

SPRING 2025

Framingham State



Crank It Up

NEW DIGITAL MEDIA COURSES AMPLIFY THE
TALENTS OF STUDENTS AND FACULTY AND DRAW
THE FRAMINGHAM COMMUNITY CLOSER



CATCHING SOME RAYS

Solar panel canopies were recently installed over Salem End Road Parking Lot.

Framingham State

SPRING 2025

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Dear Alumni and Friends,

I imagine that your years at Framingham State were filled with conversations about the issues of the time; I cannot imagine any time in the last 186 years when significant forces were not awhirl, intermingling with students, faculty and their studies. When the school that would become Framingham State University—the Lexington Normal School—opened in 1839, the United States was but 63 years old: slaves aboard *The Amistad* had rebelled, the Trail of Tears had just occurred, the international cotton market had collapsed, and the rights of women and slaves were vociferously being debated. The medium by which Americans learned of these and other actions was a mixture of personal letters; newspapers; public speakers; broadsheets; town, city, state and national meetings; and, of course, personal debates and conversations.

Depending on when you spent time here on Bare Hill, the ways in which you and your classmates and professors learned of and shared current events also included radio, television, the telephone and movies; in 2000 the internet became a true medium of information dissemination and by 2007, over 95 percent of our Ram community were able to get most of their information via the internet.

With these shifts, our students and our organizational practices also need to shift with the times so that we can continue to disseminate, discuss and debate the issues that affect our and others' lives. As such, I hope that you will enjoy reading about the ways in which our students, faculty and staff are learning and shaping how we interact with and experience our time. Students need to be able to share their growing understanding of the world around them in the media that suits their stories best—they are podcasting and posting, they are broadcasting with our local TV stations, and they are working with our regional sports teams, as they learn that there is so much more to broadcasting baseball than conveying "who's on first."

Whenever I lament the demise of daily newspapers or cringe at another public radio pledge drive, I try to remember that the 25 students in the Class of 1840 likely had the same sorts of worries about the state of their state, their country and the ways in which their students would hear about the important issues of the day. Like us, I am certain they wanted their students to be well informed so that they could convey to *their* students, the next generation of teachers, the importance of all that was taking place around them.

Framingham State University stands on the shoulders of giants—who are we to do anything less than harness the media we have, so that we can help our communities wrestle with all that shapes our lives?

BEST WISHES,



Nancy S. Niemi, PhD

President
Framingham State University

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New initiative gives students access to Open Educational Resources (OER) that are free and culturally relevant.

The snapshot

“We are thrilled to partner with WPI on these agreements, which provide students with an affordable path to an outstanding master’s degree in three in-demand fields in the Commonwealth.”

— PRESIDENT NANCY S. NIEMI

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CAMPUS NEWS

Framingham State and WPI Celebrate New Partnership

Leaders from Framingham State University (FSU) and Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) gathered on the FSU campus last November to celebrate new transfer and accelerated program agreements between the two institutions that benefit undergraduate science and pre-engineering students.

The new transfer agreement enables pre-engineering students at Framingham State who meet academic requirements to transfer seamlessly into WPI’s School of Engineering to complete a Bachelor of Science in Engineering. WPI welcomed three pre-engineering students from Framingham State into its community last fall through the new agreement.



FSU President Nancy S. Niemi and WPI President Grace J. Wang celebrate the new partnership.

The two institutions are also partnering on three new Collaborative Accelerated Master Programs (CAMP) in Data Science, Medicinal Chemistry and Neuroscience. Students in the programs can begin taking graduate-level courses during their senior year at FSU. Credits from those courses will apply to both their undergraduate degree and a master’s degree, which they will complete the following year at WPI.

Framingham State President Nancy S. Niemi and WPI President Grace J. Wang celebrated the new partnership during an official signing event at FSU.

CAMPUS NEWS

Framingham State Is the New Home of the MetroWest Symphony Orchestra

One of President Nancy S. Niemi’s goals as the leader of Framingham State is to incorporate more music into the FSU experience. So, when the MetroWest Symphony Orchestra (MSO) was looking for a new home, she jumped at the opportunity to offer up the University.

“Having the orchestra here is one way to start to show students and community members that music can be a wonderful part of the University experience,” President Niemi says. “I really feel the community can benefit from this partnership.” MSO Conductor Max Hobart agrees.

Framingham State English Professor Marianne McGowan and *Jeopardy!* host Ken Jennings on the set of the hit game show.



"The quality of the University's auditorium is so much better than we had at the high school auditorium where we previously performed," Hobart says. "The acoustics are perfect."

The MSO held its debut concert in the Dwight Hall Performing Arts Center last November. Hobart hopes to encourage more students and members of the FSU community to attend the performances, in addition to the greater MetroWest community.

"I would love to see more student participation," he says.



To learn more about upcoming performances, visit:

[METROWEST SYMPHONY.ORG](http://METROWESTSYMPHONY.ORG)

CAMPUS NEWS

Framingham State English Professor Marianne McGowan Competes on *Jeopardy!*

Fans of *Jeopardy!* within the Framingham State community received a big surprise last fall when host Ken Jennings introduced one of our own, Professor Marianne McGowan, as a contestant.

McGowan, a visiting lecturer in the English Department, had told very few people that she would be appearing. And while she did not win her episode, which aired on September 27, 2024, she did make FSU proud, coming in second place with a very respectable final score of \$10,400.

"The two women I was up against were very quick on the buzzer," McGowan says. "That is something I struggled with. But I told myself going in that I at least wanted to come in second place, so I was able to do that."

McGowan has been teaching in the First Year Writing Program at FSU for four years, and has been a writing tutor for the Center for Academic Success and Advising (CASA) for ten years. She is a former journalist for the Associated Press.

She flew out to the *Jeopardy!* studios in Culver City, CA, in June with her son and admits to being a "nervous wreck" leading up to the taping. But McGowan says the producers do a great job of putting everyone at ease once you arrive at the studio.

"The staff is great, and they make sure everyone has a good experience," she says. "They tape five episodes per day, so you are part of a group of 11 contestants who are in from all over the country. It was a lot of fun."

CAMPUS NEWS

Framingham State Unveils Student-Created Native American Land Acknowledgment Mural

Leaders from the local Natick Nipmuc Tribe joined members of the Framingham State University community last fall for the unveiling of a student-created Native American Land Acknowledgment Mural in the Henry Whittemore Library.

said prior to the unveiling. "It was a wonderful experience for the students to get that input and feel more confident about the authenticity of their creation."

The students who created the mural are Andreas Chaniotakis, Marcus Falcão, Jaclyn Gattonini and Zoe Holland.

"Being here today was amazing," Falcão said after the ceremony. "We had been communicating with the tribal members through Zoom, so getting to see them in person and show them the mural was really special."

Framingham State University sits on the ground that was the original homeland of the Nipmuc Tribal Nations. The mural is part of a larger effort led by FSU President Nancy S. Niemi and Vice President and Chief Diversity

and Inclusion Officer Jeffrey Coleman to foster deeper ties between the University and local tribal groups.

"FSU is committed to being an integral part of the surrounding communities," Dr. Niemi said. "This effort is education at its best, as we honor and respect the many Indigenous peoples connected to this land."

Those in attendance included Steven Goler, Chief of the Natick Nipmuc Tribe; Maria Turner, Chairwoman of the Nipmuc Tribe; and Emma Jo Brennan, from the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe.

"We thank Marc and the students for this beautiful mural," Turner said. "We couldn't ask for anything better. It really is heartwarming to look at."

The mural, which depicts several scenes of Nipmuc life and connection to the land and water, was painted by four Framingham State students under the direction of Marc Cote, professor and chair of the Arts and Music Department.

"Members of the Nipmuc Tribe lent their expertise, advice and impassioned commentary throughout the planning and completion of the project," Cote



The new student-created mural in the Henry Whittemore Library.



RAM IN FOCUS

Isabella (Bella) DiMare '26

HOMETOWN:
Wakefield, MA

MAJOR:
Sports
Management

POSITION:
Goalie

Isabella (Bella) DiMare '26 Minds the Net for the Women's Lacrosse Team

The Women's Lacrosse team is coming off a MASCAC (Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference) regular season championship with an eye toward bigger prizes this spring thanks in part to the strong play of goalie Bella DiMare '26.

The Sports Management major had an immediate impact on the team her first year, starting in nine games, before taking over as the full-time starter in goal as a sophomore. She helped lead the team to a 14-4 record and earned All-MASCAC second team honors along the way.

Now in her junior year, DiMare is feeling very optimistic about the 2025 team, which will be looking to avenge its upset loss in the MASCAC tournament finals to Westfield State University.

"I think we have a great shot to win it this year," she says. "We have a really strong team and program. Our coaching is great. I'm excited to be one of the leaders on this team."

DiMare has been playing lacrosse since she was in kindergarten and is a passionate student of the game. She follows and studies goalies from many Division I programs. When she first arrived at Framingham State, DiMare says she was quiet and kept a low profile, while looking up to the more senior players.

"I'm excited to be one of the players that our first-year and sophomore students can look up to this year," she says. "It's made me more mindful of how I act in front of the team. I want to set a good example."

DiMare hopes to turn her passion for sports into a career by majoring in Sports Management. She has already done some coaching with the Bay State Bullets, a club Lacrosse team based out of Acton, as well as for Nike camps and private lessons.

"I definitely plan to stay connected to the sport," she says. "I'm grateful for the experience I've had at Framingham State. Everybody knows each other and it feels like home. I've found friends here who I'll have for life."

Making Costly Textbooks a Thing of the Past

**Framingham State
biology professor
Amanda Simons first
gained interest in
Open Educational
Resources (OER)
during the outbreak
of COVID-19, when it
became clear that there
was a problem with
textbook access among
her students.**

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"It became obvious that some students didn't have access to the materials they needed," says Simons. "During a sabbatical in 2021, I chose to focus on creating OER materials for my genetics class."

With the cost of textbooks going up each year, FSU's Henry Whittemore Library is currently at the forefront of a textbook affordability initiative that connects accessibility and inclusiveness with faculty-developed OER materials. The University is the lead recipient on two grants from the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) totaling nearly \$3.3 million to get the effort off the ground.

Open Educational Resources are teaching, learning and research materials that reside in the public domain. There is a growing consensus in higher education that OER positively impacts student learning and student persistence.

"We believe that underrepresented students will achieve higher academic outcomes if they have access to free, culturally relevant course materials that reflect their experiences," says Millie Gonzalez, former Dean of Framingham State's Henry Whittemore Library and the lead author of the ROTEL (Remixing Open Textbooks through an Equity Lens) and CA-ROTEL (Career and AI Readiness while Remixing Open Textbooks through an Equity Lens) grant proposals.



Examples of FSU faculty-developed OER:

- English Professor **Patricia Lynne**: *Reading and Writing Successfully in College: A Guide for Students*
- Archaeology Professor **Demetrios Brellas**: *Shared Voices: An Introduction to Cultural Anthropology*
- Mathematics Professor **Ben Atchison**: *College Algebra*
- Biology Professor **Amanda Simons**: *Chromosomes, Genes, and Traits: An Introduction to Genetics*
- Statistics Instructor **Yvonne Anthony**: *Statistics Through an Equity Lens*

Professor **Amanda Simons** (above) recently published an OER text called *Chromosomes, Genes and Traits: An Introduction to Genetics*.

Simons dedicated portions of her OER text—*Chromosomes, Genes and Traits: An Introduction to Genetics*—to examining historical and current problems in genetics, such as the continued treatment of sex as binary (male vs. female), when, in reality, it’s not that simple. She has set up her class so that students have the option of purchasing the traditional hardcover textbook for the course (at a cost of around \$150) or using her free OER book.

“Different people learn best with different tools,” says Simons. “It was important for me to give students choices.”

The University has partnered with Fitchburg State University, Holyoke Community College, Northern Essex Community College, Salem State University and Springfield Technical Community College on the ROTEL initiative. A subsequent effort, CA-ROTEL,

is aimed at developing open textbooks for high-enrolling general education courses that are applicable across the Community College, State University and UMass systems in Massachusetts. Both projects are 100% funded with federal grant money, with the latter focused on creating OER with an emphasis on Career and AI readiness.

“We are looking to develop a model that can be implemented across the country,” says Gonzalez. “Already, some of the materials that have been created through the project are being used by other schools. The preliminary reports on the new OER textbooks that are being used in the classroom are very positive. Not only are students engaged with the materials, the DFW (Drop, Fail, Withdraw) rates are lower than comparable classrooms.”

A complete listing of the ROTEL textbooks is available for free on the Pressbooks directory:

WWW.ROTEL.PRESSBOOKS.PUB.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Rachel Rafferty '25 and Adrien Gobin '26

Rachel Rafferty '25 and Adrien Gobin '26 Bond Over Shared Love of Sports Photography

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Rachel Rafferty '25

MAJOR:
Marketing;
Minor in Sports
Management

FSU ACTIVITIES:
Senior Rams
Engagement
Ambassador

Adrien Gobin '26

MAJOR:
Communications
and Media
Studies; Minors
in Marketing
and Sports
Management

FSU ACTIVITIES:
Gatepost
Photographer,
Sports
Information
Intern, Rams
Engagement
Ambassador

"People ask me a lot how I find the time for everything," says Gobin. In addition to classwork, she is a photo and design editor for *The Gatepost* student newspaper, a Rams Engagement Ambassador and a Sports Information Intern for the Athletic Department. "I don't really have a good answer, other than I have a planner and a Google calendar, and this is what I want to be doing."

Rafferty and Gobin are two members of the talented team of students who oversee the FSU365 Instagram account, which has quickly become one of the most popular social media accounts within the University. The team, which is led this year by Rafferty, also includes Ben Hurney '25 and Ryan Mikelis '24.

"Adrien and I were first introduced last summer through the Rams Ambassador Program, and we quickly gravitated toward each other," says Rafferty. "We both have a love of sports, and she helped me discover a passion for photography that I was not expecting."

Rafferty has since landed a Game Day Operations internship with the Worcester Railers Ice Hockey club and received permission to shadow their media team and take photos during games. She also just accepted a photography and social media position with the Newport Gulls that she starts this summer after graduating.

"I've quickly found something that I really enjoy doing, so I'm immersing myself in it as much as I can," says Rafferty. "Adrien has been a big help. I tell prospective students that one of the best things about being at a small school is you get opportunities that may not exist at larger schools, where there are so many more students competing for limited positions. I wouldn't be where I am today if I didn't attend Framingham State."

While Rafferty prepares to graduate, Gobin is still on the search for her next internship as she continues to develop her skills. In the meantime, the pair of friends continues to support and learn from each other as they pursue their shared passion. To see their work, visit:

Rachel Rafferty:

WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/RKR.FLICKS/

Adrien Gobin:

WWW.SITES.GOOGLE.COM/VIEW/ADRIENLEEGOBIN



Adrien Gobin, left, and Rachel Rafferty

CAMPUS NEWS

Professor Rachel Trousdale's Upcoming Book of Poetry Is the Inaugural Winner of the Cardinal Poetry Prize

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Framingham State University English professor Rachel Trousdale, PhD, has been honored with the inaugural Cardinal Poetry Prize presented by Wesleyan University Press for the manuscript of her upcoming collection of poetry, *Five-Paragraph Essay on the Body-Mind Problem*.

Following an initial screening process of 428 manuscripts, the winning manuscript was selected from 15 finalists by guest judge Robert Pinsky, three-time U.S. Poet Laureate.

Of Trousdale's manuscript, Pinsky said, "A rare gift in art is directness: to turn a clear, unsentimental gaze on love and grief in all their variations, with no smokey or mysterioso evasions. Almost as valuable is meaningful surprise, the stunned laughter of recognition even if the subject for



Rachel Trousdale is a Professor of English at Framingham State University.

marvel is loss. The heartfelt, unpredictable poems of Rachel Trousdale attain that kind of discovery."

Trousdale says a central theme of the poems in the book is "Who do you love and why?" and "What does it mean?"

"I was thinking about my husband, my kids, my parents and some of the pressure that came out of the pandemic," she says.

As the winner of the Cardinal Poetry Prize, which was open to poets aged 40 or older who have never published a poetry book or have not published a new original poetry collection within the last 10 years, Trousdale will receive a \$1,000 cash prize and will have her manuscript published in the acclaimed *Wesleyan University Press Poetry Series* this spring.

"Wesleyan University Press is my dream publisher," says Trousdale. "When I think that my work will be in the company of the poets on

their list, I pinch myself. It was also a big honor to be selected by Robert Pinsky, whose work I have admired since I was an undergraduate."

Trousdale's poems have previously appeared in *The Nation*, *The Yale Review*, *Diagram* and other journals, as well as a chapbook, *Antiphonal Fugue for Marx Brothers, Elephant and Slide Trombone* (Fishing Line Press, 2015). Her scholarly work includes *Humor, Empathy and Community in Twentieth-Century American Poetry* (Oxford University Press, 2021) and *Nabokov, Rushdie and the Transnational Imagination* (Macmillan, 2010). *Five-Paragraph Essay on the Body-Mind Problem* will be her first full-length collection of poetry.

You can learn more about her work at: WWW.RACHELTROUSDALE.COM

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Ishara Mills-Henry



Dr. Ishara Mills-Henry Helps Recruit More Science Faculty of Color to FSU

As the director of the AGEP Massachusetts State University System (AGEP-MUS) alliance, Chemistry and Food Science professor Ishara Mills-Henry is at the forefront of the region’s effort to recruit and retain more faculty of color.

The initiative is funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and aims to develop, implement and institutionalize an equity-minded model for advancing early career STEM faculty. As the Framingham State University student population becomes increasingly more diverse, the urgency to recruit more faculty of color has also increased.

“The research shows that representation matters,” says Mills-Henry, who has taught at FSU since 2011. “Faculty of color are more likely to bring diverse viewpoints, and also can provide innovative ways of teaching diverse populations. It’s really crucial to the retention of students of color.”

Mills-Henry has a unique perspective to bring to the program, as she was the inaugural recipient of Framingham State’s Mary Miles Bibb Diversity Fellowship. That program provided her with mentorship and guidance as she was advancing in her career.

“It can be very challenging starting out in your teaching career,” she says. “Being in a position now to mentor and be a resource for our faculty fellows has been really rewarding for me.”

Mills-Henry took a temporary leave from teaching in August to take over as director of the AGEP-MUS alliance, which also includes Worcester State and Bridgewater State universities. In this role, she works on initiatives to recruit new applicants and oversees programming for AGEP faculty. She says that many PhD candidates aren’t even aware that there are colleges like Framingham State where the primary focus of faculty is on teaching rather than research.

“I’ve been able to communicate to them what my life is like at a teaching university,” she says. “One thing I really enjoy about Framingham State is interacting and getting to know the students. I enjoy figuring out what motivates them to learn and how to engage them in the learning process.”

Mills-Henry says that she is excited about the progress being made to diversify and support faculty at FSU, while acknowledging that a lot more work needs to be done.

“We are working to change the culture,” she says. “We want to recruit and support more of these faculty members of color, not just in STEM, but across the University.”

DEPARTMENT:
Chemistry and Food Science

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND:
BS and MS, Biology, Clark Atlanta University

PhD,
Biochemistry, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

CRANK IT UP

New digital media courses amplify the talents of students and faculty and draw the Framingham community closer.

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A soundboard in the WDJM radio station at FSU.



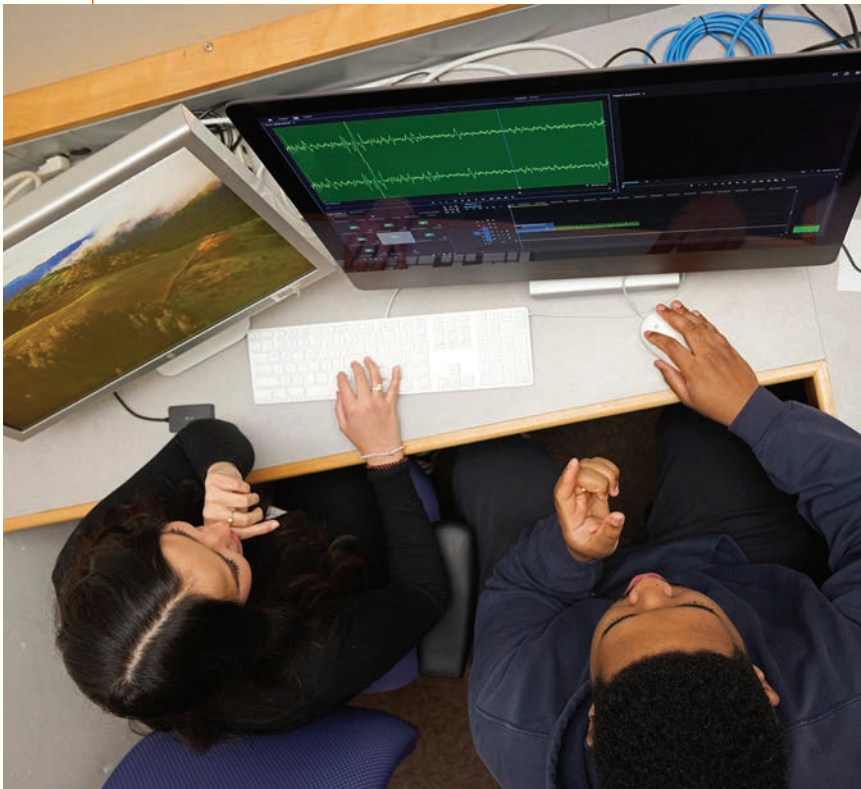
The "on air" sign outside the FSU film studio.

WORDS

Kristen Paulson-Nguyen

PHOTOS

Kent Dayton



Two students work on mixing sound for a video reel.

As two teams battled for possession on the field, seven communication artists got to work. Terrell Jeanlys '25 operated graphics, audio engineer Stella Socha '26 leveled playback videos, and Ursile Louis-Jacques '26 worked the room as technical director and kept her classmates calm. Patrick McMahon '26 zoomed in on important plays, while Adrien Gobin '26 hopped in and out of the booth, operated a camera and assisted with replays. From the sidelines, Shae Keating '25 reported and handled a second camera as Daniel Meade '25 commentated his first sporting event.

A hands-on broadcasting offering and a course in podcasting have amplified students' voices to a world audience, enabled experiences that will translate to jobs and afforded faculty a new way to teach and share their research. Alumni industry contacts and insight have given students a competitive edge as they find work in satellite radio, sports broadcasting and entertainment.

“We’re always looking to build connections for our students and for our program, both on and off campus.”

NIALL STEPHENS

Department of Communication, Media and Performance Chair; Associate Professor

“I’ve had great experiences with Framingham State University interns,” says Jason Daniels, executive director of Access Framingham Television (AFTV). He contacted Niall Stephens, associate professor and chair of the Department of Communication, Media and Performance, with an offer to collaborate further. AFTV manages the Framingham Education Channel (FEC), a school district owned cable TV station populated with content produced for and by TV broadcast students at Framingham High School.

“We’re always looking to build connections for our students and for our program, both on and off campus,” says Stephens. Last fall, the department debuted the football broadcasting seminar in partnership with AFTV. Paul M. Bouley ’06, educational television station manager and executive producer, taught the course at the station. Bouley directed the production of two highlight reels and The Kelly Cup, a short about a family football lineage. He appreciated the opportunity to pay forward some of the experiences he has been granted during a long television production career. “It was important to give students the opportunity to take their technical and storytelling skills and create something tangible,” says Bouley. “Now they’re able to share their work with family and potential employers on social media platforms such as YouTube. Because of my position at FEC-TV, I can ensure that students’ excellently produced pieces are seen virtually anywhere.”



Scripts and schedules.

Working in the film studio.

Stephens highlighted the learning environment. “Students get to learn in a fully functioning modern TV studio and benefit from the expertise of AFTV professionals,” he says.

Meade generated clips to send to prospective employers. “I want to be as versatile as I can and to enter the job market well prepared,” he says. “Thanks to this course, I already have an idea of what I’ll do on the job.”

Beyond gaining digital media knowledge, students also need to learn storytelling skills, such as collaborating, giving and receiving feedback, interviewing, writing and revising.

“All students should have the opportunity to share their ideas with the world says T. Stores, Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities. They see Communication, Media and Performance students partnering with writing students and award-winning *Gatepost* staff to gain interviewing skills and taking advantage of visits from lecturers and scientists to practice their craft. They were excited to step into the hubbub of AFTV’s production van during the first of two games that students broadcast. “The best kind of education is when students disrupt norms and discover new skills,” says Stores. “I could see students were learning so much.” Stores has also prioritized using digital media to connect with the larger Framingham community.

Associate Professor of Music Christian Gentry shares Stores’ vision of connection. “I saw an avenue for the University to be more public facing with student work,” says Gentry, who teaches music production and performance. This fall, with the support of a Mancuso Faculty Fellowship, a grant from the Educational Technology Office and two student interns, Gentry launched Framingham State University’s first audio production lab. The lab will initially focus on podcasting. Students from five courses instructed by arts and humanities professors have recorded podcasts. More than 40 completed works emerged, ranging from five-minute stories to a lengthy film discussion. Jordan Newell ’24 and Christopher Park ’25, the lab’s interns, edited and mastered all the audio. “Students are still learning to write well,” says Gentry, “but when pressed to express their emotions, they can be eloquent and thoughtful.” Gentry considers podcasting not only a high-impact learning experience for students that exposes them to audio production and editing, but also a multidisciplinary, public-facing pedagogical tool for faculty.

Gentry plans to further amplify student work to the public by sharing it with the Center for Digital Humanities and on WDJM 91.3, Framingham State Ram Radio.

Most Framingham State University students self-fund their education, just like alumna Marcie Mills ’84, a senior advertising executive who has held positions at SiriusXM and Pandora. “Highlight your self-funded education in job interviews,” says Mills. “It’s an important part of what you’ve accomplished.” She offers a wealth of advice: Who you know is still critically important to finding employment. Build a network to help you get your résumé to the right people. Your network will help you connect with an insider in the company you want to work for, particularly for the top employers in your field. Include Framingham State University graduates. “We have many successful alumni working at exciting companies who are eager to help you,” says Mills.



Students work with interview equipment.

40+

Completed podcasts in the new audio production lab.

“We have many successful alumni working at exciting companies who are eager to help you.”

MARCIE MILLS '84

Senior advertising executive

Since top employers are often the hardest to access, research is critical. Find out which startups are getting funding today and will be hiring tomorrow. “These startups may be the ones who are going to open their doors and say, ‘Come on in; we need you,’” says Mills.

Doing volunteer work is still a great way to network. Answer the phones at a public radio fundraising drive and you’ll meet people. And finally, Mills advises, if you want to work for the big players, don’t be afraid to start in an entry-level position. It may not be exactly what you want to do, but it will get you in the door.

Communication Arts major Stella Socha took both podcasting and broadcasting. Participating in Bouley’s course-wide feedback session after the first game enabled her to be more efficient and set and desat without guidance during the second game, when she was audio engineer. “I discovered I liked being an audio engineer better than being a camera operator,” says Socha, who hosts a pop culture and music show on WDJM. Field trips to Polar Park in Worcester, including a visit to the Worcester Red Sox control room and to a local equipment rental company, exposed Socha to the wide range of technology used in sports broadcasting. She also feels prepared to use her newfound audio skills in the podcasting space. “Podcasting will only get bigger,” says Socha. “Having this exposure will give me a leg up on the competition.”

After the visit to Polar Park, Shae Keating became interested in working there. “We got to see the entire screen setup and how they do monitors and even checked out a 10-foot switcher. We also got to spend time in the booths where they record,” says Keating.

As they build a framework for student accomplishments, Stores is optimistic about the employment outlook for students. “All companies use podcasts,” they say. Gentry



A student films in the Henry Whittemore Library.



Professor Christian Gentry in one of the audio production labs.

sees students finding work for third-party apps and in production houses. Stephens and Bouley are collaborating to expand AFTV's Access Film Festival to include screenings and events on campus. Bouley, who is eager to recommend students to colleagues who work in television, points out that the Boston designated market area (DMA) is the ninth-largest media market in the country. He envisions the broadcasting course becoming an institutional support system for campus sports teams.

Mills joined music and podcast streaming service Pandora 15 years ago, just as the company launched and the digital streaming space was opening. Today, while

Mills sees a broader range of choices in media for graduates to pursue, she also recognizes that competition is fierce. "It has been my honor to watch Framingham State University level the playing field for people who can't afford to attend elite colleges yet come out as prepared for success as those who can," Mills says. "In fact, our graduates—many of whom already have work experience—are even more ready to enter the workplace. They aren't just going to work in the future of audio and video; they are going to design it, build it and bring it to market."

Making an impact

Couples Edition



Learn how to be a
part of the alumni
community

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

“During my time at FSU, I made many friends and established a network of business associates that helped shape my life.”

— PETE MOYNIHAN '81

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ALUMNI PROFILE

Marc Long '09 and Angel (Seto) Long '09



**Marc Long '09 and
Angel (Seto) Long '09
with their two children.**

Angel (Seto) Long '09 enrolled at Framingham State University in 2004 with the idea of one day becoming a music teacher, but without a firm grasp of where her education would take her. She took a variety of different classes early on, but it was her experience as a member on the Student Union Activities Board (SUAB) that ultimately led her to discover her passion for student affairs.

“I loved working with my fellow students on programming and events,” Long says.

Her first job after graduating was as the club coordinator at Framingham State. She would move on to roles at Tufts University and MIT, before joining the Office of Student Engagement at Babson College in 2014. Today, she oversees the office as director.

She met her husband Marc Long during their sophomore years at FSU. She was in SUAB and Marc was an RA in Towers Hall. They quickly connected over their love for live music and have been together ever since. They have two children and a puggle named Boston.

After working a variety of different jobs in the technology sector, Marc found his passion as a small business owner. The couple purchased Postalcenter Nashua in 2023, a pack and ship business in Nashua, NH.

“He’s up there six days a week running the business, and he loves it,” she says.

ALUMNI PROFILE

Sara (Malicka) Wingard '17 and Jaleel Wingard '17



**Sara (Malicka)
Wingard '17 and Jaleel
Wingard '17 launched
a sushi business.**

Sara and Jaleel Wingard are proud alumni of Framingham State University, where their journey together first began as students and athletes. Jaleel was a defensive back on the football team and Sara was a defensive specialist on the volleyball team. Since their time on campus, their lives have been an incredible adventure, now as parents to three children and co-owners of The Sushi Class, a small business specializing in sushi-making classes, catering, and unique dining experiences across New England.

The Sushi Class is a fun, hands-on culinary experience that brings people together to learn the art of sushi making in a relaxed and social atmosphere. The company hosts classes at wineries, breweries and unique venues, turning sushi making into an unforgettable experience with friends, family or coworkers.

Learn more at: [THESUSHICLASS.COM](https://thesushiclass.com)

ALUMNI PROFILE

Jayne Moynihan '80 and Pete Moynihan '81

Jayne (Pagnini) Moynihan and Pete Moynihan built a life together that began with a chance meeting on campus. Jayne, a sociology major and cheerleader, and Pete, a political science major and varsity hockey player, first met when a mutual friend introduced them during a study session. After graduation, the couple remained in the MetroWest area, raising three children while building successful careers.

Pete worked in Supply Chain management for Data General and most recently at Bose Corporation where he retired from in 2015 after nearly 30 years. Since 2012, he has taught as an adjunct professor in the Management and Business IT Department. Jayne was a teaching assistant in the Milford area for more than 20 years.

Their fondest memories of FSU include attending events, traveling with the hockey team and traditions like watching the Boston Marathon from downtown Framingham.

"During my time at FSU, I made many friends and established a network of business associates that helped shape my life," says Pete Moynihan.

"I had mentors such as professors John Ambacher and Mary Murphy who took time to provide guidance and made a difference in my life. I give back hoping that I can help one student succeed the way John and Mary helped me."



**Jayne Moynihan '80
and Pete Moynihan '81
began dating at FSU.**

Class notes

1970s

Judy Culver '75 will be retiring from Purple Plume women's clothing and handcrafted jewelry, a boutique she started 43 years ago in downtown Lenox.

Dr. Michael Pregot G'75 is pleased to announce the release of his latest book published by Sunbury Press, *Slavery and Abolitionism on Cape Cod*. This book is a follow-up to his first maritime book, *Sea Captains of Cape Cod*. He has retired from teaching and now enjoys delving into the historic events that surround the richness of the Cape experience.



Kevin Whitney G'04 is President and Chief Operating Officer at Cooley Dickinson Hospital.



Tod Caffisch '83 spent the 2024 summer in Paris supporting the Olympics and Paralympics.



Cassie (McLaughlin) Wheeler '04 and **Matthew Wheeler '01** recently celebrated 15 years of marriage.

Gail Hargrave '95 recently returned to Framingham State to pursue her master's degree in English 30 years after earning her bachelor's degree at FSU! She is planning to transition from an elementary English language teacher to a prospective writing instructor or tutor at the college level and is thrilled to be back at FSU!

Tina Wong '96 was appointed interim human resources director for the North Carolina Department of Justice, where she has served as deputy human resources director.

Dr. Suzanne Galusi '97 has been appointed as Interim Superintendent of Schools for the Medford School District, effective January 18, 2025.

John Bonney '98 was recently named Abington, Massachusetts' new Police Chief. Bonney holds a master's degree in criminal justice from Western New England University and a bachelor's degree in Communication from Framingham State University.

Joseph Palowich '98 recently became the Vice President for Alternative Portfolio Services for Fidelity Investments Compliance Risk and Business Operations Group.

2000s

Cassie (McLaughlin) Wheeler '04 and **Matthew Wheeler '01** met at Framingham State in 2000 while living in Towers—he was a hockey player, and she cheered before joining the Patriots Cheerleaders. Cassie is now a registered nurse, and Matthew works in legal compliance in Boston and they have three children. This July, they celebrate 15 years of marriage, grateful for the place where their love story began.

Kevin Whitney G'04 has been named president and chief operating officer of Cooley Dickinson Hospital, assuming the role on March 15 after serving as the hospital's chief nursing officer. With over 34 years of experience in health care, Whitney previously held leadership positions at Massachusetts General Hospital and Newton-Wellesley Hospital. He plans to focus initially on recruitment efforts.

1980s

Tod Caffisch '83 spent the entire 2024 summer in Paris working with On Location supporting hospitality technology at the Olympics and Paralympics. In this role, he managed teams responsible for operations at Versailles (Equestrian, Modern Pentathlon), Golf National (Men's/Women's Golf) and Velodrome National (Track Cycling, BMX). Upon returning, he started a new role with League One Volleyball (LOVB) as their Sr. Director Team & Venue Technology. LOVB is a new women's professional volleyball league competing in Atlanta, Austin, Houston, Madison, Omaha and Salt Lake City.

Ron MacInnis '89 was in Washington, D.C. on December 1 for World AIDS Day to see the AIDS Memorial Quilt displayed on the White House South Lawn for the first time. Ron is currently the Technical Director for HIV at The Palladium Group, an international development firm.

1990s

Sandi Gettelfinger '92 appeared on *Wheel of Fortune* in January!

Colleen Dolan '95 recently started at Relatable, a Games company in New York City as Vice President, Brand Strategy and Marketing Communications.

IN MEMORIAM

- Kathleen Tivnan '47
10/26/2023
- Regina (Hill) Hoey '49
9/27/2024
- Betty Spiller '52
11/16/2024
- Anna Barrow '53
1/13/2025
- Mary Philippon '57
3/13/2024
- Carol Walsh '58
1/10/2025
- Ada (Smith) Wright '58
12/26/2024
- Ida Papalia '59
1/25/2025
- Elizabeth Popko '59
11/19/2024
- Joyce (Farrar) Sirard '59
12/31/2024
- Janet (Miller) Doe '60
7/28/2024
- Patricia (Skinder) Murphy '61
12/12/2024
- Mary (Orton) Kittredge G '62
10/27/2024
- Julie Malkemus '63
8/26/2024
- Patricia (Moise) Warren '63
11/14/2024
- Maureen (McDonough) Healey '64
7/23/2024
- Carol (Close) Hazel '66
9/2/2024
- Joanne Bellucci G '67
12/28/2024
- Jacqueline (Lennon) Halligan '67
11/19/2024
- Mary Goodell '69
12/9/2024
- Mary (Aiken) Tribe G '69
8/18/2024
- Donna Carter '70
11/17/2024
- George Pollard '71
10/23/2024
- Sheila (Hass) Ufland '71
12/6/2024
- Carolyn Johnson G '72
11/20/2024
- Maureen (Flynn) Watkins '72
9/9/2024
- Patricia (Gibbons) Kuehne '74
1/11/2025
- Joseph Sinclair '75
12/4/2024
- Lillian Travaglini '75
9/29/2024
- Gail Jenks G '76
10/30/2024
- Jaune Quick-to-See Smith '76
1/24/2025
- Linda J. Stacey '76
10/15/2024
- Kathleen Taylor '78
1/24/2025
- Baiba Ozols '81
8/2/2024
- David Lopes '82
12/12/2024
- Gerard Kelly '83
10/5/2024
- Julie Lamorte '83
9/25/2024
- John Malloy '83
12/4/2024
- Theresa (Napolitian) Casey '85
9/16/2024
- Deede (Denz) Williams '85
11/21/2024
- John Marcelonis '86
7/17/2024
- Jeanne (Mongeau) Lappas '87
10/10/2024
- Patricia Hayes '88
10/6/2024
- Ayune Michel G '89
11/14/2024
- David Halloran '93
11/6/2024
- Dorothy (Wickert) Krause '93
8/22/2024
- Mark Shanley '93
11/12/2024
- Christina (Almstead) Kasierski '98
8/25/2024
- Marco Etter '01
10/4/2024
- Joan Sacco '05
12/8/2024
- Eugene Savage G '05
10/3/2024
- William Palomares '20
11/2/2024

Rachael Orellana G'06 joined GEI Consultants as Program Manager, bringing 18 years of flood risk management experience and a proven track record as a project and program manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

2010s

Patrick Hashem '11 recently made a career change to financial planning after 10 years in the aviation industry.

Kalina Flood '12 started her first season in a dream job as a MassWildlife technician stationed in western Massachusetts.

Former Rams baseball teammates **Chris Blydell '12** and **Justin Stanizzi '13** found themselves in the maternity ward together, as their wives each gave birth to twins on the same day.

Alyssa Duprey '15 started a new position as a Visual Communications Project Coordinator at MIT Lincoln Laboratory. She credits graphic designer Professors Laura Osterweis and Jennifer Dowling with helping her discover her love for print and digital design.

Stephanie Kotob '15 is running the 2025 Boston Marathon for the Newton Firefighters Children's Fund.

Jillian Roberts G'16 is stepping into the role of Director of Community Engagement and Strategy at Ecamm Network, LLC, focusing on fostering meaningful connections, amplifying the voices of creators and helping to grow Ecamm's vibrant community.

Amelia Foley '18 and **Cameron Coburn '17** reconnected after graduating from Framingham State and now are engaged and expecting their first baby!

Michelle Biasella G'15, G'18 recently returned to FSU as a visiting lecturer in the Education Department and is excited for this new opportunity to guide future teachers.

2020s

Ashley Wall '21, G'22 started a new role as copy editor for SharkNinja and got engaged to fellow alum **Donald Halsing '22!**

Claudia Tosi '23 is excited to report she is starting a new position as a merchandise assistant at TJX.



IN MEMORIAM

Jaune Quick-to-See Smith '76

Remembering FSU Alumna and Famed Artist Jaune Quick-to-See Smith '76

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Sovereign Nations by Juane Quick-to-See Smith '76 is part of the permanent collection at the Danforth Art Museum.

Jaune Quick-to-See Smith '76, a groundbreaking visual artist, curator and activist, passed away in January at her home in Corrales, New Mexico, at the age of 85.

For decades, Smith has been a force in the Indigenous Peoples art community. A citizen of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Smith used her art to powerfully assert that she and other Native Americans bore a strong connection to the ancestral lands that had been stripped away from them. Many of her works focus on cultural abuses, tribal politics, human rights and environmental loss and destruction. Smith merged the past and present by combining Indigenous imagery and symbols with provocative newspaper clippings, scrawled or overlapping text and the application of paint to represent blood or tears.

A retrospective titled *Memory Map*, featuring her nearly five decades of drawings, prints, paintings and sculptures, went on display at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City in 2023.

Smith graduated from then Framingham State College in 1976 with a Bachelor of Arts in Art Education.

A mixed media piece by Smith called *Sovereign Nations* is part of the permanent collection of the Danforth Art Museum at Framingham State University.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

James "Jimmy" '05 and Lauryn '07 Hastings

FSU Couple Takes Indirect Paths to Career Success

Many of today's students struggle to choose their major, feeling that the decision will lock them into a specific career path for the rest of their lives. But the reality is that a strong liberal arts education in almost any subject can provide the foundational skills to excel in numerous fields.

Just look at the example of Jimmy '05 and Lauryn '07 Hastings. He graduated from Framingham State with a degree in Computer Science but quickly transitioned to a successful career in wealth management. She graduated with a degree in English, but went on to become a pediatric nurse. Both credit Framingham State with helping them get to where they are today.

"I was torn between computer science and finance when I was looking at schools, and I liked the fact that Framingham State had strong curriculums in both subjects," says Jimmy Hastings. "I ended up going the computer science route, but then upon graduation I found that I was drawn more toward finance. I was able to quickly recalibrate."

He would go on to become a Certified Financial Planner. Jimmy has been with Lexington Wealth Management for 14 years, beginning in an entry-level position when the firm was very small and managing just \$3 million in assets. Today, the firm manages \$3.3 billion in assets, and he is on the executive management team with hopes of becoming a partner within the next year.

Lauryn Hastings enrolled at Framingham State with her mind set on the Fashion Merchandising major, but quickly realized that the business aspect of the degree was not for her. She graduated with a degree in English and started working in early childhood education. She and Jimmy, who met and started dating at FSU, got married and had children who wound up having severe food allergies.

"That really threw us for a loop," she says. "Through that experience, I started to become more passionate about combining my background in early childhood education with the medical field, and felt pulled toward nursing."

She became a registered nurse in 2021 and now works at Lexington Pediatrics. The couple has three children.

In 2015, Jimmy reconnected with Framingham State when he was asked to volunteer his skills on the University's Foundation Board, which manages endowment funds and provides support to students.

"It's been great being able to apply my background in finance in order to help today's students," he says. "We both had a great experience at Framingham State, so it's nice to give back."



Learn more at:
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.

The UCC is now home to Henry's Place, a restaurant and clubhouse featuring a delicious dining menu and full bar.

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!

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Alumni events



OCTOBER 25–26, 2024

Homecoming & Family Weekend

Students, families and alumni gathered for our annual Homecoming & Family Weekend celebration in October, which featured sports, live music and a special reception with Athletic Director and Football Coach Tom Kelley '76.



DECEMBER 7, 2024

Awesome '80s

Alumni met up at the Verve Hotel in Natick for an Awesome '80s event in honor of the unforgettable decade!



SEPTEMBER 20, 2024

Women's Leadership Luncheon

Kristen Daly '92, G'02, principal, KDaly Communications, led a gathering of alumni and student leaders at this special event at Burton's Bar and Grill in Framingham.



CAMPUS NEWS

‘Refer a Ram’ and Help Them Earn a Scholarship

Alumni of Framingham State University are now able to provide up to \$4,000 in scholarships to anyone they refer to attend Framingham State University!

HOW IT WORKS:

Alumni refer a prospective student to FSU using the link below. If the student is admitted, and enrolls as a full-time undergraduate

student, he or she will receive a \$1,000 scholarship each year for four years.

PLEASE NOTE:

If the referred student has already applied to Framingham State, they are NOT eligible for the scholarship.

\$1K
SCHOLARSHIP
EACH YEAR FOR
4 YEARS

Do you know someone who would make a great Ram? Refer them to FSU and help them save on the cost of tuition and fees. You can make your referral at:

[ADMISSIONS.FRAMINGHAM.EDU/REGISTER/LEGACY](https://admissions.framingham.edu/register/legacy)



If you are interested in learning more about supporting students in need at Framingham State University, visit

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

DONOR PROFILE

Bonnie Jean Dibelius '80

Bonnie Jean Dibelius '80 Endows Scholarship at Framingham State

In the mid-to-late 1970s, Bonnie Jean Dibelius '80 was a single mom, working a full-time job while chipping away at her bachelor's degree at Framingham State, when she nearly gave up.

"I got through most of my sophomore year taking one class per semester, but the stress was mounting," says Dibelius, who still gets emotional discussing this important moment in her life. "I went in to see my advisor to discuss taking a semester off. She was very thoughtful about it and said, 'Let me see what I can do.'"

The advisor was able to help her secure a package of grants and loans, along with a small scholarship that enabled Dibelius to quit her job and attend Framingham State full time, where she went on to earn a degree in Economics.

"I was about 10 years older than a traditional student, and there was a group of about six of us who were all older and became good friends," she says. "I got involved in all sorts of activities and won some awards. It was a great experience."

A few weeks after graduating summa cum laude, Dibelius met William "Bill" Corcoran at a summer camp for single parents. The couple married and moved with Dibelius's daughter to Connecticut, where he worked as a nuclear engineer and she got a job at Cigna Health Insurance.

About a decade later, Corcoran and Dibelius combined their talents to start a company, Nuclear Safety Review Concepts Corporation (NSRC), which specialized in advising businesses and organizations on nuclear safety.

"We set out to run the company for 10 years and ended up doing it for 21," she says. "We loved it. We had a fantastic experience traveling around the world for business, and we worked really well together."

They retired shortly after Corcoran became ill, and he passed a few years later. Dibelius says that her husband, who earned his PhD at MIT, used to remark how impressed he was by the education she received at Framingham State.

"Coming from a place like MIT, it really surprised him," she says. "I always go back to the small class sizes and the

fact that we had professors who were there to teach and not make a name for themselves. I got to know all my Economics professors outside the classroom, and that was a huge difference between my educational experience and his."

Recently, Dibelius went through her own health scare, and it inspired her to start focusing more on supporting causes that are important to her, including the environment, homelessness and education. She has endowed a scholarship at Framingham State that preferences single mothers and is planning further support for today's students.

"Earning a bachelor's degree changed my life, and it changed my daughter's life in immeasurable ways, both financially and otherwise," she says. "My hope is to provide that same opportunity to people who need extra support in order to attend."

"What disheartens me is that there is a perspective that a university is to teach only academics and not life skills, and I think that does a disservice," she says. "We should address a student holistically and make sure they graduate prepared to succeed in the world."

Events

MAY 30, 2025

Alumni Achievement Awards

Framingham State University

Celebrate the accomplishments of distinguished Framingham State alumni at this prestigious awards ceremony.

MAY 31, 2025

Reunion 2025

Framingham State University

All alumni are welcome to join us as we celebrate the Classes of 1975 and 1980 on May 31!

JUNE 20, 2025

WooSox at Polar Park

Worcester, MA

Join fellow Rams for a fun night of baseball and camaraderie as the WooSox take on their opponents at Polar Park.

OCTOBER 17, 2025

Homecoming & Family Weekend

Framingham State University

Show your school spirit and reunite with friends at Framingham State's annual Homecoming celebration.

NOVEMBER 6, 2025

Swiacki Children's Literature Festival

Framingham State University

Engage with renowned authors and illustrators at this annual celebration of children's literature.

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

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



OVERHEAD VIEW

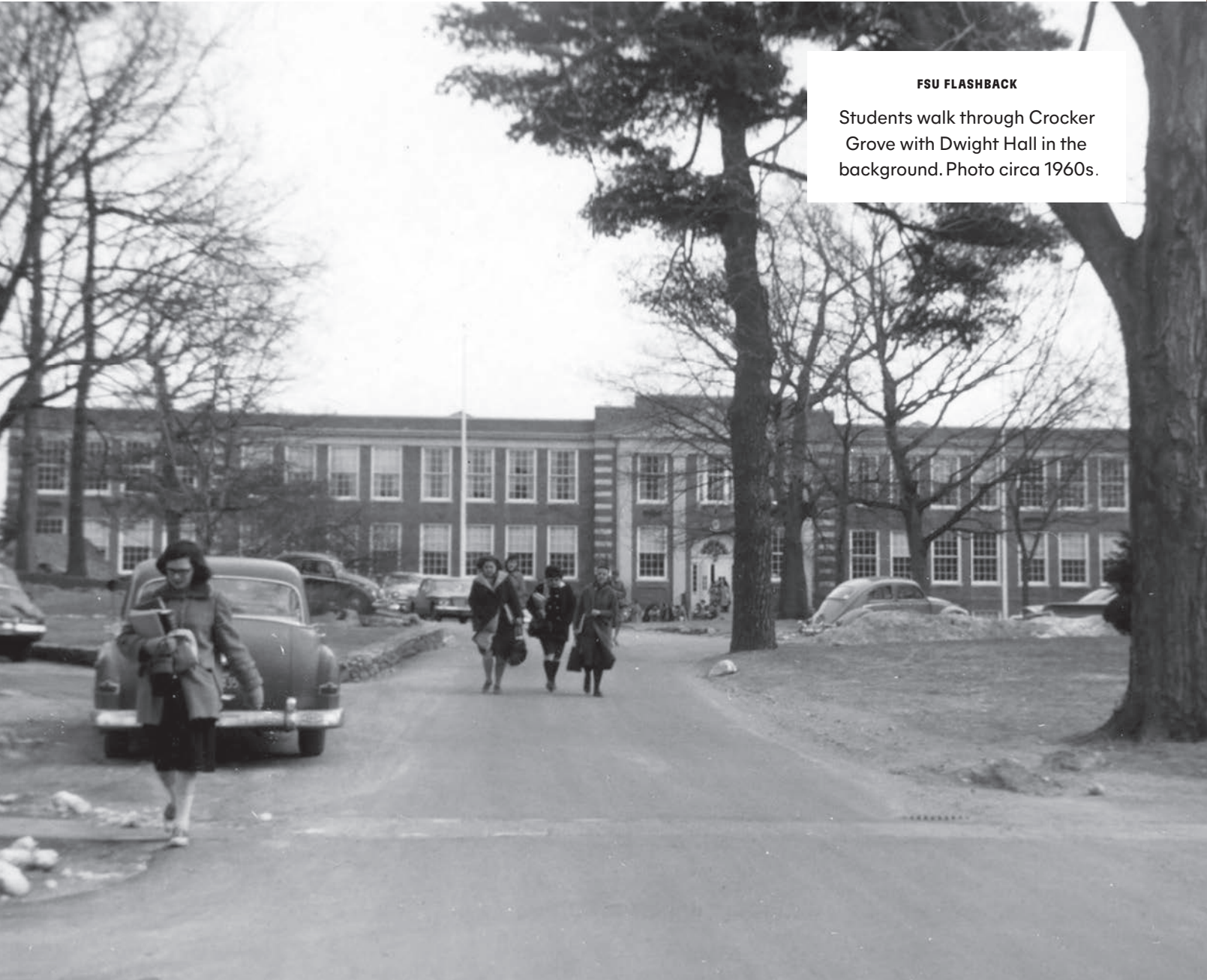
Students getting work done in the library.



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FSU FLASHBACK

Students walk through Crocker Grove with Dwight Hall in the background. Photo circa 1960s.