Hidden Talents
Faculty Reveal the Pursuits That Enrich Their Teaching
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
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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.

“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

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.

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 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.
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 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.
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—told reporters in the locker room afterward. “That’s probably the most fun I’ve had in my life,” he told reporters. “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.’”

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.

Professor Stefán 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.”

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Stefan Papaioannou

DEPARTMENT: History
EDUCATION: PhD, University of Maryland
INTERESTS BEYOND ACADEMICS: Family, classical and jazz piano, Brazilian music
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
Hidden Talents

Faculty reveal the pursuits that enrich their teaching.
“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 (2023). Singh has introduced Isaac Asimov, Nnedi Okorafor and Carrie Vaughn’s speculative fiction.

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Singh has done more than imagine solutions. As part of the volunteer driven movement Association for India’s Development, she helps raise funds and research 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 Rúi Adúgin.

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 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.

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 2010, 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-Díaz, PhD. He’s devoted to creating a compassionate world for transgender communities. A nationally recognized researcher on IPV within LGBTQ+ communities, Guadalupe-Díaz 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-Díaz 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-Díaz’s second co-edited book, Transgender Intimate 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-Díaz, “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.”
“The idea to play football was never 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 final semester in the fall. He approached her and convinced her about trying out for the team. “I was never looking for the spotlight,” says Fortune. “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: LinkedIn: Letter Your Life Designs

She would go on to make history, converting eight extra points and a 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.

“Pretty much from that moment on, I knew that I loved baseball,” says Zenteno. “Big Papi” who looked like her family and adventures is due to her experience having 60 brothers. They were very protective of me.”

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You can find her online at: LinkedIn: Letter Your Life Designs

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 States 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.

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. "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. Charles Steinberg. 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.

Karen Zenteno ’20 Enhances the Fan Experience at Fenway Park

"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 moved to Boston in order to intern with the Pawtucket Red Sox, where she made a strong impression on Club President Dr. Charles Steinberg. "They had a new Spanish initiative so we 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 a 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."
Steve DaSilva ’09, Nick Diorio ’09 and Nigel Johnson ’09 shared their experiences working at NASA 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.”

Mary (Handy) Taylor ’82
Nancy Johnson ’46
Barbara Chodrlick ’52
Virginia (Smith) Carey ’54
Eileen (Costello) Tupper ’55
Helia (Majoli) Manning ’56
Ellie (Buckley) Mullins ’56
Gloria M. Aspnes ’57
Susan (Lucario) Lower ’60
Judith (Chervis) Harebian ’61
Christine (Quinn) Noonan ’64
Paul Scogna ’65
Marilyn T. Kramer ’66
David M. Bambrick ’69
Irma Timmins ’69
Eleanor (Mae) Feeley ’70
Janet R. Jones ’70
Suan M. Albrecht ’73
Suzanne (Wayne) Keesee ’73
Lorraine Macken ’73
Stephanie (Bengiovanni) Davis ’76
Jean (Costello) Colbow ’75
Dorothy Perkins ’75
Nancy E. Weisssinger ’75
Gary Niland ’78, G’83
Deborah (Rosenburg) Gannon ’77
Kyle Landry ’09
Suzanne (Wayne) Keene ’73
Eileen (Costello) Tupper ’55

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 Deloria ’85 retired in January as Chief of the Wellesley Fire Department.

Krisa Niles ’06
Maureen Pollock ’05
Krista Niles ’06
Liz Bell ’13
Kyle Landry ’09
Danae Pieroia ’15
Annie Deloid ’16
Joan (Costello) Colosi ’75

1990s

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

2000s

Danielle Morrisey O’05 was named the new principal at the Vincent M. Igo Elementary School in Poitboeuf.

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. Sweetser 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 Massi 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.”

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 promoted to Senior Digital Apparel Designer for Team Sports at New Balance.

Mary (Handy) Taylor ’82
Nancy Johnson ’46
Barbara Chodrlick ’52
Virginia (Smith) Carey ’54
Eileen (Costello) Tupper ’55
Helia (Majoli) Manning ’56
Ellie (Buckley) Mullins ’56
Gloria M. Aspnes ’57
Susan (Lucario) Lower ’60
Judith (Chervis) Harebian ’61
Christine (Quinn) Noonan ’64
Paul Scogna ’65
Marilyn T. Kramer ’66
David M. Bambrick ’69
Irma Timmins ’69
Eleanor (Mae) Feeley ’70
Janet R. Jones ’70
Suan M. Albrecht ’73
Suzanne (Wayne) Keesee ’73
Lorraine Macken ’73
Stephanie (Bengiovanni) Davis ’76
Jean (Costello) Colbow ’75
Dorothy Perkins ’75
Nancy E. Weisssinger ’75
Gary Niland ’78, G’83
Deborah (Rosenburg) Gannon ’77
Kyle Landry ’09
Suzanne (Wayne) Keene ’73
Eileen (Costello) Tupper ’55

2020s

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

Brian Tordi ’20 was named Athletic Director of Pierson High School on Long Island.

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

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

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.

Jennifer DeFronzo
Executive Director of Alumni Relations

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 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.

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!

Learn more at: FRAMINGHAM.EDU/DCO

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

Help Find the Next Generation of the RAMily!

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

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 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.”

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

ALUMNI@FRAMINGHAM.EDU
508-222-4212

Framingham State University’s FY22 President’s Report 2021–2022
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.

Sincerely,

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 $51 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, Criminal Justice, 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 needs 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 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 those students that launched in Fall 2022. Whatmore Library was awarded nearly $500,000 by the Department of Education to work with faculty on developing Open Educational Resources (OER) with a focus on equity in order to provide engaged coaching and mentoring. This program 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.

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.

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 maccas (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 Guein, 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 maccas regular season or tournament champions for five consecutive years. Junior pitcher Ally Moran and freshman utility player Brooke Grassia were named to the maccas 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.

Diversity & Inclusion

The Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Community Engagement (dICE) navigated FY22 short-staffed as a search for the next Vice President of dICE was ongoing. Despite this, the Center for Inclusive Excellence (CIE) was still able to offer nearly 80 hours of programming this year, reaching more than 5,000 attendees.

CIE Director Eric Nguyen provided nearly 40 hours of one-on-one and small group meetings to students focused on navigating institutional and systemic barriers, academic success, event planning, and career exploration.

In collaboration with the Center for Excellence in Learning, Teaching, Scholarship and Service, dICE hosted a two-day Racial Equity Policy Review Institute, attended by 80 FSU staff, faculty and administrators. Funding for this initiative was provided through a $52,000 Higher Education Innovation Fund grant from the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education.

The Hispanic Serving Institution Task Force met monthly to discuss strategies that would better support Hispanic/ Latine students at the University. The Task Force identified four priority recommendations that were presented to the executive team.

In January 2023, the University was pleased to welcome Dr. Jeffrey Coleman as the new Vice President for dICE.

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 $58 million in requested COVID-19 relief funding through various state and federal programs and has secured more than $3.5 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 multi-functional, 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 $500,000 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

**Revenues**

- 49% State Appropriations
- 13% Auxiliary Enterprises
- 27% Tuition & Fees
- 11% Other Operating and Non-Operating Revenue

**Expenditures**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operating Expenses (in thousands)</th>
<th>FY21</th>
<th>FY22</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benefits</td>
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<td>Utilities</td>
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<td>Supplies &amp; Services/Scholarships</td>
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<td>Depreciation</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Operating Expenses</strong></td>
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<td>$113,294</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fundraising**

- **$2.2M FY22**

**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)

**Book Smart**

Evelyn Campbell ’23 and Andrew Thompson ’23 share a laugh in Whittemore Library.
FSU FLASHBACK

Crocker Hall

Circa 1963

(Courtesy FSU Archives)