

SPRING 2023

# Framingham State

## HIDDEN TALENTS

FACULTY REVEAL THE PURSUITS THAT  
ENRICH THEIR TEACHING



**HARD AT WORK**  
Dara Barros '23 studies in the FSU Dining Commons.

# Framingham State

SPRING 2023  
PUBLISHED  
SEMI-ANNUALLY

**EXECUTIVE EDITOR**

Dan Magazu

**WRITERS**

Dan Magazu  
Kristen Paulson-Nguyen

**PHOTOGRAPHY**

Kent Dayton Photography  
Mike Kelly Photography

**ADVISORY TEAM**

Director of Marketing  
Averil Capers

Executive Director of  
Alumni Relations  
Jennifer DeFronzo

Vice President, Development  
and Alumni Relations  
Eric Gustafson

Director of Sports Information  
Kathleen Lynch '02, G'10

**DESIGN**

Moth Design

**COPY EDITOR**

Linda Walsh  
*Editorial Express*

Framingham State  
University  
100 State Street  
PO Box 9101  
Framingham, Massachusetts  
01701-9101

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

**Dear Alumni and Friends,**

We often emphasize how our tremendous faculty at Framingham State University are student centered and focused on classroom teaching—a focus that differs from the work of professors at many research universities, where the development of scholarship and the acquisition of grants often take precedence. And while this difference in the expectations of faculty is real, it can obscure the fact that many of our professors are also nationally recognized scholars, authors, practitioners and creators in their own right.

In this issue of *Framingham State Magazine*, you will learn about five FSU faculty members whose creative endeavors and passions enrich their teaching. The group includes Dr. Vandana Singh, who writes science fiction in her free time and is one of the leading voices imagining what our future might look like as we adapt to the climate crisis. You will also read about Criminology Professor Xavier Guadalupe-Diaz, who is a nationally recognized researcher on Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) within LGBTQ+ communities, having authored two books that have changed the way these topics are understood.

Rather than distract from their primary focus on student success, many FSU faculty use their scholarship to enhance the learning experience through collaborative research projects, field trips and other experiential opportunities. It's a big part of what makes Framingham State such a wonderful learning community.

BEST WISHES,



**Nancy S. Niemi, PhD**  
President  
Framingham State University

# What's inside

## Features



**14**

### Hidden Talents

Framingham State University faculty reveal the pursuits that enrich their teaching.

**22**

### Class notes

Discover how your fellow classmates are spending their time

**24**

### Inclusive Excellence Alumni Achievement Award

José Luis Moreno '05

**26**

### Donor Profile

Arnold Rosenfeld

**27**

### FY22 President's Report

### IBC

Upcoming events and announcements



## Upfront

**04**

### The snapshot

Fast news from FSU

**06**

Dr. Jeffrey Coleman is the new Vice President for Diversity, Inclusion and Community Engagement

**07**

### Ram in Focus

Emily Newcomb '23



**10**

Joshua Onujiogu '22 sees his NFL dream come true



**11**

### Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Stefan Papaioannou

**12**

### Student Spotlight

Kathryn Washburn '23

## Alumni

**20**

### Making an impact

Celebrating alumni who are making a difference in their communities



**08**

### A Reimagined McAuliffe Center

A multimillion-dollar project is underway to reimagine the future of the Christa McAuliffe Center for Integrated Science Learning.

# The snapshot

**“We are proud of Framingham State’s position as the premier public university serving MetroWest and New England. It’s exciting to receive this recognition from *U.S. News & World Report*...”**

— FSU PRESIDENT DR. NANCY S. NIEMI



The family of artist Edward Brodney donated a collection of around 300 pieces to Framingham State that he created while stationed in the South Pacific during WWII.

04



## CAMPUS NEWS

### Food Delivery Robots Come to FSU

Framingham State University became the latest college to offer robotic food delivery service to students this past fall, with the arrival of Kiwibots.

By using this new service, students are able to enjoy their food delivery with zero carbon emissions, helping them to reduce their carbon footprints and encouraging delivery service to be as sustainable as possible. FSU Food Service Provider Sodexo partnered with Kiwibot to bring the robots to FSU.

“Sodexo has been a great food service partner for the University, as they continually evolve to meet the desires of our community. The addition of Kiwibot technology is the latest advance, and I know many of our students are excited to have these mini delivery systems coming right to them, on our campus,” says FSU President Dr. Nancy Niemi.

Students use a mobile app to place an order with their chosen restaurant on campus, and the robot picks up the food and delivers it to the selected drop-off location on campus.

Users receive a unique link to track the order, follow the robot’s location in real time and finally open the lid and enjoy their meal.



A painting by artist Edward Brodney of soldiers in the South Pacific during WWII.

## CAMPUS NEWS

### Framingham State Receives WWII Art Collection

The family of Edward Brodney, an artist who documented daily life for soldiers in the South Pacific during World War II, recently donated his collection of paintings to Framingham State University.

A Boston native and the first resident of Newton drafted into World War II, Brodney was assigned by the U.S. Army to public relations after initially serving as a medic. He spent two years in the South Pacific, documenting the everyday life of soldiers carrying supplies, enjoying days off and preparing for battle. His paintings were then reproduced and sent to newspapers throughout the United States.

“We are humbled by the donation and pledge to be responsible stewards of this important piece of American history,” FSU President Dr. Nancy Niemi said during a special public event last fall. “The family has generously gifted the entire collection—some 300 pieces—to Framingham State University.”

Brodney’s daughter, Jeanne Goldner, was seeking an institution that would protect and display the artwork and hold events to raise scholarship funding for student veterans. FSU has pledged to meet all three criteria.

## CAMPUS NEWS

### Framingham State Recognized as a Top Public Regional University in the north region by *U.S. News & World Report*

Framingham State University has been ranked as a Top Public Regional University for the north region for 2022–2023 by *U.S. News & World Report*, which released its annual rankings last fall.

Framingham State finished at #29 in the latest rankings for the north region, which includes all of New England, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland.

“We are proud of Framingham State’s position as the premier public university serving MetroWest and New England,” says FSU President Dr. Nancy Niemi. “It’s exciting to receive this



Framingham State finished at #29 in the latest rankings for the north region, which includes all of New England, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland.

recognition from *U.S. News & World Report*. Framingham State offers tremendous value to students and families seeking an outstanding education within a close-knit community. I strongly encourage anyone beginning their college search to visit our beautiful campus and see what sets us apart.”

*U.S. News & World Report* is the largest college search site in the United States, and is widely considered to be the most trusted college-ranking publication in the country.

05

## CAMPUS NEWS

# FSU Names Dr. Jeffrey Coleman VP of DICE

**Dr. Jeffrey Coleman, a diversity, equity and inclusion higher education educator, scholar and practitioner, recently started his tenure as the Vice President for Diversity, Inclusion and Community Engagement.**

Coleman has more than 20 years' experience advancing educational and institutional excellence, including serving as the deputy chief diversity officer at Kennesaw State University, just outside Atlanta, GA.

"We are very happy to have Dr. Coleman join Framingham State University to lead our Diversity, Inclusion and Community Engagement (DICE) office," says FSU President Dr. Nancy Niemi. "He brings deep experience to the position, and will serve as an important advisor to me and to our whole university community on issues and policies involving antiracism, diversity, equity and inclusion. We are looking forward to benefiting from his expertise and experience."

Dr. Coleman says that he was attracted to the Framingham State opening because the institution's values align with his own.

"The University's commitment to becoming an antiracist institution is very powerful, and I saw a great opportunity for synergy and collaboration," says Dr. Coleman. "It feels like a really good fit for me. I am big on creating a culture of inclusion that fosters a sense of belonging for every member of the community so that they can achieve excellence, succeed and thrive."



**Dr. Jeffrey Coleman has more than 20 years of experience advancing educational and institutional excellence in diversity and inclusion.**

Dr. Coleman is a native of Bloomfield, CT. He holds a PhD in educational studies and cultural studies from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, a master of science in counseling with a concentration in student development in higher education from Central Connecticut State University and a bachelor of arts in public policy studies from Trinity College in Hartford, CT.

**"I am big on creating a culture of inclusion that fosters a sense of belonging for every member of the community so that they can achieve excellence, succeed and thrive."**

—DR. JEFFREY COLEMAN



RAM IN FOCUS

## Emily Newcomb '23

**HOMETOWN:**  
Raynham, MA

**MAJOR:**  
Elementary  
Education

**FAVORITE ATHLETES:**  
Katie Ledecky  
and David Ortiz

**The steeplechase is one of the odder and more grueling events in track & field, and it's also a favorite of FSU senior Emily Newcomb, who is the defending champion in the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC).**

The race's origins can be traced back to the United Kingdom, where runners would race each other from one town's church steeple to the next. The countryside would require runners to jump over various barriers during the course of their race, including stone walls and small rivers. So when the race was modernized, the walls were simulated with hurdles, and the rivers and creeks were simulated with a water pit.

"It's the most fun race there is," says Newcomb. "You will be in so much pain but once you hit that water steeple, you can't help but smile."

Newcomb is a dual-sport athlete at FSU excelling in both cross country, where she runs the 5K and 6K, as well as track & field, where she competes in the 800M and the steeplechase. The Elementary Education major finds that her busy athletic

schedule forces her to stay on top of her other responsibilities, which includes writing lesson plans for her student teaching experiences.

"I know when I get home from practice I have to get right on my homework and lesson plans," she says. "It's all very manageable though."

Framingham State was a natural fit for Newcomb, who knew she wanted to run competitively and pursue a career as a teacher.

"I really enjoy the atmosphere at FSU. It feels like my home away from home," she says. "I can go anywhere, and I know everyone. I know all of my professors. I know everyone in the dining hall. I love my teammates."

Newcomb began college thinking she would want to teach older elementary school children in grades 4 or 5, because the material is more interesting. But after a second great field placement she had over the summer, Newcomb thinks she would be happy with any grade.

"I really had fun with the little kids," she says. "Their sense of wonder is so spectacular to see."

## A Reimagined McAuliffe Center

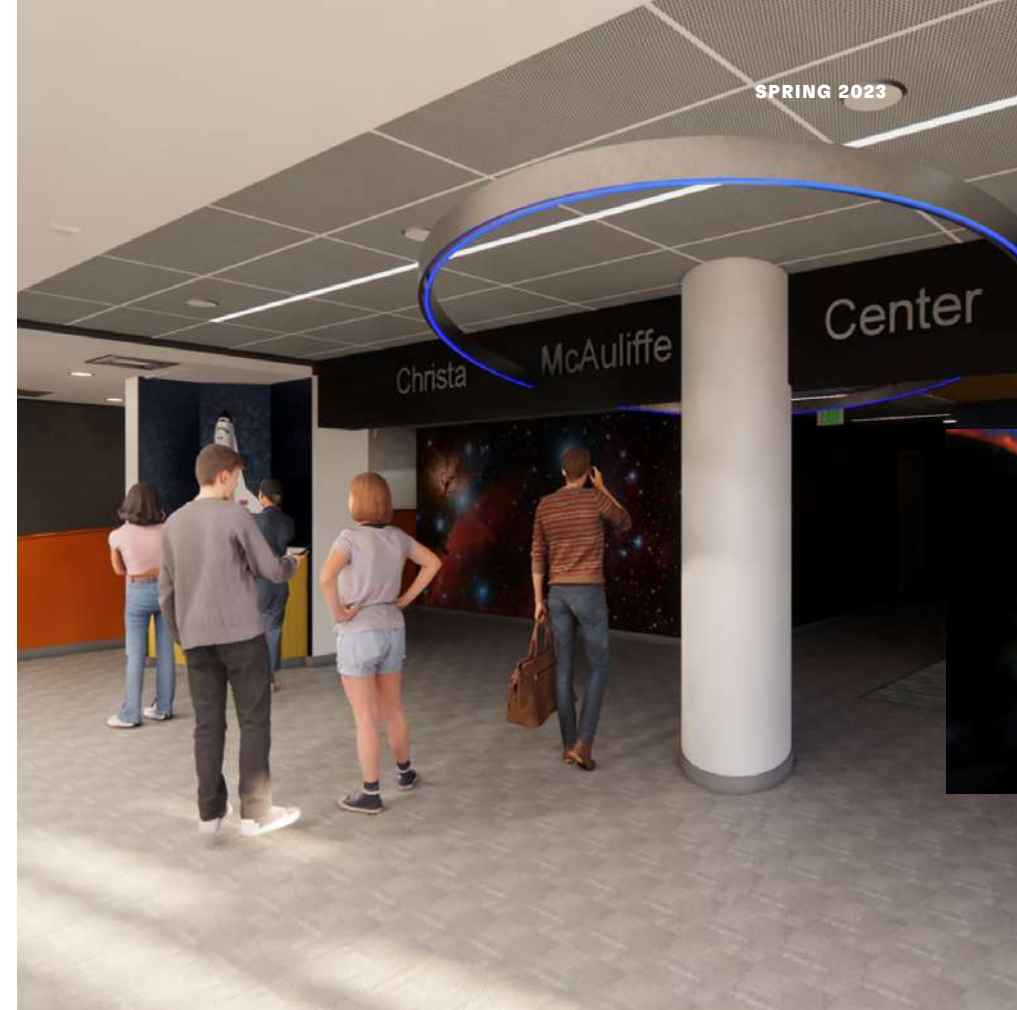
A multimillion-dollar project is underway to transform the aging Christa McAuliffe Center for Integrated Science Learning into a state-of-the-art, multifunctional space with a focus on workforce development, climate awareness and increased services to the community and students from kindergarten through college.

Dr. Irene Porro, director of Framingham State University's Christa McAuliffe Center for Integrated Science Learning, can barely contain her excitement when discussing the ongoing work to redesign and modernize the facility.

"People will enter into a corridor painted black with a picture of the Earth rising at the end," says Porro while discussing the plans in her office. "We want everyone to feel like they are in a very special place when they walk in, and our designers are bringing that vision to life."

The McAuliffe Center was established in 1986 to honor the legacy of the first teacher in space, beloved FSU alumna Christa (Corrigan) McAuliffe '70. Since 1994, the facility has hosted the only Challenger Learning Center (CLC) in Massachusetts that brings thousands of middle school students on a simulated mission to the Moon, Mars and beyond each year.

But the facility and its technology are badly outdated, and the setup of the space does not lend itself to multiple uses.



The Christa McAuliffe Center is undergoing a multimillion-dollar renovation to modernize the facility.

"There is an emphasis on creating multifunctional, flexible spaces," says Porro. "There will be much more open space throughout the facility."

The planetarium will remain in the same room, but there will be new projection equipment, and the current seats, which all face the same direction and cannot be moved, will be replaced with moveable seats that can be arranged to suit a particular event.

"It will be such a neat space to do all kinds of different things, such as hosting theater performances or music groups while projecting images on the dome," notes Porro. "We want to bring the humanities into the space."

Porro says that there is a concerted effort to maintain certain elements of the current architecture.

"It's going to be very different, but not an abrupt change," she explains. "It was important to have some historical continuity, while also looking forward to the future."

The total cost of the redesign project is nearly \$8 million, which includes \$5 million from the state and \$2 million in previously allocated American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. Porro is targeting January 2024 for a grand-opening celebration.

## A Center for the Future

Once completed, the re-envisioned McAuliffe Center will feature state-of-the-art technology and opportunities to reach more learners across the Commonwealth. Highlights include:

- An upgraded planetarium and new virtual reality (VR) capabilities will provide large-scale visualizations of global environmental and earth science datasets to be shared and discussed by teams comprising STEM and sustainability professionals, policymakers and members of the community.
- The Center will deliver simulation-based skill training aligned to regional economic and workforce development priorities, from the life sciences to environmental science and technology.
- The Center will provide students with no previous experience in lab or fieldwork with immersive learning experiences that lead to the development of the content and confidence necessary for advancement in a wide range of STEM fields.
- This project will provide a continuum of services—from pre-college activities to college courses and undergraduate internships dedicated to increasing college enrollment and retention—and will contribute to diversifying the Commonwealth's green economy workforce.
- The team at the redesigned McAuliffe Center will expand programming in afterschool hours, during evenings, weekends and summer, resulting in 8,000 additional middle school and high school students served annually.

**“I told everybody that I was going to make it here one day. When everybody said ‘there’s no way,’ I said ‘there is a way.’”**

## CAMPUS NEWS

## Joshua Onujiogu '22 Appears in NFL Game

On November 6, 2022, at approximately 4:35 p.m. EST, Joshua Onujiogu's dream of playing in the NFL officially came true. The former Framingham State University defensive standout—whose improbable journey from a Division III college program to the Seattle Seahawks has generated excitement throughout the FSU community—took the field in front of 63,000 fans in Arizona and lined up opposite Cardinals star quarterback Kyler Murray.

Onujiogu would record three tackles on 11 defensive and six special team snaps that afternoon, helping the Seahawks to a 31-21 win on the road.

“That’s probably the most fun I’ve had in my life,” he told reporters in the locker room afterward. “I told everybody that I was going to make it here one day. When everybody said ‘there’s no way,’ I said ‘there is a way.’”



Joshua Onujiogu starred for four years on the FSU football team.

Onujiogu spent most of the season serving on the Seahawks’ practice squad after signing a two-year contract with the franchise in spring 2022. In that role, he helped prepare the starters for upcoming opponents in practice while seeking to make an impression on coaches.

“Josh was just really consistent and brought it and did a nice job and surprised us that he was able to stay in the competition throughout

all this time,” Seahawks Head Coach Pete Carroll said in August following training camp. “Joey (Blount) and Josh, those guys are great examples of guys who just put their head down and competed their tails off, and they showed that. They’ve got the right kind of makeup to help your club.”

Onujiogu will look to build upon his first season in training camp this summer and hopefully earn a spot on the active roster.



## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

## Stefan Papaioannou



### Professor Stefan Papaioannou Specializes in the History of Modern Violence

**When Russia launched its full scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the sobering news came as little surprise to many students of history professor Stefan Papaioannou, whose primary research interests are in ethnic and mass violence.**

“I teach a course on modern Russian history, and the semester prior to the invasion we spent a lot of time talking about what was becoming increasingly obvious, that there was going to be a much wider war,” he says. “Unfortunately, it came to pass.”

Papaioannou’s dissertation at the University of Maryland focused on the history of the Balkans and Eastern Europe, political violence and ethnic conflict. Since that time, he has taken a broader interest in the subject and has developed a popular introductory history course called The History of Modern Violence.

“We look at the 1700s to the present, which for a historian is considered the modern era,” he says. “It allows me to share my expertise and interest in the concept of collective violence and to introduce some major themes of modern history. Why does violence happen? Why do people kill each other? This course helps provide a context for that.”

There is no one reason why mass violence occurs across modern history, but Papaioannou has found that during many violent struggles where people assume neighbors are killing neighbors, the reality tends to show that the violence is more centrally organized and driven by leaders rather than regular people.

“Many times, ordinary people are not participating in the violence and are really trying to avoid it,” he says. “It takes a lot to sacrifice your life or to take someone else’s life. External forces are an important facet of modern violence. This is not always the case though. A genocide, for example, cannot happen without the participation of the general population.”

Papaioannou does his best to keep in touch with former students and encourages them to stay involved with the University by sharing their work experiences since graduating with current students.

“In the History Department, we are trying to be more systematic about reaching out to our alumni and keeping them engaged with the University,” says Papaioannou. “We want them to come back and share with our students what they are doing now as former History majors. It’s also a good way to develop internship opportunities.”

DEPARTMENT:  
History

EDUCATION:  
PhD,  
University of  
Maryland

INTERESTS BEYOND  
ACADEMICS:  
Family,  
classical and  
jazz piano,  
Brazilian music

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

**Kathryn Washburn '23**

**Computer Science major Kathryn Washburn '23 is enjoying her final semester at Framingham State University with the peace of mind of knowing that a great job is awaiting her after graduation.**

**During her junior year, Washburn was accepted into Liberty Mutual's immersive TechStart Summer Internship Program, where she worked with a team on the digital accessibility center, using software to code in a way that meets accessibility standards.**

The experience led to a job offer just before the start of her senior year.

"I'm extremely excited," says Washburn. "I can't say enough about how lucky I feel to graduate with a full-time job in the field I'm studying."

Washburn spent her first semester of college at Syracuse University, before deciding it was too expensive and too far from home. Her mom, an FSU alumna, helped convince her to enroll in a class in spring 2020, and she had the chance to spend a few weeks on campus before everything moved online following the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since campus has reopened, Washburn has thrived as a commuter student at FSU. She has been an orientation leader, a Rams Engagement Ambassador and a supplemental instructor, helping to teach fellow students HTML, web development, statistics and more.

She also helped launch a student club this year focused on improving the experience of commuter students.

"Our goal is to become the equivalent of an RA for commuter students," she says. "RAs serve as the 'ask me anything person' for a student. We want to fill in that gap for commuters and make sure they know about stuff that is happening on campus."

During the Winter Intersession, Washburn joined the University's annual India J-Term experience, a unique and intensive three-week study abroad program designed to enhance students' global and cultural perspectives.

**HOMETOWN:**  
Northborough, MA

**MAJOR:**  
Computer Science

**INVOLVEMENT:**  
India J-Term,  
Orientation  
Leader,  
Supplemental  
Instructor, Rams  
Engagement  
Ambassador

SCIENCE FICTION  
AUTHOR,  
PRESIDENT,  
**Hidden Talents**  
Faculty reveal the pursuits that enrich their teaching.  
PHOTOGRAPHER,  
NOVELIST,  
RESEARCHER



# TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT FIVE PROFESSORS' PASSIONATE PURSUITS

One physics professor writes science fiction. A communications professor gets extremely close to wasps. After hours, an English professor leads a network of scholars.

A sociologist battles transphobia on television, and a creative writing professor writes fiction as a form of protest. Our faculty engage fully with the world, bringing back insights that open hearts and encourage dialogue.



**VANDANA SINGH, PHD**  
PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS  
AND ENVIRONMENT

"My teacher taught me that the world is a living tapestry...and all living things are knit together in mutuality."

Climate Imagination Fellow **Vandana Singh, PhD**, read part of her story of Earth's renewal at the 2022 TED Countdown Summit, an initiative to accelerate solutions to the climate crisis.

The professor of physics and environment writes science fiction grounded in reality. In her teaching and research, she weaves together science, society and ethics.

"There's an overlap between my academic work and my creative work," says Singh. Although she doesn't talk about her writing in the classroom, she has introduced Isaac Asimov, Nnedi Okorafor and Carrie Vaughn's speculative fiction.

Singh is the author of the collection *Ambiguity Machines and Other Stories* (2018), which was a finalist for the Philip K. Dick Award, an annual science fiction honor, and *The Woman Who Thought She Was a Planet and Other Stories* (2013).

A new story, part of her fellowship, is forthcoming in 2023 in the *Climate Action Almanac*. "My story contrasts the vision of the billionaire class with the viewpoints of so-called ordinary people," says Singh.

She has done more than imagine solutions. As part of the volunteer-driven movement Association for India's Development, she helps raise funds and

contributes ideas that empower marginalized communities in India. For example, impoverished villagers in the state of Jharkhand were recently able to leave hazardous work in stone quarries and return to agriculture through the revival of the local micro-watershed.

"We are looking at global cataclysm," Singh says. "But if enough people work together for diverse, egalitarian, ecologically sound visions of the future, we will get through this."

**Kelly Matthews, PhD**, attended the opening of "Friel Reimagined" at the McClay Library at Queen's University Belfast, where the papers of renowned Irish playwright Brian Friel were displayed. Queen's University Belfast had asked her to write some of the exhibit's text. When Matthews attended its opening, she saw her analysis on the wall.

That scholarly thrill stemmed from her tenure with the American Conference for Irish Studies (ACIS), the largest organization of people teaching in Irish studies. Because she completed her doctorate in Northern Ireland, she sought a network of U.S. colleagues.

"ACIS brought me in contact with a collegial group of professors and graduate students who teach Irish literature and history, social sciences, the arts and music," says Matthews. At one ACIS conference, she obtained permission to teach an unpublished adaptation of J.M. Synge's play, *The Playboy of the Western World*, by Roddy Doyle and Bisi Adigun.

A professor of English and coordinator of liberal studies, Matthews instructs English methods classes and teaches Irish literature. She was elected ACIS president, for a two-year term, in 2021. She helps organize an annual national conference (the latest virtual conference had 200 presenters and attendees from 12 countries) and five regional conferences for 700 U.S. members and others in Ireland, the UK and Canada. "I'm proud that we've kept the organization going," says Matthews.

**"If enough people work together for diverse, egalitarian, ecologically sound visions of the future, we will get through this."**

—**Vandana Singh, PhD**



**KELLY MATTHEWS, PHD**  
PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

She's grateful that Academic Affairs and CELTSS (Center for Excellence in Learning, Teaching, Scholarship and Service) have supported her research for *Brian Friel: Beginnings*, her latest book. "In 2016, I traveled to the BBC Archives in London, where I found materials which formed my book project," says Matthews.

A dung beetle inspired **Audrey Kali, PhD**, to become an insect photographer. The professor of communication arts was on a Georgia farm in 2013, directing her 2020 documentary *Farm and Red Moon*, when a farmer pointed out the dung beetles that fertilize the soil with nutrients from cow manure. She began to think about the crucial role insects play in nature.

Kali took a break from making the film, which explores the ethics of animal slaughter, to teach at the University of Malawi Chancellor College on a Core Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program Award.

In Malawi, she saw children play with insects without the notion of the insects being harmful. "This big, creepy, crawly thing would walk by, and people would just sit there. It helped me see that we don't question the things we've learned are gross," says Kali. Even catching malaria didn't dampen her growing admiration for mosquitoes as pollinators.

When Kali returned to campus in 2017, she learned macro photography to study insects. As she shared film clips about where meat came from, she also displayed bug screensavers. “Students realized, ‘Insects I consider pests are important.’ Opening little windows of awareness is an important part of science communication,” says Kali.

Her photography helps others see that without insects Earth will die. “It’s easy to squish a dot,” says Kali. “But when you see an insect has a face, killing it takes on a different meaning.”

Approximately 50 percent of transgender people experience Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)—psychological, physical or sexual abuse. “To reduce violence, we need to address healthcare, housing, employment and basic economic needs,” says professor of sociology **Xavier Guadalupe-Diaz, PhD**. He’s devoted to creating a compassionate world for transgender communities.

A nationally recognized researcher on IPV within LGBTQ+ communities, Guadalupe-Diaz has written two books that offer best practices to enhance research, services and healing for transgender survivors of IPV.

He appeared on a 2021 episode of CNN/HLN’s *Forensic Files II* to counter transphobic myths in the case of transgender woman serial killer Donna Perry. “She was a typical serial killer who happened to be transgender,” he says.

Guadalupe-Diaz received the Distinguished Faculty Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activity in 2018 while writing *Transgressed: Intimate Partner Violence in Transgender Lives*, his first book (2019), and the first scholarly book about transgender IPV. He is the youngest, the first Latino and the first pre-tenure recipient of this award. Guadalupe-Diaz’s second co-edited book, *Transgender Intimate*

**“We have lots of work to do in serving the needs of the highly marginalized transgender Black, Indigenous and Person of Color (BIPOC) communities, who have higher rates of housing insecurity and employment discrimination.”**

—**Xavier Guadalupe-Diaz, PhD**



**AUDREY KALI, PHD**  
**PROFESSOR OF COMMUNICATION ARTS**

*Partner Violence: A Comprehensive Introduction* (2020), is an overview of transgender relationship violence.

His books can guide Massachusetts policies. “Despite the state’s high level of transgender-affirming care and services,” says Guadalupe-Diaz, “we have lots of work to do in serving the needs of the highly marginalized transgender Black, Indigenous and Person of Color (BIPOC) communities, who have higher rates of housing insecurity and employment discrimination.”

“Writing *Borderless* was my way of marching,” says professor of English **Jennifer De Leon** of her novel forthcoming this year. It tells the story of a Guatemalan teen who must leave the country she loves.

In 2018, during protests of Trump’s family separation policy, De Leon was near her due date with her second son and couldn’t march. An FSU grant later allowed her to visit the U.S.-Mexico border in McAllen, Texas to research *Borderless*. When she returned, De Leon, who teaches creative writing, Latinx literature and young adult

literature, talked to her students and showed them pictures. “Being a professor and an author works well together,” she says.

A period as a visiting writer in UMass Boston’s MFA Program has allowed De Leon to work on her latest young adult novel, set in the early 1960s, about a group of Guatemalan female guerrilla fighters. “It’s fascinating learning the hidden history of what these women did,” says De Leon, whose work has also benefited from the Children’s Literature Festival at FSU and its Arts & Ideas series.

As she imagines the lives of others, her students view, close up, the life of a working writer. De Leon shows them her drafts and editor’s comments and discusses her marketing meetings.

De Leon is writing *So Many Gifts*, a children’s book set in a Guatemalan market. “I wanted the joy, beauty, culture and heritage I didn’t see in existing books,” she says. A biography of 1992 Nobel Peace Prize winner Rigoberta Menchú is also in progress.

The lives she writes about touch those of her parents, who were born in Guatemala. However, says De Leon, the more she publishes, the less autobiographical her stories are. “As you grow as a writer, you leave home more and venture farther away.”

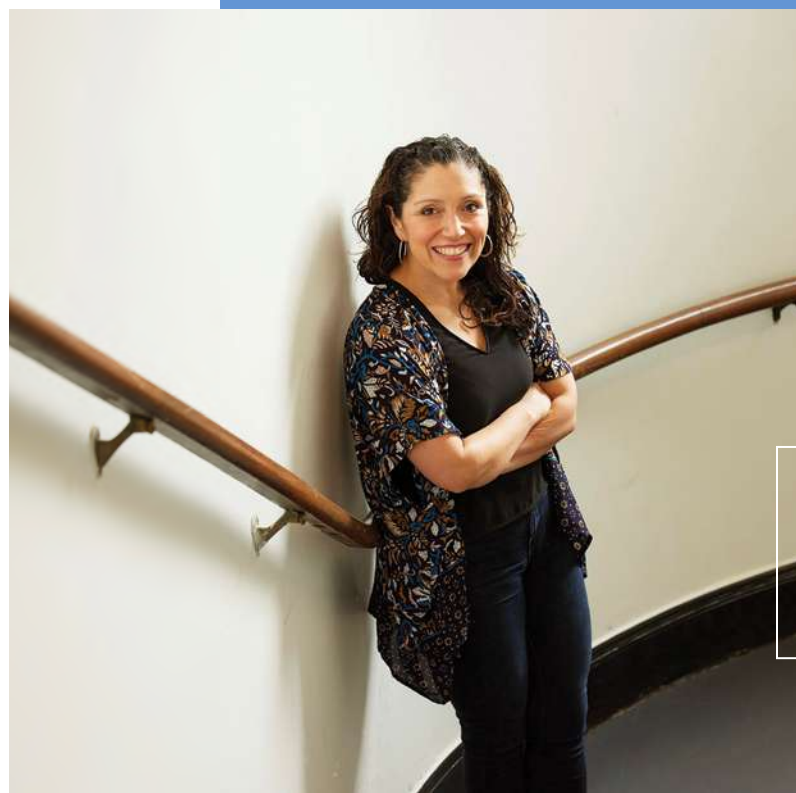


**XAVIER GUADALUPE-DIAZ, PHD**  
**PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY**

**“I WANTED THE JOY, BEAUTY, CULTURE AND HERITAGE I DIDN’T SEE IN EXISTING BOOKS.”**

—**Jennifer De Leon, Professor of English**

**JENNIFER DE LEON**  
**PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH**



# Making an impact



Learn how to be a part of the alumni community

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

## ALUMNI PROFILE

## Ashley (Baker) Fortune '07



**Ashley (Baker) Fortune '07 Reflects on Her Time as FSU Placekicker**

Since graduating from Framingham State University in 2007, Ashley Fortune has traveled the world, launched her own business and started a family. Looking back over the past 15 years, she says that so much of her confidence and willingness to take on new challenges and adventures is due to her experience as FSU's first and only female varsity football player.

"Playing football taught me how to step out of my comfort zone," says Fortune. "I see it through a much different lens now than I did at the time. It was really the catalyst for many of the things I have done since."

Fortune was recruited to the team by Athletic Director and Football Coach Tom Kelley '76, who was in the first year of his second stint as head coach. It was also the beginning of the program's transformation into the conference powerhouse that it is today.

Fortune was a star goalkeeper for the soccer team, whom Kelley had watched score an incredible three goals from 50 yards out on free kicks during her senior season. In need of a placekicker, and knowing that she was returning for a final semester in the fall, he approached her about trying out for the team.

"The idea to play football was never in my head," says Fortune. "I initially said 'no' and didn't agree to try it until mid July. TK (Kelley) really believed in me."

She would go on to make history, converting eight extra points and one field goal while becoming one of the first female athletes to play varsity football at any college level. Fortune shunned much of the media attention beyond local newspapers, but was eventually convinced to do an interview on ESPN about her experience.

"I was never looking for the spotlight," she says. "I just wanted to play. I was very lucky to be surrounded by the best group of guys on that team. It was like having 60 brothers. They were very protective of me."

Today, Fortune is living in her hometown of Mansfield with her 4 year old son. She works for an insurance company while also focusing on her own business, which is called Letter Your Life Designs. She uses a 3D laser cutting machine to create personalized business signs, gifts, home decor and more.

"I've always been someone who loves personalized gifts that you can't buy at the store," she says. "Since getting the machine, I've really found my groove and am getting more successful with it."

You can find her online at:

[LINKTR.EE/LETTERYOURLIFEDESIGNS](http://LINKTR.EE/LETTERYOURLIFEDESIGNS)

## ALUMNI PROFILE

## Simon Essajanian '73



**Simon Essajanian '73 Helped Start the First FSU Cross Country Team**

The son of survivors of the Armenian Genocide, Simon Essajanian immigrated from Egypt to the United State when he was 8 years old. His family settled in Framingham after his dad found a job at Dennison Manufacturing. Essajanian entered Framingham Public Schools, where he would run track and field and cross country during his four years of high school.

Essajanian majored in Biology at FSU and enjoyed his classes and overall experience, but missed participating in competitive running. During his junior year, he became part of a group that came together to form a team. The college agreed to sponsor the effort, hiring a professional coach, and in 1971 the NCAA sanctioned FSU Cross Country Team was born.

"I was proud to serve as the captain of those first two teams," he says.

After graduation, Essajanian began a career in medical technology, working for several years at New England Baptist Hospital doing clinical laboratory work. He later worked for Instrumentation Laboratory, Inc. in their Blood Gas Division and then for Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. in their division supplying specialty gases to the semiconductor industry.

Essajanian still lives in Massachusetts with his wife, and his ties to Framingham State run deep. After retiring, his father Mego Essajanian worked part time for 10 years in the FSU Media Center helping to run the printing equipment, and one of his three daughters, Sossi Essajanian, ran Cross Country at Framingham State, graduating in 2002.

## ALUMNI PROFILE

## Karen Zenteno '20

About 10 years after her family immigrated to the United States from Mexico, Karen Zenteno's mom brought her to her first Red Sox game at Fenway Park. She still remembers the sights and sounds of that day, including the crowd's love for David Ortiz, a player everyone affectionately called "Big Papi" who looked like her family and spoke her native language.

"Pretty much from that moment on, I knew that I loved baseball," says Zenteno.

She grew up in Marlborough and commuted to FSU, double majoring in Marketing and Management with a concentration in Sports Management.

Highlights of her time at FSU included participating in Alternative Spring Break and going on a border awareness trip to the southern border with Professor Patricia Sánchez Connally. She broke into the sports industry through an

internship with the Pawtucket Red Sox, where she made a strong impression on Club President Dr. Charles Steinberg.

"They had a new Spanish initiative so he was glad to learn that I spoke fluent Spanish," she says. "I spent a lot of time down in Pawtucket learning everything I could."

Zenteno graduated from FSU during the onset of the pandemic, and briefly worked at a bank before reconnecting with Dr. Steinberg, who offered her a position as a Ballpark Operations Assistant at brand new Polar Park in Worcester, where the "PawSox" had relocated and become the "WooSox." In 2022, she was hired as a Fan Services and Entertainment Coordinator with the Boston Red Sox.

"It's an absolute dream come true," she says. "There are so many aspects to the job, and it's never the same each day. I love it."



**Karen Zenteno '20 Enhances the Fan Experience at Fenway Park**

# Class notes

## 1980s

**Paul LeBlanc '80** was presented with the American Association of State Colleges and Universities 2022 Distinguished Alumnus Award in November. He has been President of Southern New Hampshire University since 2003.

**Richard Delorie '85** retired in January as Chief of the Wellesley Fire Department.

## 1990s

**Kenny Brooks '90** recently accepted a position as Head of Marketing at Signal Hill Technologies.

## 2000s

**Danielle Morrissey G '05** was named the new principal at the Vincent M. Igo Elementary School in Foxborough.

**Maureen Pollock '05** accepted the position of Town Planner for the Town of Montague, Massachusetts. She was previously the Town Planner for the Town of Amherst.

**Krista Niles '06** was selected as Assistant Principal at Helen R. Donaghue and Dr. Frederick N. Sweetsir Schools, both part of the Pentucket Regional School District in Merrimac.

**Matt Vaccaro '06** was selected as one of *Worcester Business Journal's* "40 Under Forty." A founding member and President of Masis Staffing Solutions, he helped grow the company from 40 internal employees in 2015 to 325 today, with operations in 20 states.

**Kyle Landry '09** was named one of *Worcester Business Journal's* "40 under Forty."



**Jamal Kirk '18** recently began working for the Harvard Alumni Association.



**Krista Niles '06** is the new Assistant Principal at Helen R. Donaghue and Dr. Frederick N. Sweetsir Schools.



**Paul LeBlanc '80** received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

**Steve DaSilva '09, Nick Dion '09** and **Nigel Johnson '09** shared their experiences working at NESN with a Communications class at Framingham State last fall.

**Kyle Landry '09**, 2018 recipient of the Alumni Association's Young Alumni Achievement Award, was named one of *Worcester Business Journal's* "40 under Forty."

## 2010s

**Jeremy Schmidt '10** accepted a position as Project Manager at AR Daniel Construction Services Inc.

**Brendan Carter '11**, CEO and Founder of the Point Clothing Lounge, opened his first location in South Boston.

**Liz Bell '13** was recently promoted to Senior Digital Apparel Designer for Team Sports at New Balance.

**Macadia Carter '14** accepted a position as Behavioral Health Navigator at Boston Medical Center.

**Amy Dauksevicz '14** was named Girls Basketball Coach at Whitman Middle School.

**Jennifer Melendez '14** was named Assistant Director of Talent and DEI Recruiter at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester.

**Kristen Peterson '14** was promoted to Senior Business Operations Specialist at UpperEdge, LLC.

**Colleen Leary '15** accepted a position as Relationship Development Manager for Granite Telecommunications.

**Danae Pieroia '15** accepted a position with Boston Children's Hospital as a Senior Social Media Specialist.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Mary (Hardy) Taylor '42**  
7/18/2022

**Nancy Johnson '44**  
12/31/2022

**Barbara Chadwick '52**  
1/16/2023

**Virginia (Smith) Carey '54**  
12/14/2022

**Eileen (Costello) Tupper '55**  
9/14/2022

**Helen (Malloy) Manning '56**  
12/29/2022

**Ellie (Buckley) Mullins '56**  
12/31/2022

**Gloria M. Aspesi '57**  
12/23/2022

**Susan (Lacaire) Louy '60**  
11/17/2022

**Judith (Cheverie) Henriksen '61**  
7/31/2022

**Christine (Quinn) Noonan '64**  
12/16/2022

**Paul Scagnelli '65**  
10/30/2022

**Miriam T. Kramer '66**  
11/19/2022

**David M. Barnicle '69**  
10/26/2022

**Irene Timlege '69**  
10/6/2022

**Eleanor (Mae) Feeley '70**  
9/17/2022

**Janet R. Jones '70**  
8/1/2022

**Susan M. Albrecht '73**  
8/17/2022

**Suzanne (Wayne) Keene '73**  
10/9/2022

**Lorraine Melican '73**  
8/26/2022

**Stephanie (Bengiovanni) Davis '74**  
12/23/2022

**Joan (Costello) Colosi '75**  
9/16/2022

**Dorothy Perkins '75**  
1/20/2023

**Nancy E. Weissinger '75**  
7/25/2022

**Gary Niland '76, G'83**  
1/28/2023

**Deborah (Rosenburg) Gamari '77**  
1/2/2023

**Arthur W. Hurst '77**  
1/12/2023

**Erminia Errico '81**  
7/7/2022

**Cora Higson '82**  
12/28/2022

**Karl E. Reger '94**  
12/20/2022

**Mario J. Travers '94**  
8/4/2022

**Rosemary C. Lupo '96**  
8/27/2022

**Lisa M. Larsen '00**  
8/26/2022

**Craig M. Fulton '02**  
1/1/2023

**Wendy H. Hanlon '02**  
10/12/2022

**Ralph Pfeiffer '06**  
10/18/2022

**Mark Pichel '06**  
1/10/2023

**Kristie A. Bezreh '14**  
11/1/2022

**Christopher J. Bailey '15**  
12/3/2022

**Annie Deloid '16** has been selected as the next Head Coach of the Union College women's volleyball program. Previously, she was the first full-time Assistant Women's Volleyball Coach at Stevens Institute of Technology, where she helped guide the team to a combined 48-18 record and a pair of MAC Freedom Tournament championships.

**Katelyn Hanlon '16** has joined the Brown University School of Public Health as an Administrative Coordinator for Advising.

**Jamal Kirk '18** has shifted his career trajectory and is now involved in higher education at Harvard College as a part of the Harvard Alumni Association: College Alumni Programs, serving in a staff support role.

**Marielle Sciore '19** has accepted a position as Admissions Coordinator at Walden Behavioral Care.

## 2020s

**Michael Gonzalez '20** has accepted a position as Youth Program Coordinator at Hoops and Homework INC.

**Brian Tardif '20** was named Athletic Director of Pierson High School on Long Island.

**Tara Palermo '22** was hired as the Varsity Girls' Lacrosse Coach at Mashpee High School. She is the All-Time Leading Goal Scorer in Mashpee High School Girls' Lacrosse history.

**Liz Bell '13** was promoted to Senior Digital Apparel Designer for Team Sports at New Balance.

## CAMPUS NEWS

# The Fall Alumni Magazine Is Going Digital

Dear Alumni and Friends,

We put a lot of time and effort into creating the semiannual Alumni Magazine, and we hope that you enjoy reading it and find it informative. As many other institutions have transitioned to digital alumni publications, we have resisted because we know many of our alumni appreciate having a piece they can hold in their hands.

However, rising inflation, supply chain issues and other budgetary constraints have pushed us to consider alternatives to printing and mailing two issues

each year. Starting in 2023, each fall issue will be available in a digital format only. This transition will save the University significant money and has the added benefit of being better for the environment.

Our digital Alumni Magazine will be much more than a flipbook or online document. Utilizing technology, we can use larger print, video and images to bring you even closer to the students, stories and scenery of Framingham State. As the weather warms, the printed magazine will be mailed in time for spring celebrations.

Be on the lookout for an email from the Development and Alumni Relations Office when the fall issue is available in early October. If you are concerned that we do not have your current email address, you may submit it to us at

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



WARMLY,

**Jennifer DeFronzo**

Executive Director of Alumni Relations

## ALUMNI NEWS

## José Luis Moreno '05 Recognized with Inclusive Excellence Alumni Achievement Award

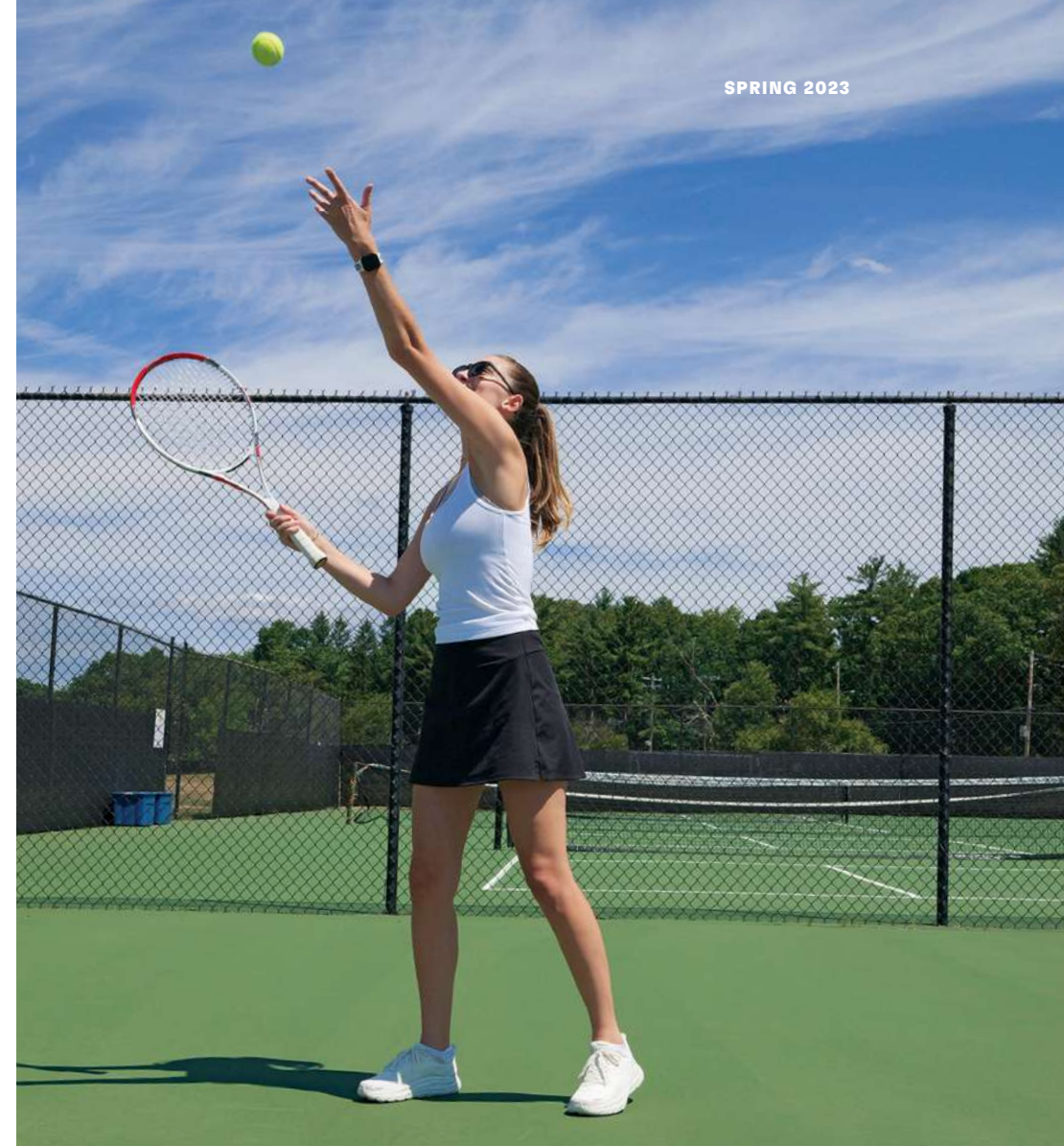
José Luis Moreno graduated from FSU with a major in Spanish and also earned a Master of Arts in College Student Development and Administration. As a student at FSU, he served as a leader on campus through his engagement in many organizations such as Amigos—the Latinx on-campus organization, and as a Resident Assistant. After transitioning to Higher Education Administration here at FSU and later



**José Luis Moreno '05 supports first-generation students at Frederick Community College in Maryland.**

at other institutions, Moreno demonstrated his commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, serving in different roles that allowed him to provide support for underserved students.

Moreno executed programming to support students of color and members of the LGBTQ+ community and provided trainings and opportunities for professional development for faculty and staff around issues of social justice and equity. Currently, he is a Transition Specialist, working one on one with first-generation students in collaboration with other offices at Frederick Community College in Maryland.



Learn more at:

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

## Join the University Community Club!

With warmer weather on the horizon, now is the perfect time to become a member of the University Community Club at the Warren Conference Center & Inn.

Membership is limited to the FSU community and residents of Ashland, providing families with access to over 100

wooded lakefront acres, hiking trails, tennis and pickleball courts, disc golf, athletic fields and more!

A single membership is good for a family of four and provides tremendous value to FSU alumni. Get your family outdoors this summer!



REFER A RAM

### Help Find the Next Generation of the fRAMily!

Do you know someone who would make a great Ram? As an alum, you know firsthand the transformative power of a Framingham State experience. The Refer a Ram Program provides the opportunity to waive the \$50 application fee for prospective undergraduate and graduate students with a simple referral. Refer someone today—there are no limits on the number of students you can refer.

Share this gift with anyone considering FSU, including family, friends and colleagues. Referred students will be contacted immediately by the Admissions Office and will receive priority consideration when they submit their application.



Learn more at:

[FRAMINGHAM.EDU/REFER-A-RAM](https://www.framingham.edu/REFER-A-RAM)



DONOR PROFILE

## Arnold Rosenfeld

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

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

508-626-4012

## Arnold Rosenfeld honors his late wife Lois A. (Beaton) Rosenfeld's '63 legacy of helping those in need

26

For many families with the financial means, the holiday season is a time of overindulgence—in food, gifts, decorations and more.

For Lois A. (Beaton) Rosenfeld '63 and her family, the holidays meant time spent at the Pine Street Inn, Rosie's Place and other homeless shelters, serving meals to those in need.

"She was always volunteering us as a family to do things to help the less fortunate," says Arnold Rosenfeld. "Lois wanted to help people and lift them up. She made sure our children realized how important this was in life—helping others—as well as how lucky they were, so that they understood what it was like not to have what everybody else had."

This annual holiday tradition is just one of many ways that Lois Rosenfeld dedicated much of her life in service to others. After she passed away in 2016 following a prolonged battle with cancer, Arnold Rosenfeld reached out to her alma mater, Framingham State, about setting up a scholarship in her honor.

The Lois A. (Beaton) Rosenfeld '63 Endowed Scholarship is awarded to

students with a demonstrated financial need as well as a desire to improve the world.

"We were married for 54 years, and it has really helped me in terms of dealing with the fact that she is not here anymore," he says. "I get letters from the scholarship recipients. FSU has done a great job selecting students who are very deserving."

Lois and Arnold Rosenfeld began dating in high school and got married right after she graduated from Framingham State in 1963 with a degree in teaching. Arnold, who had taken ROTC in college, voluntarily activated in the U.S. Army (Infantry) and the couple spent two years together stationed in Germany, where Lois taught at an American school.

When Rosenfeld was discharged from the army, the pair returned home and Lois got a teaching job at Waltham Public Schools while Arnold enrolled in law school. He would go on to have a distinguished career as a public defender, including serving as the first Chief Counsel of the Committee for Public Counsel Services and as the Chief

Bar Counsel of the Supreme Judicial Court's Office of the Bar Counsel. He also worked in private practice, and today he continues to teach part-time at Northeastern Law School and represents lawyers before the Board of Bar Overseers in Massachusetts.

Lois Rosenfeld stopped teaching to raise her three children. After the children grew up, she took several positions focused on aiding those in need, including at the Women Waging Peace Program at the Harvard Kennedy School, as well as for various international programs for the poor in Africa and India. In her spare time, she was an accomplished watercolorist, winning several competitions for her artwork.

Today, Arnold Rosenfeld and his children continue to carry on Lois's spirit of giving.

"Instead of Christmas presents, I just tell them to 'donate to mom's scholarship,'" he says. "It's a very special living memorial to her life."

# Framingham State University's FY22 President's Report 2021-2022

27

Dear FSU Community,

**Transitions in leadership bring fresh perspectives, and with them opportunities to realign services and operations. One of the first things I did when I became President of Framingham State University in July 2022 was to work with my executive team and other campus leaders to review the structure of the University. After careful consideration, we implemented a number of organizational changes in an effort to support student success.**

The most significant of these changes is the creation of the Division of Academic Enhancement. The Division centers services that are integrally tied to students' learning success by intentionally bridging Academic Affairs and Student Affairs through strong collaboration for holistic student support and advocacy, and through the intentional use of data analytics and measurement of student progress.

Another major change was the dissolution of the Division of Enrollment Management and Student Experience, which had become too large to be effective, particularly for some of its critical functions. Under the new structure, the areas of enrollment and student life now report directly to me.

I am very proud of the ways in which the people in the affected departments and divisions worked to create new teams and ways of working. If we want to thrive, we need to be brave enough to envision what can be—and then braver still to execute it, with data, determination and assessment of what we planned. If we try something that does not achieve our goals, then we adjust and try again.

Framingham State's long history of responding to public need for the public good has been at the core of its success. I believe that if we harness the opportunities in front of us, we will achieve institutional, regional and societal advancement and satisfy our mission beyond even our greatest hopes.

SINCERELY,



Nancy S. Niemi, PhD  
President, Framingham State University

**2022 – 2023  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Executive Committee**

**CHAIR**

**Kevin M. Foley '84**  
*Assistant Vice President,  
General Accounting  
The TJX Companies, Inc.*

**VICE CHAIR**

**Beth Casavant**  
*Board of Selectmen  
Town of Shrewsbury, MA*

**TRUSTEES**

**Nancy Budwig, PhD**  
*Professor of Psychology  
Clark University*

**Lino Covarrubias**  
*Chief Executive Officer  
Jewish Family Services of MetroWest*

**Diane Finch '66 PhD**  
*Assistant Professor (Retired)  
Loyola University*

**Marisel Freve**  
*VP and Chief Accounting Officer  
Sensata Technologies*

**Anthony E. Hubbard, Esq.**  
*Senior Legal Counsel  
CVS Health*

**Claire Ramsbottom '79**  
*Executive Director  
Colleges of the Fenway*

**Robert Richards, Esq. '83**  
*Shareholder  
Murphy and King P.C.*

**McKenzie Ward '23**  
*Student Trustee*

**EX-OFFICIO**

**Nancy S. Niemi, PhD**  
*President  
Framingham State University*

**2022 – 2023  
FSU FOUNDATION, INC.**

**Officers**

**PRESIDENT**

**Robert Ramrath**  
*Chief Information Officer (Retired)  
Bose Corporation*

**VICE PRESIDENT**

**Kathleen Freeman, Esq.**  
*Director, Siting Services (Retired)  
Eversource Energy*

**TREASURER**

**James Hastings '06**  
*Financial Advisor  
Lexington Wealth Management*

**CLERK**

**Margaret Guardiani '77**  
*Administrative Associate  
Vertex Pharmaceuticals*

**DIRECTORS**

**Dennis Alves '78**  
*Complex Director, Excess  
Casualty Claims (Retired)  
AIG Insurance*

**Robert Bonnevie, PhD**  
*President/Owner  
The Palmer Group, Inc.*

**Steve Devine '84**  
*Manager of Business Operations  
Bose Corporation*

**Claire Esten**  
*Audit Senior Manager  
Grant Thornton LLP*

**Robert Fields**  
*President (Retired)  
Commonwealth Creative Associates*

**Kevin M. Foley '84**  
*Assistant Vice President,  
General Accounting  
The TJX Companies, Inc.*

**Barbara Gardner '82**  
*Chair, Board of Directors  
Momenta*

**Michael G. Gattlin '78, Esq.**  
*Attorney  
The Law Office  
of Michael G. Gattlin*

**Helen L. Heineman, PhD**  
*President Emeritus  
Framingham State University*

**Brian Lannigan '89**  
*Vice President  
Merrill Lynch*

**Duc Le '86, PhD**  
*Physician  
Day Kimball Hospital*

**Elaine Martin '96**  
*Teacher (Retired)  
Milford Public Schools*

**TREASURER**

**Pervez Mazeed G'12**  
*Senior Technology Leader  
Staples*

**Michelle Murphy '74**  
*CEO  
Latona Life Sciences, LLC*

**Joan Murtaugh '61**  
*Teacher (Retired)  
Framingham Public Schools*

**Joseph Palowich, Jr. '98**  
*Senior Business Analyst  
Fidelity Investments*

**Robert Power '82**  
*Vice President of Engineering  
Silicon Labs*

**Daniel Remillard '83, PsyD**  
*Clinical Psychologist,  
Health Care Provider  
Island Counseling Center*

**Juan Rodriguez '78**  
*Principal (Retired)  
Framingham Public Schools*

**David Weinberg, MD**  
*Physician (Retired)  
Brigham and Women's Hospital*

**Robert Zaccardi '91**  
*Executive Director  
J.P. Morgan Private Bank*

**EX-OFFICIO**

**Eric Gustafson**  
*Vice President  
Development and Alumni Relations  
Framingham State University*

**Dale M. Hamel, PhD**  
*Executive Vice President  
Framingham State University*

**Nancy S. Niemi, PhD**  
*President  
Framingham State University*

**2022 – 2023  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

**Officers**

**PRESIDENT**

**Kelly Sardella '82**  
*Principal  
RISD Fund  
Mulready Elementary School*

**PAST PRESIDENT**

**Kathleen Shepherd '83**  
*Marketing Director  
Vaporstream, Inc.*

**SECRETARY**

**Abigail Sullivan '15**  
*Associate Account Executive  
Allego*

**DIRECTORS**

**Deb Cleveland '73**  
*Publisher  
Grandmother's Trunk Press*

**Betsy Doherty '85**  
*Executive Director  
RISD Fund  
Rhode Island School of Design*

**Diane Finch '66, PhD, Alumni Trustee**  
*Professor (Retired)  
Loyola University*

**Serena Gilchrist '05**  
*Office Manager  
MERGE Boston*

**Elinor Goodwin '88**  
*Owner  
The Print Shop Williamstown*

**Ann Muir '76**

**Kim Pita '90**  
*Founder  
Kim Pita Peaces*

**Maureen Remeika '73**  
*Owner  
Remeika Consulting*

**Michelle Saulis '78**  
*Curriculum Coordinator  
CT River Academy*

**Steven Whittemore, Jr. '10, G'13**  
*Director of Alumni Relations  
UMass Boston*

**EX-OFFICIO**

**Jennifer DeFronzo**  
*Executive Director of Alumni Relations  
Framingham State University*

**Eric Gustafson**  
*Vice President  
Development and Alumni Relations  
Framingham State University*

**Dale Hamel, PhD**  
*Executive Vice President  
Framingham State University*

**Nancy S. Niemi, PhD**  
*President  
Framingham State University*



## Enrollment & Student Development

Demographic changes and the COVID-19 pandemic continue to have a negative impact on enrollment. During FY22, the Board of Trustees committed more than \$1 million directly toward addressing enrollment through new marketing efforts and development of a new strategic enrollment plan. Work on both major projects is ongoing this academic year.

The student headcount for Fall 2021 was 4,495 students. The University's most popular undergraduate majors are: Psychology, Management, Criminology, Computer Science and Biology. Students completed over 385 documented internships as part of their experience at FSU.

The University launched its first translated microsite as a resource for prospective and current Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking families. This allowed the expansion of our marketing campaigns to a broader population of non-native English speakers. Admissions piloted a Prospective Student Open House in Fall 2021 in conjunction with Academic Affairs, resulting in a 30-percent deposit rate of student attendees.

More than 50 percent of students studying abroad are students of color and nearly two-thirds are first-generation college students. Both percentages are well above the national average. Students who participate in a study abroad experience graduate at higher rates than those who do not.



## Academic Affairs

A number of programmatic changes occurred within Academic Affairs during FY22 to better align the University's offerings with the interests of students and the workforce needs of the Commonwealth. A highlight included the integration of new technology into probability and statistics courses in Mathematics to better prepare students for work in the exciting field of data science.

The World Languages Department was renamed World Languages & Linguistics to better showcase the fact that we offer the only major in Linguistics among the Massachusetts State Universities.

Two departments—Geography and Physics & Earth Science—joined together into a new Department of Environment, Society & Sustainability, housed in the College of STEM to better market programs and topics that are of greater interest to students. The freestanding Global Studies major was moved into the Political Science Department.

In the area of student support, the Sociology and Criminology departments established a mentoring program for BIPOC students that launched in Fall 2022. Whittemore Library was awarded nearly \$450,000 by the Department of Education to work with faculty on developing Open Educational Resources (OER) with a focus on equity in order to better serve the student population and save money on costly textbooks.

Our Coordinated Program in Dietetics students continue to have much higher than national average pass rates (97%) on the certification exam. FSU is also on Fulbright's national leaderboard for faculty/administrator awards—these opportunities greatly enhance the faculty's ability to offer engaging and transformative learning experiences.



## Development & Alumni Relations

The Development and Alumni Relations Office raised \$2.2 million during FY22. The FSU Foundation Inc. endowment ended the year at \$14.4 million.

The Foundation provided \$100,000 in funding to offer paid internships for FSU students through the CHOICE internship program. The foundation also provided another \$50,000 in funding to the Student Support Fund to help out students in financial crisis.

The Alumni Relations Office partnered with the College of Business on an annual Business Coaching event, which pairs current business students with successful alumni and community business leaders, to provide valuable coaching and mentoring. The event grows every year as more students, and more local and regional professionals, want to take part.

A total of 38 in-person alumni and donor events were held during the year, drawing 1,670 guests.

The Danforth Museum experienced a 166-percent increase in membership during FY22 and also exceeded its unrestricted fundraising of \$202,000, putting it on solid financial footing moving forward. The Museum continues to work closely with academic departments to provide learning opportunities for students. Partnerships with Art and Fashion Design and Retailing were particularly fruitful, including the display of student fashion design works in the Museum.



## Athletics

It was another stellar year for FSU athletics, highlighted by the Co-Ed Cheerleading Team winning the Division III National Championship during a competition in Daytona Beach, Florida. It was the team's first national title since they began participating in nationals in 1997.

Other highlights from the year included MASCAC (Massachusetts State College Athletic Conference) titles for Football, Women's Basketball, Softball, Volleyball and Women's Lacrosse. It was the first-ever conference title for the Women's Lacrosse team, which was led by sophomore Hannah Guerin, who was selected the 2022 MASCAC Women's Lacrosse Offensive Player of the Year.

The football team earned its fifth consecutive conference title in Fall 2021, capping off a decade-long stretch that included just four in-conference losses. Football star defensive end Joshua Onujiogu was signed to an NFL contract following the May draft by the Seattle Seahawks and earned a spot on the team's practice squad—an amazing accomplishment for a player out of Division III. On Sunday, Nov. 6, 2022, Onujiogu made his NFL debut, recording three tackles against the Arizona Cardinals.

The softball team has finished as MASCAC regular season or tournament champions for five consecutive years. Junior pitcher Ally Moran and freshman utility player Brooke Grassia were named to the MASCAC All-Conference First Team. The softball team also continued their relationship with Team IMPACT, which places a child facing serious illness and disability with college sports teams, creating a long-term, life-changing experience for everyone involved.



## Budget

The University's total "all funds" budget for FY22 was \$167.6 million, up about \$5.5 million from the previous year. Operational expenses totaled \$128 million.

The Business Office coordinated application and tracking of over \$38 million in requested COVID-19 relief funding through various state and federal programs and has secured more than \$30 million to date. This has provided significant financial relief directly to students, as well as University operations.

A proposal for a major redesign and modernization project at the Christa McAuliffe Center for Integrated Science Learning was submitted and ultimately provided \$5 million in funding by the state. The goal of the project is to convert the current McAuliffe Center, located in O'Connor Hall on the FSU campus, into a suite of five multifunctional, technology-enabled learning spaces, and to introduce modern visualizations and simulation capabilities. The total cost of the redesign project is nearly \$8 million, which includes \$2 million in previously allocated American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, and \$250,000 from the Massachusetts Cultural Council Facilities Program.

The University Community Club (UCC) was established and features recreational, cultural and social activities hosted for alumni, faculty, staff and residents of Ashland at the Warren Conference Center and Inn. About \$4.6 million in vendor investments to the existing facility are planned to enhance the UCC, as well as the overall operation of the Warren Center.

### Economic Impact

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

**\$167,600,000**

TOTAL OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES

**\$128,300,000**

TOTAL PAYROLL

**\$76,500,000**

TOTAL EMPLOYEES

**583**

TOTAL STUDENTS

**4,495**

UNIVERSITY ENDOWMENT

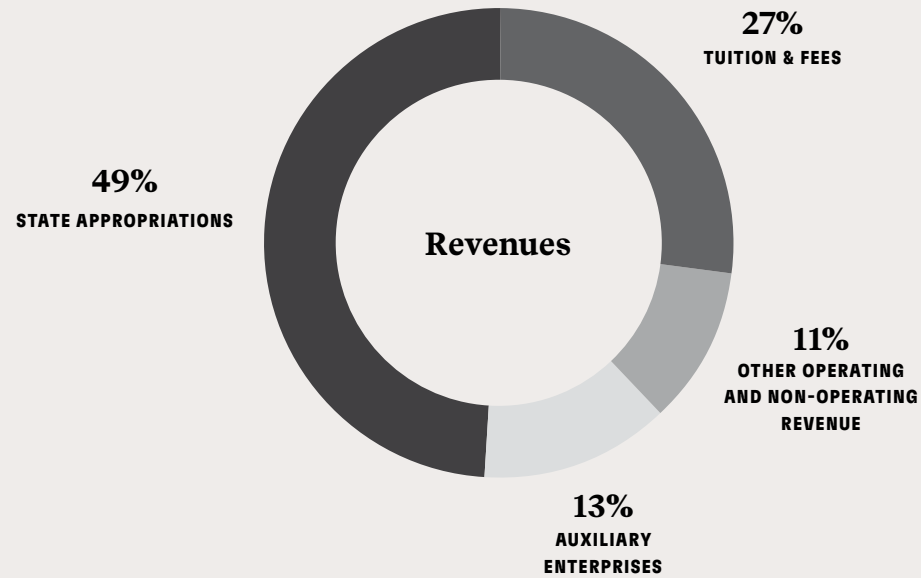
**\$40.5M University;  
\$14.4M Foundation**

UNIVERSITY-FUNDED FINANCIAL AID

**\$4,500,000**

BACHELOR'S AND MASTER'S DEGREES CONFERRED

**1,218**



32

### Fundraising

**\$2.2M** FY22

### Expenditures

OPERATING EXPENSES (IN THOUSANDS)	FY21	FY22
SALARIES	\$53,486	\$54,684
BENEFITS	\$18,253	\$14,053
UTILITIES	\$3,225	\$3,682
SUPPLIES & SERVICES/SCHOLARSHIPS	\$25,170	\$27,346
DEPRECIATION	\$7,350	\$13,529
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$107,484</b>	<b>\$113,294</b>



BOOK SMART

Evelyn Campbell '23 and Andrew Thompson '23 share a laugh in Whittemore Library.

# Events

APRIL 15, 2023

### Softball Alumni Gathering

Cheer on the Rams at a Women's Softball doubleheader and alumni event.

MAY 21, 2023

### Commencement

It's the biggest day of the academic calendar as we welcome a new group of graduates into the Framingham State Alumni Association at the DCU Center in Worcester!

JUNE 2-3, 2023

### Alumni Weekend and Reunion, Campus

Our biggest alumni celebration of the year is right around the corner. This is the best weekend of the year to reconnect with old friends and your alma mater. We hope you can join us!

JUNE 5, 2023

### Ram Booster Golf Tournament

The annual Ram Booster Golf Tournament raises funds for FSU Athletics. This year's tournament will again be held at the beautiful Highfields Golf and Country Club.

**This is just a sample of the events and activities available to alumni! Get the latest information at**

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



**Framingham**  
State University

100 State Street, PO Box 9101, Framingham, MA 01701-9101

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
NORWOOD, MA  
PERMIT NO. 20



**FSU FLASHBACK**

**Crocker Hall**

Circa 1963

(Courtesy FSU Archives)