BSU Selects a BSU POLISCI Alum as the next President:

President, Dana Mohler-Faria on July 1st.

In December, the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education unanimously approved Mr. Clark’s selection as president. Prior to being selected as Bridgewater State’s next president, Mr. Clark had a very expansive and diverse professional career. Not only is president Clark an attorney, graduating from Suffolk University School of Law in 1986, but president Clark has also served as Governor Deval Patrick’s first chairman of Higher Education from 2007 – 2008 and he most recently served as the executive vice president for external affairs here at BSU. Prior to that position, he also

Bridgewater State University welcomes one of its own, Fred W. Clark, Jr., Esquire, as the president-elect. Mr. Clark, who received his degree in Political Science from Bridgewater State College in 1983, is slated to replace the retiring

African Legislatures Project

What is ALP?
The African Legislatures Project (ALP) is the first systematic comparative analysis of the role of legislatures in democratic development in Africa. It is a social scientific project dedicated to accurate and precise measurement of legislative context, powers, structures and procedures, resources, attitudes and performance. It is also designed to serve as a practical policy tool to make the research results available to national, regional and continental elected representatives and civil society leaders and to international donors interested in strengthening the role of legislatures in Africa’s emerging democracies.

ALP is a collaboration between the Center for Legislative Studies at BSU and the Center for Social Science Research (CSSR) at the University of Cape Town (UCT).
Assistantships, Fellowships and Scholarships:

Bridgewater State University offers generous Undergraduate and Graduate Assistantship, Fellowship and Scholarship programs to eligible students.

Appointments to these programs are competitive.

For additional information contact:
Undergraduate students: Dr. Kevin Donnelly:
kevin.donnelly@bridgew.edu. (508) 531-2442

Graduate students: The Graduate Studies Office:
(508) 531-1100
GraduateStudies@bridgew.edu.

ALP has completed research in 17 countries that have made a successful transition to democracy: Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Planning is currently underway to expand ALP research to five additional countries, with the long-term goal of covering all African countries that have made a successful transition democracy.

What Questions Motivate ALP?

Two broad questions grounded in political science scholarship motivate ALP: (1) how do legislatures in Africa’s emerging democracies negotiate the inherent tensions between the four core legislative functions of lawmaking, representation, constituency-service, and oversight; and (2) how this process affects the performance of African legislatures and their role in consolidating Africa’s fragile democracies.

To answer these questions, ALP has collected a wide range of qualitative and quantitative data on variables that are hypothesized to explain the performance of African legislatures. These variables are organized into four Modules:

Module 1 contains data on national background (geography, population, and colonial history), political institutions (previous regime-types, constitutional designs, electoral systems, party systems), social demography (ethnic and religious diversity), and economy (level of economic development). These data were collected through desk research and in-country field research.

Module 2 contains data on the formal...
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Send us your news!!!!

We will get the word out to all of the Political Science and Master’s of Public Administration community. Send your news and information in an e-mail to: Dave Marciello, MPA Grad Assistant at: dmarciello@student.bridgew.edu

Put “newsletter news” in the subject line.

The PoliSci Newsletter is written and produced by Dave Marciello, MPA Grad Assistant. It is a product of the Political Science Department and is edited by Dr. Brian Frederick, Chair and Dr. Deniz Leuenberger, MPA Coordinator. © 2014 BSU PoliSci all rights reserved. Reprint by permission.

NEWS & EVENTS:

Affordable Care Act Panel Discussion April 1

BSU Institute for Policy Analysis & Regional Engagement (IPARE) is holding a panel discussion on the recent legislation and the Massachusetts model from which it was derived. Are we better off? What have been the impacts? Come join the discussion at the Moakley Auditorium April 1st at 10:00 Light refreshments will be served.

Student Research Symposium

The 2015 BSU Student Arts & Research Symposium (StARS) will take place on Monday, April 27, 2015. The symposium will be held in the Moakley Atrium and Auditorium and in the classrooms in Hart and Burnell Halls.

The time for the 2015 BSU Student Arts & Research Symposium (StARS) is 9:00am-6:00pm

2 MPA students named as BAA Graduate Scholars:

Two MPA students, Christopher McMillan and Warren Sutcliffe were recently awarded BAA Graduate Scholarship for 2015. Along with an award letter and certificate, the recipients will invite a faculty or staff member to join them at the April 29th award dinner where they will be given their scholarship award.

MPA Dinner: May 14, 2015 5:30 P.M.

Dunn Conference Suite    East Campus

Do you know a student who would like to become an International Orientation Leader?

International Student and Scholar Services is now accepting student applications for the upcoming Fall 2015-Spring 2016 international orientation!

International Orientation Leaders must be current BSU students who can commit their time and energy to helping new international students adjust and transition to life in the United States and at BSU. This is a great opportunity to make an impact on incoming international students.

If you know any students interested please pass along the attached application.

Completed applications can be dropped off at the front desk of the Minnock Center for International Engagement, Maxwell Library, 330.

The deadline to apply is Wednesday, April 1.

MPA Grad named Aiken, SC City Manager

John C. Klimm, a 2001 graduate of the MPA program was named as the next Aiken, SC city manager. Follow this story in future Political Science/ MPA newsletters.
Kate Paton: Alumnus Profile

Kate Paton, a PHD candidate at Northern Illinois University. She has completed her comprehensive examinations and is beginning to contemplate her PHD thesis this semester. Her PHD has been an aspiration that she has had since she was a freshman in Dr. Jordan Barkalow’s *Children’s Literature and Political Philosophy* course. Dr. Barkalow happened to one day ask her what she intended to do with her degree and more exactly, what her goals and aspirations were. She responded that she wanted to pursue her PHD, to which Dr. Barkalow further inquired what she had done to prepare for that lofty goal. At that point, she didn’t have a plan. So, the two of them decided that if she were to make this dream a reality, she would have to make one, and stick to it. Even though Dr. Barkalow was not her advisor, it just so happened that he was the Assistant Director of the BSU’s Honor’s Program, so, the two of them devised a plan for Ms. Paton to achieve her goal of becoming a doctor of political science: the first step was for her to join the Honor’s Program, which she did.

Ms. Paton signed a contract with the Honor’s Program where she agreed to go above and beyond what her classmates were expected to do in her classes. For instance, she had to read additional books and do additional assignments in conjunction with the classwork that she was already assigned. In addition, she had to submit a thesis on a research topic which she completed during her junior and senior years. Her topic was on Machiavelli and philosophers, assignments in conjunction with the classwork that she was already assigned. In addition, she had to submit a thesis on a research topic which she completed during her junior and senior years. Her topic was on Machiavelli and her Political Science studies focused on political theory. After graduating from Bridgewater she entered Northern Illinois University as a direct admission to their PHD program where she is a teaching assistant. While there she has taught *Introduction to American Govern-

CPM Program

Students who live on or near Cape Cod now have the opportunity to stay local and graduate from Bridgewater State University, thanks to the opening of a new Cape Cod Campus in Yarmouth. As part of the university’s mission, the new location off Route 28 offers master’s degrees, bachelor’s degree completion in partnership with Cape Cod Community College and certificate and non-credit programs. President-elect, Fred Clark, said the Cape has always been part of BSU’s service area. “Our hope would be that our Cape Cod graduates will find a pathway to employment on the Cape, if that’s what they want,” he said.

A big part of the Cape’s offering is the Certified Public Managers® (CPM) program. The CPM is offered through the Political Science Department and the Public Administration program. The CPM program is currently pursu-

African Legislatures Project, (continued from p.2)

rules (e.g. Standing Orders), the organizational structures and procedures (e.g. staff, research, Committee Systems), and financial resources that directly impact legislative performance, as well as bill-tracker data that tracks all bills from introduction to final disposition (passage or defeat) during the legislative term covered by ALP research. These data were collected through in-country field research involving structured and unstructured interviews of legislative staff and legislative leaders (Speakers, Deputy Speakers, Majority Leader, Minority Leader, Committee Chairs)

*Module 3* contains data on the social background, political experience, personal values and attitudes, and cognitive and affective orientations toward legislative roles and functions of national representative samples of legislators. These data were collected through structured face-to-face interviews with sampled legislators.

*Module 4* contains data on public opinion about legislators and legislatures. These data were initially collected by utilizing existing data about citizen attitudes in the 17 countries contained in past Afrobarometer surveys. Subsequently, question items especially designed for ALP were included in the Fourth and Fifth Rounds of the Afrobarometer surveys in the 17 countries. See here for Afrobarometer Survey.

**How is ALP Policy-Relevant?**

ALP is also a unique project because it combines academic research with policy application. Its analytical approach and research design not only help to advance scholarship on the relationship between legislatures and democratic development, but also produce findings that have substantive policy relevance in helping democratic and legislative reforms and the legislative strengthening programs of donor agencies.

Embedded in the two broad questions
that motivate ALP are a set of specific policy-relevant questions: How and why do African legislatures function as they do? Why are some African legislatures developing into significant institutions that play a measurable role in democratic governance while others are not? What political and institutional reforms are required to develop and transform African legislatures into institutions that will sustain Africa’s fragile democracies? What constitutes “best practice” for the purpose of strengthening African institutions which are an essential component of democratization on the continent?

To answer these questions, ALP data analysis develops legislative performance indicators to highlight the factors that help to distinguish high and low achieving legislatures. This analysis helps national legislative reform efforts and donor-supported legislative strengthening programs in two ways. First, while a growing scholarship suggests that effective legislatures are essential for the consolidation of new democracies, no study has developed performance-based indicators to measure legislative effectiveness and distinguish between strong and weak legislatures. ALP fills this gap by providing useful measures of the overall performance of individual legislatures. Comparison of these indicators across legislatures and/or over time will contribute to a broad-based understanding of the factors that drive the development of legislatures. Second, this information is vital to enable donors and implementers to raise the quality and impact of their legislative strengthening programs in emerging democracies in Africa. The lessons drawn from these data provide a deeper understanding of why some legislatures develop and others do not and a complete “toolkit” to design programs in particular countries. ALP also helps to improve and systematize monitoring and evaluation components of legislative reform projects to understand better which interventions work and are cost effective and which are not.

How is ALP Funded?
ALP is a $1.2 million project funded by a variety of sources. These include the Department for International Development, Foreign Affairs, funded ALP research in Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe; The Heinrich Böll Foundation, the research arm of the German Green Party, funded ALP research in Namibia and South Africa; The United States Agency for International Development awarded a $150,000 grant to BSU for ALP research in Tanzania and Uganda; The University of Cape Town's Fund funded ALP research in Botswana and Senegal.

How is ALP Managed?
ALP is managed by two co-principal investigators: Professor Robert Mattes (University of Cape Town); and Professor Shaheen Mozaffar (Bridgewater State University). ALP initially included a third co-principal investigator, Professor Joel Barkan (Emeritus, University of Iowa). Professor Barkan tragically passed away suddenly last year.

ALP’s administrative home is in the CSSR at UCT. A Project Manager oversees the day-to-day management of the project and is responsible for coordinating the activities of over 4-6 graduate students who, at any given time, work as ALP Research Assistants. Since it began, over 20 graduate students have worked as ALP Research Assistants, at least half of whom have used ALP data for the master’s theses and doctoral dissertations.

ALP’s field research in each country is conducted by three Research Associates, who are usually country nationals with advanced degrees. They are trained in-country by either the Project Manager or one of the Co-PIs in ALP research protocols, structured survey interviews of legislators, and systematic data collection. The Research Associates also write-up brief Country Reports based on the research activities.

What Has ALP Produced?
ALP research has produced articles in refereed journals, working papers, conference papers, workshop presentations, as a well as a number of master’s theses and doctoral dissertations. A book manuscript is under preparation.

For more information on ALP, see: http://www.cssr.uct.ac.za/alp
Christopher McMillan’s path to running his own law office, which opened its doors recently on Main Street in Osterville, was neither short nor direct. A wash-ashore from North Carolina who came to the Cape on his 19th birthday, McMillan did not even consider law school until completing his undergraduate degree in history. At the time, the area of law in which he would eventually specialize was the farthest thing from his mind.

“My parents asked me what kind of law I wanted to practice, and I said, ‘Anything, with the exception of divorce and child custody,’” McMillan said. “I think we all know someone who has been divorced, or is getting a divorce, and I wanted nothing to do with that.”

But an internship in probate and family court in Brockton, and one case in particular, changed his mind. “There was one instance where a mother came in with her two young children,” McMillan said. “She was crying, and she had come, I believe, from Louisiana or Arkansas, to Brockton. She didn’t know anyone. She was visibly upset. She had taken her husband’s car, it was in his name. She left with her kids, and she came here, because she was being abused.”

The desperation that would lead a woman to disrupt her life and flee hundreds of miles touched McMillan, and the treatment she received led him to question assumptions many people hold about domestic abuse. “She was so afraid they were going to let her husband know where she was,” he said. “The amount of fear that was in this person, I was taken aback. And I just remember looking at the judge…thinking, you know, ‘You have to help this person. Why isn’t someone here helping her?’”

McMillan applied to Domestic Violence Ended, a Quincy-based group providing shelter, counseling, and legal services to victims of abuse. “I wanted to see how we got here,” he said. “What resources are available, why wasn’t someone with this woman, helping her?”

His experiences with DOVE opened McMillan’s eyes to the myriad obstacles, both practical and psychological, that prevent women from escaping abusive relationships, and the sheer determination displayed by those who do. “I kind of got a hands-on experience about what domestic violence is,” he said. “You see courage that I think it’s hard to see in any other circumstance.”

While he handles all areas of family law—including divorces, child support, adoptions, and prenuptial and postnuptial agreements—McMillan’s experience in advocating for victims of domestic abuse has given him a special sensitivity to the issue. “My telephone number does not show up as a law office,” he said. Other steps can be taken to avoid alerting an abuser that his partner is seeking legal help; McMillan said he sometimes meets his clients while they are grocery shopping or doing other errands, since they must account for any time spent outside the house.

“When you’re a victim of domestic violence, that’s what you want; you want that added level of security,” McMillan said. “It’s little things like that that can mean the difference between someone getting actually abused, or maybe even killed, versus not.” The fact that he limits the number of cases he takes on to just a handful at a time allows him to focus fully on each, McMillan said, responding to questions and offering advice quickly.

In cases of a woman attempting to extricate herself from an abusive marriage, McMillan often counsels his clients to pursue no-fault divorces, which do not require them to prove wrongdoing. “Most cases end up being no-fault,” he said. “That’s actually where a lot of domestic violence cases go. It’s easier on the parties involved, especially
Attorney Christopher McMillan, MPA Student, continued from page 6

if there are children.”

One advantage of no-fault is that it avoids antagonizing the abuser more than necessary. “For safety reason, sometimes it’s better to not point fingers, and say, ‘it’s no one’s fault, it just didn’t work out,’” McMillan said. Some do still opt to make their experiences known, though. “Some victims of domestic violence, no matter what, they want it on the record they were abused, and that’s why they got out. Because it’s cathartic. It makes them feel better. Because now they have control over something.”

While there is satisfaction in helping women escape abusive relationships, McMillan’s favorite cases are those that call on him to add members to healthy families. “Adoptions are wonderful,” he said. “These people are so happy.”

McMillan’s experience in family law has taught him to cherish those rays of sunshine in an otherwise dreary environment. “How many happy people do you see leaving probate and family court? Not many,” he said. “That’s the one thing that’s so wonderful. The one happy moment that comes out of probate and family are adoptions.”

Help is available


Christopher McMillan can be reached at 508-367-7757; mcmillan@mail.com, or online at lawofficeofchristophermcmillan.com.

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Original article: By Conor Powers-Smith Post Feb. 19, 2015 at 7:00 AM

“Osterville law office offers expertise in domestic abuse cases:”

http://capecod.wickedlocal.com/article/20150219/NEWS/150216519#sthash.k3wlNbD.dpuf

Service Learning Coordinator

Most every student and faculty member is knowledgeable of internships. And, the Political Science Department has plenty of these opportunities if one is interested in pursuing this avenue. But, internships are not the only game in town.

Through the efforts of Dr. Kevin Donnelly and Professor MaryBeth Tobin, students and faculty can explore the advantages of participating in Service-Learning. Dr. Donnelly, an Assistant Professor in the Political Science Department shares the duties of Co-Coordinator of Service-Learning on campus with Professor Tobin who is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Accounting and Finance.

Service-Learning is different from an internship in that its approach is to combine teaching and community service through engagement to help students gain a deeper un-
just begun.” (Auditi Guha, The Standard Times, November 18, 2014)

President Clark was also quoted as saying: "I am pleased to have an opportunity to work with President Mohler-Faria over the next several months to complete his ambitious agenda for the University," "I am also looking forward to highlighting and celebrating President Mohler-Faria's remarkable contributions to the development of BSU as a leader in public higher education in Massachusetts and beyond." (BSU News and Events November 25, 2014)

President Clark has been directly involved with much of the University’s growth over the past few decades. Moreover, he served in various leadership roles and on various University governing boards and/or as a member of the president’s cabinet during much of these projects. His leadership and guidance proved to be instrumental in the projects’ success.

According to University information, Bridgewater has grown to become the flagship of the state university system. It is the 10th largest higher education institution (public or private) in the commonwealth and serves a student population of 11,500, of which 95 percent hail from Massachusetts. (BSU News and Events November 25, 2014)

According to President Clark, his main focus will be student success, working closely with Gateway cities, increasing high school graduation rates, and helping more adults achieve higher education in southeastern Massachusetts.” (Mary Moore, Boston Business Journal December 3, 2014)

President Clark responded to the news of his selection by saying: "As a proud graduate of BSU who deeply understands and values the historic contribution the University has provided and continues to provide in the state, I am truly honored and grateful to have been selected by the Board of Trustees as the 12th president of Bridgewater State University. I look forward to meeting with the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education during the next phase of the process." BSU News and Events November 25, 2014)
Dr. Jordan Barkalow was recently published in *Expositions: an online journal from the Villanova Center for Liberal Education – Interdisciplinary Studies In The Humanities.*

According to their website, “Expositions is an online journal where scholars from multiple disciplines gather as colleagues to converse about common texts and questions in the humanities. Acting on the Augustinian principle that nothing human is foreign to the sympathetic heart, we seek articles, interdisciplinary exchanges, and briefer notes and insights that benefit teaching, research, and the life of the academy. Expositions provides immediate open access to its content on the principle that making research freely available to the public supports a greater global exchange of knowledge.”

Here is an abstract form Dr. Jordan Barkalow’s most recent article: **American Paideia: Public and Private Leadership and the Cultivation of Civic Virtue:**

“Among the many differences between ancient and modern political thought is a fundamentally different understanding of political leadership. For the ancients, political leadership is necessary to the cultivation of virtue amongst the citizenry. In contrast, modern political thought does not view leadership and the cultivation of virtue as an end to be pursued in and of itself. Instead, moderns view leadership as an instrumental mechanism for taking care of necessary business while leaving space for individuals to devote their time to things deemed more important than politics—the goods of the family, work, and leisure. America’s reliance on modern political thinking raises concerns about the ability and desirability of political leaders to instill and cultivate the character traits amongst the citizenry that makes self-government possible. This paper assesses the vices inherent in popular government that have their origin in modern political thought and their limiting effect on the ability of political leaders to cultivate civic virtue. Recognizing this, there is a need to look to private sources of civic morality (religion and family) as well as an important role for public intellectuals in our efforts to cultivate civic virtue and secure the blessings of liberty.”

If you wish to read Dr. Barkalow’s full article, it can be found at: http://expositions.journals.villanova.edu/article/view/1843
Over the 2015 Spring Break, Bridgewater State University graduate students Rhiannon Andrews and Devon Williams visited Siem Reap and Phnom Penh Cambodia on the BSU Presidential Service Trip. The students were led by Dr. Kevin Curry and Dr. Jenna Mendell with President Elect Fred Clark and Director of Study Abroad, Michael Sandy. From March 6–14th 5 undergraduate students along with the two graduate students and select faculty & administrators ran this program in an effort to disseminate fresh drinking water through the non-profit organization Water for Cambodia thanks to a grant from the Undergraduate Research Abroad program.

The trip was part of a continuing effort by BSU to help address the clean water needs of remote villages in Cambodia. The problem, however, is global. According to the World Health Organization, 780 million people lack access to any type of an improved water source. The result of the lack of this basic necessity is 1.6 million deaths every year from microbial associated diarrheal diseases, with 90 percent of these deaths occurring in children under five years of age. In Cambodia, 40 percent of the population does not have access to safe drinking water. Through the efforts of the Middletown Rotary Club’s Water for Cambodia project and BSU’s Dr. Kevin Curry, professor of biology, these numbers are decreasing through raised awareness and the installation of point-of-use water filtration systems. The students, in collaboration with the Water for Cambodia Lab in Siem Reap, are testing the efficacy of light bios and filters in the elimination of bacterial contaminants. The trip was funded by an Undergraduate Research Abroad grant from the Adrian Tinsley Program for Undergraduate Research and BSU’s Division of External Affairs.

The trip to Cambodia lasted eight days and the group spent time building and installing water filters funded by BSU through Water for Cambodia. They visited two remote villages – Polk and Omal, to install approximately 35 filters. The students were also able to visit Angkor Wat to take in the sights of the oldest religious structure in the world. Additionally, they had the opportunity to meet students and the President from BSU’s partner institution, Pannasastra University of Cambodia. During their stay, the students lived in hotels within Phnom Penh and Siem Reap.

BSU is not foreign to these types of trips. In addition to water studies and projects, the University has been conducting social justice trips to Cambodia for years. This winter, from Dec. 29 to Jan. 18, Bridgewater State University students visited Cambodia on a social justice mission led by Dr. Ben Carson Associate Professor and Chairperson of English, and Dr. Jenna Mendell STREAMS Co-Investigator & Coordinator of Transfer Student Program and Assistant professor of Biology. “This trip aligns perfectly with BSU’s social justice mission; my students and I are committed to educating, if for only a brief time, the future leaders of Cambodia,” said Carson. “Our students, while teaching in Cambodia, will undoubtedly learn as much from the students at the EYC schools as the EYC students will learn from them. It always works that way! These cross-cultural encounters are life-changing, and a trip like this—one committed to mutual engagement—goes to the heart of everything BSU, and our student body, stands for,” stated Carson, “I hope this trip opens the hearts and minds of my students, and instills in them some humility and a sense of gratitude, as well. A feeling of gratitude often comes from getting perspective.”

According to Carson, “I took four students to Cambodia in January of 2012 as part of an Undergraduate Research Abroad Grant, and last January I accompanied Dr. Curry, Dr. Mendell, and 15 students on a biology-centered study tour. BSU has a commitment to the people of Cambodia, and colleagues like Dr. Mendell and Dr. Curry and I hope to increase BSU’s engagement with Cambodia—through study tours, student exchanges, a Cambodia Summer Institute, etc.”

“The Cambodia study tour is a meaningful and soul-enriching experience, one you’ll carry with you for the rest of your life,” said Carson. “After Cambodia, it’s my hope students see their own lives, and the world around them, in a new light, that they’ll take what they’ve learned and felt and channel it in positive ways. I want them to know that they have the power to make a difference in the lives of others,” stated Carson.

Some excerpts taken from BSU News and Events Water Works: April 19, 2013 The full article can be found at: [http://www.bridgew.edu/news-events/news/water-works](http://www.bridgew.edu/news-events/news/water-works)

Also excerpts from the social Justice article from BSU Student Life: written by Stephanie Dawber December 9, 2014 See the full article at [http://bsulife.com/bsu-students-travel-cambodia-social-justice/](http://bsulife.com/bsu-students-travel-cambodia-social-justice/)

Rhiannon Andrews pictured to the right with Fred Clark
Meet the new Director of the Office of Institutional Research, Dr. Kate McLaren. Dr. McLaren received her P.H.D. in 2010 from Springfield College in Sports Exercise Psychology after receiving her Masters in Exercise Science from Springfield College in 2007 and her BA in Psychology from Wells College in Aurora, NY in 2005.

She went on to teach at California State University Fullerton in 2010 and then to the Education Alliance, a private consulting firm, doing research and program design until 2012. In 2012 she moved on to the Massachusetts Maritime Academy in Bourne where she was the Director of Institutional Effectiveness.

Dr. McLaren joined the BSU faculty in the fall of 2014 as a visiting lecturer teaching in the MAHPLS program and became a full time member of the BSU community in January of this year as the new Director of the Office of Institutional Research. Her years of conducting research during graduate school and her experiences at the Education Alliance and Mass Maritime give Dr. McLaren the experience and tools that she uses every day in her job as the Director of Institutional Research.

The mission of the Office of Institutional Research is to provide accurate data and analytical support for official institutional reporting, university planning and to improve institutional effectiveness by initiating and conducting original studies that inform University policy development, academic programs and the BSU environment.

The broad goals of the Office of Institutional Research are to meet reporting requirements of agencies to which the University is accountable, such as the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education and the U.S. Department of Education (IPEDS); conduct original studies that will inform academic planning; support university initiatives by providing data for existing grants and new grant applications; provide data for ongoing academic program reviews; provide cross-sectional and longitudinal data for decision-makers at all levels; respond to external survey requests; respond to ad hoc requests for information about the University.

Staff members from Institutional Research provide expertise in analysis, research, and assessment for members of the University community. This includes coordinating the scheduling of all campus-wide surveys assisting in the development of electronic surveys for certain projects participating in committees and task forces so that centrally held data resources are shared in real time with those who are making decisions at every level consulting with faculty members and administrators who need information about the University.

The office handles a lot of data and analytical reports and is very cognizant of maintaining confidentiality and sensitivity in the use and dissemination of the data that they possess. Because of this, the Office ensures that they are always using best practices in institutional research and data management; that they maintain data integrity in reporting and analyses; and that they are always professional in their collaboration within their department and with all departments throughout the entire BSU community at large. “We hold these values very strongly. Everyone here in the office realizes how important it is to always maintain such high standards.” Said Dr. McLaren. Moreover, Dr. McLaren explained that “the IR office likes to stay ahead of the curve when it comes to best practices in data collection, analysis, and reporting. Here at BSU, we are very proactive. We strive to ensure that students, faculty, staff and departments have all of the tools necessary for them to be successful. BSU has been collecting institutional data, conducting institutional research studies, and making this information available to the BSU community for more than 20 years. Not only was the Bridgewater IR office developing these studies before it became commonplace, we never rest on our laurels. We always strive to remain current with the work that we do.”

When I asked what one could do if one needed assistance with institutional data or research, Dr. McLaren stated: “I encourage anyone to come to my office and discuss your research and analysis needs. We have tools and data to help those looking for metrics related to program development and effectiveness, student success, and external benchmark data, among other information. Just stop by and we can discuss it.”

For general assistance, email OIR@bridgew.edu for the Office of Institutional Research.
ment, University Experience, and Democracy in America. She describes her classes as “political theory and political psychology” classes. Ms. Paton is also the advisor to the “Model U.N. Club” which she says attracts more upper classmen, mostly juniors and seniors. Her experience as their advisor has been “completely positive” she said. “They’re a great group of students and they have a lot of very insightful views,” she said. I asked her if she has had any students in particular that she has mentored similar to how Dr. Barkalow had helped her on her path to her PHD. “I got a lot of really great information from Dr. Barkalow both directly and indirectly working with him on the projects that we worked on. In being an advisor to the Model U.N. Club, I make sure that I am as helpful with my students as Dr. Barkalow and my advisor Dr. Frederick were with me. So when I’m asked to give advice, I take special notice to really think about the advice that I give. It takes a certain type of student to want to go to graduate school. So when I encounter one, I try to ensure that I impart the understanding of what to expect and how to accomplish this goal. I want to make sure that he or she is ready for this challenge.” She spoke of one particular student that she guided filling out all of the necessary paperwork and made sure he was completing all the procedures that he had to comply with. “It’s a precise process and I wanted to make sure he made the most of his opportunity much like my advisor and my mentor did for me. He’s now in the PHD program here at NIU and doing great.”

When asked about her experience here at BSU, she stated: “My classes definitely prepared me for my future PHD track. Because of my focus on political theory it ended up that I took a lot of courses taught by Dr. Barkalow. His courses were quite thought-provoking as well as challenging but they certainly also prepared me for what lay ahead.” In addition to her studies and her Honors Program responsibilities, she also completed a work study in the Admissions Department and was Dr. Barkalow’s research assistant. Her assignments varied, but in general she assisted Dr. Barkalow in completing the research assignments and literature works that he was working on. This “experience was invaluable. It taught me how to read, dissect and analyze professional and academic journal articles. This was a great bridge for my graduate school experience. These skills are not usually necessary in an undergraduate program, but they are certainly necessary at the graduate level. It’s a skill that I utilize a lot and I was that much more advanced for the training and experience that I gained through being the research assistant.”

Ms. Paton is now helping her students in the same way that she was guided here at BSU taking the mentoring and advising role when appropriate, but mostly she is teaching and working toward her own PHD. I asked her to describe how she structures her classes and if there were any influences that she drew from. “I’ve been a teaching assistant for Dr. Lawrence Arnhart and Dr. S. Adam Seagrave. I definitely take a lot of these influences in my teaching style. As the teaching assistant to Drs. Arnhart and Seagrave, I definitely have been influenced by their input. In particular, Dr. Arnhart really showed me how to be a professor. And, Dr. Seagrave has shown me how to be an expert in the fields that I teach. But I also have influences from my original mentor, Dr. Barkalow, in my teaching style as well.

When asked what Ms. Paton would say to an undergraduate student here at BSU she responded: “It’s of course important to make sure that college is enjoyable and you get the most out of the college experience. But, don’t forget to stay vigilant and focused on your goals. For me, that meant being part of the Honors Program and working on an undergraduate thesis not an internship. But whatever you want to go with your goals, make sure you tailor your goals with your college experience and work to stay on track with that goal in mind. Staying focused and on track will ensure that you accomplish what you set out to do. Having close contact with your advisors and mentors helps you stay on track. So, keep them a close ally in the pursuit of your plan.”
derstanding of the content and concepts introduced in the course. The two concepts are combined into one academic and work experience.

Although Dr. Donnelly and Professor Tobin are from the Political Science and Accounting and Finance Departments, the Service-Learning options span many disciplines. BSU faculty currently offer Service-Learning courses in a variety of disciplines, including: Social Work, Psychology, Political Science, Counselor Education, Criminal Justice, and Accounting and Finance, just to name a few.

Dr. Donnelly and Professor Tobin, work with the Office of Teaching and Learning (OTL) Director to support faculty as they work to develop and implement programming that promotes faculty and student service-learning experiences and assignments in their courses. This includes faculty outreach, such as identifying and working with faculty who utilize service-learning in their courses, or who might be interested in utilizing service-learning in their courses. It also includes recruiting faculty to participate in BSU campus forums, faculty development workshops, and relevant cross-related taskforce and committee work. Furthermore, the co-coordinators identify and promote outlets for faculty and students to present and publish their service-learning work. This helps to add a very valuable accomplishment to any student or faculty member who participates in the program.

When asked what the duties of a Service-Learning Coordinator were, Dr. Donnelly responded: “Professor Tobin and I are busy implementing and administering the process for Service-Learning course designations; recruiting members to the Service-Learning Advisory Board, and working cooperatively with the BSU Community Service Director to identify community partners and collaboration opportunities. It’s a
Dr. Donnelly and Professor Tobin are serving a three-year term in this role, which concludes in the Spring of 2016.

Service-Learning is a great option, in addition to the internship experience, and if you are thinking about getting valuable work-experience while expanding your academic portfolio, consider taking a course that is designated as Service-Learning.

To learn more about this exciting and growing initiative on campus:

Contact: Dr. Donnelly (kevin.donnelly@bridgew.edu) and/or Professor Tobin (marybeth.tobin@bridgew.edu)

The Certified Public Managers® (CPM) program is a leadership development program for public managers and supervisors. The program is designed for leaders in the public and non-profit sectors. This includes federal, state and local professionals who serve the public. The CPM program not only develops public leaders in Massachusetts, but also to serves as a resource for public service training and education. “The Massachusetts Certified Public Managers program is designed to provide current and action focused training to public agency and non-profit practitioners. The program is a resource to community leaders as a whole in improving service delivery in the Commonwealth and is a resource to individual practitioners in building skills for career advancement.” said Dr. Deniz Leuenberger, Associate Professor of Political Science and MPA Coordinator.

The program kicked off its inaugural offering, “Understanding and Promoting Ethical Behavior”, taught by Professor Jodie Koretski. In her class she had two current MPA students, a current and former Town Administrator, a BSU MPA alum, and a student who was taking his first BSU course. When asked why he chose this class he stated, “I’m thinking of enrolling in the BSU MPA program and this class is one that will get my feet wet. I have found it to be a very interesting course and thoughtfully taught.”

If you want information about the CPM program contact the Political Science Department.