU thanks to a student petition to rename North Hall in her honor.

Framingham State—known at the time as the Lexington Normal School—was founded in 1839 on the idea that everyone has the right to earn an education. With support from the school’s principal, Samuel Joseph May, an abolitionist and supporter of rights for women and African Americans, Bibb enrolled at FSU and would go on to become one of the first African American female teachers in North America.

In 1847, she met her first husband, Henry Bibb, an escaped slave and abolitionist. The couple moved to Canada following the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act in 1850, where they frequently took into their home fugitive slaves who had arrived via the Underground Railroad. In 1851, they began publishing *Voice of the Fugitive*, the first major newspaper targeted at black Canadians. Their significant contributions to the anti-slavery movement have been recognized in the United States and Canada.

Framingham State University’s Board of Trustees approved a plan to rename North Hall, a 410-bed residence hall built in 2011, after Miles Bibb in the spring of 2018. The decision was prompted by a petition led by student trustee Karl Bryan ’18, and was signed by more than 100 students who wanted to recognize this significant historical figure in FSU’s history.

“I am really proud of the fact that this idea came from our students,” says FSU President F. Javier Cevallos. “They deserve the credit. It was a terrific idea that we were all very excited to support.”

The change could not become official until it was signed off on by the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education, which occurred last October.

“This year marks the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first slaves in North America,” Carlos E. Santiago, Commissioner of Higher Education, said at the time. “I cannot think of a better time to honor the legacy of a Framingham graduate who devoted her life to ending the scourge of slavery, all the while serving as a role model for women of color. I congratulate the Framingham State community for its work to honor the legacy of Mary Elizabeth Miles Bibb.”

A ceremony commemorating the renaming of North Hall to Miles Bibb Hall took place on March 30, 2020.
As the former state botanist for Massachusetts, Dr. Bryan Connolly has been researching plant species for most of his career. In fact, he even has a U.S. patent for a hybrid chokeberry plant that he invented with his PhD advisor from the University of Connecticut.

One of the more interesting species currently growing in the greenhouse is Nymphea thermarum, the world’s smallest water lily, which is only found naturally in a small area of Puerto Rico. “Following Hurricane Maria, no one knows the status of these plants in the wild,” says Connolly. He was able to get his hands on cuttings of the plant from the University of Utah and the University of Connecticut, which he and his students grew within the last few months.

Another interesting plant in the greenhouse is Erubia splendens, which is only found in what is now the United States and was able to get some seeds for the plant from Harvard University’s Arnold Arboretum. “We have a few plants going that one of my Biology seniors is taking care of,” he says.

Connolly also has a rare flowering plant in the legume family known as Aeschynomene virginica, an endangered species of eggplant that is endemic to the Canary Islands. “The FSU greenhouse doubles as a teaching facility and a research facility,” says Connolly. “It’s a great resource for our students.”

Jacob Maher Named D3 All-American

Senior tight end Jacob Maher ’20 (Marshfield, MA) has been honored with selection to the 2019 American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) Division III Coaches’ All-America First Team. He is just the second Ram to earn AFCA All-America First Team honors, joining former defensive back Joguan Harris who earned the honor after the 2017 season. Maher was previously recognized last fall with selection to the AFCA Division III All-American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) Division III All-America Second Team and the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) Division III Coaches’ All-America Second Team.

Last season, Maher had 56 receptions for 879 yards with eight receiving touchdowns. He led the Rams with 68 points and carried the ball 20 times with three rushing scores. The Rams finished the 2019 season as the MASCAC Champions at 8-3 overall and 8-0 in league action.

FACULTY NEWS

Dr. Joseph M. Adelman

Elected as a Member of the Prestigious American Antiquarian Society

Dr. Joseph M. Adelman, a Framingham State University history professor, learned in November that he had been elected as a member of the exclusive American Antiquarian Society (AAS) in Worcester, MA. Founded in 1812 by printer and book publisher Isaiah Thomas, the AAS houses the largest and most accessible collection of books, pamphlets, broadsides, newspapers, periodicals, music and graphic arts materials, dating back to the first European settlers in what is now the United States through 1876. There are about 1,000 living AAS members worldwide. Current and past members have included 14 U.S. presidents, more than 60 Pulitzer Prize winners and over 50 Bancroft Prize winners.

Adelman has a long history with the organization, as its archives align with his research interests, which include Revolutionary War-era newspaper printing and the history of the U.S. Postal Service. “It is one of the most important sites for my research,” says Adelman, who earlier this year published a book titled Revolutionary Networks: The Business and Politics of Printing the News, 1763–1789.

“I spent over a year there through fellowships doing research for my book.”
Small Office,

STUDENTS LEARN THE SKILLS TO LAUNCH THEIR CAREERS
Smiling during a phone-screening interview will change your tone of voice, staff members tell students who visit the Office of Career Services and Employer Relations (CSER), since many companies require a call before an in-person interview.
Interview coaching is one of a multitude of ways that CSER meets the needs of 21st-century students and alumni. The demand for services has mushroomed over the past decade and continues to change with advances in technology, says Director Dawn Ross, BA ’08, MA ’14.
She and her dedicated team have created higher numbers of career events, classroom presentations, workshops and information sessions to meet student and employer partner demand. Last year, CSER brought to campus an extraordinary 759 recruiters from The TJX Companies, IBM, Bose, Staples, MathWorks and other prominent corporations.

Big World
Although 90 percent of for-profit companies now compensate interns, nonprofit, government, and community organizations do not. The Board of Higher Education created the State University Internship Incentive in 2013; FSU offers the Community/Hometown Organizations Internships program (see sidebar) through matched donations from the FSU Foundation (www.framinghamstatefoundation.org). Through CHOICE, more than 520 students have participated in paid internships at 413 different sites, earning a total of more than $1 million. This year, the program is paying students a competitive salary of $16 an hour. “Our mission is to provide direct financial support to students to ease the burden of the cost of their education,” says FSU Foundation Board President Robert Ramrath.

While academics were a student’s sole focus in the past, academics and career development now occur simultaneously, in part due to increased collaboration with faculty and staff in the classroom. In 2018, Ross, Gardosik, ever-cheerful office manager Wendy Davis and four part-time career counselors presented in classrooms on 85 occasions to 2,400 students.

Both Ernst & Young and PwC wanted to know about my leadership skills. They also asked: ‘How would you work with a team?’

—ARYEESHA MAJEED ‘20


In the digital age, students must also consider their online presence. Eighty percent of employers check a candidate’s social media accounts or Google a job seeker before making an offer, says Ross, so students should be aware of their online images, a topic her professional writing intern covered in a recent blog post. CSER helps students ensure their social media accounts are employer-ready. An electronic correspondence guide is available, and a photographer even offers free professional headshots to improve their profiles.

Students should also be aware of the importance of emotional intelligence, a skill that underpins eight career-readiness competencies that the National Association of Colleges and Employers recommends students learn by graduation. “Employers seek students with teamwork, communication, leadership, a work ethic and global fluency skills,” says Ross.

Assistant Professor Frances Skypeck used her contacts at Bonanno, Savino, Davies & Ganley to connect Aryeesha Majeed ‘20, an Accounting major and international transfer student, to a 2019 tax internship with the MetroWest firm. “I gained invaluable experience working with client tax returns,” says Majeed.

She utilized her emotional intelligence when interviewing with Big Four firms. “Both Ernst & Young and PwC wanted to know about my leadership skills,” says Majeed. “They also asked: ‘How would you work with a team?’”

CSER set up their private interview room for her second e-interview, a video link with a partner at the company. Gardosik advised her on what questions to expect. The preparation paid off. Majeed begins employment at PwC in the fall.
**Dawn [Ross] extended her hand to Tremain Bell ’16. As a student, he benefited from on-campus career and job fairs and the Suitable Solutions program (see feature). “Dawn helped me get a $200 grant so I could take the GREs—she even supplied the test prep booklet,” says Bell, now a Human Resources Specialist at the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

**Cassie Ferragamo ’14**

Cassie Ferragamo ’14 recently began work as a Urinary Physicist Assistant at Tufts Medical Center, her first position since graduating from MCPHS University in 2019 with a Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS). Ross helped the former Pre-Med Biology major (now called Pre-Health Studies) get her first on-campus job. Ferragamo also received assistance with her résumé, as well as feedback on her graduate school admission essays. After graduation, she returned to the Office of Career Services and Employee Relations (CSER) for advice, landing a medical assistant position at Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates with the assistance of former Biology classmate Danny Teixeira ’15. Once she gains experience on the job, Ferragamo hopes to invite students to shadow her.

“Framingham State University enabled me to find a job I love—assisting students, alumni and employer partners,” she says. Ferragamo reflects on her part-time work at Dell. “Now that I’m an employee, I can see how much goes into CSER. My wish is that more students will take advantage of what it offers.”
Nathalie Camargo ’21 has long dreamed of becoming a teacher, but for many years the idea of going to college seemed out of reach. Camargo’s family immigrated to the United States from São Paulo, Brazil, when she was two years old, and she lacked legal status. “Up until my sophomore year of high school, I believed that college wasn’t an option for me,” she says. But everything changed during her junior year, when President Barack Obama announced the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) immigration policy.

With its reputation for educating teachers, Framingham State University was her top choice for college. Camargo initially enrolled at MassBay Community College, knowing that she would also have to work full time while completing her studies. After earning an associate’s degree, she transferred to FSU. From there, Camargo’s journey faced another roadblock. Trying to balance a full-time job to pay for school while also being enrolled in classes full time proved to be too much.

“There were times when I thought, ‘This is going to end here,’” she says. “‘How am I supposed to finish? I can’t be at two places at once.’” Camargo took a leave of absence from FSU but continued searching for resources to help her complete the degree. Finally, she was made aware of a scholarship opportunity offered by the MetroWest Women’s Fund that was specifically aimed at helping dreamers.

“I was really in awe of the response I received from this organization,” she says. “They understand what we are going through as dreamers. That really meant a lot to me.” Camargo wants other dreamers to know that there are resources available to them, both at Framingham State and within the local community.

“There are people in the community who want to help us,” she says.
Making an impact

Learn how to be a part of the alumni community
FRAMINGHAM.EDU

ALUMNI PROFILE

Yemi Ajao ’14
After graduating from Framingham State University with a degree in Business Administration, it didn’t take long for Yemi Ajao ’14 to land a lucrative job working for a financial fund based in Dallas. It took him even less time to realize that he lacked passion for his new career. So Ajao left the fund and returned to Massachusetts, where he reconnected with the Pelham Apartments, a low income housing community in Framingham, where he interned during his time at FSU.

“A position opened up, and I decided it was time to make a change,” says Ajao. “I took a leap of faith and a pay cut to do some more meaningful work. It is one of the better decisions I’ve made.”

Ashleigh Bergh ’11
Ashleigh Bergh ’11 is a natural born storyteller. She graduated from Framingham State with a degree in Visual Communications and her eye on a career in the film industry. But after two years working out in Los Angeles, including time spent at Universal Studios, she felt that she wasn’t making a positive difference in her life.

“I really wanted to do something impactful and meaningful,” says Bergh, who decided to transition her career trajectory toward nonprofit work. Today, she is the Director of Corporate Relations for Habitat for Humanity in North Carolina. In that role, she engages with and supports corporate partners interested in assisting with the construction of a home. For those unfamiliar with Habitat for Humanity, nearly all of the work on homes is done by volunteers, including the prospective owner, who must agree to 200 hours of “sweat equity” in addition to taking on a reduced mortgage.

“Making a gift to Habitat is transformative,” says Bergh. “You have a homeowner and their children who are now in safe housing, where they have a place to play with friends and do their homework. And because our partners send volunteers to work on the site side by side with the homeowner, it’s not just transactional. You’re changing someone’s life, and that’s a pretty cool thing.”

Jessica Callahan ’07
Framingham State University’s own Jessica Callahan ’07 has been a popular fixture on local country radio station 101.7 The Bull for the past five and a half years. Now, thanks to a recent promotion to the iHeartRadio National Team, her show can also be heard in places like Raleigh, NC; Cleveland, OH; Jacksonville, FL; Omaha, NE and more.

“I joined the national team back in May, and I host the night show for iHeart country,” Callahan says. “It’s been a lot of work, but it’s really exciting.” In addition to her regular on air show, she also tapes multiple podcasts, including Jessica’s Singled Out Podcast, where she does a one on one interview with an up and coming country musician. She also tapes The Sportsmate Show with Jessica, which features interviews with the wives of Boston athletes, and a podcast with Charlie Coyle from the Boston Bruins where they discuss country music and hockey.

Callahan credits internships she did at KISS 108 and JAM’N 94.5 during college with helping to launch her career.

“I spent a lot more time at my internships than I did at parties,” she says. “It all worked out.”
Class notes

1930s
Kathleen Ryan Roberts ’37, who passed away in 2017 at the age of 103, has been named in a new online exhibit and walking tour by the New Bedford Whaling Museum called “Lightning the Way: Historic Women of the Seacoast.”

1970s
Susan McAlpine ’75 was named to the Bureau of Land Management National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board. The appointment underscores her lifelong commitment to advocating for horses.

Robin Welch ’77 has been named the interim Principal for the Little School in Natick. Robin currently serves on the Framingham State University Alumni Board, the Board of Directors for Jewish Family Services (JFS) of MetroWest and the Amazing Things Performing Arts Center board, of which he is the former Chair.

1980s
Bruce Cornel ’86 has joined Ross, Sinclair & Associates as a Wealth Manager in the firm’s Louisville office. In addition to his daily work, Bruce serves on the board of Best Buddies Kentucky, a charity that provides programs for children with disabilities, and co-chairs an annual event called the Bourbon Mixer, which has so far raised more than $100,000 to benefit the Coalition for the Homeless.

1990s
Dan Dowd ’90 had an article on his artwork related to found materials published in the fall 2019 issue of the Maine Arts Journal. Carole Bernard ’92 joined the Drupal Association last summer as the Director of Marketing and Outreach. Drupal is an open-source CMS for digital experiences.

Hanny Dumy O’96 was named to the Board of Trustees at Norwich University in Vermont. Harry is the current President of Elms College in Massachusetts.

2000s
Jason Bailey ’01’s article, “The Tools of Generative Art, from Flash to Neural Networks,” was selected as the cover story in Art in America magazine, one of the premier art publications in the U.S. International market.

Adam Shiner O’05, a Framingham City Councilor, was recently announced as the new Director of Technology for the Maynard Public Schools.

Aynsley Rosenbaum ’06, Assistant Director of Athletics and Framingham State University Offense Coordinator, has been named the new Head Coach of the Rams football program.

Kelli J. Rooney ’06 was promoted to Senior Vice President, Community Engagement and Marketing of Leominster Credit Union.

2010s
Mirelana Azor-Stefan ’11 shares that she welcomed a new bundle of joy, her son, Sain, on Friday, September 27, 2019, in Raleigh, NC. Parents Mirelana and Saim are super thrilled and enjoying parenthood.

Rachel Klein ’11, ’19 recently joined CCS Fundraising, where her work will be concentrated on planning and implementing fundraising initiatives to help nonprofit organizations.

Joseph Beirnaiz ’12 recently joined the Needham Police Department. Joseph is certified as a field training officer, active shooter and patrol procedure instructor, and is an FBI-certified hostage negotiator for the Metropolitan Law Enforcement Council regional team.

Anthony Fires, Jr. ’13 recently performed in the New Repertory Theatre’s production of Hair: The American Tribal Love-Rock Musical, playing the character of Hud. He is the Assistant Director of Student Activities and Leadership at Babson College, as well as a talented theater performer who has been cast in many productions throughout the region.

Julia Becker-Collins G’13 was named to the Worcester Business Journal’s “40 under 40” Class of 2019. Julia is the Chief Operating Officer at Vision Advertising, a digital marketing agency headquartered in Westborough.

Nade Shoabon ’19 has been hired as the Marketing Associate at New Repertory Theatre in Watertown. She recently helped promote the group’s production of Hair: The American Tribal Love-Rock Musical.
Six Food Science alumni Are Part of Dunkin’ Brands “Culinary Dream Team”

Traveling across the globe. Taste testing ice cream. Launching exciting new food and beverage products to a worldwide audience.

These are just some of the job perks for six Framingham State Food Science alumni on the culinary teams at the Dunkin’ Brands headquarters in Canton, MA.

“It really hit home how neat my job is when I went in for my daughter’s career day and all the kids thought I had the best job,” says Jeanne (McKenna) Bolger ’97, Director of Global Research & Development for Baskin-Robbins for Dunkin’ (Beverages). “I get to meet people who have diverse backgrounds, and I love that,” says Caitlin (Kennedy) Dwyer ’16, who travels about one or two times a month.

“‘Culinary Dream Team’ Are Part of Dunkin’ Brands”

“We had the best job,” says Jeanne (McKenna) Bolger ’97, Director of Global R&D for Baskin-Robbins, whose parent company is Dunkin’ Brands. “They thought it was pretty cool that I get to eat ice cream every day.”

Framingham State has a small Food Science major, but under the leadership of Dr. Emmanuel Apostolidis, students in the program have had success landing good jobs at industry leaders in the region—most notably—Dunkin’ Brands. In addition to Bolger, the company employs Blake Bartko ’15, Allie (Brown) Larsson ’14, G’17, Kelly (German) Callahan ’13, Caitlin (Kennedy) Dwyer ’16 and Adam Kafka G’14.

Collectively, they play a major role in developing the product options available at Dunkin’ and Baskin-Robbins locations throughout the world. The projects they have worked on range from the development of winning, non-dairy ice cream flavors to creating new espresso beverages for keeping up with the latest trends to overseeing the setup of an ice cream manufacturing facility from scratch. Bolger, who is responsible for global ice cream flavor development, had the opportunity last year to travel to Los Angeles to read the script for the latest season of the Netflix series Stranger Things. The show has a fictional ice cream shop called Scoops Ahoy, and Baskin-Robbins partnered with Netflix to bring this to life, including special flavors and a pop-up store, to promote the hit show during the summer.

Dr. Wanda Montañez ’00 Selected for Inaugural Inclusive Excellence Alumni Achievement Award

Dr. Wanda Montañez is a proud first-generation college graduate who, after receiving her degree from Framingham State University, went on to earn a master’s degree from Boston University and a Doctorate in Education from UMass Boston.

FSU honored Montañez with its inaugural Inclusive Excellence Alumni Achievement Award during Homecoming and Family Weekend last September. She is currently the New England Program Director for Let’s Get Ready, a peer-based access and success program for students.

Montañez is a fierce educator on identity and school belonging, and her research studying the experiences of multiracial Latinx students was recognized by the Association of Hispanics in Higher Education at their 2015 annual conference. She is an active member of the FSU Alumni of Color Network and currently serves on the group’s advisory board.

“I get to meet people who have diverse backgrounds, and I love that,” says Dwyer, who travels about one or two times a month. “I get to hear stories and experiences that are so different from mine.”

“The environment at Dunkin’ is really unique,” adds Callahan. “There’s a combination of experts in the field, culinary students and food science students coming together to create a product. I really value the different perspectives and open atmosphere.”
Dr. Diane L. Lowe

“I’m proud to play a small part in the success of my students and the students they serve.”

A Literacy and Language Legacy

When people ask Framingham State University Literacy Specialist Dr. Diane L. Lowe what keeps her motivated to continue teaching after so many years, she reflects on her current and former students. Dr. Lowe’s career at FSU has spanned five decades, during which time she has personally taught more than 3,000 undergraduate students and 1,800 graduate students. When you consider the number of students that her students went on to teach, her impact on literacy in Massachusetts is immense.

“It’s very rewarding,” says Dr. Lowe, who for many years proudly served as the Faculty Marshal at Commencement. “Kids across the Commonwealth are better readers and writers because of what we do. I’m proud to play a small part in the success of my students and the students they serve. It’s hard to walk away from it.”

Dr. Lowe retired as the University’s undergraduate literacy specialist in 2018, but continues as coordinator of and advisor to the Master of Literacy and Language Program. Just prior to retiring from the undergraduate side, she and her husband endowed the Diane L. Lowe Literacy Scholarship, further cementing her legacy at Framingham State.

“It enables me to support future Elementary Education majors interested in literacy and literacy instruction,” she says. “They work hard and have a lot to deal with. It’s good to know I can still have an impact on students after I’m gone.”

Dr. Lowe is known throughout the state for her expertise in literacy. The Nobscot Reading Council even renamed its own scholarship in her honor. A highlight of her career has been keeping in touch with many of her former students working throughout Massachusetts. One of those former students recently donated $1,000 to Dr. Lowe’s scholarship fund.

“I get emails and Christmas cards with updates on what they are doing in their careers and pictures of their children,” says Dr. Lowe. “It’s so nice to know they are doing all these great things.”

If you are interested in donating to the Diane L. Lowe Literacy Scholarship, you may contact the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at:

508-256-4012 OR ALUMNI@FRAMINGHAM.EDU
At FSU, we have invested in programs aimed at closing these gaps. We've seen a spike in the diversity of students participating. While there is a long way to go, our work is starting to pay off.

Increasing degree attainment while reducing achievement gaps. By almost any measure, Massachusetts is among the best population, particularly among African American and Latinx residents, are being left behind.

At FSU, we have invested in programs aimed at closing these gaps. This includes our Dual Enrollment Program, which enables students from underserved populations to take college-level courses while still in high school. FSU is also part of 100 Males to College, which provides mentoring, coursework and internships to male high school students of color.

While there is a long way to go, our work is starting to pay off. We’ve seen a spike in the diversity of students participating in the FSU Commonwealth Honors Program and our Study Abroad Program. This past fall, FSU welcomed its most diverse class ever.

Increasing degree attainment while reducing achievement gaps is a challenging undertaking. As with any major initiative, we are relying on the continued generosity and engagement of our alumni and friends. On behalf of everyone at Framingham State University, thank you so much for your support over the past year.
Enrollment and Student Development

Framingham State University welcomed an entering class of 1,166 students in the fall (776 first-year/380 transfers), bringing overall undergraduate enrollment to 3,857. The Office of Career Services and Employer Relations conducted 2,025 individual appointments during the 2018-2019 academic year, which is a 12 percent increase over the previous year. The office also held 293 events, workshops and presentations, and hosted 133 employer showcases. The Rams Resource Center (RRC) launched in October 2018 to address food insecurity among members of the FSU community. During the academic year, there were 429 total visits to the RRC where 2,055 pounds of non-perishable food and 1,163 personal care items were distributed. Three FSU students and two MassBay students participated in a Housing Pilot during the spring 2019 semester that provides free access to dorm rooms and meal plans to homeless students. A total of 30 MassBay students lived in the FSU residence halls throughout the academic year as part of a new program that aims to utilize available rooms. Bystander intervention training was provided to 55 freshman and sophomore athletes as part of an effort to promote bystander intervention on campus among students in visible roles.

Development and Alumni Relations

Thanks to the generosity of the University’s alumni, friends and corporate partners, FSU was able to substantially exceed its goal of raising $2.5 million in gifts and pledges during FY19. Total fundraising came in at over $4 million, inclusive of grants. This money enabled the FSU Foundation Inc. to commit $100,000 to supporting students through scholarships, work study and internships. The Foundation has net total assets of $1.19 million, which represents a 6 percent increase from FY18. Alumni participation increased both in advisory capacities and as mentors for currently enrolled FSU students. The University maintains a donor participation rate of 5.3 percent with an aspirational goal of reaching 6 percent in FY20. A continued partnership with the business faculty and business department’s Industry Advisory Board produced the annual Business Coaching event. The Development staff recruited 30 successful alumni to serve as coaches for undergraduate students. Several alumni events and programs saw increased attendance during FY19, including Reunion Weekend, Homecoming, the annual Swacci Children’s Literature Festival and two Alumni of Color Networking events.

Inclusive Excellence

Two crucial positions were filled in the Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Community Engagement (ODICE) during FY19: Dr. Constanza Caballo was hired as the University’s first-ever Vice President for Diversity, Inclusion and Community Engagement, and Patricia Birch was hired as the Director of Inclusive Excellence Initiatives. The MetroWest College Planning Collaborative expanded its outreach and resources adding more middle school and high school students in its programmatic offerings. A total of 463 students in seven districts were assisted with filling out college applications and completing financial aid applications. FSU was again awarded the award into Diversity Magazine Higher Educational Excellence in Diversity (NIED) Award. The NIED Award recognizes colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion.

A Diversity, Equity and Inclusion training module was launched to all students in December of 2018, and all staff in the Student Development unit completed it in January 2019. All incoming freshmen will be required to take the module moving forward. ODICE partnered with the Anti-Defamation League, Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights and the Smithsonian to host programming on “Hate Activity on College Campuses.” “Defining Hate Crimes on College Campuses” and the virtual symposium: “Dialogues across the Puerto Rican and Caribbean Diaspora.”

Athletics

Several FSU athletic teams enjoyed a successful season during the 2018-2019 academic year. The football team won the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC) and earned a trip to the NCAA tournament. It represented the eighth time in the past nine years that the team either won the championship or served as co-champions. Rashaun Rivers ’19 was named to the All-New England Team. The softball team also continued its run of dominance, winning its third straight MASCAC championship. Six players on the team earned all conference honors. Last spring, the women’s lacrosse team captured its first-ever MASCAC regular season title. Men’s soccer had its strongest season in recent years, which helped Dean Nichols earn MASCAC Coach of the Year honors. The Athletics Department added Outdoor Women’s Track and Field as a varsity sport bringing the current total of NCAA sports offered to 14.

Budget

Framingham State University continues to hold tuition and fees at a level that is below the segment average for the State University System. The opening of the Danforth Museum at Framingham State University in April 2019 featured improved classroom space for credit and noncredit courses as well as a unique museum with close local community ties, strengthening FSU’s position as a leader in the MetroWest community.

The University continues to be recognized each year for environmental stewardship in the Princeton Review’s annual Guide to Green Colleges. Our efforts in this area not only reflect positively on the University, but also align with the environmental concerns of our students, faculty and staff, and enable the University to save hundreds of thousands of dollars each year in energy expenses. The University engaged in improvements to its physical plant and technological infrastructure through the completion of critical repair projects in FY19.

The safety of the FSU community is a top priority of the University. A new part-time investigator and Community Resource Officer were approved in the budget during FY19 in order to enhance our public safety efforts.

Academic Affairs

Academic Affairs works throughout the year to ensure that Framingham State University continues to offer a high-quality, highly relevant academic experience to students. FY19 saw the introduction of three in-demand undergraduate majors at FSU: Child and Family Studies, Hospitality and Tourism Management, and Anthropology. The University also established new professional advisory boards to strengthen the ties of academic departments to corresponding career fields.

There has been purposeful and significant growth in the diversity of student participants in Study Abroad programs and the Commonwealth Honors Program. This is important in closing achievement gaps, as students who participate in an honors program or a study abroad experience are statistically more likely to graduate. Study Abroad participation grew from 171 students in FY18 to 210 in FY19, and 40 percent of students participating identified as being from an underrepresented group. This is well above nationwide averages. Growth in student diversity in the FSU Commonwealth Honors Program has increased from 10% to 19% in three years. In addition, 49 honors theses were completed in the year to ensure that Framingham State University continues to offer the highest number completed in the past nine years of the program.

President's Report

Thanks to the generosity of the University’s alumni, friends and corporate partners, FSU was able to substantially exceed its goal of raising $2.5 million in gifts and pledges during FY19. Total fundraising came in at over $4 million, inclusive of grants. This money enabled the FSU Foundation Inc. to commit $100,000 to supporting students through scholarships, work study and internships. The Foundation has net total assets of $1.19 million, which represents a 6 percent increase from FY18. Alumni participation increased both in advisory capacities and as mentors for currently enrolled FSU students. The University maintains a donor participation rate of 5.3 percent with an aspirational goal of reaching 6 percent in FY20. A continued partnership with the business faculty and business department’s Industry Advisory Board produced the annual Business Coaching event. The Development staff recruited 30 successful alumni to serve as coaches for undergraduate students. Several alumni events and programs saw increased attendance during FY19, including Reunion Weekend, Homecoming, the annual Swacci Children’s Literature Festival and two Alumni of Color Networking events.
Economic Impact

TOTAL "ALL FUNDS" (INCLUDING CAPITAL AND FINANCIAL AID EXPENDITURES)
$162.1 million

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES
$113.7 million

TOTAL PAYROLL
$72.4 million

TOTAL EMPLOYEES
865

TOTAL STUDENTS
5,565

TOTAL ENDOWMENT
$33.6 million

BACHELOR’S AND MASTER’S DEGREES CONFERRED
1,250

HONOR ROLL OF GIVING

Fiscal Year 2019 encompassed the period from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

*DO NOT USE JUSTIN McCARTHY LYNCH’S SOCIETY MEMBER. INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE DONATED FOR AT LEAST FIVE CONSECUTIVE YEARS.

SPRING 2020
FSU FLASHBACK

Framingham State students lace up their skates for an unconventional commute on State Street.