

Bay Pathway

SPRING/SUMMER 2023



Diane Almonte Arias '23, Bay Path University
2023 Student Commencement Speaker

Carpe Diem



It is always my pleasure to share our latest issue of the Bay Pathway with you.

Within the magazine's covers, you will find news and recent announcements that will become part of our University's history, updates on how our alumni continue to be engaged with the Bay Path community and the amazing accomplishments of our Bay Path alumni.

These efforts, noteworthy on their own, come together to produce one important and singular impact: They increase the value of your Bay Path degree. When we do good, when our alumni do good and when our students do good, all of us benefit.

Of late, the word "value" has also been linked to higher education. I am sure that many of you have heard the question, "Is college worth it?"

The answer is a resounding: "Yes."

Evidence shows that when you have a college degree, you earn more over a lifetime and have a higher level of job security during times of economic uncertainty (Strada Education Foundation).

Today, across the country, jobs are presently going unfilled because of a lack of available or skilled talent in many critical areas, for example, healthcare, mental health counseling, teaching and cybersecurity. These professions require a degree, ensuring both knowledge and experience. As consumers, clients and patients, we should have confidence that we are receiving the best in service and care.

At Bay Path, anchored by our longstanding, career-focused mission, we can address this workforce need. Our graduates are positioned to enter professions that open gateways of opportunities for them, and, at the same time, address pain points where there are labor shortages. In this issue, we look at how our graduates in physician assistant studies and psychology are stepping up to be providers in primary care and mental health counseling respectively. These are just two examples of how our academic programs respond to the needs of the workforce, and the relevance of the work we do day in and day out on behalf of our students.

As alumni and friends of Bay Path, you also know first-hand the value of a Bay Path education. You can do your part in helping us grow the talent pipeline for many critical professions in our country by sharing your Bay Path story with a prospective student. There is no better endorsement than word of mouth and personal recommendations. Making a difference can start with a simple conversation.

I look forward to having a conversation with you. Our alumni affairs department is planning many events in the upcoming year, including Reunion on Saturday, October 14, and I encourage you to attend and reconnect with old friends and make new ones. I hope to see you there.

In the spirit that guides us all: Carpe Diem!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra J. Doran".

Sandra J. Doran, J.D.
President

Bay Pathway

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On the Cover

Diane Almonte Arias '23 hails from Hartford, CT, and received her Bachelor of Arts in Communications. She proudly wears her commencement stoles which represent her identity and accomplishments as an undergraduate. The multicolored Kente stole was a gift from the Office of Multicultural Affairs for her contributions to the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging efforts on campus, and also affirms her identity as an Afro-Latina. The vibrant red, white, and blue custom stole represents the flag of the Dominican Republic, a symbol of her proud family heritage. Inscriptions decorate the entire stole and highlight her role as a campus leader and president of ALANA (African American / Latina / Asian / Native American / Allies), and her major in communications with a minor in sociology. With this visible statement, Diane serves as the voice of the graduating class of 2023 as they go out and change the world!

We want to hear from you!

Comments and correspondence should be sent to:
communications@baypathedu.

PRIMARY CARE is PREVENTATIVE CARE



While there is much work to be done in shoring up primary care so that it can be the best that it can be—such as offering more incentives for medical students to enter primary care, decreasing administrative work, lessening insurance regulation and investing more into the primary care system—the medical professionals who work in the primary care field believe strongly they are making a difference at a personal and community level. And physician assistants are a big part of this solution.

Bay Path physician assistants are stepping up to play a vital role in the primary care system

It's a frustration many of us have felt. You pick up the phone and can't get an appointment with your primary care office.

Across the country, our healthcare network is facing a crisis at one of its most critical entry points in patient care. Family medicine offices, also known as primary care, are buckling under the strain of doctors retiring from practices, increased demands for healthcare further amplified by the COVID pandemic and staffing shortages.

The importance of primary care cannot be underestimated. It is the foundation of our healthcare system. For many of us, when you are ill or have a problem, the first person we speak to is a primary care provider, or PCP. And whether you live in a rural area or an urban neighborhood, your primary care office most likely is staffed by a team of PCPs, led by a physician, and includes nurse practitioners and physician assistants, known as PAs. They are your long-term partners, sharing the responsibility for your physical health and well-being.

ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CERTIFICATION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT'S (NCCPA) 2021 STATISTICAL PROFILE OF CERTIFIED PAs, THE FAMILY MEDICINE SECTOR EXPERIENCED THE GREATEST PROPORTIONAL GROWTH BETWEEN 2017 AND 2021 FOR ALL GRADUATING PAs ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

Facts about primary care

There are 168.7 primary care providers (PCPs) for every 100,000 Americans.

51.1 percent of PCPs are nurse practitioners and physician assistants

Physician assistant and nurse practitioner jobs are among the 10 fastest-growing professions in America

(Source: ValuePenguin Research)

MEET OUR BAY PATH PAs WHO LOVE THEIR JOBS



Since graduating from Bay Path, **Emanuel "Manny" Parrilla G'20**, has worked at the Baystate High Street Health Center Adult Medicine in Springfield.

"During school, and after I graduated from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, in 2017, I worked as an EMT. We responded to mostly trauma and Level I calls. In my senior year, I decided to be a physician assistant because I wanted to know what had happened to those people our EMT team had helped, and, in some cases, if their problems could have been addressed earlier. Over time, I learned that primary care was important because it is preventative care. If more people had access to PCPs, there would be less strain on ERs."

If I were to say what would make a difference in our health system, it would be educating people to make them aware that they don't have to go the ER as their first option and having more people go into primary or family care. Other medical specialties may pay more, but I believe that if you want to make a real and noticeable impact in a person's life, practicing primary care is second to none.

Do I love my job? Absolutely. I've developed a rapport with my patients, and at the same time, I know I am working for my community. I put in a lot of hours, but my job is incredibly satisfying. Every day is different. Every day has new challenges. But I am also lucky. I can see my rewards every day in the faces of my patients."



Robert O'Rourke G'18 is a staff provider at Northwest Community Health Center in Libby, Montana. Nestled in northwest Montana, the location is both a blessing and a detriment.

"I worked as a respiratory therapist for 17 years at a local hospital. Ultimately, I was recruited by a cardiologist friend who encouraged me to go back to college to be a PA. Our area of the country is resource-strapped for providers, so I could see there was an immediate need."

Our practice covers Lincoln County, and we serve around 15,000 people. In a typical day, I see everything. Even in my first week on the job, I saw patients from five days old to 95 years old. It is the beauty of primary care. You see something different every day. You never get bored."

One of the challenges we have out here is definitely staffing. First, there are just not enough providers going into family care. That's true across the country, particularly in rural areas. And then there is the location. It seems romantic to move to the big outdoors of Montana, but when a person experiences the remoteness and the reality of long winters, well, it makes it hard to retain people. But all the providers from the various clinics work together to give our Lincoln County the best healthcare. It's a special place."

Yes, I love my job. There is a lot to be said for providing care in a small community, and there is a real satisfaction in helping to make people's lives better. You are giving back to a community that you love, and it cultivates a sense of belonging. Personally, I have regular experiences when someone will come in and they will be at a low point in their lives, and I am able to make a huge impact. And then when I see them doing well—it doesn't get any better!"

To read the complete story of Manny and Robert and how physician assistants are impacting primary care, visit our website and click on **Bay Pathway Online**.

ChatGPT is here. *Now what?*

In late November 2022, the artificial intelligence (AI) research laboratory OpenAI unveiled ChatGPT to the public, simultaneously delivering a clearer picture of the future and a foggier understanding of our place in it.

While the “chat” of ChatGPT is familiar to anyone who’s booked rental cars, reserved airline seats

then sending it back out as insight and solutions, a process comparable to learning to speak a new language after hearing it, reading it and assigning meaning to sounds and words.

“Pre-trained” refers to the data the machine has access to; it’s what the generative part is working off of—the noise that’s shaping the language

a universal reckoning, especially at colleges and universities.

“I’ve been thinking a lot about ChatGPT’s impact on my program and my job,” notes Xiaoxia Liu, the director of Bay Path’s MS in Applied Data Science program. “My two main concerns are: one, ethical use. It’s crucial to establish responsible guidelines and policies to prevent misuse, especially for class assignments and projects. And the other is how it will affect our students. Generative AI models have the potential to automate certain tasks traditionally performed

by a junior data analyst or data scientist, and it may disrupt our graduates’ targeted job markets.”

The true challenge, for higher ed and the workforce writ large, lies

DO YOU WANT TO TRY CHATGPT?

Simply visit chat.openai.com and create an OpenAI account. Once you sign in, you can start chatting away with ChatGPT. Get your conversation started by asking a question. And because ChatGPT is still in its research stage, it is free to use and you can ask as many questions as you’d like.

or asked billing questions at the bottom corner of his or her computer screen, the “GPT,” or generative pre-trained transformer, prompted widespread awe.

For the uninitiated, “generative” refers to the software’s ability to “learn” from the data it is fed. It’s reading, crunching and finding patterns in that information, and

the program will speak.

“Transformer” is akin to the brain; it’s the architecture that enables the system to take in all that data, process it and then put it back out to us.

Although AI existed before ChatGPT, the allure of interacting with such a coherent, precise and uncannily human model has forced

in seeking ways to use artificial intelligence productively—to help us navigate information, consider a range of possibilities and lead us toward a broader scope of potential solutions, while keeping one eye focused on its capacity to wreak societal-scale disruption.

Graduate students in Bay Path’s Applied Data Science program

have experimented with using ChatGPT and Generative AI to assist with coding questions, demonstrating how AI can enhance the collaborative process. “In ADS534, our Statistical Modeling course, students shared different answers that ChatGPT gave to specific coding questions,” says Liu. “They got different answers based on how they asked the questions, and then these answers were explored in further discussions.”

Looking beyond the classroom
As part of a recent round-up in the Chronicle of Higher Education, education leaders shared views on both the promising and problematic ways AI could impact higher education. Education author Jeffrey Selingo sees how AI could be applied to shift money and resources toward the student experience, rather than the functions that take place outside the classroom, which account for a hefty chunk of tuition dollars.

The thinking goes that using AI to take some of the administrative burden off of financial aid, registrar and admissions offices frees people and resources up to do the work of supporting students, a concept that resonates with Bay Path’s President Sandra Doran.

“Bay Path tapped into the capabilities of analyzing large swaths of data early on to identify student behaviors at The American Women’s College with the SOUL (Social Universal Online Learning) model. That analysis instigated high-touch interventions from coaches and teachers and led to graduation rates that were significantly higher than comparable programs,” she explained.

“Our Student Success Center is going to bring that concept to the next level, centralizing a

student’s academic pathway and performance, along with their financial aid, career services and ongoing engagement, so that we can employ the appropriate resources and support at different points in their journey,” Doran notes. “At Bay Path, we are poised to harness the power of these tools and the power that comes from thinking about how we should best embrace them.”

See page 15 for more information on our Student Success Center.

When we asked ChatGPT to write a song about Bay Path, it took approximately 20 seconds to create this astonishing and accurate rendition:

On a winding path, in a small New England town,
There’s a place of learning where knowledge is found.
A place where dreams are born and futures take flight,
Bay Path University shining bright.

Chorus:

Bay Path University, a beacon of education,
Where women learn and lead with dedication.
With a spirit of innovation and inclusivity,
Bay Path is the place to achieve possibility.

In classrooms and labs, with professors who care,
Students explore, discover and dare.
From business to psychology, health sciences to arts,
Bay Path provides the skills that launch a start.

Chorus repeats

With a campus that’s green and inviting,
Bay Path is a community uniting.
Empowerment and growth are the goals in sight,
Bay Path University, a place filled with light.

Chorus repeats

Bay Path University, renowned and true,
We honor and celebrate all that you do.
May you continue to light the way,
For generations of students every day.



BAY PATH

ADDRESSES AMERICA'S GROWING MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

Over the decades, America has struggled with the stigma of mental illness and therapy. Perceptions are slowly changing, aided by a pandemic that expanded our willingness to speak of depression, anxiety, stress, loneliness and other conditions that were previously referenced in often-hushed tones.

Overall, mental illness has risen in the United States. Dramatically. A number of factors have played a part in this, including the escalation of social media that has now been found to negatively impact children and young adults—confirmed by the Surgeon General's latest —and societal and political developments, economic worries ranging from housing to debt to food insecurity and a lack of familial and community support. It is not an optimistic picture. At the same time, funding support for mental health is woefully lacking throughout the United States.

Mental Health America, one of the country's leading mental health nonprofits, recently released its annual survey*, sharing trends and patterns of mental health conditions. Among the key findings of the report is that 21 percent of American adults are experiencing at least one mental illness, translating into roughly 50 million people; 55 percent of adults with a mental illness have not received any treatment; and 16 percent of youth report suffering from at least one major depressive episode in the past year.

The survey also provided a robust set of data points for additional conditions related to mental health care. The report's conclusions are disquieting. Statistics show that the state of mental health, amplified by the pandemic, is on the rise for all age groups, while access to care is becoming even more difficult, especially among those groups who are marginalized.

FROM THE FIELD Like so many other healthcare professions, mental health counselors are practicing a balancing act to fill gaps in staffing. The same mental health survey referenced above identified that in the United States, there are an estimated 350 individuals for every one mental health provider. Our Bay Path graduates in mental health counseling experience this reality every day, but like many in their field, they couldn't imagine doing anything else.



"I wear two hats," says Monica Ardolino G'17, an outpatient clinician at Behavioral Health Network Inc. (BHN), based in Springfield. "I work 20 hours a week as a school support counselor for children in kindergarten to fifth grade, and 20 hours as an outpatient clinician, seeing clients at our BHN center. The common thread among all of my clients, young and old, has been COVID. I work with children who seem to be behind academically, socially, and emotionally. And at the outpatient clinic there are higher numbers of clients reporting anxiety and depression while struggling with coping skills that were diminished by our need to be continually adjusting to the pandemic. Seeing clients in person is more beneficial. And when they are feeling positive about themselves and their lives, it is very rewarding!"



Amanda Hichborn '14 G'17, at left, has a similar busy schedule that takes her to various locations in the region. She works at River Valley Counseling Center as a program director for its outpatient mental health clinic in Westfield, MA; as program director for two certified community health clinics based in

Holyoke, MA and Westfield; and she carries a small caseload of clients. "Even today, COVID has had an immense impact on the demand for therapeutic services. We almost cannot keep up," she says. "As a supervisor, I'm faced with many challenges, but one of the main problems is we just don't have enough certified counselors in the pipeline. And there are not enough resources to support clients and clinicians in practice. Yet another reason why the integrative team approach is helpful all around."

As a practitioner who has been in the field for almost a decade, Hichborn sees positive changes happening in mental health. She says, "We have seen great success with our integrative healthcare team, comprised of a mental health counselor, case

manager, medical assistant and peer recovery professional. Together, they are able to treat a client's mental and physical needs. It's multi-prong support that really works."

APPROACHES TO MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING At Bay Path, our MS in Clinical Mental Health Counseling program prepares students to be clinicians who celebrate and respect diversity and actively work to break down the stigma of mental health. Two years ago, the program was a recipient of a grant from the Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training (BHWET) totaling \$1,432,781 over four years, funded through the American Rescue Plan.

"The grant has been a game-changer," says Dr. Kristina Hallett, at right, director of the MS in Clinical Mental Health Counseling degree. "With this funding, we are placing our graduate students in IBH settings, and they are learning collaboration and patient-centered care with other practitioners. More importantly, to become a licensed mental health counselor they must put in 600 hours of clinical practice. As many of our graduate students work, this grant allows us to give them a \$10,000 stipend, so even if they take a leave from their present job, they will have income to support themselves or their families."



WHAT IS INTEGRATED BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE (IBH)?

IBH blends care in one setting for medical conditions and related behavioral health factors that affect health and well-being. IBH, a part of "whole-person care," is a rapidly emerging shift in the practice of high-quality health care.

"Our philosophy in the program is that mental health is public health," adds Dr. Hallett. "A growing body of research shows integrated behavioral health improves health and patient experience while reducing unnecessary costs in time, money and delays. With IBH, everyone benefits, particularly the most important person in this dynamic—the client."

Visit our website and click on *Bay Pathway* Online for the complete article.

*The information presented in the 2023 survey was collected in 2020 and is the first iteration of the report with data cumulated during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result of limitations on data collection efforts imposed by the pandemic, as well as changes and updates to the DSM-IV, the authors of the survey analysis stress that figures from the 2023 survey cannot accurately be compared to data from previous years.

PROFESSOR KATHRYN WIEZBICKI-STEVENSON BRINGS LEARNING TO LIFE THROUGH CO-OP PROGRAMS

“I graduated from a women’s college and have always appreciated the mission of empowerment through the college experience,” explained Dr. Kathryn Wiezbicki-Stevens, Chair of the Undergraduate Psychology Department and director of Pre-Occupational Therapy Studies and Health & Human Services programs.

In 1994, Wiezbicki-Stevens was working as a psychotherapist focused on seniors when she seized an opportunity to teach a course at Bay Path. Since then, she’s used her professional expertise and her personal passion for helping students to shape the sort of unique, career-focused learning experience for which Bay Path is known.

“I started as an adjunct, teaching Psychology of Aging,” she recalled. “But I’d been a practicing therapist, and my master’s in counseling included coursework in student development and cognitive psychology—how we think, how we learn, how we remember.”

Later, Wiezbicki-Stevens earned a doctoral degree in education, specializing in pedagogy, and this range of expertise enabled her to segue from adjunct work into a full-time role at Bay Path.

Starting as an academic counselor, she met with students about academic concerns and connected them with peer tutors. Eventually, she became a faculty member, developing and teaching what was then called the “First Year Experience.” This important course was a precursor to today’s WELL 100 class, which introduces Bay Path students to thinking about personal potential and how to become learners and leaders at the University, in their communities and in their lives.

In 2011, when Wiezbicki-Stevens became Chair of the Psychology Department, she wanted to give students exposure to experiential learning opportunities earlier in their college career than internships typically do. “I knew that offering co-ops to students in their second year could provide support for their career exploration, help them make connections with



courses, build up confidence and, of course, gain relevant work experience,” she explained. “But also, having the experience take place during sophomore year gives students something to look forward to and helps with engagement and retention.”

Each semester, eight to 10 students are accepted into the psychology program’s co-op, and each student is trained in their placement. “These are students who are eager for professional work experience in psychology and human services and to work with a diversity of populations,” said Wiezbicki-Stevens. “I meet with them individually to discuss their interests, strengths and skills, and what they’re looking for.” Students work for six to eight hours each week at partner agencies, which pay them directly, in roles that are scaled down to the appropriate experience level of a college student.

These community partnerships have enabled students to connect with children at Girls Inc. of the Valley; support victims of domestic violence at the YW Western Mass; work in several programs of ServiceNet Inc., one of the largest mental health agencies in Massachusetts; and assist with youth programming at the West Springfield Boys & Girls Club.

The co-op program differs from internships in that it also provides a weekly seminar, in which students come together to discuss and process the weightiness of service work and the situations to which they’re exposed and learn how to navigate workplace rules and boundaries as a helping professional.

“These are deep conversations about professional conduct, ethics, confidentiality, cultural humility and self-care,” explained Wiezbicki-Stevens. “Students have a lot of interest in trauma, but we also need to discuss how to set boundaries. And then, there’s also, ‘How do I ask my supervisor a question?’ ‘What is appropriate to ask, and what should I know to do on my own?’ Students will discuss how what they’re learning in a class like child development or psychopathology relates to their experiences at their co-op placement. It’s immersive, active learning.”

The success of the program has inspired Wiezbicki-Stevens and her colleagues in the Psychology Department to seek new ways to support students interested in service learning and making a difference. “The Forensic Psychology Program, under the direction of Dr. Diane Hall incorporates service learning in very creative ways. Dr. Sheila Foley and Dr. Vernon Percy have collaborated to develop a distinctive certificate program in youth development that is very popular. It’s a series of five

“Having the co-op experience take place during sophomore year gives students something to look forward to and helps with engagement and retention.”

Professor Kathy Wiezbicki-Stevens



classes offered to students who want to work with young people, and community-based learning is built into the coursework,” she explained.

Professor Wiezbicki-Stevens is also excited about the ongoing development of a professional advisory board, bringing together a diverse cohort of community organizations from psychology and health and human services agencies, to continually strengthen partnerships and evolve Bay Path’s curricula and networking opportunities, so students are prepared for employment upon graduation.

And then, there’s Wiezbicki-Stevens’ pet project, making sure she maintains strong connections with students well beyond graduation. “So many psych students keep in touch and come back to mentor our current students. I’m continuing to build on that, so that we can help students see all the professional options they have with this degree.”



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Eric Lesser, former Massachusetts state senator and Obama White House official, elected to University Board of Trustees



The University is pleased to announce that Eric Lesser, attorney, educator and former four-term state senator, representing the First Hampden and Hampshire districts of Massachusetts, has been elected to the Bay Path Board of Trustees. He began his term in March 2023.

"Eric Lesser has been a loyal and longtime supporter of Bay Path University, and he has a strong commitment to our mission and our students," said Bay Path University President Sandra J. Doran. "His many years of public service at both the state and the national level have given him incredible knowledge and insight on government and policy that will add significant value to both our board and in furthering our initiatives at the University."

As a state senator, Lesser led and served on numerous committees and commissions. He chaired the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies; the Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development; and the Senate Select Committee on Ethics. He also was vice chair of the Joint Transportation Committee and co-chaired the Massachusetts Special Commission on the Future of Work.

Among his many priorities, Lesser was a key proponent of the East-West Rail, a leading advocate for civics education, a champion for alleviating student debt and a national leader on the future of work.

Currently, Lesser is a senior counsel at WilmerHale, a Boston-based law firm, where he is a member of the Public Policy and Regulatory Affairs Group.

Lesser earned his law degree from Harvard Law School in 2015 and his bachelor's from Harvard College in 2007. He currently resides in Longmeadow with his family.

Welcome to the Bay Path community!

In Memoriam

The University is saddened to share the passing of longtime Bay Path supporters: **Dr. George Frederick Kalf**, 92, of Warminster, Pennsylvania, on March 1, 2023, and **Leon E. Maglathlin, Jr.**, 96, of Longmeadow, Massachusetts, on February 10, 2023.

It was through his late wife, Jeanne, Bay Path class of 1951, that Dr. Kalf became a friend and supporter of the University. After Jeanne's passing, he remained dedicated to this institution. The recipient of Bay Path's President's Award in 2015, Dr. Kalf was influential in the development of the MS in Physician Assistant Studies program and the Philip H. Ryan Health Science Center. He also established The Jeanne Williams Kalf '51 Endowed Scholarship and The Dr. George F. Kalf Endowed Scholarship. In 2019, Dr. Kalf received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the University.

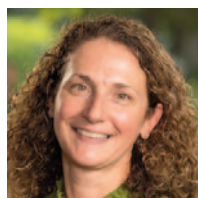
Leon Maglathlin, Jr., was a former member and Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Bay Path University and was named Trustee Emeritus in 1996. As Chair, he presided over the selection of Carol Leary as Bay Path's fifth president. Through the years, he was a generous supporter of Bay Path, and our community benefitted greatly from his philanthropy.



2023 Faculty Awards

This annual event was held at the Philip H. Ryan Health Science Center on May 8.

Bay Path University honors and recognizes faculty excellence in teaching and scholarship annually with an awards ceremony. These awards commend the efforts of individual faculty members to help build and sustain a community in which the teacher-learner academic experience is valued and prized.



The Estelle Leavitt Award for Teaching Excellence

The Estelle Leavitt Award for Teaching Excellence was established in honor of emerita faculty member Estelle Leavitt, who served on our faculty for 20 years, including as Chair of the Education Department for 12 of those years. Estelle was known for her deep commitment to students and her passion for preparing educators who bring both skill and soul to their classrooms.

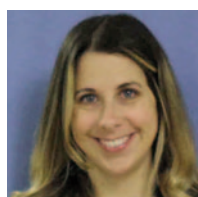
2023 recipient: Dr. Jennifer Stratton Undergraduate Program Director of Education



One Bay Path Award

The One Bay Path Award recognizes a faculty member or program director who embodies a collaborative spirit that brings our community together, is adaptable and resourceful, and who creates conditions that empower each Bay Path learner to achieve success and fosters partnerships that open new pathways for learners.

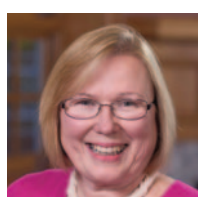
2023 recipient: Michelle McGrath Senior Director, Psychology Programs, The American Women's College



The Faculty Outstanding Research, Scholarly Activity and Creative Works Prize

The Richard J. Briotta Outstanding Faculty Research, Scholarly Activity and Creative Works Prize is given to a faculty member in recognition of their extraordinary research and publication activity, as well as their contributions in fostering serious academic research within the Bay Path community.

2023 recipient: Dr. Mary Whitten Occupational Therapy Bridge Program



Vana Nespor Award for Teaching Innovation at The American Women's College

This award is intended to recognize an academic director at The American Women's College who is dedicated to the promotion of learner success for adult women through curricular advancement with the integration or development of digitally enhanced, data-driven, innovative or cost-effective learning experiences in our accelerated undergraduate model.

2023 recipient: Marjorie Robinson-Bessette Academic Director of Health and Nursing
The American Women's College

Other faculty were recognized for their contributions with the following teacher awards:

Distinguished Teaching Award / Traditional Undergraduate Program: Victoria-Ann Rodriguez '12 G'17

Distinguished Teaching Award / The American Women's College: Dr. Adriane Mayda

Distinguished Teaching Award / School of Management and Technology: Dr. William Hettinger

Distinguished Teaching Award / School of Health and Natural Sciences: Suzanne Gile

Distinguished Teaching Award / School of Education, Psychology & Humanities: Lorie Banks

Congratulations to our award winners!

University Transitions to Three-School Academic Structure

Starting on March 1, Bay Path transitioned to a three-school academic structure. The new alignment was a result of cross-community collaborations as part of the University's strategic planning process, **Building One Bay Path**. Each School is headed by a dean responsible for leading and coordinating the work of department chairs and program directors to support faculty and student success.

Bay Path's three schools of academic study and their corresponding deans are:

- **School of Education, Psychology & Humanities** Dr. Ruth A.H. Lahti
- **School of Management & Technology** Dr. Thomas Loper
- **School of Health & Natural Sciences** Dr. Theresa DeVito

With this shift, Bay Path will be able to increase the accessibility and flexibility of course offerings and academic experiences for learners in their field of study. This new learning ecosystem will create multiple pathways for learners to earn credentials at any point in their career journey, from certificates to doctoral degrees. In addition, the three-school model will modernize and allow for efficiencies in the management of academic programs that can contribute to program growth.

"I am looking forward to working with the deans as they lead their three new schools," said John Caron, interim vice president of Academic Affairs. "This model creates new opportunities for collaboration for our faculty and staff that builds on the commonalities of their subject areas. And this new structure will better enable Bay Path to adapt and quickly respond to the rapidly changing needs of the world and workforce."



University Launches MSN Program

In response to the growing demand for nurse practitioners, educators and administrators, Bay Path University has announced a fully online, new Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program, which has begun accepting nursing candidates for the fall 2023 semester.

The MSN program is a direct response to the dire need for registered nurses nationwide—a need that became more acute throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The degree will address the critical problem of the nursing shortage by expanding the talent pipeline for nurses so they can earn a degree that blends these key areas: the latest developments in patient care, leadership training, best practices in management and foundations of teaching.

"Our MSN is a creative and innovative approach to support career development for nurses," stated Dr. Linda Adams-Wendling, chief nurse administrator and director of the MSN/DNP nursing program. "Many times, nurses who are ready to pursue a graduate degree are often not sure if they want to be nurse educators or nurse managers/leaders/administrators. Our degree provides our nursing students with skills and competencies in each of these areas. As a result, they can take advantage of more opportunities, as well as fulfill a critical need for nurses whose knowledge and experience are fundamental for patient-centered care and the development of the next generation of nurses."

The online MSN is also a pathway to Bay Path's online Doctor of Nursing Practice–Family Nurse Practitioner program, a terminal nursing credential preparing nurses with the critical skills needed to translate evidence-based care into practice, improve systems of care and measure outcomes for patients and communities. Nurses who wish to pursue a terminal nursing credential and who have graduated from Bay Path's MSN may also be able to apply courses to the doctoral program.

Our accreditation status: The master's degree program in nursing at Bay Path University is pursuing initial accreditation by the Commission of Collegiate Nursing Education, 655 K Street BW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20001, 202-887-6791. Applying for accreditation does not guarantee that accreditation will be granted.

To learn about admission to the **MSN**, as well as our **RN to BSN** and **Doctor of Nursing Practice–Family Nurse Practitioner** programs, please visit www.baypath.edu/msn



Our Students Are **Amazing!**

Every April, we celebrate student accomplishments during Academic Achievement Day. This year was no different.

From poster presentations to panels to talks, over 100 students shared their achievements on April 11 with alumni, faculty, staff, friends and family. One of the highlights of the day was the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the newly renovated science labs in Carr 209 and Carr 313. The space transformations were made possible by the generosity of longtime Bay Path champion, Eileen Stern; the University and the many soon-to-be women scientists in our undergraduate program are grateful for her support. It was a Carpe Diem day.

Clockwise from top left: Dr. Diane Hall's Domestic Violence class was front and center with its Clothesline Project. The class partnered with Holyoke-based Alianza, which offers support for people affected by domestic violence, and worked with Bay Path alumna Emily Pelletier Skoczylas '11, the education and outreach coordinator of the organization; For over 25 years, Eileen Stern has been a dedicated member of our Bay Path community. At the ribbon cutting, she was joined by Stern and WiSH (Women in STEM Honors) Scholars, a grateful community of budding women scientists who offered their heartfelt thanks; the highlight of the day was the student presentations; Stern proudly wears the new Stern Scholars stole, worn at graduation, created for her steadfast support for the program.



Incremental Learning, Monumental Change: **Bay Path Builds Credential Learning Program**

"Innovative, career-based education that helps women thrive, professionally and personally, is our mission," said Bay Path University President Sandra J. Doran.

In January, Bay Path's commitment to increasing access to career-based learning opportunities for women was strengthened by a \$299,810 grant award from the Strada Education Network and selection into the national Credential As You Go initiative.

Through the Strada grant, the University embarked on the preliminary phase of building and staffing Bay Path's earn-learn program. The earn-learn approach is designed to enable working adults to take courses in skills that uniquely position them to continually advance in their careers.

Pulling together resources from the University, employer partners and educational platforms, Bay Path will be able to offer a comprehensive catalog of trainings and courses, laddering up to degrees, certificates, industry certifications, licenses, badges and micro-credentials that can be earned over the course of a learner's entire career.

Through Credential As You Go, Bay Path joins a cohort of 26 institutions of higher education and two certifying organizations that were selected from more than HOW MANY to help build a framework of incremental credentialing, which marks an important and necessary redesign of the American higher education system.

The new framework looks to "unbundle" the notion of a traditional degree, presenting alternative on- and off-ramps to education and enabling learners to build on their skill sets and advance in their professions in a way that's affordable, relevant and specific to each learner's goals.

A poll conducted last year by the Wall Street Journal and the University of Chicago-based research

The new framework enables learners to build on their skill sets and advance in their professions in an affordable, relevant and specific way.

group NORC, formerly known as the National Opinion Research Center, found that more than half of Americans think a four-year university degree is not worth the cost.

"This developing model has the potential to address equity issues that have long plagued traditional higher ed and really inhibited people's ability to get ahead," said Jeremy Anderson, vice president for Learning, Innovation, Analytics, and Technology at Bay Path. "Shorter, alternative credentials offer a more affordable, faster path to good-paying jobs and can be a continual resource, as people's work lives can now last 60 years. To help people consistently upskill and reskill, we can't saddle them with large amounts of debt."

"We know the power that education has to transform women's lives, and too often, it is not available to those for whom it could be most transformational. Today's employers and employees need a model that is responsive, accessible and relevant to both their short- and long-term objectives," said President Doran. "We passionately believe in the potential of these new models to create more opportunities for more learners, and we have amazing partners who share this vision."



Commencement 2023!

The crowd was at near capacity at the MassMutual Center in Springfield to see over 700 Bay Path undergraduate and graduates receive their degrees. The May 7 event was preceded by a week of traditional celebrations, including the ever-popular Strawberries and Champagne, Physician Assistant Graduation, and the Doctoral Hooding.

At the 126th Commencement, the University was honored to bestow an honorary doctor of humane letters upon Helen Caulton-Harris, commissioner of the Division of Health and Human Services for the city of Springfield and the first Black woman to hold that title.

To see a complete gallery of photos, visit www.baypath.edu



Clockwise from left: Everyone at the 2023 graduation class was in high spirits; Jonathan Besse, a member of the Board of Trustees and immediate past chair, presents the Pathfinder Award to Jessica Howes '23; Mary Ann Spencer, a member of the Board of Trustees, presents the Eagle Award to Faith Anne Ruggiero '23; Helen Caulton-Harris receives her honorary degree citation – from left to right: Dr. John Caron, interim vice president of Academic Affairs; Helen Caulton-Harris; President Sandra J. Doran; and Carrie Burr '86, chair of the Board of Trustees; .



Clockwise from top: Wayne Webster, vice chair of Bay Path's Board of Trustees, kicked off the festivities, followed by remarks by President Sandra J. Doran; Congressman Richard Neal, President Sandra J. Doran and Elizabeth Cardona (far left), executive director of Multicultural Affairs, are joined by Bay Path students. It was standing room only as much of the Bay Path community packed the room to listen to Congressman Richard Neal;

Congressman Richard Neal and Bay Path University Celebrate \$1 Million Federal Earmark to Launch Student Success Center

The mood was celebratory as hundreds of Bay Path students, faculty, staff, trustees and supporters greeted Congressman Richard Neal (D-MA) as he arrived on campus.

The occasion was the announcement of a \$1 million earmark to develop Bay Path's innovative and groundbreaking Student Success Center.

"As one of the premier learning institutions in New England, Bay Path University continues to pride itself on providing students the resources needed to succeed both in the classroom and in the workforce," said Neal. "Bay Path has a long history of serving a diverse student body and creating opportunities for first-generation college students and disadvantaged members of our communities. I am proud to have procured funding that will allow Bay Path to launch its Student Success Center, furthering its mission of empowering students to become leaders in their careers."

Funding will be used to complete the work to launch a new Student Success Center that will deliver holistic, coordinated, wraparound academic, financial and career development support services that are easily accessible 24/7, both online and on campus. The Center will also accommodate the needs of Bay Path's diverse student populations, integrating its services into a student's academic program through systematic communications and touchpoints throughout the undergraduate experience.

The Student Success Center will be under the leadership of Dr. Heather Gould, associate dean of Advising and Student Support, and Dr. Jeremy Anderson, vice president of Learning Innovation, Analytics, & Technology.

The Student Success Center will empower students to become leaders in their careers.



26th Annual Women's Leadership Conference ignites a sellout crowd

Bay Path's Women's Leadership Conference (WLC) returned to Springfield's MassMutual Center on April 6 with the theme: "Ignite." The event is a perennial favorite for women and men to become re-energized and inspired to take the next move in their professional career, take stock of their personal goals or take a leap of faith. This year's WLC was no exception, as the feedback from the sellout audience confirmed the face-to-face experience was all they thought it would be with comments like: "...the best WLC I've attended... Robin Roberts could have kept on talking...I can't wait for next year."

We can't either. See you April 4, 2024.



Clockwise from top left: Robin Roberts, ABC "Good Morning America" co-anchor and author, had audience members on the edge of their seats; Robin Roberts was on the other side of the interview as President Sandra J. Doran posed questions that covered Roberts' beginnings in broadcasting to her rise as an American icon; Tunde Oyegenin, an author and well-known Peloton instructor, gave a high-energy presentation that leaned heavily on her The New York Times best-selling memoir, *Speak*; Attendees at the MassMutual Center; The crowds tell the whole story—the WLC is *the* women's event in the region; Betsy Allen-Manning got the day off to a good start as the morning keynote speaker.



ALUMNI
YEAR IN
REVIEW

All year, the Bay Path alumni community is engaged in activities that range from supporting our students through mentorships to cheering on our performing arts students to making our graduates look the best they can on Commencement Day. Here's an album with some of last year's highlights. Maybe you can pick out the face of a friend or, better yet, recall a memory that brings a smile to your face.

Remember, we're always looking for alumni volunteers. If you're looking for community or just want to give back, contact alumni@baypath.edu. We want to hear you roar.

JULY 29, 2022

Yard Goats Alumni and Friends Event

To kick off the new fiscal year, Bay Path alumni, family, friends, faculty and staff enjoyed the Yard Goats Minor League baseball team playing in Hartford, Connecticut. They're always fun to watch.



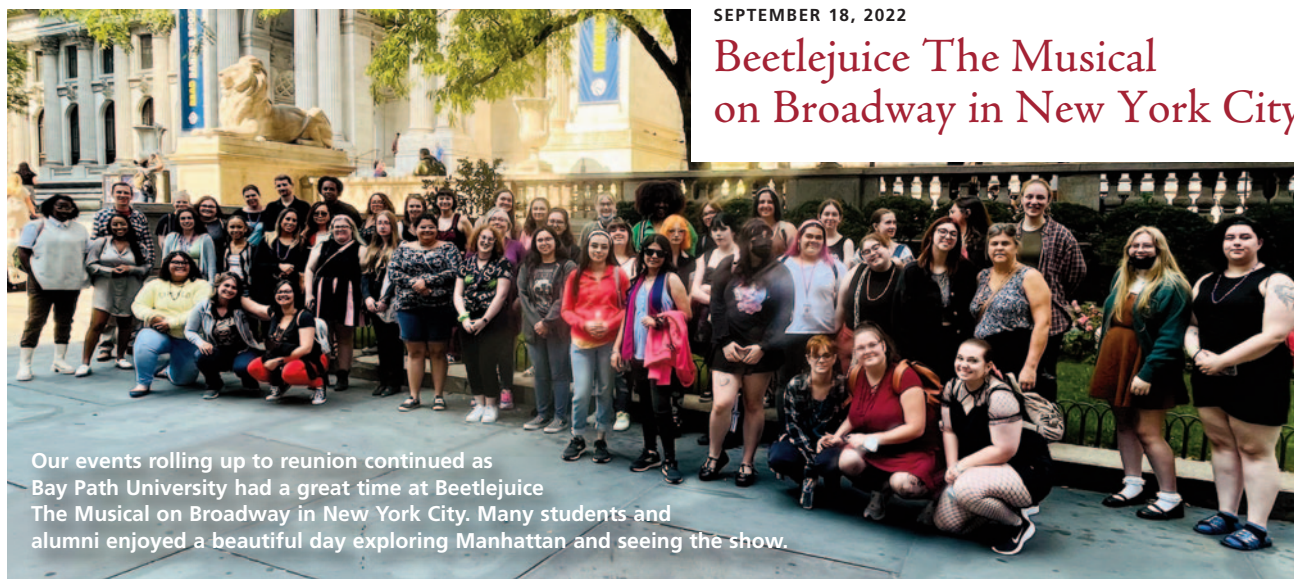
AUGUST 17, 2022

Feather & Bloom
Alumni Business Spotlight

We had an amazing time connecting with Bay Path University alumni and friends at our first Alumni Business Spotlight, featuring Jen Kubala Horn '00 and Feather & Bloom. Thanks to Veronica Martins '10 and her Moneta Moments Bakery for the delicious cupcakes and cannoli, too. Let us know if you would like to highlight your business during a future Alumni Business Spotlight.



SEPTEMBER 18, 2022

Beetlejuice The Musical
on Broadway in New York City

Our events rolling up to reunion continued as Bay Path University had a great time at Beetlejuice The Musical on Broadway in New York City. Many students and alumni enjoyed a beautiful day exploring Manhattan and seeing the show.

SEPTEMBER 24, 2022

WaterFire Providence



We had a magical time at WaterFire Providence. Online Bay Path University alumni were able to connect for the first time in person. There was representation from classes from 1972 to 2022. Faculty and staff gave rave reviews of another fun event, and we were all amazed by the beauty of WaterFire.

NOVEMBER 3, 2022

Psychology Career and Networking Event

Our students love interacting with our alumni. Here's a photo from a time when we had several alumni come to campus to network with our students for a Psychology Career and Networking event. Pictured are alumni, faculty and students who attended and had a memorable time.



NOVEMBER 12, 2022

Ignited: A Musical Revue and Pre-Show Dinner

Let's give our talented Ignited: A Musical Revue student performers a round of applause. It was great to have over 25 alumni and friends join us for the Pre-Show Dinner, too. Here, alumni, family and friends are joined by our director of performing arts and musical activities, Bobby Tomasulo, at far right, before the performance.



NOVEMBER 13, 2022

Alumni Breakfast

We love it when our alumni and friends get together. Past Advancement staff members and alumni—including past, present and emeriti members of our Alumni Association council—gathered for breakfast. Back row, from left: Stacey Perlmutter '01, Alison Schoen '16 G'21, Dawn Bryden '05 G'07, Meghan Golden Safford '12 G'17 and Lynn Pellerano '11 G'13. Front row, from left: Courtney Whalen '00 G'10, Stephanie O'Leary '05 G'16 G'17 and Thea Katsounakis '70.





DECEMBER 6, 2022

Alumni Association Council Holiday Party

The Alumni Association Council enjoyed its annual holiday party hosted by President Sandra J. Doran, both in person and virtually. If you are interested in joining our Alumni Association Council, please email alumni@baypath.edu.

DECEMBER 8, 2022

Winterfest and Pre-Show Reception

Our 57th Winterfest was a heckuva hall-decking, bell-jingling, jolly good time. The evening began with an alumni and friends reception, then a memorable performance that closed with a song that brought alumni on stage, followed by a Holiday Cheerfest full of caroling and singing.



DECEMBER 12, 2022

Munchie Mania

Six alumnae volunteered at Munchie Mania, a favorite event for our students, serving over 140 students.



JANUARY 12, 2023

Rise and Shine Breakfast

Nonprofits gathered in Blake Student Commons at Bay Path University for Springfield Regional Chamber's first Rise and Shine Breakfast of the year. From left are Sylvia de Haas-Phillips, director of our MS in Nonprofit Management & Philanthropy program; Jennifer Ducharme G'21, vice president of development and community relations at Mental Health Association; and Nicole Blais G'09, CEO of Holyoke Chicopee Springfield Head Start. Both are also Nonprofit Management & Philanthropy alumnae.



FEBRUARY 9, 2023

Bay Path Visits the White House

Bay Path alumni gather in DC. During a trip in February to meet with policy leaders, President Sandra J. Doran joined Washington-area Bay Path alumni for a tour of the East Wing of the White House. A special thank you to Amy Bontrager G'12, talent operations at U.S. Digital Service, for arranging the tour. Pictured left to right are: Amy, Steve and President Doran, Lorraine Sequera '85, Jackie Williams Rocco '15, Melissa Chabot '01,'03, Barbara Juszyczyk '64 and John Ramsburgh, Bay Path Institutional Advancement.



FEBRUARY 25, 2023

Bay Path Cheers on the Thunderbirds

Bay Path faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends gathered to cheer on the Springfield Thunderbirds hockey team. It was a lot of fun, especially the t-shirt toss.



MARCH 8, 2023

Venessa O'Brien '38 with Softball Team

While players were in Myrtle Beach for their Spring Break 2023 trip, they visited with Bay Path's 104-year-old alumna, Venessa O'Brien '38, between games.

MARCH 10, 2023

Springfield Symphony Orchestra Event

It was a memorable evening for Bay Path at Springfield Symphony Orchestra's Fearless Women concert. Members of our Alumni Association Council also gathered for a fun reception beforehand in the iconic Mahogany Room.



MARCH 30, 2023

AFP Fundamentals of Fundraising

Liz Baker G'07 and Jillian Morgan G'19 met on campus for a training with the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Western Massachusetts Chapter. Send us your photos when you run into or meet with other alumni!



APRIL 6, 2023

Another alumni-filled WLC

Victoria-Ann Rodriguez '12 G'17, a MassMutual employee and Springfield native, emceed the 26th Annual Women's Leadership Conference.



Every year, we're honored to have so many MassMutual team members spend the day with us at the Women's Leadership Conference. A special shoutout to the Bay Path alumni MassMutual team members in this photo. Thank you for helping us IGNITE.

Alumni gathered for a "Bay Path Proud" picture as they enjoyed the 26th Annual Women's Leadership Conference at the MassMutual Center. Look for us there next year with another interactive Alumni Booth.



APRIL 16, 2023

A Surprise Visit

Joani Moiger '72 cheered on Bay Path's softball team while players went up against the University of Hartford. Make sure you look at our team schedules to see if there's a game near you and come cheer on the Wildcats!



APRIL 20, 2023

Duende! Pre-Reception and Student Art Show

With the help of Janine Fondon G'22 and her team, Bay Path's Alumni and Advancement Office and Performing Arts Department held a wonderful Duende! Pre-Reception/Art Show for Cora Swan '23 in Empsall Hall that included her family, students, alumni, faculty, staff, and other Bay Path friends. The Duende! performance that followed was also inspiring. It was a memorable evening of reconnecting and showcasing our talented students. Pictured are some of our alumni who attended.

APRIL 20, 2023

Art Show

Pictured here, from left, are Allison Zaczynski '21, student life and transportation coordinator, Janine Fondon G'22, assistant professor, chair of Undergraduate Communications, and Cora Swan '23 with one of her pieces of art from her 2023 series From Ashes To Diamonds.



APRIL 24, 2023

Munchie Mania

To cheer on our students during finals week, alumnae volunteered at Munchie Mania on April 24, and attended the bonfire for students after the event.

Congratulations to our 2022 Alumni Award winners

As always, the highlight of our 2022 Reunion was the Alumni Awards Ceremony. This select group of alumna have brought tremendous distinction to the University as business, nonprofit, artistic, and community leaders and volunteers. To learn more about our award winners, go to www.baypath.edu/news/archive.



Bay Path University Alumni Award winners, above, from left: Recent Alumna Award – Kelly Partridge G'16; Service Award – Jennifer Kubala Horn '00; James McGill '35 Carpe Diem Award – Tiffany Cutting Madru G'11; Life Achievement Award – this year there were two co-recipients of this award – Tina Malley '96; and Thea Katsounakis'70



The next chapter of alumni leadership

As an alumna of Bay Path University, Stephanie O'Leary '05 G'16 G'17 has done a remarkable job leading the Alumni Association Council as its president and the youngest person to serve on our Board of Trustees. As president, O'Leary navigated the Alumni Association through a pandemic,

introduced alumni to a new university president, attended countless events in person and online, reimagined reunion into a community celebration, worked to start the Wildcat Pantry on campus, helped relaunch the association's strategic committees, and nurtured the association to a place where it now surpasses pre-pandemic participation and membership levels. O'Leary remains an advocate for higher education, helping to raise the profile of her alma mater and ensuring that Bay Path's mission continues to be realized. We are deeply grateful for all she has done.

Leading us into the next chapter of Bay Path's history is Miranda Dal Zovo '10 G'16. Dal Zovo graduated from the Bay Path One-Day-A-Week Saturday program in 2010 with her bachelor's degree. She went on to complete Bay Path's MBA program in 2015. As a proud member of the Bay Path community, she is always looking for more ways to be more involved.

In 2020, Dal Zovo became a member of our association and is currently chair of the Reunion Committee. She helped lead our 125th Celebration Reunion Weekend activities in 2022, and she has been busy planning for another great Reunion on October 14. We are excited to see how Dal Zovo uses her process management skills as our next president! She invites you to join our Paths of Participation fundraising effort detailed on the inside back cover.

“We have an OBLIG TO



Cris Caruso '93, founder of Savoie Financial, knows the ins and outs of dollars and cents. And she also knows that paying it forward makes perfect sense for anyone who wants to practice responsible wealth management.

For over 18 years, Caruso has worked in the financial services industry with a specialty in helping Gen X women and LGBTQ+ clients achieve their professional and life goals. “As a member of the LGBTQ+ community, I understand the needs and concerns of LGBTQ+ households or individuals as they plan for their futures,” she said. “First and foremost, I create a safe space where we can talk, and then outline how we can put a comprehensive plan in place, depending on the scenario, that could include estate planning or investing for retirement. I help them manage their money wisely.”

Caruso found her niche as a financial planner during a journey that started as an undergraduate at Bay Path majoring in hospitality management. She later also earned a degree in sociology and gender studies at the University of Southern Maine. In the beginning of her career, she worked primarily in nonprofits. Eventually, she worked for a software company in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, that was eventually bought out, and she moved to Maryland.

“I realized at one point I needed a change,” Caruso said. “I have always been interested in personal finance and how to leverage money. Deciding to be a financial planner was a magical use of my educational background and my hospitality skills. Everything blended together.”

ATION LIFT as we climb.”

And when it comes to her own financial planning, Caruso practices what she preaches.

“I sat down with my wife, and we decided that charitable giving was very important to us. Personally, I am very passionate about students who are marginalized or first in their family to go to college. We decided to make a focused gift that would support those students who need financial assistance just as they are so close to achieving their goal of a degree. And we also have Bay Path in our estate plan.”

Caruso has a philosophy that is the perfect complement to financial planning. “I believe we have an obligation to lift as we climb,” she said. “When we are successful, we should give back to the places that have gotten us where we are. It doesn’t have to be an all or nothing proposition—give what you can. When multiple people make financial gifts, then the power of those gifts are amplified. And that’s an impact!”

Carpe Diem!

If you would like more information on planned giving, please contact Crystal Neuhauser, Vice President of Institutional Advancement, at cneuhauser@baypath.edu, or visit www.baypath.giftlegacy.com

classnotes

Were You Close?

A memoir of sibling loss and unexpected grief.

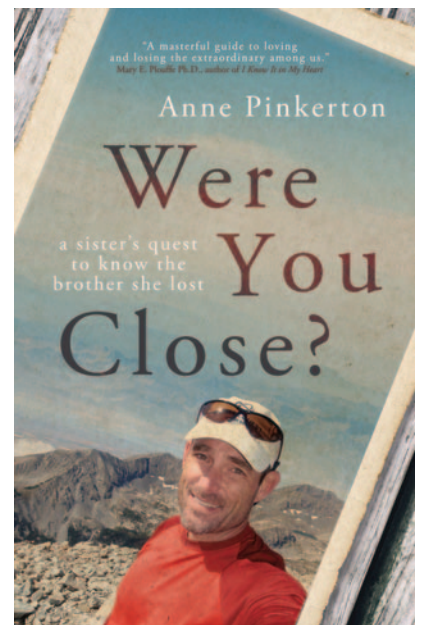
For **Anne Pinkerton G'16**, Bay Path's MFA program provided the support and structure she needed to pen a telling chronicle on the loss of her brother—known as Dr. Dave—and her resulting and unexpected grief.

A successful radiologist and elite outdoor athlete, Dr. Dave appeared to be invulnerable. Gifted with a deep reserve of natural ability, he took on the most demanding of outdoor challenges, from triathlons to mountain biking, and conquered them all. A born leader, Dr. Dave was widely respected by his peers for both his generosity of spirit and keen athletic prowess.

When the news arrived that Dr. Dave was missing during his quest to conquer all 54 of Colorado's 14-ers—peaks above 14,000 feet—Anne Pinkerton at first did not believe it. Soon, the worst was confirmed: Her brother had fallen 200 feet to his death.

Were You Close? became Anne's own quest for the layered truth of what happened on the mountain and her outlet for capturing her personal grief journey, which she hopes will provide solace for others who have lost a sibling.

For the full story, visit our website and click on *Bay Pathway Online*.



Anne Pinkerton G'16



Adam Barrios and Michelle Chandler '07



Mark Marcum and Natalie Yale Marcum '11



Jozzlynn Lewis Priest '21, daughter Sofia, and Nicholas Priest.

ENGAGEMENTS

Lindsay Weaver '12 G'13 to Eric Barker

Meghan Montanye '12 to Bill Plowman

WEDDINGS

Mary Persaud '05 '06 and Andrew Pelis, August 20, 2022

Meghan O'Donnell '07 and Terry Donahue, November 19, 2022, in Jackson, NH.

Michelle Chandler '07 and Adam Barrios, September 24, 2022

Stephanie Mannion '07 and Charles Ngelezi, July 16, 2022

Melinda Seil '11 and Robbie Devold, September 24, 2022

Natalie Yale '11 and Mark Marcum, Fall 2022
Together they have a son, Syllas Marcum, born May 2021, along with Mark's three children.

Samantha Casey '11 and Logan Alexander, September 17, 2022

Melissa Lora '13 married the love of her life, Marcio Magalhaes, on November 11, 2022

Nikki Megazzini '13 G'17 and Jose Diaz, March 16, 2023

Shelby Regan '13 G'16 and Mike McKeon

Abby Krobot '16 and Hector Perez, July 3, 2022
Abby's roommate and best friend from Bay Path, **Yismel Rosario '16**, served as a bridesmaid.

Jozzlyn Lewis '21 married her best friend Nicholas Priest on September 10, 2022, with their daughter Sofia by their side, and all their closest friends and family. It was a magical day. They are expecting baby number two in June 2023.

ARRIVALS

Kelly Broderick '06 and her fiancé Jack welcomed their son Jack Christopher Grainger, born March 27, 8 lbs. 7 oz.

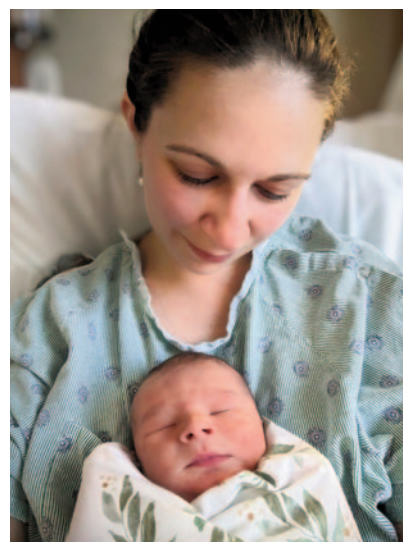
Ashley Bein Truex '10 G'12 and her husband, Dwayne, welcomed their second child, daughter Ryleigh, on November 15, 2022.

Laurel Fortier Baldwin '11 G'15 and her husband Joseph welcomed a baby boy on February 5, 2023.

Becca Felton '14 G'15 and her husband **Nicholas G'17** welcomed their second daughter, Essie Lee, on January 8, 2023.



Kelly Broderick '06 and her newborn son Jack



Laurel Fortier Baldwin '11 G'15 and newborn son

IN MEMORIAM

Jean Picknally Montana '47
December 17, 2022

Marion Delimat '48
October 15, 2022

Theresa Tenerowicz Dziadul '50
August 10, 2022

Christine Clark Trenholm '50
December 2, 2021

Marin Hosko Starrett '50
February 23, 2023

Irma Black Schwartz '53
September 21, 2022

Margaret O'Brien Sullivan '55
February 18, 2023

Doris Diane Ferver Brownlie '55
March 5, 2023

Joan Rowley Cove '59
January 19, 2023

Diane Brubaker Snyder '60
January 1, 2023

Myrna Stelma French '61
August 6, 2022

Marla Aubertin Lech '62
February 18, 2023

Ann Meyer Shay '66
January 14, 2023

Janet Vredenburg Whitford '66
December 14, 2022

Susan Canfield '67
July 20, 2022

Jane Flynn Robinson '67
December 16, 2022

Debra Robertson Carson '72
November 23, 2022

Laurie Kulig Milne '74
July 25, 2022

Karen Van Allen Ingham '77
September 5, 2022

Kathleen Arconti Colley '77
December 20, 2022

Gail Willey Richey '79
October 31, 2022

Linda Perla Mihlek '04
November 17, 2022

Cyndi Oliveira Martel '17
January 4, 2023

Judith S. Cohen
December 30, 2020

Sophie Romanovicz McKissick
July 16, 2022

Lynn Dufosse Breuer
October 10, 2022

Gladys Mish Kozera
October 31, 2022

Mary E. Wingard Plumley
January 12, 2023

Peter Landon
January 27, 2023

Leon E. Maglathlin, Jr.
February 10, 2023

Mercedes Jacqueline Ernst Robbins
March 18, 2023

CLASS NOTES

1959

Anne Byrnie Grace '59 Greetings to all my former classmates! My husband, Jim, and I celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary on May 26, 2022 with a memorable party given to us by our children: Maureen, Karen, Russ and Dan. We also became great-grandparents for the first time, and are expecting two more babies this summer! We are very grateful our family lives fairly close by, and we see them regularly. I keep active by going to the Y for Aquacise classes twice a week and enjoy frequent walks (2-3 miles) down Main Street in our lovely town of Old Saybrook, CT. My favorite hobby is writing. I belong to a writers' group at our Senior Center and have been keeping daily journals for nearly 40 years! They are all hand written, so now I worry that my eight grandkids, and now great-grands, won't be able to read them! God bless you all! Anne

1964

At right, a generational alumni visit to our Longmeadow campus. From left: Lisa Jo Jones '91, her daughter Kayla Jo, and her mother Irene June Arciszewski Jones '64.



1970



Above, longtime Bay Path friends enjoyed lunch together in Naples, FL. From left: Wayne Bernard, Kiki Higgins Bernard '70, Hope Hensler Richardson '70, Lee Felt, Jim Buonomo, and Paula Rowse Buonomo '71.

1977

Freedom Credit Union promoted **Charlene Marvonek Smolkowicz '77** from commercial credit manager to assistant vice president. She has been with Freedom since 2016 and is based in the main office in Springfield, MA. In her role, she manages the Commercial Credit department, underwriting process, and analyst team for commercial and industrial, commercial mortgage/commercial real estate, and nonprofit borrowers. She is also responsible for maintaining sound portfolio credit quality and monitoring risk. Active in the community, she serves as treasurer and chairs the finance committee for the board of directors for Viability Inc., and participates in both the WIT (Women Innovators & Trailblazers) Mentor Match Program and the Springfield School Volunteers Read-Aloud program. She was recognized by United Way of Pioneer Valley as Volunteer of the Year in 2012.

1982

Gianna Gallo Stebbins '82 started a new position as senior property manager at Pike International in New Haven, CT.

1987

Michelle Arre '87 started a new position as a real estate lease specialist at Hartford HealthCare. This past fall, **Diane Mazza '87** and **Sandra Maresca Montaine '87** visited Bay Path after many years. Their tour included the dorms they lived in as students. Since their time at Bay Path, they have remained friends.



From left: Diane Mazza '87 and Sandra Montaine '87

1993 30th Reunion

Tammy Beckwith '93 has been promoted to senior manager of IP Operations at Flagship Pioneering.

1996

Country Bank announced that **Lisa Meshlovitz Saletnik '96** has been promoted to vice president of Business Systems Optimization. Saletnik holds an associate degree in health science from Bay Path University and graduated from the New England School for Financial Studies. She has been with Country Bank for 23 years and has extensive experience in the bank score systems and digital technologies. Having worked in various departments at the bank, she found her passion in the Information Technology and Innovation department in 2018. Before joining the IT department, she managed the services area for eight years. She has been instrumental in working with vendors and partners to continue to find the best solutions to help the bank best serve its internal and external customers. "I am thrilled to congratulate Lisa on her promotion and all of the accomplishments that got her here; she is a key part of our success," said Miriam Siegel, first senior vice president of Human Resources. "We're pleased to provide opportunities for our people to develop not only within their roles today but into new opportunities tomorrow." Congratulations to **Tina Malley '96**, owner & vice president of Springfield Spring & Stamping, on receiving a MassTech 2022 Manufacturing Award! Former Massachusetts State Senator and now Bay Path Trustee Eric Lesser nominated Tina and her organization, and this is what he had to say: "Thank you for all of the work you do to make Springfield a manufacturing hub now and for decades to come! Celebrating their 80th year in business, Springfield Spring & Stamping is one of the largest certified minority and women-owned businesses in the United States. As a member of the New England Minority Supplier Development Council, they manufacture precision-engineered springs, wire forms and stampings for a broad cross section of industries around the world."

1998 25th Reunion

Kelly Chapman Galanis '98 '00 G'01 was recently named manager of Advancement Services at Holyoke Community College. In her new role, Kelly will provide leadership and

direction for the Advancement division's fundraising operations, including database management, prospect research and moves management, advancement reporting, gift recording, data integrity, and data security. She is currently pursuing her doctorate in education in higher education leadership and organizational studies at Bay Path University.

2000

Cara Gardner G'00 G'12 started a new position as impact manager at The Standard.

2004

Khadijah Watt Tuitt '04 DNP, APRN, PMHNP-BC founded In-Tuitt Behavioral Health Services, which provides quality mental health and psychiatric care to individuals aged 18 years and older via telehealth.

2005

Stephanie O'Leary '05 G'16 G'17 was named by *BusinessWest* as a 40 Under Forty Honoree, Class of 2023.

2006



Ashley Uhey Carter '06 was voted Teacher of the Year at her middle school and is now running for District Teacher of the Year! She spent a week on the Amazon river (pictured above) in June 2022 researching and writing a science curriculum through a partnership with Delaware Teachers Institute and ACEER foundation. **Connie Terrell Vrijenhoek G'06** started as a partner CRM specialist at 3 Enrollment Marketing, Inc., and is also a part-time Yoga Teacher at SWEAT Power Yoga. BankESB promoted

Meridith Humphrey Salois '06 to vice president, Commercial Credit Systems Management. Salois joined bankESB in 2001 as a loan servicer and progressed over time to collections assistant, credit analyst, and senior credit analyst before being elected officer in 2015 and promoted to assistant vice president in 2016. In 2020, she was promoted to assistant vice president, Commercial Credit Systems manager. She was responsible for leading the commercial integration group for bankESB parent Hometown Financial Group's recent acquisition of Randolph Bancorp and Envision Bank. She currently serves as vice president of the LoanVantage User Group and is an active volunteer in her community with the Southampton Road PTO and All 4-Kids Consignment Sale.

2007

Aundrea Paulk '07 was named one of *BusinessWest*, Class of 2022, 40 Under Forty honorees. Last fall she was gifted a slot at the two-day, immersive Dulye Leadership Experience (DLE) in the Berkshires by *BusinessWest*. As director of marketing & communications for Caring Health Center in Springfield and owner of her own event-planning business called Soiree Mi, Paulk said she made the very most of her experience and came away with nuggets to share, a better appreciation of the need to sell herself and not just her company (or companies, in this case) and, overall, some solid takeaways on how to be a better, more effective leader. **Darlene LaMotte Braica '07** has obtained a new certification: Core1500 Core Champion from Raytheon Technologies.

2008 15th Reunion

Erlanger Health System Foundation announced the addition of **David McCurry G'08** as the executive director of development to the philanthropic arm for the region's nonprofit health system. McCurry earned a master's in nonprofit management and philanthropy at Bay Path. Additionally, he holds the Certified Fundraising Executive (CFRE) certification. He served as an adjunct professor at Bay Path for more than eight years. He is an avid photographer and writer, and author of *Called to Give: Stewardship and the Christian Faith*. He serves as a deacon at his church. He and his wife, Susan, have been married for 33 years and have three adult children. **Courtney Connor '08** has accepted an invitation for a three-year term as a member of the Transportation Research Board's (TRB) Standing Committee on General Law. The TRB is a division

of the National Academies. "I look forward to exploring ways I can contribute to ongoing and new research and hopefully advance ideas that will benefit the fields of public health and healthcare!"

2009

Jessica Roncarati-Howe G'09, alumna of the nonprofit management and philanthropy program, used her degree to serve the AIDS Foundation of Western Massachusetts as executive director and as president at the Greater Chicopee Chamber of Commerce. Stepping back from this work after giving birth to twins (her second and third children) she re-entered community service as the first part-time program coordinator for Dress for Success Western Massachusetts in January 2020. This September, she was promoted to director of programs and operations, overseeing four of the organization's five programs (the Foot in the Door workforce development program, the Margaret Fitzgerald Mentorship Program, the Professional Women's Group, and a unique one-on-one digital literacy coaching program), grant writing for programs, and collaborating on development and the overall strategic growth of the organization. All of these responsibilities and professional accomplishments are rooted in her learning at Bay Path, and she is proud to be a part of a line of alumni (great-grandmother, mother, and sister.) **Elisha Winkler G'09** started a new position as a senior prospect development manager with the American Cancer Society.

2011

Joyce Wells Jellison-Houkanrin '11 obtained a new certification: President's List, Fall 2022 from Capella University. **Samantha Casey Alexander '11** accepted a new position with Crossroads in Portland, ME. She will be overseeing their Back Cove Program for gender responsive eating disorder and substance use disorder treatment.

2012

Caroline Prew '12 has been promoted to director of family and individual services at Berkshire Family & Individual Resources. Prew joined BFAIR in 2017 as a receptionist in the agency's Pittsfield office before becoming outreach coordinator during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. She earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from

Bay Path University in 2012. "Since joining our team almost six years ago, Caroline has eagerly assumed more responsibilities, and she brings a unique skillset to the job, specifically in the areas of critical thinking and teamwork," said Kristin Wampler, BFAIR's vice president of community services. "Her endless positivity, enthusiasm, and strong advocacy will aid her in handling the everyday operation of our family and individual support program." **Meghan Montanye '12** was recently promoted to assistant director of Staff Development at AIM Services in Saratoga, NY. **Sarah Costa '12 G'14** will be starting the Ph.D. program in Applied Behavior Analysis at Simmons University in the summer of 2023 cohort.

2013 10th Reunion

Springfield School Committee Member **LaTonia Monroe Naylor G'13** was elected by the Springfield School Committee as Vice Chair.

2014

Ashley Haglestein '14 started a new position as an associate scientist at Thermo Fisher Scientific. UMassFive College Federal Credit Union has hired **Kristina Hamel '14 '16** as vice president of human resources. Hamel comes to UMassFive from Shriners Hospitals for Children in Springfield, where she worked for the past 20-plus years, overseeing up to 250 employees and more than 150 volunteers. She holds a bachelor's degree in human resource management from Bay Path University and has earned her senior professional human resource certification. At UMassFive, Hamel will oversee all employee hiring, training, recognition, and diversity program efforts.

2015

Andrea Flynn St. Louis G'15 was named by *BusinessWest* as a 40 Under Forty Honoree, Class of 2023. **Aleksandra Chernyak '15** completed her Master of Arts (MA) in US History at George Mason University. **Lindsay Fernandes '15** joined KMA as a human resources consultant.

2017

Heather Lecompte '16 is a financial planning case consultant at MassMutual and recently passed the Series 66 (Investment Advisor Representative)

exam. **Muath Alobaid G'16** now works as a media specialist at Mawhiba in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. "Mawhiba" is a non-profit endowment organization that aims to identify and nurture talented and gifted students in scientific fields.

2014

Delmarina Lopez, J.D. '17 was named by *BusinessWest* as a 40 Under Forty Honoree, Class of 2023. **Denise Galford-Koeppel G'17** is excited to serve on the board of the New England Association for Play Therapy. This year, International Play Therapy Week will be celebrated across the US. Denise is leading the celebration in New England. **Jatnna Meribeth Jordan '17 '19** has joined the Transportation Security Administration, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, as a security support assistant.

2018 5th Reunion

Aquilah Munir '18 started a new position as director of operations at Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Center in February 2023. **Betty-Jo Sulewski O'Brien '18** has begun working for the Town of Warren, MA, as their assistant assessor. **Chelsea Russell G'18, CPA**, was named by *BusinessWest* as a 40 Under Forty Honoree, Class of 2023.

2019

Ashley Pereira G'19 G'21 passed the SHRM Certified Professional exam issued by the Society for Human Resource Management in January 2023. She is also the interim director of human resources at Bay Path. **Bianca Cotton '19** started a new position as account representative at Health New England.

2020

Katelyn Hanlon G'20 happily joined the Brown University School of Public Health team in 2022, as their administrative coordinator for advising.

2021

Veronica Toun '21 is working at UMass Medical Center as a medical technologist in the chemistry and hematology department. **Haley Dwinell G'21** was promoted to director of programs at Girls Inc. of Worcester, MA. **Laura Freeman G'21** was recently named manager of stewardship and donor relations at Holyoke Community College. Prior to HCC, Freeman worked as the alumni relations program coordinator at UMass Amherst and VIP services representative at MGM Springfield. She brings extensive experience to the development team in virtual and in-person event planning, project management, scholarship administration, and volunteer management. She holds a master's degree in strategic fundraising and philanthropy from Bay Path. **Melanie Walsh '21 G'22** began a new position with Sevita as a pediatric occupational therapist.

2022

Alexandra Borges G'22 is starting a new position as an acute care occupational therapist at CharterCARE Health Partners. **Grayson Connery '22** has been named head soccer coach for Bay Path. Purdue University Fort Wayne promoted **Ryan Wooley G'22** to interim associate vice chancellor in the division of enrollment management and the student experience. In addition to his new role, Wooley is director of undergraduate recruitment and holds a bachelor's degree from Indiana University-Purdue University Columbus

and a master's degree from Bay Path University. **Yenitza Garcia Harrison '22** started a new position as a quality specialist at the Center for Human Development (CHD).

2023

Brooke Demarest G'23 started a new position as an admissions advisor with Orbis Education, supporting Utica University's Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. **Julie Thomas G'23** became a board certified behavior analyst for Leominster (MA) Public Schools. **Ramona East G'23** has returned to Bay Path as director of student life and engagement. Ramona is a dedicated student affairs professional who specializes in gender equity, diversity, and community engagement. She looks forward to walking at this year's Commencement ceremony alongside the talented graduating class of 2023. Attributing mentorship as a key factor in her professional path, Ramona believes a strong support system is essential to pushing your boundaries and getting out of your comfort zone. In her free time, she enjoys doing yoga, spending time with loved ones, and taking long walks with her dog Romeo.



What have you been up to?

We'd love to hear from you! **Send your news and photos** (the better the quality of the photo, the more likely we'll print it) **to the Development Office** at alumni@baypath.edu.

ALUMNI PROFILES

Victoria-Ann Rodriguez '12, G'17

LEADING THE WAY

After earning her undergraduate degree in legal studies and her master's in leadership and negotiation, Victoria-Ann Rodriguez '12, G'17 still sees Bay Path as a place where she's able to bring her varied interests and talents together to foster an empowered community. As a senior paralegal in the litigation department at MassMutual, Rodriguez is responsible for deciphering the legalese in lawsuits and death claims that are critical to the functioning of a multi-billion-dollar life insurance company. That professional experience, and the fact that she's a young woman still in the early years of her career, resonates with the Bay Path students Rodriguez teaches as an adjunct in the Justice Studies department. The connection Rodriguez has both to Bay Path and to her local community is an ongoing source of passion and motivation. She is an inheritor of a cherished heritage and a conduit for passing ambition and success to the next generation of Hispanics. She upholds her family's tradition of helping plan, organize and run Springfield's Annual Puerto Rican Parade. "My favorite day of the year," she noted. "We walk into the heart of the Puerto Rican community in the North End of Springfield, and the streets are filled."

Victoria recently served as the emcee for the 2023 Women's Leadership Conference and now has her sights on bigger things. Go to www.baypath.edu and click on Bay Pathway Online for her full story.



Marianne Walker G'09

FORTUNE FAVORS THE BOLD

"I'm very competitive. I like to win," said Marianne Walker G'09, describing her experience as a contestant on one of the most successful and recognizable game shows in America, Wheel of Fortune. Before earning her master's in occupational therapy, Walker played soccer, basketball and softball at Bay Path. She approached the opportunity to spin the famous wheel the same way she approaches her life. "My family has a word, 'aventura.' It's like an adventure, with a twist," she explained. "When there's a chance to do something outside your traditional day-to-day, you have to go for it." Walker had been watching Wheel of Fortune for as long as she could remember, and the show looms large in memories of visits to her grandmother on Cape Cod. "I would always tell her, 'I'm going to be on that show one day.'" Every year, somewhere around a million people apply to appear on "Wheel of Fortune," and only about 600 are selected.

To see how Marianne did on the wheel, go to www.baypath.edu and click on Bay Pathway Online.

Jillian Morgan G'19

A DEGREE THAT OPENS DOORS AND FILLS PANTRIES

"I'm always thinking about promotion—how we're telling the story of The Food Bank, explaining what our impact is and demonstrating how we're responding to the needs in the community," explained Jillian Morgan G'19, the director of philanthropy for The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. Morgan arrived at The Food Bank in 2019, having spent years searching for a career that could bring together her creative ambitions, her desire to have an impact on her community and the professional skill set she'd worked hard to develop. Today, as director of philanthropy, she manages a budget for her division and continually develops ideas on raising awareness and funds for The Food Bank and the many programs, and ultimately people, connected to it.

To read a longer version of how Morgan is using her Bay Path MBA to fight food insecurity, go to www.baypath.edu and click on Bay Pathway Online.





Paths of Participation

Our paths intersect at Bay Path, and we want that intersection to continue. You can help pave the way for our current students by making a gift to Bay Path's **Carpe Diem Fund**.

Participate because you want to pay it forward. Because you believe in our mission. Because you know our students will go on to have meaningful careers and accomplish great things.

Give today.

Your generosity also helps with our Alumni Participation Rate (APR).

Why is that important?

Bay Path's APR is the percentage of alumni that give back.

A high APR carries weight for college rankings. Data shows there is a correlation between highly regarded universities and their APR. Some corporations and foundations make funding decisions based in part on participation rates as evidence that alumni, who know their institution best, are also investing in its success — so higher participation rates translate directly into increased outside funding for Bay Path.

No matter the size of your gift, you are still a philanthropist. Please help our APR—and our students. Your personal involvement in its many forms will send a strong signal to your former classmates, fellow alumni and potential students and supporters. Take your path back to Bay Path.

Any and all support counts.



SAVE the DATE FOR REUNION on **OCT. 14**

This year, we will celebrate graduation years ending in 3 and 8, but all class years are welcome to join in the festivities.

Reasons to Reunion?

Reconnect with friends • See the campus
Meet someone new • Talk face to face

*Tell your former classmates
and bring them along!*

See you there!

Watch for details soon at
baypath.edu/reunion

