

SPRING 2026

Framingham State

Six Ways We
Change the World

FRAMINGHAM STATE'S CENTERS AND INSTITUTES
EXTEND OUR MISSION TO SERVE THE PUBLIC GOOD

Framingham State

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Dear Alumni and Friends,

To those of us who work in higher education, we are often inclined to think that our institution is the center of the universe. While that is true to some extent, at the core of every institution of higher education, we teach, we research, and we serve our communities with knowledge and with people who can help make the world a bit better.

But something truly unique for many of us are our centers—specialized units within our institutions that expand our mission in ways that individual departments, disciplines, and academic colleges cannot do on their own. Framingham State’s centers do this, forming a particularly distinctive nexus of community and institution. They offer alternative possibilities for revenue growth and enhancement, diversifying the organizational dependence on public funding. They offer opportunities for divergent thinking about how institutions of higher education can serve their residential, educational, not-for-profit and business communities, and they offer avenues for redefining the institution’s work while maintaining its core mission of education.

Each center also impacts FSU academic life with differing means and ends. They offer unique opportunities for student learning in action through internships, work experiences, co-ops and other co-curricular activities.

They are important sites of internal collaboration and interdisciplinarity as well. Academic departments, by tradition and organizational infrastructure, are siloed in their work with students, as well as with faculty and staff. Through the mission of many centers, Framingham State staff and faculty have opportunities to explore cross-disciplinary inquiry in the form of scholarship, student projects and academic practices. Additionally, they are disseminators of public knowledge, and are particularly important as stewards of public funds and other means by which the greater public participates in the educational impact of universities in the community.

What is most beautiful about Framingham State’s centers, though, is their connection to our mission to contribute to our community, and to help create a more equal and just world. They expand the work to which Framingham State has been and is committed by embracing and enhancing an essential aspect of the university. The six centers featured here do just this, expanding Framingham State in bold and beautiful ways. They are part of the way Framingham State University changes the world.

BEST WISHES,



Nancy S. Niemi, PhD

President
Framingham State University

WINTER WONDERLAND

There was no shortage of snow on campus this past winter.

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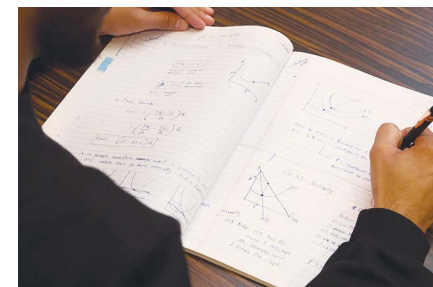
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Framingham State's centers and institutes extend our mission to serve the public good



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Longtime faculty member Thomas Eames and his wife Joan make a transformative gift to support the sciences at FSU

The snapshot

“Framingham State was founded on the idea that education can change the course of a life.”

— PRESIDENT NANCY S. NIEMI

The Space Shuttle Challenger Crew

From left: Ellison S. Onizuka, Michael J. Smith, Christa McAuliffe, Francis R. “Dick” Scobee, Ronald E. McNair, Gregory B. Jarvis and Judith A. Resnik



CAMPUS NEWS

David Halbert Joins FSU as Director of External Affairs

Framingham State University is excited to introduce David Halbert as its new director of external affairs, serving as the primary point of contact and connection between the University and members of the community.

Halbert comes to Framingham State after serving as executive director at Bay State Progress, a statewide donor-organizing community. He has also worked as outreach manager for the Educational Justice Institute at MIT and as deputy director of community affairs for the Middlesex Sheriff’s Office.

As the first director of external affairs at Framingham State, Halbert is responsible for developing and implementing strategic initiatives that strengthen



David Halbert will serve as a primary point of contact between FSU and the community.

the University’s relationships with local government, community organizations, businesses and residents.

“I’m thrilled to bring David’s knowledge, talent and energy to Framingham State,” says President Nancy S. Niemi. “One of our key priorities is to foster more meaningful partnerships with our surrounding community in order to advance our mission to serve the public good. David is going to play a key role in this effort.”

Halbert holds a master’s degree in public administration from Northeastern University and is an alumnus of Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. A long-time civic activist and public servant at multiple levels of government, he was previously an at-large candidate for the Boston City Council.

Contact David: DHALBERT@FRAMINGHAM.EDU

CAMPUS NEWS

The Framingham State Tuition Promise

Framingham State University is proud to announce the **Framingham State Tuition Promise**, a bold new commitment ensuring that a high-quality public education is within reach for more students across Massachusetts.

Any **admitted Massachusetts undergraduate whose household income is \$85,000 or less will pay zero in tuition and fees after applying their financial aid grants.**

This does not include expenses like housing and meals, but additional financial aid is available for those who qualify.

“Framingham State was founded on the idea that education can change the course of a life,” says President Nancy S. Niemi. “The Framingham State Tuition Promise carries that legacy forward. By removing financial

barriers for the families who need us most, we are creating a pathway for students to imagine a future that once felt out of reach.”

To be eligible for the Framingham State Tuition Promise, students must:

- Be a Massachusetts resident
- Have a household **income of \$85,000 or less**
- Complete the FAFSA
- Start full-time in an undergraduate degree program

The Framingham State Tuition Promise is intended to be simple, transparent and designed for families. There are no extra hurdles to apply. Students simply submit their admissions application to Framingham State and complete their FAFSA, and they will be notified of their eligibility when they receive their financial aid offer.



Complete the FAFSA at: [STUDENTAID.GOV/APPLY-FOR-AID/FAFSA](https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa)

CAMPUS NEWS

The 40th Anniversary of the Challenger Disaster

In January, as the nation marked 40 years since the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster, Framingham State University paused to remember a moment of profound loss—and enduring purpose. The University commemorated the anniversary through a series of remembrance events and educational programs honoring the seven astronauts who lost their lives on January 28, 1986, including Christa Corrigan McAuliffe ’70, Framingham State alumna and the First Teacher in Space.

At the heart of the commemoration was the Christa McAuliffe Center for Integrated Science Learning, which continues to carry forward McAuliffe’s belief that education, curiosity and exploration belong to everyone. On the anniversary itself, the center welcomed students for a Challenger Learning Center space mission simulation,

using hands-on learning to reflect on the Challenger crew’s legacy and reinforce the idea that discovery is an act of hope.

“Christa believed that space exploration belonged to everyone, and that teachers play a vital role in helping young people see themselves as part of that journey,” said McAuliffe Center Director Irene Porro. “We honor her legacy and that of her fellow astronauts by carrying their mission forward—igniting wonder, expanding access to STEM learning and inspiring the next generation to explore, question and dream without limits.”

The University also hosted official remembrance events later that week, bringing the campus and community together through reflection, music and storytelling.

Beyond January, the commemoration continues through spring programming, including public conversations with scholars from the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.

CAMPUS NEWS

Rams Finish Regular Season as MASCAC Champions

Framingham State University's football team lost a heartbreaker to LaGrange College in the first round of the NCAA Division III Tournament in November after winning the Massachusetts Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC).

The team was making its 7th overall appearance in the NCAA Tournament and its first since 2021. Framingham State outgained LaGrange during the game, which was hosted at Bowditch Field, but ultimately fell by a score of 24-21.

The Rams made their 7th overall appearance in the NCAA Tournament.

Framingham State finished the 2025 regular season 7-3 overall and 7-2 in MASCAC, and earned the conference's automatic invite to the tournament via a tiebreaker over Anna Maria College and Plymouth State.

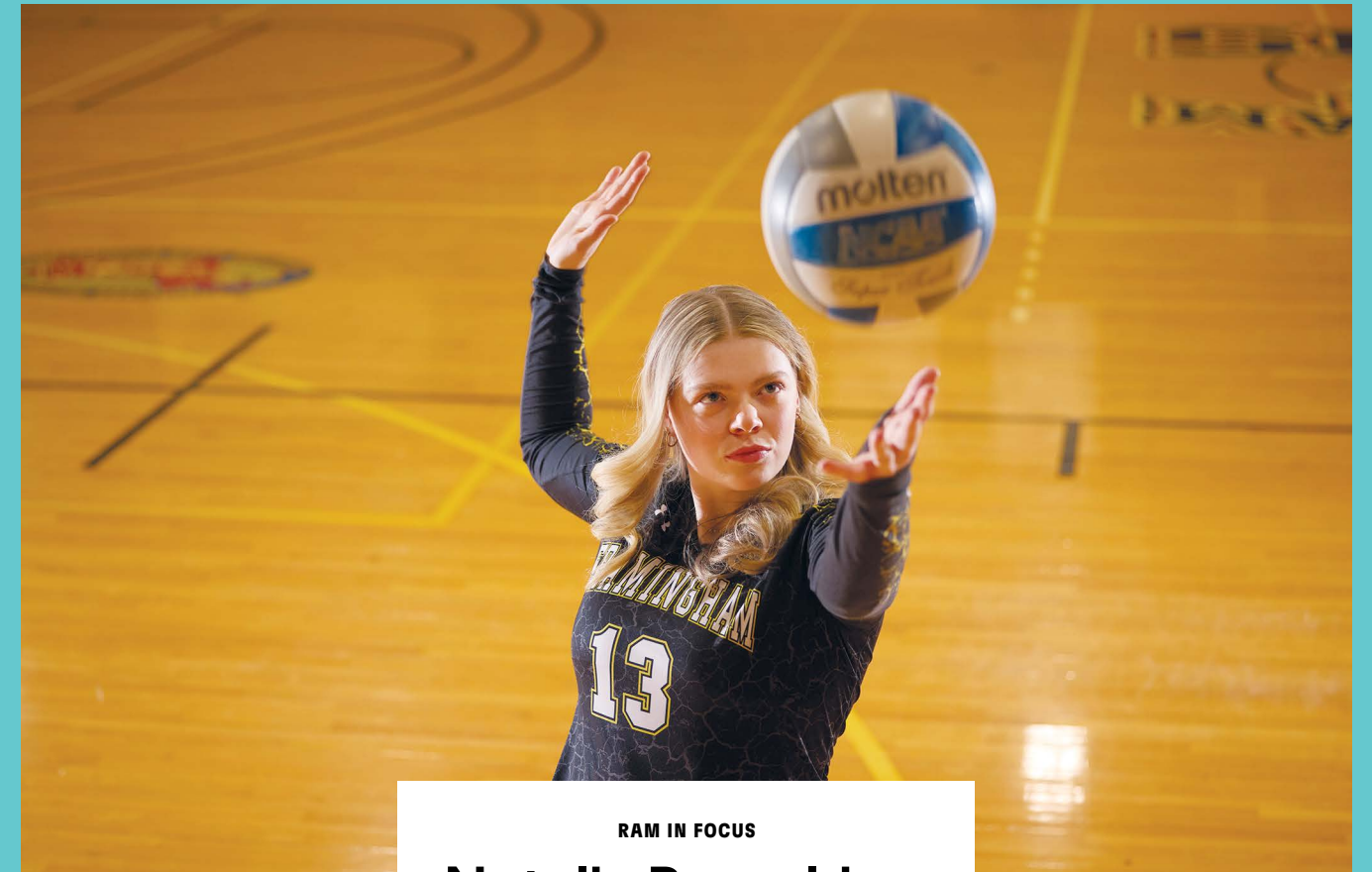
The Rams were led offensively by first-year quarterback Michael Marcucella, who ranked second in the MASCAC in yards per game and touchdown passes. Wide receiver Mathias Fowler finished the regular season first in the league in touchdown receptions and second in yards per game.

On defense, junior defensive back Amari Williams, sophomore defensive lineman Korrey Barron and senior defensive lineman Kymauny Roland led the way, earning 1st Team All-MASCAC honors.

Head Coach and Director of Athletics Tom Kelley '76 fielded a young roster and will return with a promising group for the Fall 2026 season.



7-2
THE RAMS
FINISHED 7-2 IN
CONFERENCE PLAY.



RAM IN FOCUS

Natalie Reynolds '27

HOMETOWN:
Beverly, MA

MAJOR:
Marketing, minor
in business
administration

ACCOLADES:
MASCAC
Volleyball
Offensive Player
of the Year (2024,
2025); MASCAC
Rookie of the
Year (2023)

When junior middle hitter Natalie Reynolds '27 arrived at Framingham State, she wanted two things: a university that felt like home and a place where she could continue growing as a volleyball player. She found both on the Rams' home court.

The Beverly, MA, native recently earned the 2025 MASCAC Volleyball Offensive Player of the Year award—her second year in a row claiming the conference's top offensive honor. It's just the latest accolade in a decorated collegiate career that began with being named MASCAC Rookie of the Year in 2023.

Reynolds says that Framingham State checked every box when she was exploring colleges. "I knew it was my goal to play volleyball," she says. "I talked to a few different schools, but Framingham State had everything. A great marketing program, a small and welcoming community and such a pretty campus. It was exactly what I was looking for."

Her first year brought immediate excitement, as the Rams captured the MASCAC Championship. "It was nerve-wracking," she admits. "I didn't know what to expect going into a championship as a freshman." By her junior year, after helping lead the team back to the finals, she felt far more prepared for the intensity of postseason play.

A big part of that confidence comes from the bond she shares with her teammates. "My best friends are my teammates," Reynolds says. "Everyone is so close. I'm so lucky to be part of it."

Reynolds believes that the Rams have a strong shot at reclaiming the championship during her senior year. The team will lose four players but will welcome nine newcomers, and she's optimistic about the foundation already in place.

Off the court, Reynolds is a Marketing major with a business administration minor. She isn't certain what specific career path to pursue after graduation, but is considering a future in human resources.

A Lasting Legacy for STEM at Framingham State

For more than four decades, Professor Thomas Eames shaped the academic journeys of Framingham State University students, guiding them through the complexities of chemistry with rigor, patience and care. Through a transformative gift made with his wife, Joan, Eames' impact on the University—and on generations of STEM students yet to come—will endure well beyond the classroom.



Hemenway Labs will be renamed in honor of Thomas and Joan Eames in April.

The couple has pledged a gift of just over \$2 million to the Framingham State Alumni Association and Foundation to establish an endowed fund benefiting the College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Beginning in fiscal year 2027, the endowment will provide approximately \$100,000 annually to support students, faculty and academic programs across the College.

"Framingham State has always been about opportunity," said Professor Eames, who began teaching at the University in 1972 and retired from full-time teaching in 2000 as a Professor Emeritus in the Chemistry and Food Science Department. "This gift is about helping students focus on learning—without the pressure of working excessive hours or worrying whether they can afford to stay in school."

President Nancy S. Niemi emphasized the profound and far-reaching impact the gift will have on the University's mission.

"This extraordinary act of generosity reflects the very best of Framingham State," said Niemi. "Tom and Joan's gift will be truly transformative—opening doors for students, strengthening academic programs and providing sustained support that will ripple through the College of STEM for decades. It is an investment not only in our campus, but also in the future of science education and social mobility."



Students working in a Chemistry Lab. Hemenway Labs was completed in 2016.

In recognition of their generosity and Professor Eames' lifelong dedication to the University, the Board of Trustees and the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education have approved the renaming of Hemenway Laboratories as the **Professor Thomas and Joan Eames Laboratories**.

Completed within the last decade, Hemenway Laboratories is a modern science facility housing 16 instructional and research labs serving students in Biology, Chemistry and Food Science. The renamed building will stand as a daily reminder of the Eames family's commitment to access, excellence and student success.

Dr. Lauren Nolfo-Clements, Dean of the College of STEM, highlighted how the endowed fund will strengthen the College's ability to serve students in meaningful ways.

"This gift allows us to think boldly about how we support our students and faculty," said Nolfo-Clements. "From expanding hands-on learning opportunities to easing financial barriers that too often stand in the way of student success, the Eames endowment will directly enhance the educational experience and help our students thrive."

For Professor Eames, the motivation behind the gift is simple: ensuring that students have the chance to fully engage in their education, just as he encouraged them to do for decades.

"Framingham State changes lives," Eames said. "Joan and I are proud to be part of a legacy that helps make that possible."

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Aili Schiavoni '26

Fashioning a More Sustainable Future

MAJOR:
Fashion Design,
minor in Theatre
Studies

ACTIVITIES:
Fashion Club
President

The global fashion industry accounts for an estimated 4.0 to 8.6 percent of greenhouse gas emissions, according to the Natural Resources Defense Council. That reality weighs heavily on Framingham State Fashion Design major Aili Schiavoni '26, who has made sustainability a central focus of her work both inside and outside the classroom.

"There is a big push among young designers to think about the environmental impact of what we do and make it a priority," she says. "I'm so proud to be part of the fashion community we have on campus, which cares deeply about this issue. It's something the Fashion Department takes very seriously."

As president of the Fashion Club, Schiavoni helped reimagine the annual Trashion Show, a student favorite that challenges participants to create garments using unconventional materials. In recent years, she and others noticed that the event was leaning more toward artistry than sustainability, with students purchasing plastics and other disposable materials for one-time use.

"Students have created amazing pieces out of things like newspapers, trash bags, even leaves," she says. "But we realized that some of the materials we were buying weren't aligning with the show's original purpose."

This year, the club shifted the focus. Designers were challenged to use every scrap of fabric, and judging criteria included not only creativity and construction but also how much waste was avoided.

Leading the Fashion Club wasn't something Schiavoni expected when she first arrived at Framingham State. She navigated significant anxiety about attending college and even considered not going. But FSU's affordability, proximity to home and strong sense of community proved to be the right fit.

"I couldn't have asked for a better environment," she says. "The smaller class sizes create such an incredible community. There's something really special about building bonds with other designers in an environment that isn't cutthroat."

Now nearing graduation, Schiavoni is pouring her energy into the Spring Fashion Show on Friday, May 1, one of FSU's most anticipated student-led events.

"I've been dreaming about my senior show since freshman year," she says. "Watching the seniors before us get so excited, and so overwhelmed, made me immediately want to be part of it. It's going to be surreal."

Sustainability remains at the center of her creative identity. She wants to support and emulate organizations such as FABSCRAP, which is based in Brooklyn, New York, and facilitate textile recycling and reuse at scale. Ultimately, Schiavoni hopes to become a teacher and pass on her passion for responsible design.

"I love learning about other people's passions and helping them overcome a challenge," she says. "Watching the excitement build as they figure something out is addictive."



CAMPUS NEWS

FSU Sociology Students Learn to Live Richer Lives by Getting Proximate with Death

At a time when our society often reduces the value of college majors to their earning potential, nine Framingham State students in Dr. Ira Silver's Death & Dying course say that they have gained something far more meaningful this semester: a deeper understanding of what it means to live well.



Dr. Ira Silver is a professor of Sociology.

enabled students to explore the cultural, emotional and philosophical dimensions of death.

"Perhaps the best way to find greater meaning in your life and live a richer life is to become proximate with death," says Silver, a professor in the Sociology and Criminology Department. "I was fortunate to go through this experience with these nine students. You might say I taught them, but really I learned with them. The course was not about content mastery, but about growing personally and achieving greater self-understanding. People at any stage of life can benefit from this type of self-reflective learning experience."

For Criminology major Sophia Carvalho, the class offered a new way to process childhood trauma.

"Instead of seeing something as solely awful, I can see it now as part of my story," she says. "I can try to honor my pain while still choosing growth. I've learned that even in the darkest moments, we can try our best to find purpose and meaning."

Several students reflected on how, despite being the one experience every human will face, death remains a topic society tends to avoid.

"I want to teach my children to confront death with honesty instead of fear," says senior Sociology major Chris Broussard. "Facing mortality openly can bring clarity, gratitude and connection. I want to challenge the silence and change the conversation."

At the close of the presentations, Silver noted how each student's reflection—from a course focused on dying—was ironically life-affirming.

"These messages are substantive because they are anchored in your lived experiences," he said. "What you demonstrated today is education at its best. It's never only about course content. More importantly, it's about you and how you can integrate what you've learned into your life to make it richer."

"This class has helped me understand that connection isn't something to postpone," says Criminology major Maddie Boucher during the group's final oral presentations this month. "It's something to honor, especially in the face of mortality. I'm trying to be more intentional, more present and more willing to say what matters to the people that I love."

Throughout the semester, students engaged with texts such as *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom and *Yes to Life: In Spite of Everything* by Holocaust survivor Viktor Frankl. They also met guest speakers whose experiences offered real-world insight into how to live well in the face of mortality—including a woman living with metastatic cancer, a rabbi and a hospice nurse. These guests

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Patricia Sánchez-Connally '01



"My research, going back to my time as an undergraduate at Framingham State, has included speaking with women of color in leadership positions to understand not only the challenges they've faced, but also the assets and support systems that have helped them succeed," she says. "I wanted to highlight what works so we can replicate it and help even more students thrive."

One insight that emerged from her scholarship is the importance of community. Immigrant and first-generation students often flourish when they find a strong sense of belonging among peers who share similar identities and experiences. Sánchez-Connally remembers that such spaces were limited during her own time at Framingham State—and she has been determined to change that as a faculty member.

Sánchez-Connally established the Intercultural Graduation Ceremony and the Alumni of Color Network. As a member of the Council on Diversity and Inclusion, she advocated for the development of the Multicultural Center—now the Center for Inclusive Excellence—and for the creation of a chief diversity officer position.

"There were structural gaps when I attended Framingham State," says Sánchez-Connally, who received the Distinguished Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2020. "These are the resources that I wish I had access to as a student."

She also points to initiatives such as Framingham State's GenOne Next Level program, which provides first-generation students with a supportive first-year experience, including the course she teaches: *How Does Your Background Influence Success in College?*

"My students inspire me every day," she says. "They understand and see that I am dedicated to making sure they are supported from day one, and are able to finish their education. That is really rewarding to me."

TITLE & DEPARTMENT:
Associate Professor of Sociology, Sociology and Criminology Department; Rams 101 Program Interim Coordinator

EDUCATION:
PhD in Sociology, UMass Amherst

RESEARCH INTERESTS:
Race and Ethnicity, Latinx Studies, Higher Education Attainment and Immigration

Dr. Patricia Sánchez-Connally '01 Draws on Research—and Lived Experience—to Support First-Generation Students

As a young immigrant and first-generation college student, Dr. Patricia Sánchez-Connally grew frustrated with the way that academic literature often framed Latino, immigrant and first-generation students through a deficit lens—focusing on what they supposedly lacked rather than on the strengths they brought to their education. She set out to shift that narrative.

SIX WAYS WE CHANGE THE WORLD

Framingham State's centers and institutes extend our mission to serve the public good.

Story:
Kristen Paulson-Nygen

Photography:
Kent Dayton

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THE METROWEST ECONOMIC RESEARCH CENTER (MERC) WORKS CLOSELY WITH SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

FRAMINGHAM STATE'S DANFORTH ART MUSEUM AND SCHOOL OFFERS FREE COMMUNITY CLASSES TO LOCAL SENIORS.

THE METROWEST COLLEGE PLANNING COLLABORATIVE SUPPORTS STUDENTS IN THEIR HIGHER EDUCATION JOURNEY.

SIX WAYS WE CHANGE THE WORLD

- 1 We advance climate justice.
- 2 We foster equal access to K-12 education.
- 3 We invite in and delight in creation.
- 4 We ensure students can access higher education.
- 5 We nourish children and nurture careers in nutrition.
- 6 We share data to build affordable, sustainable and walkable cities.

Having an institution of higher education in your backyard lifts the community, the region and the world. Framingham State University's impact reaches to tackle social problems, from lack of education access to child hunger, through interdependent relationships with on-campus partners. "We help the centers and institutes develop and extend our commitment to social equity as a result," says President Nancy S. Niemi. "Our mission is to serve the public good. We want to do even better at making sure the greater community realizes we're here."

1 We advance climate justice.

The Christa McAuliffe Center and the City of Framingham work for climate parity through the MetroWest Climate Equity Project. The partners educate seniors about heat risks. "Many seniors aren't aware they can go to a public cooling center," says Shawn Luz, sustainability coordinator, Capital Projects and Facilities Management, City of Framingham. The project ensures that seniors know about Framingham's three cooling centers, one of which, The Henry Whittemore Library, is located on the campus of Framingham State University.

An Eversource Energy pilot in which Framingham State University students were trained for careers in geothermal energy will expand the local clean energy workforce. "One of the most exciting things about our partnership is our access to data we can use to improve conditions in the community," says Luz.

The University's latest solar array, a parking canopy that shelters Salem End Parking Lot, educates users, who can explore the energy storage system up close; offers EV charging; and offsets a significant amount of carbon for the City of Framingham. "College leadership and McAuliffe Center staff played a role in advocating for, investigating and assessing solar potential," says Matt Shortsleeve, senior vice president for Solect Energy. The developer sells the electricity the panels generate to the University, which pays a fixed cost per kilowatt hour. A long-term lease at a discounted cost will ensure stable rates for decades.



THE CHRISTA MCAULIFFE CENTER WORKS CLOSELY WITH SHAWN LUZ, THE CITY OF FRAMINGHAM'S FIRST SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR.

2 We foster equal access to K-12 education.

Since the Chris Walsh Center's founding in 2020, a state senator and two mothers have improved the lives of parents of children with disabilities; Framingham State University students; gifted and talented K-12 students; and K-12 students with unmet needs.

"With its strong ties to education and the local community, Framingham State University is uniquely positioned to help us reach underserved groups such as Brazilian community members," says Gail Palmer, a co-founder and mother of two young adults with dyslexia.

Sheryl Goldstein, a co-founder who has two daughters with learning disabilities, could afford an advocate to help her navigate their public school's limited special education programs. "What about the parents who can't afford an advocate?"

Goldstein wondered. She envisioned a place where parents could learn how to advocate for their children with IEPs and hoped to cultivate less contentious parent-educator relationships. Goldstein brought a proposal to State Representative Chris Walsh, which led to state funding.

As a guest speaker at Framingham State University, Goldstein offers a parent's perspective to students who are not education majors, K-12 students and their parents and new teachers, who learn strategies to accommodate students. "We educate educators. By doing so we support children. That's where long-term change happens," says Palmer.

3 We invite in and delight in creation.

The Danforth Museum and Art School belongs to the community. It's a refuge where parents enjoy a night out while their children make art; where a person with no art background feels at ease; where Framingham State University students make prints next to middle-aged women; where children draw during school vacation week and summer art camps; where stay-at-home mothers paint while their children attend preschool; and where college work study students laugh with seniors.

A decade ago, Medway resident Susan Manzon registered for her first painting course. "I feel blessed not to drive to Boston or Worcester to do something I've wanted to do all my life," she says.

Students draw inspiration from the Danforth's five galleries, where Curator Jessica Roscio brings in archival materials to further enrich course content.

In Stevie Leigh Andrascik's upcycling clothing course, a young man sews a new lining into his motorcycle jacket. Manzon deconstructs two old pairs of pants to make a new pair while her niece transforms a dress into a gathered skirt. Manzon created the Metrowest Monotype Print Artisans Group with veteran local artist Linda Lancsz. The group exhibited in the lobby of the Henry Whittemore Library. "Taking art courses is an investment in myself," says Manzon.



THERESE AJTUM-ROBERTS IS COORDINATOR OF THE CHRIS WALSH CENTER FOR EDUCATORS AND FAMILIES.

12K

Tons of CO₂ FSU eliminates with its new solar canopy.

4 We ensure students can access higher education.

In eighth grade, Edward Coelho, now a high school senior, was by his admission, “doing horribly in all my classes.” A teacher connected him with the MetroWest College Planning Collaborative, which provided early college access and mentorship. Coelho is more focused; has sharpened his study skills; works better with his peers; and has improved his social emotional skills. “I can connect socially, I’ve learned how to take ownership, and I’m calmer in front of a group,” he says.

As a freshman at Framingham High School, he began taking online courses at Framingham State University. “It was a lot more work, but I knew it would help me,” says Coelho. He’s thriving in Introduction to Health Careers, an overview of the medical professions, looking forward to a career as a surgical technologist and getting help with his college applications. “I still struggle, but now I have the skills to succeed outside of school,” says Coelho. “I hope more high school students join this program.”

5 We nourish children and nurture careers in nutrition.

Thirty-eight years of partnership between Framingham State University’s John C. Stalker Institute of Food and Nutrition (JSI) and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has yielded well-nourished K-12 students, and better-informed self-taught school nutrition professionals, teachers, parents and school nurses.

DESE is the only state child nutrition agency in the nation that has an external partnership at a state university. They fund JSI, which provides nutritional guidance and professional development programs for schools. “We have wonderful access to a boatload of skills and knowledge at JSI, not only with leadership and staff, but also with our access to interns and graduate students from JSI’s Registered Dietician Nutritionist program,” says Rob Leshin, director for the Office of Food and Nutrition Programs at DESE.

A certificate program allows school nutrition managers or directors to take courses with JSI and Framingham State University instructors on nutrition-related topics. It enables nutrition professionals who lack a bachelor’s degree to become directors while earning required college credit.

DESE also worked with JSI to produce “Nutrition Bites for Childcare,” a suite of learning modules for the Child Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) designed to increase the fruit and vegetable consumption of children up to four years of age. “If we aren’t helping our early education eaters, what kind of expectations do we have in terms of what they are going to eat when they get to public school?” says Leshin.



A FRAMINGHAM STATE STUDENT WHIPPING UP SOME FOOD IN ONE OF THE FOOD LABS.

“Our mission is to serve the public good. We want to do even better at making sure the greater community realizes we’re here.”

—NANCY S. NIEMI, PRESIDENT

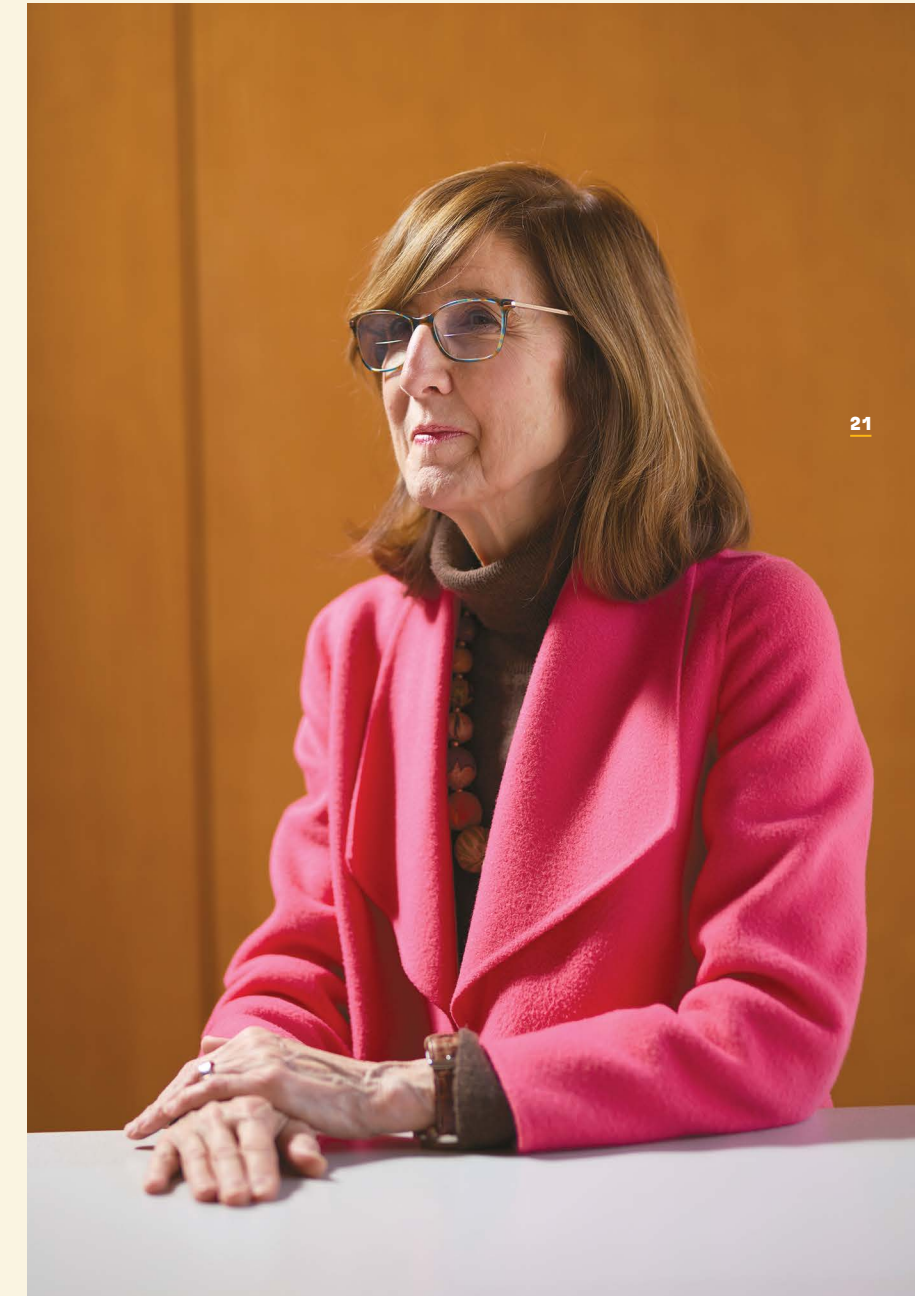
6 We share data to build affordable, sustainable and walkable cities.

Earlier this year, MetroWest Economic Research Center (MERC) completed an Economic Feasibility Analysis showing that multifamily residential development in Framingham’s Central Business zoning district is financially viable, even with the city’s 13% inclusionary zoning requirement. This analysis was an important step toward ensuring the city complies with the Massachusetts MBTA Communities Act.

“The MERC staff completed a professional analysis. The team came through. We received approval from the state,” says Sarkis Sarkisian, Director of Planning and Community Development for the City of Framingham. “We need MERC’s data to make decisions for the city.”

MERC is also working with the city to develop its Housing Production Plan, a state-regulated document required for compliance with the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities and designed to help communities proactively identify their housing needs and plan for the creation of affordable units. “We’re excited to have MERC on board,” says Sarkisian. “We’ve never had the state approve a housing plan, but with MERC helping us create reports that show planned production of affordable housing, we aim to get a plan approved in 2026.”

The plan’s impact will be felt all over Framingham. A \$1 million grant will be used to clean up Mary Dennison Park. A \$400,000 grant will be used to design the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail for Mass Trails. The system created will offer a safe transportation alternative for commuters, tourists and explorers from Framingham to Lowell, Milford, Marlborough, Boston and Cambridge.



PRESIDENT NANCY S. NIEMI HAS PRIORITIZED EXPANDING THE CONNECTION BETWEEN FSU AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY IN RECENT YEARS.

38

Number of Years that the John C. Stalker Institute of Food and Nutrition has been supporting school nutrition in the Commonwealth’s K-12 system.

Making an impact



Learn how to be a part of the alumni community

ALUMNI.FRAMINGHAM.EDU

ALUMNI PROFILE

Erin Lombardo '18



Erin Lombardo '18 is the Director of Grants Administration for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro South.

Erin Lombardo '18 arrived at Framingham State University knowing she loved reading and writing and left having discovered a career path that allowed her to turn those passions into meaningful impact.

Drawn to Framingham State for its strong sense of community, proximity to home on the South Shore and the opportunity a full scholarship provided, Lombardo quickly immersed herself in campus life. An English major with a business minor, she was deeply involved as a student, participating in the Honors Program, Student Union Activities Board, Student Government Association, and serving as both a CASA Peer Tutor and First-Year Programs Peer Mentor. She also spent a semester studying abroad in Ireland, an experience she describes as transformative.

"I really believe that you get out what you put into an experience," Lombardo says.

Initially planning to become a teacher, Lombardo's trajectory shifted after a freshman-year internship with the Boys & Girls Clubs introduced her to nonprofit fundraising and grants administration.

"I didn't know nonprofit fundraising was a career opportunity," she recalls. "That internship really put me on a different path."

After graduating, Lombardo completed an AmeriCorps year of service with the organization and then transitioned into a full-time role. Today, she serves as the main grant administrator at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro South, where she combines her strengths as a writer with her commitment to service. In her role, she works to secure and steward funds that support the core programs and operations of the Clubs and also plays a lead role in the organization's advocacy efforts and government relations.

"My experience at FSU helped me understand all the people and effort that go into building a positive community," Lombardo says. "I wanted to be part of something bigger than just me."

Committed to giving back, Lombardo remains connected to Framingham State and has returned to campus to speak on nonprofit career panels—offering current students the same insight that once helped shape her own path.

ALUMNI PROFILE

Royce Veal '11



Royce Veal '11 Supports the Greater Boston Community through the Chills Diamond Ring Education Foundation.

Royce Veal '11 has always been deeply rooted in community. Born and raised in Dorchester, Massachusetts, where he still lives today, Veal transferred to Framingham State University from UMass Boston to play basketball and quickly found a home on campus.

"It was a great fit and a great opportunity to be away from the city, but not too far away," he says. Living on campus and competing as a student-athlete helped shape his experience, and he graduated in 2011 with a degree in Merchandising and Buying Operations.

After graduation, Veal turned his lifelong passion for basketball into a vehicle for change. Inspired by his father's commitment to giving back, he launched a basketball training business and soon expanded his work into youth programming.

Today, he serves as executive director of the Chills Diamond Ring Education Foundation, a nonprofit offering hands-on entrepreneurship, career readiness and professional development programming to youth, teens and adults across Boston and Brockton.

The foundation also runs a sports recreation league serving more than 400 children, hosts a major basketball tournament and an annual toy giveaway serving 600+ youth and organizes an annual peace walk—dribbling basketballs from Dorchester to Roxbury to promote acts against violence in the inner city.

Veal recently returned to Framingham State to pursue a master's degree in Organizational Leadership. Looking ahead, he hopes to further expand his nonprofit's reach, deepen its mental health focus and create more scholarship and internship opportunities for the next generation.

ALUMNI PROFILE

Tayna Tovar '18

Raised in Queens, New York, and later Marlborough, Massachusetts, Tayna Tovar '18 is the daughter of Guatemalan immigrants who instilled in her a deep respect for hard work and education. Determined to put herself through college without taking on debt, she chose Framingham State University for its affordability, proximity to home and strong academic foundation. Working throughout her time as a student, Tovar graduated loan-free in 2018, which is a point of pride that reflects her resilience and discipline.

Though a commuter and non-traditional student, Tovar immersed herself fully in campus life. She served as a Black and Gold Orientation Leader and worked as a Peer Tutor with the Center for Academic Success and Achievement (CASA). She was also active in the Psychology Club and Honor Society, completing three research projects and presenting two at UMass Amherst. "Framingham State was the foundation of me discovering I can be a leader," she says.

A formative undergraduate internship at the New England Center for Children led her to pursue a career in Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA). After graduating from FSU in Spring 2018, she entered the ABA master's degree program at Bay Path University, graduating in 2021. She passed the rigorous Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) exam on her first attempt and now works at Positive Behavior Supports Corp., one of the largest ABA providers in the U.S. and Canada.

As Regional Coordinator for Eastern Massachusetts, Tovar oversees three departments and 175 staff across nine counties, supervising behavior therapists and working directly with families in both English and Spanish. She is currently pursuing a doctorate in Leadership Psychology at William James College, while balancing her demanding career with raising two children.



For Tayna Tovar '18, impact begins with purpose—and with honoring the sacrifices that made her journey possible.

Class notes

1970s

Playwright Dennis Richard '76 has a new play called *The Last Testament of Rudolf Hess* opening in Los Angeles and then moving to Fort Worth, Texas.

1980s

Tina (Rapp) Adamson '89, a lifelong Marlborough resident, will retire in 2026 after a 37-year career teaching kindergarten in Marlborough Public Schools. Adamson began teaching in 1989 and spent her entire career working with kindergarteners, including founding the city's first full-day bilingual kindergarten program.

1990s

Artist Dan Dowd '90 recently installed 10 of his galvanized steel pinecone sculptures on the great lawn in front of the Café at the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens in conjunction with "Gardens A Glow."

Karen (McCarthy) Ogorzalek, G'90 recently was honored for 35 years of service at Monmouth College, where she serves as vice president for student affairs and dean of students. After beginning her career in student activities following graduate study at Framingham State University, Ogorzalek built a decades-long career dedicated to student support, leadership development and campus life.

2000s

Jessica (Kinney) Beattie '00 has been appointed Assistant Superintendent of Student Services for Holliston Public Schools, effective July 1, 2026. A longtime educator and administrator, Beattie previously served as Director of Student Services for Hopkinton Public Schools and spent more than two decades in a variety of leadership roles in Holliston.

Beth Casavant G'01 has announced her candidacy for re-election to the Shrewsbury Select Board. A current board member and longtime Town Meeting Member, Casavant is a teacher and has held numerous leadership roles in the community.

Jenna Billian '02 recently unveiled a new mural in her hometown at Wrentham Village Premium Outlets. The mural weaves together local landmarks and stories. Her work has been featured in galleries and museums throughout New England and beyond, and she is currently pursuing her MFA in Sculpture at the University of Maryland.

Jessica Goodall '02 is making a meaningful impact in Southwest Florida through her nonprofit, Eva's Closet. The organization supports local individuals and families in need by providing food, clothing, gas gift cards and other essential items, offering both immediate assistance and a sense of community care.

Erica Mazzeo G'04 has been named superintendent of the South Portland School Department. Her diverse career includes teaching in Japan and New Mexico, leading international schools in Poland and holding curriculum leadership roles in Maine districts.

Joi Garron '08 is a graphic designer, illustrator and photographer, whose work "Lily," was featured on the WGBH building as part of Community Canvas in July 2025. See more of her work at joy-cakes.com.

After **Felipe Pereira '08** made Southwest Florida his home, he created felipesbackyard.com, a website dedicated to supporting small businesses by highlighting them at no cost. Now with over 1,000 local businesses, Felipe uses social media to promote these local businesses and the people behind them, helping to strengthen the local economy.

2010s

Jillian (Michniewicz) Lowell '13, G'20 and her husband Hunter welcomed their first child, Theodore William Lowell, into the world last November. They are in love with their new addition.

Courtney Robbins '16 has joined Community Bank as Branch and Community Development Manager at the institution's newest Springfield location. In her role, she oversees daily branch operations.

Kaylee (Brazell) O'Neil '17 and **Colin O'Neil '18** welcomed their daughter, Maeve, on April 24, 2024. The couple met at Framingham State and have so many fond memories of their time in college.

Deron Hines '18 was sworn in this January as a city councilor representing District 22 in Chelsea, Massachusetts. A Sociology major at Framingham State University, Hines credits mentors and his academic training with shaping his commitment to community-centered leadership.

Tyrone Rose '18 and **Karli McKie '18** met at Framingham State in 2016 and married on December 19, 2025. What started as a college friendship and connection turned into a partnership shaped by years of shared experiences: graduating, building careers, their love for cinema and choosing each other through every season in between. Congratulations!

2020s

Matthew Kapfer '20 entered his first season with University of Rhode Island Football in 2025 as defensive quality control and a defensive line assistant. Kapfer brings championship success with him to Kingston having been a member of three MASCAC championship teams at Framingham State.

Dante Facchini '24 has been appointed business specialist at Westfield Bank's Liberty Street branch in Springfield. In his new role, he supports business development across the region while also working closely with branch leadership on service, sales and day-to-day operations. Facchini earned his bachelor's degree in Business Management from Framingham State University.

IN MEMORIAM

Louise (Murphy) Devaney '53
1/1/2026

Mary Kiley '55
11/21/2025

Mary (Burke) Lucas '55
11/5/2025

Dorothy (Cioffi) Cusic '58
12/30/2025

Beverly Keeler '58
9/27/2025

Gertrude Reen '58
10/8/2025

Geraldine (Cooper) Mullin '59
12/9/2025

Rita (MacLellan) Brown '61
8/23/2025

Shirley (McGrath) Holland '61
1/11/2026

Brenda (Paulsen) Davis '62
7/29/2025

Mary Lou Sexton '63
7/4/2025

Cathleen Stark '63
7/13/2025

Christine Carriger '65
12/14/2025

Frank Gilliat G'66
10/19/2025

Janina W. Swiacki '67
12/21/2025

Lois Ann Walsh '69
12/22/2025

Mary Lauzon '70
1/4/2026

Lawrence Desilets '71
8/2/2025

Joyce (Landry) Fricault '72
10/12/2025

Georgette Lorenzetti '72
12/22/2025

George Stone '72
1/14/2026

John Tirrell '72
11/17/2025

Charles Gobron G'73
7/2/2025

John Gorman '73
10/2/2025

William Cronin G'74
10/28/2025

Margaret Moreau '74
8/25/2025

Donna (Sulfaro) Demeo '75
12/4/2025

Christine Williamson G'75
8/3/2025

Elaine (Manupelli) Colonna '77
11/1/2025

Kristen (Ahern) Whitney '78
12/23/2025

Judith Kennedy '79
7/23/2025

John Livermore '80
12/22/2025

Dorothy (Leavitt) Schavrien '80
11/22/2025

John Beando '82
11/25/2025

Louis Ottaviani '83
11/3/2025

David Damon '84
12/22/2025

James Hern '84
8/4/2025

Marcia Bachman '85
8/2/2025

Michael McGee '91
7/22/2025

James Schindler '91
7/4/2025

Richard Bayramshian '93
7/24/2025

Edward Kennedy G'98
10/1/2025

Susan (Stanhope) Garland '99
9/26/2025

John Cosby '09
8/19/2025

Robert Pantzer G'09
12/18/2025



IN MEMORIAM

Janina W. Swiacki '67

Janina W. Swiacki '67 (left), an educator and dedicated alumna of Framingham State University, passed away on December 21 at the age of 80. A lifelong resident of Southbridge, Janina was often known as "one of the sisters," reflecting the close bond she shared with her sister, Nancy '68 (right), who survives her.

A graduate of Framingham State with a degree in Elementary Education, Janina spent more than three decades as a classroom teacher, guiding and supporting third-grade students at Burgess Elementary School in Sturbridge. Her professional life reflected a steady commitment to education and to the role that teachers play in supporting young learners.

Throughout their lives, Janina and Nancy worked together to honor the people and institutions that shaped their paths, including Framingham State University, where their commitment resulted in a lasting and visible impact. In 2013, the sisters received the University's Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award and were later recognized with the President's Medal at Commencement for their service and philanthropy. Perhaps most visibly, they were the inspiration and lead donors behind the Ram statue that stands at the heart of campus, a landmark that students have embraced and continue to mark for seasons and milestones.

Janina was deeply involved in the Children's Literature Festival at Framingham State University, an annual event that brings educators, librarians, families and nationally recognized authors and illustrators together to celebrate children's books and the craft of writing and illustration. The festival began in 1986, and in 2014 it was renamed the Swiacki Children's Literature Festival in recognition of the sisters' longstanding support and guiding involvement. The festival reflects Janina's lifelong devotion to education and literacy, values she carried from her days as a Framingham State student through a lifetime of teaching and giving.

Janina Swiacki's legacy is reflected in the programs she helped sustain, the campus spaces she helped shape and the generations of students and educators who continue to benefit from her commitment to education. Her sister, Nancy, remains actively involved in the University and continues to support the Swiacki Children's Literature Festival, ensuring that the work they began together will continue.

ALUMNI NEWS

Brian Castellanos '12 Found His Passion for Equity and Social Justice at Framingham State

Growing up in Lynn, MA, Brian Castellanos '12 faced housing instability, the abandonment of his step mother, the loss of a brother and mental health struggles that left him in "survival mode."

"For kids in my situation, the idea of attending college seemed impossible," says Castellanos, whose father emigrated from Venezuela. "Entering the school-to-prison pipeline was more likely. But the Lynn School System and the teachers at Lynn English High School helped me get my grades up and point me in the right direction."

Today, Castellanos is a social worker and supervisor with almost a decade of experience protecting some of the Commonwealth's most vulnerable children, as well as a four-term at-large member of the Lynn School Committee. In that role, he has focused on increasing social-emotional learning (SEL) supports across the district. He credits his passion for social justice and service to those facing similar struggles to the foundation he built at Framingham State.



Brian Castellanos '12 was recently reelected to the Lynn School Committee.

"I found my voice in college and learned that what I represented as a first-generation student was bigger than me," he says. "I had such a village of social and emotional support at FSU—from (Head Football Coach) Tom Kelley '76 to professors like Patricia Sánchez-Connally '01, who gave me the tools and knowledge to make an impact."

Castellanos says that the resources available to students at Framingham State helped him thrive in ways that went far beyond the classroom.

"I was engaging in therapy in the Counseling Center, which was really important having experienced significant childhood traumas," he says. "My professors and the Career Development Office helped me network, land internships and build the social capital I lacked growing up as an at-risk youth."

After earning his bachelor's degree in Criminology from Framingham State, Castellanos completed a master's degree in Criminal Justice

at Salem State. In 2020, he broke a 15-year cycle of housing instability by purchasing his first home in Lynn, where he now lives with his wife and young daughter.

In addition to his work as a social worker and school committee member, Castellanos serves as an elected trustee for SEIU Local 509, representing nearly 20,000 human service workers and educators across Massachusetts. He also volunteers with several nonprofits and has run the Boston Marathon three times for Horizons for Homeless Children, raising nearly \$45,000.

"Framingham State gave me a shot," he says. "It immediately felt like home, and it was my safe haven at that time. I learned so many valuable lessons that have put me in the position I am in today, where I can help my community."

Fifteen years after wondering if college was even possible, Castellanos now spends his life helping others see that it is.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Rob Culgin

A Hall of Fame Legacy Built on Hard Work, Generosity and Family

When Rob Culgin learned that he'd been selected for the Framingham State Athletics Hall of Fame, he couldn't help but feel the moment land with force. "It was pretty cool to receive the nod," he says. "To get recognized after so many years really hit my heart. I've always felt a part of Framingham State."

Culgin's connection to the Rams runs deep. He joined the fledgling football program in 1973—just its second year—suing up as a linebacker on a team still building from scratch. Basic facilities were scarce, and equipment was limited, but the camaraderie was strong. He also played baseball during his time at FSU, and participated in multiple intramural competitive programs, rounding out an athletic experience that would shape his lifelong loyalty to the program.

That loyalty has never faded. Culgin has stayed close with longtime Head Coach Tom Kelley '76, regularly attending golf tournaments and fundraisers and offering vital financial support over the years. His generosity has helped transform the student-athlete experience, ensuring that today's Rams have the resources and opportunities that early teams lacked. "I relate to the kids at Framingham State," Culgin says. "I want to give them every opportunity to succeed. It's been great to see the success Coach Kelley has achieved."

FSU also gave Culgin something far more personal—he met his wife, Natalie Cacciola, on campus. This spring, the two will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

After FSU, Culgin built a successful career as an entrepreneur. In 1981, he and his cousin launched a company that sells and rents construction equipment and supplies to contractors and municipalities across New England. For 25 years, the pair ran the business together before amicably dividing it in 2006 to pursue independent paths.

Today, The Pro Group is a thriving family enterprise with four locations across Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Culgin runs the company alongside his son Joe, daughter Danielle and son-in-law Jonathan. "It's been a great family business," he says. "I've had friends from high school work here long term, as well as my kids' friends from high school. Over 45 years, it's grown deep into some of our workers' families. We have a very tight core. It's rewarding to be a part of this for all these years, and know our core team of dedicated employees is the reason why we succeed."

Athletics remains a family passion. Joe played hockey at UMass Amherst, and Danielle and Jonathan played hockey at Providence College. Rob's three grandchildren—Mackenzie, Muzzy and Max—are all excellent student athletes, as well. The whole family spends time together as avid skiers in New Hampshire's White Mountains, and enjoys summer fun in beautiful Woods Hole, Cape Cod.

For Culgin, being inducted into the Hall of Fame is both an honor and a reminder of where it all began. "Framingham State has always been a part of my life," he says. "It feels pretty special to come full circle."

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!

Learn more at:
FRAMINGHAM.EDU/UCC



CAMPUS NEWS

“Refer a Ram” and Help Them Earn a Scholarship



\$1K

**SCHOLARSHIP
EACH YEAR FOR
4 YEARS**

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, they will receive a \$1,000 scholarship each year for 4 years.

PLEASE NOTE: If the referred student has already applied to Framingham State, they are not eligible for the scholarship.

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

**SEPTEMBER 13, 2025
WARREN CONFERENCE CENTER & INN
President's Circle Gala**

The President's Circle Gala celebrates the generosity and impact of FSU's largest donors. FSU is coming off its most successful fundraising campaign in history, providing critical support to our students and families who need it most. We are so grateful to all of our donors for helping us live up to our mission of providing access to an outstanding degree to all families.



**OCTOBER 18, 2025
WARREN CONFERENCE CENTER & INN
Athletics Hall of Fame Ceremony**

Framingham State celebrated the 2025 Athletics Hall of Fame class during an event at the Warren Conference Center & Inn.



CAMPUS NEWS

Fall 2025 Alumni Event Highlights

**OCTOBER 18, 2025
Fall Fest at Homecoming & Family Weekend**

Students, parents and alumni gathered for FSU's annual Homecoming & Family Weekend in October, highlighted by the Fall Fest on State Street. Live music, food trucks, games and activities made for an outstanding celebration.



**CLASS OF 2025
ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME**

SOCCER
Karen Burns '98

MEN'S ICE HOCKEY
Richard Carlson '79

SOFTBALL
Colleen Marie Clancy '09

FOOTBALL
Robert Culgin

LACROSSE
Grace Gamache '20

VOLLEYBALL & BASKETBALL
Alycia Rackliffe '17

BASKETBALL
Richard Sims '78 (Posthumous)

STAFF
Jeff "Stoney" Stone

FOOTBALL
Melikke Van Alstyne '21

DONOR PROFILE



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

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508-626-4012

DONOR PROFILE

Tom Kelley '76

Wins Fade. Relationships Last. Tom Kelley '76 on What Matters Most

30

Tom Kelley '76 has spent more than five decades shaping the culture, character and competitive spirit of Framingham State University athletics. As the University's longtime athletic director and head football coach, Kelley is widely credited with transforming the football program from a conference afterthought into a perennial contender. But his impact reaches far beyond wins and championships.

Kelley's Framingham State story began in 1972, when he enrolled as a Sociology major and became a member of the University's first football team. After graduating, he returned to his hometown of Adams, Massachusetts, where he worked in a limestone quarry. It didn't take long for him to realize that path wasn't for him.

"I was working one day and this old timer says, 'Hey, you got a degree. What the hell are you doing here?'" Kelley recalls.

"I realized pretty quickly I didn't want to be doing that for the rest of my life, so I started looking at grad school."

Kelley earned a master's degree in counseling psychology and began his professional career as a counselor at MassBay Community College. In 1978, he returned to Framingham State as a part-time defensive line coach and equipment manager, earning \$500 a season. Four years later, he was promoted to head football coach, before stepping away from the role in 1985 when he became the University's full-time assistant athletic director. Eleven years later, Kelley was named athletic director—a position he continues to hold today.

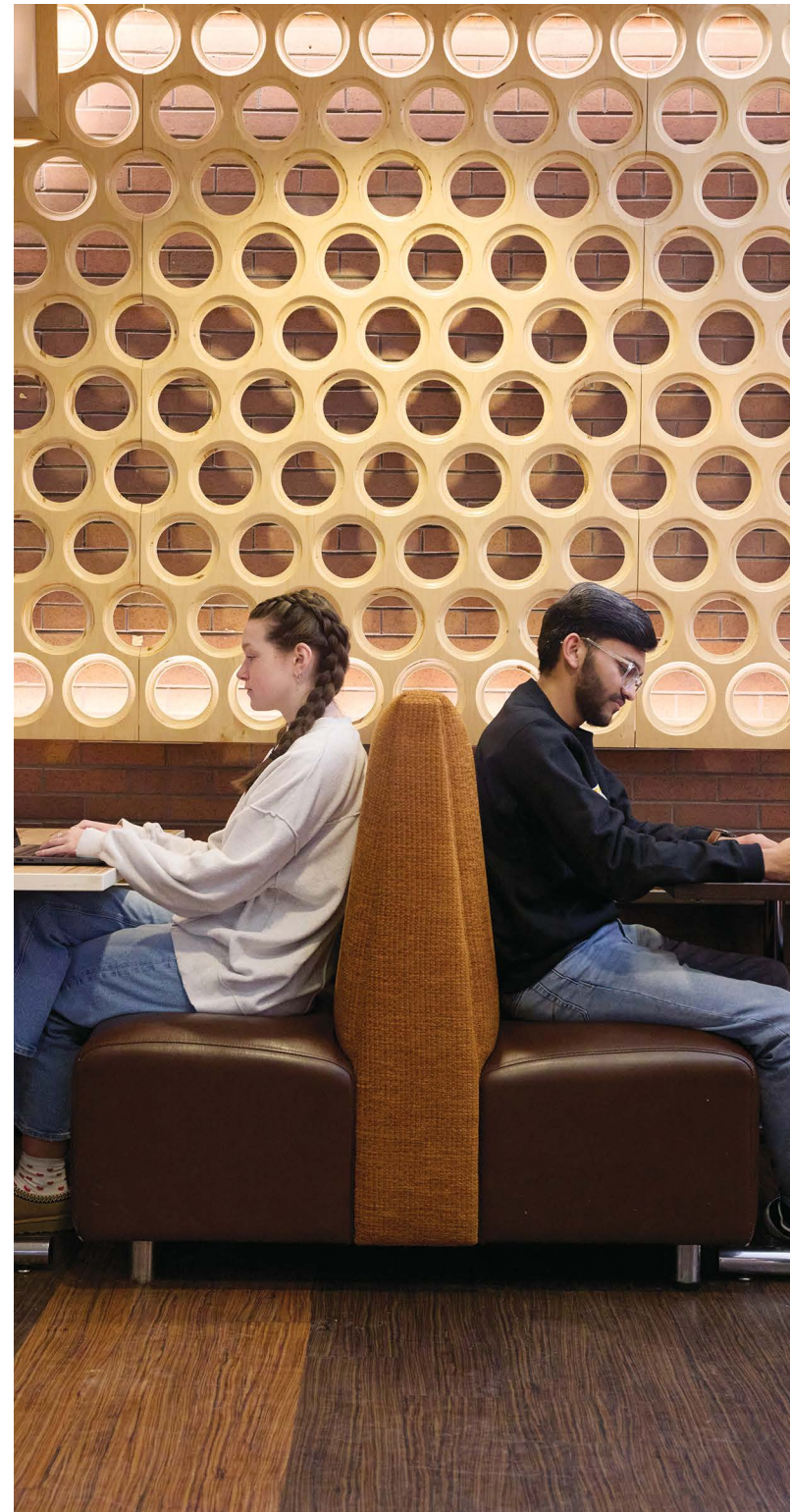
In 2006, with the football program coming off just four wins over five seasons, then-President Timothy Flanagan asked Kelley to lead a turnaround. Kelley hired himself as head coach and launched a remarkable era of sustained success that includes 135 wins, 11 MASCAC championships and seven NCAA tournament appearances over the past two decades.

Though he briefly stepped away from coaching prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Kelley returned when his successor left for another opportunity. What drew him back wasn't Saturday afternoons, but the daily work with students.

"When I stepped down, what I missed most wasn't the games. It was the practices and the day-to-day grind," he says. "We're a blue-collar program. We work our students just as hard in the classroom as we do on the field. They look for structure and discipline, and they get it."

As Kelley marks the 50th anniversary of his graduation this spring, he is being recognized for his generous financial support of Framingham State Athletics. His philanthropy is rooted in gratitude and in relationships that have lasted a lifetime.

"The University has given me a heck of a lot more than I've given it," Kelley says. "The wins and losses fade. What lasts are the relationships. I could never fully pay this institution back for what it's given me."



BACK TO BACK

Students enjoy lunch in the McCarthy Center dining commons.

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)

Events

MAY 29–30, 2026

Reunion Weekend

Framingham State University

It's the best weekend of the year to reconnect with old friends. Come celebrate the anniversary classes, including the Golden Anniversary Class of 1976, as well as our Alumni Achievement Award recipients!

JUNE 22, 2026

Rams Booster Golf Tournament

Cyprian Keyes Golf Club, Boylston, MA

The annual Rams Booster Golf Tournament returns to Cyprian Keyes. All proceeds support Framingham State Athletics.

JUNE 26, 2026

Alumni Night at the WooSox

Polar Park, Worcester, MA

Save the Date! The annual WooSox game is back with prime seating, a ballpark buffet and fireworks! Tickets go on sale in May.

AUGUST 21–23, 2026

Martha's Vineyard Meetup

Nomans, Inkwell Beach and Black Joy Kitchen

Framingham State is heading to the Cape and Islands this summer!

AUGUST 22, 2026

Cape Cod Lobster Roll Cruise

S.S. Lobster Roll, Sesuit Harbor, South Dennis, MA

Set sail with friends for a Cape Cod tour and seafood lunch. Sailings are at 11:30am and 2pm!

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**FRAMINGHAM
STATE
UNIVERSITY**

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



FSU FLASHBACK

Class in the 19th Century

A view of a classroom in May Hall shortly after the building opened in 1889.