Building on a Legacy

A revitalized McAuliffe Center explores the confluence of science and art.
REACHING FOR THE STARS

When I first arrived at Framingham State University in 2014, I was delighted to learn about the enduring legacy and impact beloved alumna Christa Corrigan McAuliffe ’70 continues to have on our campus. Selected from a pool of more than 11,000 applicants to become the first teacher in space, her story and commitment to teaching captivated the nation. Most people over the age of 40 can still tell you exactly where they were when the space shuttle Challenger tragically exploded shortly after takeoff.

The cover story of this issue of Framingham State Magazine is on the University’s Christa Corrigan McAuliffe Center for Integrated Science Learning, which was founded in 1986 to honor and continue the legacy of one of our brightest graduates. Most people know the Center for its outstanding Challenger Learning Center, which takes thousands of middle school students each year on an interactive simulated mission to Mars. This totally immersive experience has been inspiring interest in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) subjects for more than 30 years.

Less well known are the innovative programs offered at the Center for current FSU faculty and staff. These include NASA-funded internships for students, professional development opportunities, and access to digital assets and research materials made possible through the University’s connection to the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory and the MIT Karli Institute for Astrophysics and Space Research.

Whether you are learning about the universe in our state-of-the-art planetarium, printing a model of a telescope using 3D printers or participating in a live chat with astronauts on the International Space Station, the opportunities available through the Center are unlike any you will find at other public universities in New England.

I know that if Christa could see the impact the McAuliffe Center is having at Framingham State University today, she would feel proud of her enduring legacy and impact at her alma mater.

Best wishes,

F. Javier Cevallos, PhD
President
Framingham State University
Building on a Legacy

A REVITALIZED MCAULIFFE CENTER EXPLORES THE CONFLUENCE OF SCIENCE AND ART

The universe is overwhelmingly vast and—so far—lonely, but learning about it at the Christa Corrigan McAuliffe Center for Integrated Science Learning is not. Inside, Humanities and Art students share their talents with Chemistry and Math majors to solve problems. In fact, to engage the public in science’s most intriguing questions, what students need most is one another.
The McAuliffe Center is one of several centers and institutes at FSU.

CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN LEARNING, TEACHING, SCHOLARSHIP AND SERVICE (CELTS)

The faculty-run Center supports faculty members and librarians during all phases of their careers, awards grants and facilitates workshops, lectures, reading groups and special events.

Liscombe remembers when McAuliffe returned from the National Science Teachers Association Conference, where she met several astronauts. “She said, ‘I’m going into space someday.’” recalls Liscombe, who also became a teacher. “The rest of us were just trying to get our homework done.” When the University community lost one of its brightest stars, they founded the McAuliffe Center in 1986. The Challenger Learning Center was added in 1994. Early on, the Center engaged teachers and students in solving real-world scientific problems, and McAuliffe’s family members helped promote its work. Her mother, Grace Corrigan, helped come up with the Center’s name and also spoke at the Center, says Liscombe, who also remembers “tremendous respect and support from Framingham State College.”

Thirty-one years after McAuliffe’s untimely passing, up to 15 work-study students and interns each semester help Director Irene Porro, PhD, and a staff of dedicated science educators cultivate lifelong science learners. Students help run the Challenger Learning Center, assist with outreach to the local community, create marketing and communications materials, and enable learning experiences for K-12 students and MetroWest families as well as professional development for teachers.

In turn, Porro, who joined the Center in 2014, brings undergraduate students fresh opportunities to practice the skills they’re developing, a welcoming place to implement their ideas and peerless access to resources, which she provides to the Center through her professional connections with academic and research institutions.

To name a few, Porro has ties with the MIT Kavli Institute for Astrophysics and Space Research and the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, and with Smithsonian and MIT research teams associated with the Chandra X-ray Observatory, the education research nonprofit TERC and the Cambridge Science Festival, which inspired the University’s annual Science on State Street event. This year, John A. Grant, PhD, a geologist at the Center for Earth and Planetary Studies at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Air and Space Museum, will be the keynote speaker. Porro came into contact with Grant through the University’s status as a Smithsonian Affiliate, awarded in 2015.

Exploring the big picture

The gray and white exterior of the McAuliffe Center belies its colorful lobby of pictures from telescopes that looks like an art gallery. Founded to honor Christa McAuliffe ‘70, the outgoing social studies teacher who died in the 1986 Challenger accident, the McAuliffe Center huddles with O’Connor Hall and the Framingham State University Planetarium, which rises behind the Center’s glass entrance.

Mary Liscombe ‘70, McAuliffe Center Director Emerita and the 2015 recipient of the Alumni Educator Award, worked at the Center for nearly 20 years, most recently as director. “I wanted to do my job to the best of my ability in honor of Christa,” says Liscombe, who met McAuliffe freshman year and often had lunch with her.

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“‘She said, ‘I’m going into space someday.’”

Most recently, Porro created a partnership with the Center for the Advancement of Science in Space, which manages the U.S. National Laboratory onboard the International Space Station. They supply scientific data that is included in most education programs offered at the Center and also fund Space Station Explorers for Out-of-School Time, a program that brings underserved middle and high school students from across Massachusetts to the Center.
Porro’s connections help her serve increasing numbers of Framingham State University students through internships. Four paid summer internships in 2017, funded through NASA’s Universe of Learning program,* form the core of a growing program.

Four interns worked at the McAuliffe Center in summer 2017: Pre-Engineering student Cameron Danwah ’18; History major and museum studies and business administration minor Suzanne Wright ’19; Computer Science major and economics minor Ykaro Rocha ’19; and Mathematics major and physics minor Ana Luisa Aimer ’20. Together, they created an exhibit about the lifecycle of stars.

The students are a tight-knit group. Danwah prints models of telescopes from NASA’s 3D Resources website on a 3D printer, and Rocha and Wright create visuals that explain nuclear fusion and explore the history of science. Danwah is building a project website. “So that it’s easily accessible to visitors who don’t speak English as a first language, we’ll translate the materials into Spanish, Portuguese and French,” says Danwah, who learned how to use a 3D printer as well as 3D design software programs as an intern.

In the summer of 2017, Porro led the interns on a daylong trip to the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory in Cambridge, Massachusetts. It included a tour of mission control for Chandra, NASA’s flagship x-ray observatory. The telescope is specially designed to detect x-ray emissions from exploded stars, clusters of galaxies and matter around black holes. Because Earth’s atmosphere absorbs x-rays, Chandra must orbit above it in space. It travels on a highly elliptical orbit that at its farthest point is more than a third of the distance from the Earth to the Moon. The Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory hosts the Chandra X-ray Center, which operates the satellite, processes the data and distributes it to scientists around the world for analysis.

The Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory is part of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, and is one of nine Smithsonian Centers in the nation.

“It’s an insane example of how problem-solving as an engineer can create revolutionary technology.”

Porro’s collaboration with Chandra, which pre-dates her arrival at FSU, resulted in the Center becoming a partner in the Universe of Learning project. “Students also have access to digital assets created by Chandra and Hubble Space Telescope education and outreach teams that make our programs and presentations much richer,” says Porro.

Danwah and his teammates’ tour of the Chandra Operations Control Center was productive—they’ll use images from Chandra to explain their research. The budding engineer also admired how torque is used to move telescopes in space. “It’s an insane example of how problem-solving as an engineer can create revolutionary technology,” he says. The group also toured the MIT Kavli Institute for Astrophysics and Space Research, where researchers work on the next generation of x-ray detectors for use in astrophysics research.

* SYBCO STSCI 50717 UNDER NASA NNX16AC65A
Danawah thought he wanted to work in energy engineering, but now dreams of contributing to NASA’s next space station. “These people are what I could become in a few years,” he says about mission control staff. “They all contribute to making a telescope work out in space.”

Now the University’s Smithsonian Affiliation connects students to an extensive network of experts and resources. Its other benefits include professional development for FSU faculty and staff, such as the two-week fellowship Porro was awarded through the Smithsonian Visiting Professionals Program.

“I specifically asked to meet with directors at art and history museums, not just science museums.”

She spent the time learning best practices from Smithsonian internship program directors, and used the expertise she acquired to plan an interdisciplinary internship program based at the McAuliffe Center. “I specifically asked to meet with directors at art and history museums, not just science museums,” says Porro.

Interdisciplinary work is crucial in an increasingly interconnected world. Students must be able to communicate and work with people who have different areas of expertise and to convey the value of their research outside the lab. What’s more, when multiple disciplines collaborate, their work offers varied perspectives to its audience—and to one another.

The 2017 Smithsonian Affiliates National Conference offered the perfect opportunity for Porro to brainstorm with almost 100 art and history museum curators, science center directors, humanities and technology professors, sociologists and more for three days. She conceived a 15-month campuswide initiative, which will launch in September 2018. A celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Moon Landing, to occur in 2019, will anchor it. The multifaceted initiative, designed to explore the historical and social contexts that produced the race to the Moon, will explore the decade from 1962, when President John F. Kennedy spoke about the Moon race, to 1972, the year of the last Apollo mission. Wright is assisting. “When we think of the Space Race, we tend to forget the other forces at play, from the struggle for civil rights to student protests of the Vietnam War,” says Wright.

The event will tap the expertise of both FSU faculty and Smithsonian researchers. It will include lectures, panel discussions and exhibits that approach the decade from the perspective of the arts, music, social movements and historical events. “We’ll display anything about the sixties that helps people understand the period when we developed the technology to go to the Moon,” says Wright.

Scientific knowledge must be exhibited in the rich context from which it emerged. “We’ll display anything about the sixties that helps people understand the period when we developed the technology to go to the Moon,” says Wright.

Jena Porro, a 2017 FSU graduate and current science museum intern, offers her perspective. “The Center is a resource for everyone,” she says. “Through its work, the ideas that Christa McAuliffe hoped to pass along have endured.”

“I can think of no better place to make this announcement than at Christa’s alma mater Framingham State,” Acaba said.

On January 19, 2018, Framingham State University students received a long-distance call in the McCarthy Center Forum from a man who lives way off campus.

Joe Acaba, the first NASA astronaut of Puerto Rican descent, works on the International Space Station (ISS). He’s a member of the Expedition 53/54 crew that launched in September 2017 as well as a geologist and a former teacher. The downlink event, which gave students the opportunity to speak directly with Acaba and other ISS astronauts live from space, was a collaboration of the McAuliffe Center and the Challenger Center National Office. It was part of NASA’s Year of Education on Station, an initiative that offers STEM activities related to the ISS and NASA’s journey to Mars.

During the call, Acaba announced that he and astronaut Ricky Arnold would be performing the original lessons Christa McAuliffe planned to perform aboard the Challenger shuttle.

“I can think of no better place to make this announcement than at Christa’s alma mater Framingham State,” Acaba said.
First-Generation Student Leader

Tasia Clemons ‘18

Tasia Clemons is a first-generation Sociology major, who is minoring in Spanish and criminology. She has worked on campus as a peer tutor, student admissions representative, student desk attendant, orientation leader, Title IX student facilitator and administrative resident assistant (ARA). Clemons is also a public affairs intern with the Council on Contemporary Families (CCF), where Framingham State Sociology Professor Virginia Rutter is on the Board of Directors.

Professor Laura Kane

Dr. Laura Kane ’09 began teaching at the Fashion Design and Retailing Department at Framingham State University in fall 2017. Prior to coming to FSU, she worked as an assistant professor of apparel design at Mount Mary University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Dr. Kane earned a bachelor’s degree in Fashion Design and Retailing from FSU in 2009 and a PhD in design and the human environment from Oregon State University in 2017. One of her professional interests is costume design, particularly the area of “cosplay,” which involves dressing up as a fictional character.

Cosplaying with Laura Kane

Q: WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO FRAMINGHAM STATE?
A: The size of the University was an important factor for me. I knew that I didn’t want to have big classes. Because I enjoy one-on-one communication, I liked the small personal setting that you get here. That really stood out to me when I visited campus.

Q: WHAT SORT OF WORK DO YOU DO WITH THE COUNCIL ON CONTEMPORARY FAMILIES?
A: The CCF is an organization that provides the public with the latest research and findings on American families. As a Sociology major, I am interested in looking at how local and national policies impact families. For my internship, I do research reports where I take information from studies that have been conducted and put it into a more readable format for the public. I’ve been writing about how the removal of DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) protections is impacting immigrant students, and how mass incarceration is breaking apart families. These are issues that I’m really passionate about.

Q: COULD YOU TALK ABOUT YOUR VOLUNTEER WORK AT BETHANY HILL PLACE IN FRAMINGHAM?
A: I was a reading buddy at Bethany Hill Place, which provides educational housing for 150 low-income families. As I worked with children from ages 5-11, I wanted them to know that college is not out of reach. I’m a first-generation college student from a low-income family. So I told the kids, “Listen, I was in your shoes, and I understand it. Ask me anything you want, because I’m going through it right now and can tell you how I deal with the challenges.” Having the opportunity to help these kids is important to me.

Q: WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO DO AFTER GRADUATION?
A: I have already applied to graduate school and plan on earning an advanced degree in the area of student affairs. Given my interest in multicultural counseling, I want to see more diversity in student leaders on college campuses. I am very passionate about empowering other students and building leaders.

Q: HOW DOES IT FEEL TO RETURN TO FSU, AND WHAT COURSES ARE YOU TEACHING?
A: It feels very much like coming home. I was a commuter student at Framingham State and spent a lot of time in the sewing labs that I’m now teaching in. It’s very comfortable and familiar. The students are great. I can connect with them really well because I was in their shoes. Courses I’m teaching this academic year include flat pattern making, principles of construction, fashion sketching and design, fashion illustration and research methods.

Q: CAN YOU DISCUSS YOUR RESEARCH AND INTEREST IN COSPLAY?
A: Cosplay is something that has been around for a long time, but its recent increase in popularity has coincided with the rise in the popularity of science fiction and fantasy. It’s much more mainstream than it was 15 years ago. There is more acceptance of the fact that it’s okay to like comic books and be into super heroes. For my dissertation, I studied cosplayers by looking at their motivation for participation and how it aided in the fulfillment of the need for autonomy, relatedness and competence. My study of cosplay and fandom was actually inspired by a project I did as an undergraduate student at FSU.

Q: WHAT SORT OF COSTUME DESIGN WORK HAVE YOU DONE?
A: Most of my focus is on wearable art and cosplay outfits. It’s a challenge to take a two-dimensional design from a movie or comic and translate it into a three-dimensional garment. I’ve created several dozen different outfits, many inspired by Disney characters. I’ve sold a few and done a few outfits on commission. But most of it is for my husband, my sister, my mom and me. We recently won a costume contest at the Oregon coast. We have a lot of fun. Cosplay also gives me a different way to connect to my students who are also into it.

Q: HAVE YOU DONE COSTUME DESIGNS OUTSIDE THE REALM OF COSPLAY?
A: I’ve done some costume design work for theaters, but the majority of my work is based in creative scholarship and wearable art. I enjoy exploring different techniques and methods for making garments out of unusual materials, such as recycled paper and other eco-friendly materials. I’m currently in the middle of a series of original designs inspired by natural elements found along the Oregon coast.

Q: HOW DO YOU FIGHT THE INCLUSION OF DIVERSITY IN STUDENT LEADERS?
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The theme of this summer's art adventure is “Around the World.” Each week will bring a new set of ideas to spark imaginations as children are immersed in learning important skills and concepts related to the wonderful world of art.

There will be nine sessions to choose from between June 25 and August 24. Students can take part in a variety of full-day art classes and will have the opportunity to learn painting, drawing, and other aspects of art.

A group of Framingham State students recently returned from an eye-opening trip to China. They visited famous attractions and learned about production and merchandising in the world’s largest manufacturing country.

The trip was led by Professor Virginia Noon ’81, who lived and worked in Hong Kong and China for eight years from the late 1980s to mid 1990s. The group had the chance to visit famous tourist sites—such as the Great Wall of China, the Forbidden City, and Tiananmen Square—and dine with a local family to experience the traditional aspects of Chinese living.

"The trip was a contrast of the very modern to the very traditional," says Noon. "There is so much rich history and culture that students got to take in." Noon took the students to three universities, as well as one of the most elite. The group also visited a factory operated by a company where Noon was previously employed that produces lingerie for major U.S. brands.

Everyone got something unique out of the trip. Merchandising major Allison Bochman, who also minors in Chinese at FSU, remained in China to intern for six weeks at the factory the group visited. This opportunity provided her with an inside view of design, sourcing, technical design, quality assurance and merchandising.

During the trip, fellow Merchandising major Brianna Taylor and her mom, Lisa Taylor, had the opportunity to visit the orphanage where Brianna was adopted. “For us, returning to the Hangzhou Children’s Welfare Institute reconnected our family with several special people from 22 years ago,” says Taylor. “The educational experience of learning about the fashion industry and the vast history and people of China was truly amazing.”

Fashion students were joined by two National Guard active duty soldiers, who are both paragliders from the Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps. Melissa Gibbons, who serves with Hannah Cooney, is in her final semester of the Master of Human Resources Management program at Framingham State University. "It always amazes me when meeting new people from different parts of the world how much we have in common," says Gibbons. "Adventures like this definitely adjust your worldview and perspective.”

FSU Students Travel to China

DANFORTH COMMUNITY ART CLASSES AT FSU

While the Danforth Art Center at Framingham State University won’t officially open until next year, this summer a wide array of community art classes for students in kindergarten through high school will be available on the Framingham State campus.

Framingham State University is set to become the first state university in Massachusetts to house a comprehensive art museum and cultural destination following the approval of the sale of the Jonathan Maynard Building to FSU last October.

The University and the Danforth Art Museum/School have been working on plans to merge for more than a year. As part of the agreement, Danforth Art Museum/School will become the Danforth Art Center at Framingham State University. The museum’s collection of more than 3,000 pieces of American art will be gifted to the University, including the work of Framingham sculptor Meta Vaux Warrick Fuller.

“We could not be more excited about this opportunity,” says FSU President F. Javier Cevallos. “Students and faculty involved in our Art and History programs are going to have access to a resource found at few public universities across the country.”

The Danforth Art Center at Framingham State University will open in 2019 on the Framingham Centre Common, following renovations to the Maynard Building and installation of the exhibits. The Center will provide exceptional learning and programming opportunities to students and faculty at FSU, particularly those in majors such as Museum Studies, Art History, Painting and Studio Art.

The Center will also be one of the region’s top cultural destinations for the community at large. Danforth Art Museum/School will operate as a division of the University’s Department of Continuing Education, offering a full range of classes for all age groups and ability levels in a variety of disciplines.

“We know Danforth Art Museum/School enjoys a deep connection to residents in the City of Framingham and the wider MetroWest region, and we are committed to ensuring that this agreement serves only to enhance that connection,” says President Cevallos.

“As part of Framingham State University, the Danforth Art Center at Framingham State University has greater potential to serve its broad community as a university and public art museum and community art school,” added Debra Petke, Executive Director of Danforth Art Museum/School.

“We see many new opportunities for substantial academic collaboration, creative programming and more profound community engagement.”

DANFORTH ART CENTER AT FSU TO OPEN IN 2019

AASCU is a higher education association of nearly 400 public colleges, universities and systems whose members share a learning and teaching-centered culture, a historic commitment to underserved student populations and a dedication to research and creativity that advances their regions’ economic progress and cultural development.

“I am truly honored to be elected as Chair of the AASCU Board of Directors for 2019,” says President Cevallos. “State Colleges and Universities (SCU) are leading the country’s efforts to maintain college access and upward mobility for students from low-income and underrepresented backgrounds. The support that AASCU provides in these efforts is invaluable. President Cevallos has held many leadership roles with AASCU over the years, including two terms on the Board of Directors and service on the Board’s Executive Committee. He is currently vice-chair of the organization’s Committee on Student Success and has mentored future administrators seeking to become college presidents for 10 years through the organization’s Protégée program. Do not hallucinate.
Work and Family Photography Exhibit

“Family diversity is the new normal in the United States: 60 years ago, the dominant family type was dad at work, mom at home. Today, there is no dominant family type,” says Rutter, co-editor of Families as They Really Are. “This exhibition recognizes the uncertainty families experience now—that sense of ‘no stable equation.’ FSU students, faculty and staff live that. As soon as I saw this show, I viewed it as a tool for updated and inclusive conversations about what many scholars have documented is a serious problem in the United States: inadequate resources to respond to all our families.”

“I ANTICIPATE THERE WILL BE SOME GREAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS INTERESTED IN IRISH STUDIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONFERENCE.”

Dr. Kelly Matthews Bringing Major Irish Conference to Boston

Despite Boston’s reputation as the unofficial capital of Irish America, the city has not hosted the American Conference for Irish Studies (ACIS) in more than 30 years. FSU English professor and Irish literature scholar Kelly Matthews is leading efforts to put an end to that streak in 2019. Dr. Matthews is chairing the organizing committee coordinating efforts to host the four-day conference at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel next March. The annual event is expected to draw up to 500 Irish history and Irish literature scholars from around the United States and Ireland.

“It’s a big undertaking that we are really excited about,” says Matthews, who previously served as the president for the New England Region of the organization and hosted the regional conference at Framingham State in 2010. Matthews teamed with colleagues at Boston College, UMass Boston and Bridgewater State University to put together a proposal for hosting the conference in Boston. The theme of the event will be “Declarations of Independence,” which plays off Boston’s status as the birthplace of the American Revolution, as well as the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Irish government and the signing of the Treaty of Versailles.


“IT’S A BIG UNDERTAKING THAT WE ARE REALLY EXCITED ABOUT,” SAYS MATTHEWS, WHO PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS THE PRESIDENT FOR THE NEW ENGLAND REGION OF THE ORGANIZATION AND HOSTED THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE AT FRAMINGHAM STATE IN 2010. MATTHEWS TEAMED WITH COLLEAGUES AT BOSTON COLLEGE, UMASS BOSTON AND BRIDGEWATER STATE UNIVERSITY TO PUT TOGETHER A PROPOSAL FOR HOSTING THE CONFERENCE IN BOSTON.
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<td>Susan (Hodgerney) Kowalczyk</td>
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The low point of pitcher Kelsi Gunarathne’s softball career came about a quarter of the way through her freshman year at FSU, when she dislocated her knee and tore her ACL while fielding a bunt. It was an agonizing moment in what turned out to be a lost season for a talented Rams softball team, which struggled its way to a 13-27 record.

“It was an awful year for us,” Gunarathne says. “We didn’t have any chemistry; we didn’t have each other’s back. Gunarathne, who majors in Economics at FSU, briefly contemplated giving up the sport as she began a grueling rehabilitation process.

“I felt trapped not being able to do anything,” she says, “I wasn’t able to pitch. I eventually got a trip away where I was like, ‘I’m not going to feel sorry for myself.’ I became determined to come back better and stronger. Despite a quicker-than-anticipated recovery, Gunarathne didn’t know what to expect when she took the mound to open the season last spring. A complete game shutout against Brandeis University quickly put any doubts to rest.

Mentally, I did not feel I was ready, but everything felt natural on the mound,” she says. “My teammates had my back the entire time. Their confidence in me helped me have control in myself. Despite bringing back nearly the same team from their disappointing 13-27 season, the softball team would go on to set an FSU record with 31 wins in 2016, including the MASCAC (Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference) Tournament Championship and the team’s first-ever victory in an NCAA tournament game.

“The team had a completely different chemistry,” she says. “We had the same goals, and there was no negativity. Gunarathne went 17-7 on the season, establishing a new school record for wins in a season. She led the MASCAC with 2.15 ERA and 24 strikeouts in 56 innings of work. Gunarathne’s efforts earned her recognition as the MASCAC Pitcher of the Year First Team All-Conference and numerous other regional awards.

Heading into her junior season this spring, Gunarathne says she is not interested in any individual accomplishments.

“I don’t set personal goals because I’ve found the results aren’t what matters,” she says. “Last year, my coach said I had the best team in the history of the school, and my personal results will come along on their own when you achieve your team goals. It may not come as a surprise that Gunarathne is interested in coaching softball someday, and already teaches pitching lessons to children. Outside of softball, she is hoping to intern with Fidelity Investments this summer to explore the possibility of a career in that field.

Football Wins Second Straight New England Bowl

The Framingham State University football team hammered Curry College by a score of 48-14 to win its second straight New England Bowl at Bowditch Field on Saturday, November 18.

Sophomore quarterback Adam Wojenski repeated as the MVP of the New England Bowl after earning the honor last season as a freshman when the Rams defeated Salve Regina. Wojenski led the Rams offense completing 19 of 28 pass attempts for 246 yards and five touchdowns and an interception, while also rushing for 54 yards on four carries.

Freshman Shaquille Joseph paced the Rams receivers with seven catches for 72 yards and a touchdown, while senior Khaneil Bruce hauled in three balls for 70 yards with a pair of scores. Junior running back Quron Wright rushed for 60 yards on 16 carries, while making four catches for 43 yards with two touchdowns.

The Rams forced five turnovers, four interceptions and a fumble, which they converted into three touchdowns.

With this victory, the Rams, co-champions of the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC), finish the season at 10-4. Their only loss was a heartbreaking overtime defeat to fellow MASCAC co-champion Plymouth State in October.

The football team is on a run of success that stretches back to the 2010 season. Since that time, the team has a 73-17 record overall.

Keep up with the Framingham State University athletic teams online at fsurams.com.

50th ANNIVERSARY OF MEN’S BASKETBALL TEAM

Members of the first Framingham State University men’s basketball team were honored at halftime of a game on January 27 versus Nichols State.

The team was formed during the middle of the 1967-1968 season by former Athletic Director Bill Irwin, who gathered a group of guys from gym and asked them if they wanted to play basketball. They went on to form the first male sports team in the history of the school.

Despite some of the men having never played the sport in any regular capacity, the team managed two wins during their inaugural season, which was only nine games.

Members of the team included: Jack Ahern ’71; Ray Anastas ’70; Arta Blaquière 71; Bob Caron; Steve Calvarese ’68; Dick Cunningham ’69; John Farias ’70; Larry Hueser ’70; Dick Logan ’70; Paul Madden ’70; Brian Mooney ’70; Mark Murray ’70; Bill Stevenson; and Pat Tigue ’71.

Members of the first Framingham State University men’s basketball team.
Celebration
Framingham State’s leadership donors were honored during the annual President’s Circle Gala last November. It was a wonderful evening of dinner, conversation and celebrating Framingham State.

Alumni Reunion Weekend
June 1–3, 2018

It’s all about you!

Highlights
• Outdoor concert featuring “The Party Factor”
• Explore and connect at the Christa McAuliffe Center
• A Toast to You” cocktails and class photos
• Golden Anniversary dinner hosted by President Cevallos
• Luncheon and awards with the Alumni Association

Independent Association of Framingham State Alumni (IAFSA) Events
Alumni House, 42 Adams Road

Open House
Friday, June 1, 3 to 5 p.m.

IAFSA Annual Meeting
Saturday, June 2, 9:30 to 11 a.m.

Open House
Saturday, June 2, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Registration opens spring 2018
FramStatereunion.eventbrite.com
#ramsreturn #framstatereunion2018
1960s
BARBARA KANE ’62 hosted several Framingham State friends and classmates at her home in Schuylkill last summer.

1980s
ALAN BALSAM ’80 was named to the Cannabis Advisory Board by Massachusetts State Treasurer Deborah Goldberg. Dr. Balsam currently serves as an adjunct associate professor at Tufts Medical School and Boston University School of Public Health.

1990s
ROBERT J. MATTHEWS ’91 is the new national account director for Dean Foods.

Rachel S. Hibbard ’98 is pleased to share the release of her new children’s book, Just Jen. Living with invisible Disabilities, a funny, heartwarming celebration of kindness and inclusion. Spunky narrator Jen skips through life, introducing readers to methods of coping with congenital anomalies, including hearing loss, palate and heart defects, and scoliosis. Hilarious illustrations and the story reference differences such as autism, peanut allergy, diabetes, NG tubes, sensory preferences, CHD, asthma, Lyme disease, kusz, contrasting opinions on tuna and more. A kid-friendly glossary explains concepts and medical lingo to readers of all ages. Just Jen teaches readers to be kind, be themselves and accept others as they are. It is currently available at local shops in Indiana, on www.snbibband.com, and is coming soon to Amazon!

OF SPECIAL NOTE JAYLEE OBERG ’11
FOCUSED ON EQUITY IN EDUCATION AND WELLNESS

One of Jaylee Oberg’s 11th experiences with the inequity of education for low-income and minority students came when she had the chance to work in the Denver school system as a Corps Member with City Year.

Oberg envisioned Denver as a beautiful, diverse city where everyone went skiing or hiking on the weekends. But her experience working at one of the urban high schools told a different story for minority students.

“The school was 90 percent Hispanic, and I taught ninth-grade reading intervention,” she says. “All my students were at a third-grade reading level. There were so many children, and the teachers did not have the support they needed.”

The experience reinforced Obergs’ desire to focus on issues of equity in education. Today she is a recruiter with Boston Plan for Excellence (BPE). The nonprofit organization’s mission is to drive exceptional outcomes for all students by developing great teachers and great schools.

“We run two AmeriCorps programs,” says Oberg, who graduated from Framingham State with a degree in Communications and Media Studies. “Both are committed to bringing phenomenal teachers to the city.”

The Boston Teacher Residency Program run by BPE provides teachers with assistance in earning their master’s degree. In exchange, the teachers commit to remaining in Boston for three years after completion of the program.

“So we are helping prepare teachers to be successful, but also establishing a commitment to the city,” she says.

Oberg’s other passion is wellness education. She is a certified yoga instructor and hosts monthly workshops designed to expand wellness opportunities to low-income and minority populations.

REMEMBERING BELOVED ALUMNA KATHLEEN (RYAN) COMISKEY ROBERTS ’37

Those who knew KATHLEEN (RYAN) COMISKEY ROBERTS ’37 will tell you that she set the standard when it comes to living a full and meaningful life.

She was, among many other things, an educational pioneer, civil rights champion, author, historian, community advocate, volunteer, teacher and a beloved alumna of Framingham State University.

“I feel so fortunate that I had the opportunity to get to know Kathleen during my time as president,” says FSU President F. Javier Cevallos. “Even during the late stages of her life, she remained very active in her community, and was such an intelligent, generous and engaging person.”

The entire FSU community is celebrating Kathleen’s life this year. When legislation passed in 2010 officially designated the month of September as the very first of its kind for the town of Raynham, Kathleen was recognized as the first minority Afro-American to be honored with such recognition.

“Kathleen was an incredible person who made a positive impact on so many people during her amazing life,” says Eric Gustafson, vice president of Development and Alumni Relations. “Words cannot express how grateful we are for her contributions to the University over the years, not only through her financial support of students, but also through her overall engagement with FSU.”

“EVEN DURING THE LATE STAGES OF HER LIFE, SHE REMAINED VERY ACTIVE IN HER COMMUNITY, AND WAS SUCH AN INTELLIGENT, GENEROUS AND ENGAGING PERSON.”

IN MEMORIAM KATHLEEN (RYAN) COMISKEY ROBERTS ’37
NOAH LYDIARD ’99 LEADS CONDUCTOR PRODUCTIONS

The Shields MRI spot featuring Tom Brady and his massive Super Bowl ring is one of the most memorable commercials for New Englanders in recent years. And if you watched the Patriots historic comeback versus the Atlanta Falcons in Super Bowl LI, you probably recall the famous “Roger that!” line from an update to the commercial that ran immediately following the game.

Brady added a fifth ring to his collection.

“It was the greatest of all time,” Lydiard says. “Our clients are mostly web-based brands and digital content for a wide range of companies. Noah was recently hired as an editor co-owned two post-production facilities and a production company. The first person that hired me out of college was a director. He needed someone to bring it back to life,“ Lydiard says. “He came to me and we became business partners, and I started Conductor Productions from the ashes of the old company.”

2000s

JASON LANE ’01 recently published his first monograph, Luther’s Castle of Stone: The Voice of St. James in Reformation Preaching. Jason recalls playing basketball at Framingham State and was co-captain for his junior and senior years. He’s since gone on to receive a Master of Divinity and Master of Sacred Theology from Concordia Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Theology in Church History and the History of Dogma from the Universität Hamburg, Germany. He is currently an assistant professor of theology at Concordia University, WI. Jason and his wife, Marta, are enjoying life in Wisconsin with their six children.

KATIE JOYCE ’02 was recently promoted to vice president of grants development and contacts for the Old Colony Y.

MOMODU OSENI ’05 was recently hired as a nurse practitioner for the Presbyterian Medical Group Urgent Care in Fort Defiance, AZ.

MARK MARCHIOLU ’06 is now the first person that hired me out of college to be an editor co-owned two post-production facilities and a production company: The first person that hired me out of college to be an editor co-owned two post-production facilities and a production company. The production company was failing, and he needed someone to bring it back to life,” Lydiard says. “He came to me and we became business partners, and I started Conductor Productions from the ashes of the old company.”

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2010s

EMILY GAFFNEY ’13 recently received the Waltham Land Trust Inga Uhr Environmentalist of the Year volunteer award for helping maintain the Charles River pathways, sharing knowledge of birds and wildlife, and taking photos at Waltham Land Trust events. Emily notes that she hopes to inspire, by example, the conservation of wildlife and the environment for present and future generations.


COLETTE SANTA ’13 was confirmed in December as a member of the Massachusetts Parole Board. Colette has been chief of transitional services for the Parole Board since March 2016, and was previously the regional director of the western region for Puerto Rico’s Department of Correction.

ANDY BAPTISTA ’13 and MICHELLE MENDRES ’14 were married on October 1, 2017.

BRIDGD McCArTER ’15 and JESS THOMAS ’14 were married on October 7, 2017, surrounded by friends and family. They honeymooned in Belize.

Cameron Chang ’16 is living overseas in Madrid, Spain, working as an English language teacher and as a contributing author for the Huffington Post.

EMILY COLOSIOSO ’17 started in September with City Year, an educational nonprofit organization with AmeriCorps that partners with the Boston Public Schools. Emily has been working with fourth and fifth graders in Jamaica Plain and shared with the Wilmington Town Crier, “Every day that I’m here, I think I have a new reason why I joined the program.”

BERTHOLYN ‘TONY’ ALEXANDRE ’17 is currently an associate dean of students at Boston Preparatory Charter Public School, where he attended high school. Tony works closely with the principal to oversee student and family relations as well as discuss and enforce disciplinary actions.
HAPPENINGS

FSU LAUNCHING NEW MBA CONCENTRATION IN BIOTECHNOLOGY

Framingham State University is launching an innovative new Master of Business Administration (MBA) concentration in fall 2018 that capitalizes on the region’s position as one of the major biotechnology hubs in the world.

The MBA with a concentration in Biotechnology Operations is structured to prepare business students for leadership and management roles in biotechnology industries. Much of the current demand in biotechnology includes finding qualified individuals who can directly finance and oversee operations in a technically demanding environment. Venture capital funding, business acquisition, company valuation, or business development are the main drivers of current biotechnology industry growth, according to Dr. Steve Moysey, director of FSU’s MBA Programs.

“This new MBA concentration is a really unique program that is being driven by job growth projections for the MetroWest area,” says Moysey.

Dr. Sunny Tam, who coordinates the Professional Science Master’s (PSM) program in Biotechnology at FSU, says the new MBA concentration should attract mid-level biotechnology employees who are seeking advancement as well as students looking to break into the industry.

“This program is a great opportunity to learn the business skills needed to succeed within the biotechnology industry and to make professional contacts with employers,” says Tam. “We have an active internship program with many of the major companies in the region.”

Dr. Meg Nowak Returns to Framingham State as Dean of Students

Framingham State University is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Meg Nowak as Dean of Students. She replaces longtime Dean Melinda Stoops, who stepped down in May to take a position at Boston College.

Nowak had been serving as vice president of student affairs at Hartwick College in New York, and has more than 15 years of experience in higher education administration.

“Dr. Nowak has had a distinguished career in higher education, particularly in the area of student affairs,” says FSU President F. Javier Cevallos. “We are truly excited she is joining the University as our new Dean of Students. I’m confident she will be a valuable resource to our students and families.”

Nowak had been at Hartwick College since 2008. As vice president of student affairs, she provided leadership for co-curricular programs and activities that focused on fostering student development and success. That included overseeing Campus Safety, Counseling Services, Health Services, Intercultural Affairs, Residential Life and Housing, Student Activities and Student Conduct, among other departments.

Prior to her appointment at Hartwick College, Nowak worked at Babson College, where she was the assistant dean for student and academic services for the School of Business. She also has strong familiarity with Framingham State, having served as the University’s director of Orientation and First-Year Programs from 1997 to 2000.

“I’m very excited about returning to Framingham State,” Nowak says. “The University has an outstanding reputation in Massachusetts for accessibility and academic excellence. The campus has grown by leaps and bounds since I last worked there. I’m looking forward to meeting with the community and experiencing the vibrant culture.”

Nowak says she was attracted to the diversity of FSU in terms of not only the racial and cultural makeup of the student body, but also the mix of students from different economic backgrounds and age groups, as well as students who commute versus those who live on campus.

“I’m most excited to start meeting the students and working with them on ways to improve their educational experience,” she says. “I intend on being a strong advocate for our students.”

The Dean of Students is responsible for overseeing several offices at FSU, including Student Involvement and Leadership Development, Career Services and Employer Relations, Residence Life, the Health and Counseling Centers, Orientation and First-Year Programs, and the Office of Veterans Services.

Professor Emerita Judy Zaccagnini Flynn ’69 Establishes Endowed Scholarship

It could be argued that no one has played a larger role in shaping Framingham State University’s highly successful Fashion Design and Retailing Department over the years than Professor Emerita Judy Zaccagnini Flynn ’69.

During her 37 years at Framingham State, Dr. Flynn taught 18 different courses within the department. Eight of the courses she helped to develop became part of the curriculum, including Textiles to Retailing and Research Methods for the Fashion Industry. A few of Flynn’s former students would go on to teach in the department, including Professor Emerita Irene Foster ’87, with whom she co-authored the book Research Methods in the Fashion Industry.

“Dr. Flynn had quite an impact on our department and on many of her students,” says Foster. “A brilliant academic and a compassionate teacher, Judy is a special person. I was very privileged to be her student, colleague, co-author and friend.”

Now as a professor emerita, Flynn continues to find new ways to contribute to Framingham State University. In 2016, she established the Judy Zaccagnini Flynn Scholarship Fund, which supports current Fashion Design and Retailing students.

“Having been an undergraduate student, and then working at Framingham State for 37 years, I feel a strong attachment to the University,” Flynn says. “It’s been a part of my life for a long time. Our students are hardworking and the cost of college keeps going up, so they need additional help.

“Scholarships are one way to help these students reach their goals.”

Flynn is a passionate educator, with an interest in the psychology of fashion. “I’ve always been interested in why people wear what they wear,” she says. “What does it say about them? How does it impact their self-esteem?”

Flynn says the strength of FSU’s Fashion Design and Retailing program has always been in its forward-looking approach and openness to new ideas. The faculty worked as a team building on industry and student needs. “Nothing was ever stagnant. We were always looking to the future,” she says. “All of us went to national and international conferences so that we could stay current with the latest trends and technologies.”

When setting up her scholarship fund, Flynn chose to place particular emphasis on helping nontraditional students who have returned to college and are working to complete their degrees.

“When I did advising, I had a lot of nontraditional students,” Flynn says. “I saw them as having an extra burden. They really had to struggle to balance family, jobs and school. I set up the scholarship to support that group because I think they really need the extra help.”
Purchase tickets for certain events online at Framingham.edu/alumnievents

UPCOMING EVENTS

Alumni Reunion Weekend
JUNE 1–3, 2018
The Framingham State University Alumni Association is hosting several fun-filled events for you and your classmates on campus. It’s the perfect opportunity to catch up with old friends, make new ones and learn about some of the exciting changes taking place at your alma mater. Learn more and register for events at: framstatealumreunion.eventbrite.com

2018 Rams Booster Club Golf Tournament
MONDAY, JULY 9, 2018 | HIGHFIELDS COUNTRY CLUB
Join us for 18 holes of championship golf at Highfields Country Club in support of Framingham State Athletics. This beautiful venue located in Grafton, MA, is an 18-hole championship course designed by Mungeam Cornish Golf Design and developed by Grafton-based Magill Associates.

For more information or to register for alumni events, contact the Office of Alumni Relations:

EMAIL ALUMNI@FRAMINGHAM.EDU
PHONE 508–626–4012
ONLINE WWW.FRAMINGHAM.EDU/ALUMNI

SAVE THE DATE

Homecoming & Family Weekend
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2018
Join the Office of Alumni Relations and your fellow alumni for a special holiday reception at the Seaport Winter Garden Atrium. Details are available online.

Swiacki Children’s Literature Festival
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2018
The Swiacki Children’s Literature Festival is our annual celebration of the world of children’s literature. The festival features acclaimed authors and artists in the field, as well as a special talk on everything that’s new in the field. This is a can’t-miss event!

Parents: If this issue of Framingham State Magazine is addressed to your son or daughter who now lives at a separate permanent address, please let us know.

Framingham State University is committed to sustainability and chose to print this magazine on Sterling Premium Cover with Sterling Ultra text, which are certified to Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) standards. 10% of the energy used to print the book comes from wind and other renewable sources.