



BRIDGE WATER

STATE UNIVERSITY

Family E-News

Fall 2011

Calendar of Events

Parent Association Meeting

December 6, 2011
6 pm, Crimson Hall

Winter Commencement

January 27, 2012

Information will be mailed to seniors in Nov.

Important Dates:

Academic Calendar 2011-2012 Highlights:

Classes End
December 14

Final Exams End
December 22

Residence Life & Housing

508.531.1277

Room Deposit Accepted beginning Jan. 3, 2012 through March 2, 2012

Residence Halls Close

for Winter Break on December 22 at 5pm and will re-open January 15 at 1 pm.

Student Accounts

Spring semester bills will be available mid-December.

Scholarship Database Goes LIVE!

Encourage your student to check out our scholarship opportunities.

Welcome from the Parent Association President, Dana Holmberg



Parent Association E-board

If you have a son or daughter attending Bridgewater State University, you are a member of the Parent Association! So, now that you know, what can you do with that knowledge?

Here are a few ideas of how to utilize your membership in the Parent Association:

1. Plan to attend a quarterly Parent Association meeting.

These meetings are a rich source of information and chance to network with other parents. Each meeting includes a presentation from an area of university life. In recent meetings we have

learned the details about planning for a Study Abroad semester with your student ; we have learned about the state-of-the-art Science Center from the facilities manager; and we have heard from President Dana Mohler-Faria on his vision for the future of this growing institution. Oh, and did I mention that there is a fabulous dinner buffet included in the evening? The sign-up for these dinner meetings will be sent to parents several weeks prior to the actual event. The next meeting will be on December 6th, at 6pm in the Dunn Conference Center

2. Volunteer. There are many ways to support your student and their university, and volunteering can be one of the most gratifying ways. The Parent Association can be the vehicle to connect you with opportunities, which can be big or small, depending on what suits you. Perhaps you would like to help distribute popcorn at a future Family Day football game; or share your knowledge of university life with parents of the freshman class over an Orientation Day lunch; or perhaps you would like to help select the recipients of the Parent Association Scholarships. Wherever your interest lies and whatever your schedule allows, there is likely to be a good match for you. Just let us know.

3.Shop. Okay, this idea is strictly for the fun of it. As a member of the Parent Association, you are entitled to a 20% discount at the Campus Bookstore on December 6th. This is a terrific opportunity to get that BSU sweat-shirt, mug, umbrella, etc. for the holiday season.

So, membership does have its rewards. Consider participating in the Parent Association in whatever way suits you, and help yourself to realize what those rewards might be!!

A Message from The Office for Commuter Services

Colleen E. Gallagher
Coordinator, Commuter Services

Being a commuter student is a unique and sometimes challenging adventure. While commuting to campus can pose to be stressful and sometimes hectic, it can also be a very rewarding experience for many of our students. As you may know, our commuter population is the majority here accounting for over 60%, so your student is certainly not alone. Furthermore, throughout the

United State about 50% of college students choose to commute.

Making the choice to commute does not only affect our students, but also their family members. We find that many of our commuter students have an easier time maintaining good communication with their family members and including them in their collegiate experience.

Change is inevitable and you may find that your student is gaining independence and your role as



caregiver is now changing to helper, guider and advisor. Rest easy, this is a positive and normal change for everyone. As family members you are just as invested in your student's personal

(Continued on page 4)

Networking Works for Students at BSU

Carol Crosby
Assistant Director, Career Services

Is your son or daughter struggling to choose a career? Does he or she have a lot of questions about a field of work that you know nothing about? Tell them to contact a **BSU Alumni Mentor**.

Career Services' BSU Alumni Mentors are alumni who have chosen to mentor Bridgewater students as they explore the world of work. The mentors come from a variety of fields: the list includes a college president, a paralegal attending law school, a recruiter for a top advertising agency, an Army physician, and other seasoned and new professionals. They are available to offer advice on a variety of topics including where to find jobs and internships, how to develop a resume for their field, and what their typical work day is like.

BSU students appreciate this opportunity to talk to alumni. This past spring, Andrew Zides '11 had questions about his upcoming job search in education. He contacted George Ferro U '93 G '99, principal of the Whitman Middle School in Whitman, MA and Jeff Driscoll '92 who works in the business office in the Brockton Public Schools in Brockton, MA. Both devoted time and interest to discussing not only his resume and cover letter, but also recommended the best approach to use to apply for jobs in the field of education. Soon after Mr. Zides was hired as the new assistant principal and head of special education for the Cottage Street Elementary School in Sharon, MA. Because of his interaction with Mr. Ferro and Mr. Driscoll, he stated, "I felt very confident sending out

application packets for open positions with a resume and cover letter that were constructed well and captured my abilities as an educator."

BSU Alumni Mentors also benefit from the mentoring relationship. Kathy Flaherty '91, a vice president at State Street Corporation, states, "You feel personally rewarded...It is thrilling to hear back from students you have spoken to when they land their first job or internship. You know you have made a difference and helped them on their journey."

All BSU students and alumni are eligible to participate in this program and all students – first year through senior year - can benefit from networking with alumni. For more information about Career Services' Alumni Mentor Program and how to contact alumni, encourage your student to go to the [BSU Alumni Mentor Program webpage](#).



BSU Alumni Mentor Ellen Dugas (center), a marketing manager for the Walt Disney Company, recently visited Carol Crosby, Career Services Assistant Director, (left) and Alumni Relations Director Shana Murrell in the Career Services offices.

BSU PARENT ASSOCIATION

A great resource to network and learn more about services and opportunities available to students

JOIN US AT OUR UPCOMING MEETINGS

December 6 at 6 pm, Dunn Conference Room

February 15, 6 pm, Location to be decided

April 10, 6 pm, Dunn Conference Room

BSU Department of Athletics & Recreation

John Harper
Director of Athletics and Recreation

A total of 404 student-athletes competed on our 21 varsity teams this past year with 244 of those (60%) being male and 160 (40%) being female. Our participation numbers were kept slightly lower than in years past (but slightly up from FY '10) because we imposed specific roster size limits on all of our teams in response to budget restrictions. Nevertheless, some of those limitations were modified with the input of the coaches and the help of their own fund raising budgets to minimize negative financial impacts.

Our total number of team members this past year topped out at 480 because we had more than two dozen multiple-sport student-athletes and they cannot be counted as separate participants. Nevertheless, this is a positive trend because it shows the demand for our teams is still strong.

One hundred seventy eight (178) individual student-



athletes/student trainers were named to the Massachusetts State College Athletic Conference (MASCAC) All-Academic team (GPA of 3.2 or better). However, because the conference has us report these data three times a year (once after each sport season), BSU was actually credited with one hundred ninety one (191) honorees. This is due to the fact that several of our student-athletes play multiple sports. No matter how you report it, those are outstanding numbers which represent roughly 44-47% of our overall program participants. Further one hundred nineteen (119) of those students qualified for Dean's List recognition at BSU (GPA of 3.3 or better) so it was another outstanding year academically.

[Full Article Continued Here](#)

Is your student graduating this year?



Dear Bridgewater State University Parents:

Do you have a student who will be graduating this year? If so, we encourage your student to start their job search sooner rather than later. The average job search in this economy takes 5-7 months or more. Encourage them to get the jumpstart they need with the help of Career Services.

Not sure how to help them get started? Follow this action plan for success!

- * Have your student create an account on our Career-Link@BSU job and internship database. They can view job/internship opportunities, see career event information, sign-up for On Campus interviews and network with Alumni Mentor volunteers.
- * Encourage them to setup a Senior Recruiting appointment with a career counselor. We will orient them to the on campus recruiting options through the [Senior Recruiting Program](#), share useful resources, discuss em-

ployer expectations of the job search and interview process, and even critique their resume!

- * You and your student can check out our [Upcoming Events](#) page for information on all of our events, workshops and programs.
- * Encourage your student to attend our programs including: the [Internship & Job Fair](#), [Annual Job Fair](#), [Education Career Fair](#), [Practice Interview Program](#), and the [Senior Job Search Boot Camp](#). Many of these events will give them the opportunity to meet employers from organizations across the region. The current economic state is unpredictable, so students need to network and be proactive. Encourage them to

jump start their job search now by setting up an appointment. To do so, your student can call our office at: 508-531-1328. For more information and resources, check out our website at: <http://www.bridgew.edu/CareerServices/>.

Thank you for your support!
The Career Services Team

Residence Life and Housing Information

Room Reservation Deposits for 2012-2013

Attention Parents of students currently living on campus.

Between Tuesday, January 3, 2012 and Friday, March 2, 2012 current residents who plan to live on campus for the 2012-2013 academic year must pay a \$300 room deposit to reserve a space on campus. *You will not receive a bill for this deposit.* The room deposit credit appearing on the spring 2012 bill is the deposit you paid for this 2011-2012 academic year. Student who do not pay the deposit for next year before the March 2nd deadline are not guaranteed a space in housing for the 2012-2013 academic year. Watch for information from the Office of Residence

Life and Housing during the month of December regarding this process or check the RLH website at <http://www.bridgew.edu/rlh/> for more details.

Important Information About the Housing Wait List

On December 12, 2011 students on the Residence Life and Housing wait list will be able to log on to the website at <http://www.bridgew.edu/rlh/Waitlist/> to check their numbers on the spring wait list. Students who were on the fall wait list will automatically be included for the spring. The deadline to add on to the list is December 1, 2011. For more information on the housing wait list please see the Frequently

Asked Questions at <http://www.bridgew.edu/RLH/waitlistfaq.cfm>

Additional Occupancy –

Credits for additional occupancy rebates will be posted to students' accounts during the month of November and will appear on spring billing statements. All students in additional occupancy rooms will be offered permanent spaces by the beginning of the spring semester in January

Housing Withdrawals -

Students who are not planning to return to the residence halls for the spring semester should notify the office of Residence Life and Housing by November 18, 2011 so that they will not be billed for housing for the spring semester.

Semester Break Room Changes –

Students who want to request a room change for the spring semester may do so beginning on Monday, November 28, 2011 by submitting an online preference from the link on our website at <http://www.bridgew.edu/rlh/>. We cannot guarantee that we will be in a position to honor all preferences, but we do our best whenever possible.



BRIDGEWATER STATE UNIVERSITY

Office Of Student Affairs
Boyden Hall, Rm 206
Bridgewater, MA 02325

Phone: 508.531.1276
Fax: 508.531.6107
E-mail: parents@bridgew.edu

[www.bridgew.edu/
parents](http://www.bridgew.edu/parents)

Links to Resources, & Newsletters:

Campus Link Newsletter:
Newsletter for parents featuring
articles about today's college
student . . .

**International Students
Services Newsletter**

Internship Newsletter

Healthy Habits Newsletter
Newsletter for students
promoting healthy behavior

Student Health 101

Parent Perspective

A parent's companion for the
Student Health 101 Newsletter

**Residence Life &
Housing**

Advice for New Parents of Resi-
dence Hall Students . . .

Commuter Services Continued

growth and academic success as they are. Although it can be tempting to intervene and be enmeshed in their decision making, the best way to provide support is to foster their independence and create an environment that welcomes communication.

Many of our commuter students have the luxury of living off campus with their family members. This provides a direct opportunity for family

members to offer support, give advice when asked and give them the confidence they need to pursue their interests. With your support your commuter student will not only grow, but will remember how helpful it was to have a family member rooting for them.

Finding a balance is crucial for our commuter students as they are often juggling multiple roles, but finding the balance as a family member is just as criti-

cal. Naturally you want to keep your family members close, but trust that giving them the freedom to explore all that Bridgewater State University has to offer commuters will be the most priceless gift you can give them.



Homecoming/Family Day 2011



[Click here to view the 2011 Slideshow!](#)



BSU PARENTS ARE ON FACEBOOK!



Like **BSU Parents** TODAY!
The fastest and easiest way to get information
from the university.

The BSU Parents Facebook page is quickly becoming the primary resource for parents to stay informed and connected to their student and the Bridgewater State University community.

This page is intended to provide a breadth of information - from how to successfully navigate through the college years to important dates and opportunities.

Questions can be direct to :
Office of Student Affairs,
508.531.1208
or
parents@bridgew.edu.

www.facebook.com/bsuparents

