Profile of David and Judy Deep - a lifetime together, careers devoted to the university they served faithfully for decades

They met as children in the late 1930's, playing in a neighborhood park in Barre, Vermont. They dated in high school and got married in 1956, after he finished college and she completed nursing school.

He was a Marine Corps officer when they married, and then they were off to Camp Pendleton in California where they had their first daughter and he considered, briefly, making the Corps his life's work.

As things turned out, and as Judy and David Deep explain in the separate interviews that follow, new paths opened for each of them.

Fortunately for Bridgewater State University, those routes brought them to the college in the early 1960's. Here they would have profoundly important and decisive impacts on an institution that was already 125 years old when they arrived and about to experience the greatest growth spurt in its long history.

Since David came to the university first, we start with him.

During Adrian Rondileau's long tenure as president of then Bridgewater State College (25 years), David P. Deep was one his most trusted senior aides and most valued advisers.

Vice President Emeritus Dave Deep joined the faculty in 1963, a year after Dr. Rondileau came to Bridgewater, as an instructor in what was then the Men's Department of Physical Education.

Three years later, he was asked by the president to accept a position as the acting dean of men (he continued teaching full-time as well until three years later when the "acting" was dropped) and he became permanent dean of men. In 1977, he was promoted to the position of dean of students, a position he held until he was selected by Dr. Rondileau to be the institution's first-ever vice president for student services.

He retired in 1989 after 26 years of service. He remains active in the life of BSU (he is currently finishing a term on the board of directors of the Bridgewater State University Foundation) and resides in Barre, Vermont, with his wife Judy, who was the university's head nurse for more than two decades.

David and Judy are the parents of three daughters and grandparents of four, including...
one grandson who is a graduate of BSU’s aviation science program (and today is a commercial pilot for a major airline) and one granddaughter who earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Bridgewater. The following interview was conducted in September, 2017:

Q. You were born and raised in Barre, Vermont, and graduated from high school there, correct?
A. Barre is my hometown and Judy’s too. We’ve now come full cycle and Judy and I live there again. I was raised in the town, which is located in the Green Mountains of Central Vermont, along with my younger brother and two sisters.

Our father was employed at the local Grand Union Supermarket where he was the manager of the meat department while my mother was a homemaker. In 1952 I graduated from Spaulding High School, where I met my wife, Judy, who was a year behind me in school. I married my high school sweetheart.

September, 1956: Lieutenant and Mrs. David P. Deep.

Q. Growing up in Barre, did you work while you were attending school?
A. I did. My uncle owned a Shell gasoline station and he hired both me and my brother Richard to work there after school and on weekends.

My uncle was very helpful to me because he fixed my work schedule so I could still play sports while earning some money.

On Saturdays in the fall, for example, I’d go to the service station in the morning at 8:00 a.m. and then around 10:00 a.m. he’d say, ‘Okay, you’re done. Go home.’ Then I’d go play football in the afternoon.

Q. In addition to football, did you play any other sport in high school?
A. I played both basketball and football. In basketball, I played forward on the team, while in football, I was a line backer and a center, both in high school and also in college.

In those days, the same players played
both offense and defense, so on defense I was a linebacker and on offense I was the center. I guess I did okay because I was captain of the football team both in high school and at the University of Bridgeport.

Q. I recall you had a specialty as a center.  
A. I did. In high school I managed to learn to be what’s called a ’long snapper,’ a center who’s able to send a football spiraling back to the quarterback who’s well behind the line of scrimmage.

Years later, when I was attending graduate school at Springfield College, and was an assistant football coach on the side, one day at practice I was working with the team’s center and I said to him, ‘Let me show you something.’

I knelt down, grabbed the ball and sent it spiraling back. Ted Dunn, the head coach, saw the snap but didn’t see who had snapped it, and said, ‘Who the hell did that?’ I said, ‘I did. I learned it years ago.’ That became part of my job from then on, to teach the centers how to do a long snap.

Q. After graduating from Spaulding High School in Barre, you chose to enroll at the University of Bridgeport in Connecticut. Why did you choose Bridgeport?  
A. I knew I wanted to teach physical education and Bridgeport was well-known then as a good place to pursue that field of study. Judy and I got married on September 1, 1956, just after I graduated from college.

Q. When you decided to join the Marine Corps while still a student at the University of Bridgeport, where did you do your training?  
A. Early in my college career I joined the ‘Platoon Leaders Class’ program sponsored by the Marine Corps. In the summer of my sophomore year at Bridgeport I did six weeks of training at Quantico, the Marine Corps base in Virginia, and I did the same in the summer of my junior year.

After I graduated in 1956, I returned again to Quantico and received my commission as a second lieutenant. I then went through an additional six months of training there.

Q. What happened next?  
A. I was assigned to the Marine Corps base at Oceanside, California, which is located between San Diego and Los Angeles. I selected ‘military police’ as my specialty. While there Judy and I had our first child, a daughter we named Beth.

Q. Did you continue involvement with football in the Marine Corps?  
A. I did, as a coach. At the time the commanding general of the First Marine Division, of which my unit was a part, was a big football fan and the division had a football team, so in addition to my regular duties as a Marine I also was an assistant coach of the football team.

Q. Did you consider making the Marines a career?  
A. I thought seriously about it. In fact, I looked into it as my commitment was coming to an end and asked – should I decide to stay in the Corps - if I might be transferred back East, specifically somewhere near Vermont, perhaps to the U.S. Navy base in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The Marine Corps said, ‘We’d love to have you stay. But we can’t guarantee your next assignment.’ So I took my discharge and entered civilian life.

Q. What happened next?  
A. After I left the Corps I decided to become a teacher. It was the summer of 1958, a bit late to start looking for teaching positions, and I began inquiring about possible openings. I was told there was a position open in physical education at the Salmon River
Center School in upstate New York, which was part of a Mohawk reservation. I went there, interviewed and was hired.

Q. Did you enjoy your time as a teacher in upstate New York?
A. I did. There were a lot of great young people up there. I taught physical education, grades K-6. Our next two daughters, Nancy and Karen, were born while we were there. Judy and I have many good memories of our four years there and we hope to make a return trip there at some point to see how much the community has changed over the past 60 years.

Q. Did you continue coaching there?
A. Yes, I was hired as the assistant coach of the school’s football team.

Q. And when you went to Springfield College for graduate work, did you also coach football there?
A. Yes. I was the assistant coach of Springfield College’s football team too. It was a great environment for me and my family. My little girls would regularly attend football practice and play out on the field while I was working with the players. From time to time the girls would even help out with various tasks.

Q. When you left New York and enrolled at Springfield College for your master’s degree, Judy became the family’s principal earner.
A. That’s right, she did. She was working as a nurse at a local hospital, Springfield Memorial, while I was in school for a full year. We both agreed it was necessary for me to earn that degree because I wanted to teach at the college level.

We lived in West Springfield for that year and there were a good number of college students living nearby, so we had access to the occasional babysitter when needed. Looking back, it was a happy year for our family.

Q. So you were at Springfield when you first made contact with Bridgewater.
A. Actually, Bridgewater contacted me. Professor Harry Lehman, then the chair of the Men’s Department of Physical Education at Bridgewater, was looking for coaches for football and basketball and he came...
Head Coach Ed Swenson, left, had founded the modern football team at Bridgewater in 1960. Dave Deep, to his right, had joined the faculty in 1963 as a physical education instructor, as well as head basketball coach and assistant football coach. Joining them in the photo above are assistant coaches Charles Varney and Joe Lazaro.

I was invited to the campus for an interview and met with, first, President Rondileau and Lee Harrington, who was then the academic dean, and later with Ed Swenson, who was the director of athletics at the time.

I was hired as a faculty member in Harry’s department as well as head basketball coach and assistant football coach.

Q. What was your impression of Ed Swenson?
A. Ed was a wonderful man in every respect. He welcomed me warmly and we hit it off from the moment we met. Ed was respected and admired by everyone who knew him.

Q. And you became one of his assistant coaches.
A. I did and I enjoyed every minute I worked with Ed. He was always patient, willing to listen and try new things, and never excitable. If I suggested a certain play, Ed would always say, ‘Let’s give it a try.’ A real gem of a person.

Q. Compared to today, the football program at BSU in 1963 was still in its infancy.
A. Yes, and we had to struggle a bit because the only place we had to play was the field where now the Campus Center stands. At the time, it was just a muddy
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area where commuters could park their cars during the day and we’d begin practice as soon as the autos were gone.

Q. You were an assistant coach when Marty Rizzo was so badly injured in a game, correct?
A. I was the first one on the field to reach Marty that November evening in 1963. He was obviously in bad shape but we had no idea just how severely he had been hurt. We immediately called for an ambulance and Judy rode with Marty in the ambulance first to Brockton Hospital where doctors ordered the ambulance to go right away on to Boston. Marty survived for almost two months and then we lost him. He was the nicest young man and a tough football player. I’m sure that none of us who knew Marty and held him in such high regard ever got over it.

I had first met Marty when I walked into Scott Hall one day and he said to me, ‘Hey, are you going to play football here?’ I smiled and said, ‘No, I’m going to be one of your coaches,’ and from then on we were good friends. He had told me once that he wanted to be the manager of the basketball team. I mourn him still today. After he passed, I started the Martin Rizzo Scholarship Fund in his memory.

Q. When did you become acting dean of men?
A. One early summer afternoon, three years after I had begun coaching basketball and football, and teaching physical education classes, I was down in the Kelly Gymnasium when I got a telephone call from Dr. Rondileau.

‘Can you come up and see me?’ he asked. I told him yes but I was in my gym clothes. ‘That’s okay. Come up,’ he said.

When I got to his office in Boyden, he was there with Lee Harrington, the academic dean. ‘We have a position that we think you’d do a very good job with,’ the president said. ‘We need an acting dean of men. Would you be willing to do it?’ I said, ‘But you already have an acting dean of men.’ President Rondileau told me, ‘That’s not working out. He’s not what we’re looking for.’

‘But I’m not qualified for that job,’ I protested. ‘Oh yes you are,’ he insisted.
He said he needed an answer quickly because he and Mrs. Rondileau were about to go on vacation and he wanted the matter settled before leaving. I said I needed to talk to Judy first. He said, 'Okay, let me know.'

Judy and I talked it over. I enjoyed teaching and coaching football and basketball. But I decided I didn't have to give up teaching and coaching; I could keep those jobs and become acting dean of men and therefore keep everyone happy. I called President Rondileau and told him that's what I wanted to do. He said fine.

Q. How did that work out?
A. After about two years of juggling all of these responsibilities, I asked for a meeting with Dr. Rondileau and Dean Harrington. I told them, 'I've got more than I can handle. I'm doing so many different things that it's not fair to my family, the students or the school.' They understood.

'What would you like most to do?' the president asked. I said, 'I'd like most to stay in the administration. I think I can have the most impact there.' And I became the permanent dean of men.

Q. And that led to the hiring of Tom Knudson as head basketball coach?
A. My first job in my permanent role was to hire a head basketball coach.

I called Tom Knudson, then at Springfield College, and he came to Bridgewater the

2002: When ground breaking exercises were held for what would be the East Campus Commons building, Vice President of Student Services Emeritus David Deep joined with two other long-time BSU colleagues, Dr. George Weygand, '53, left, professor of physics emeritus, and Dr. V. James DiNardo, '39, executive vice-president emeritus. All three were members of the BSU Foundation.
As one would expect, enforcing rules was one aspect of the job but by no means the whole job. I saw myself as someone who could offer support, advice and help solve problems and the greatest satisfaction for me was meeting so many students from so many backgrounds and forging relationships with them.

Q. You had the longest tenure in Bridgewater’s history as advisor to the student government. When did that start?
A. One day in the mid-sixties, shortly after President Rondileau changed my title from ‘interim’ dean of men to dean of men, he called me into his office.

He told me that he was assigning me to be the SGA advisor and he wanted me to attend each of their weekly meetings. ‘I think it’s best if you represent the administration at those meetings rather than Dean Shea.’

Ellen was herself a Bridgewater graduate, class of 1935, and she had been brought back to her alma mater in 1953 to work with the legendary S. Elizabeth Pope, dean of women.

When Miss Pope retired in 1956, Ellen succeeded her, and she eventually became dean of students. Ellen loved Bridgewater and the students deeply. I have enormous respect for Ellen Shea.

Q. How would you characterize students in the days when you first became the dean of men?
A. We were still a relatively small college, by today’s standards, when I became dean of men and, to some degree, even later when I succeeded Ellen as dean of students.
Thus began a decades-long relationship for me. During the academic year each Wednesday evening when the SGA met I would be there, ready to answer any questions and if asked to offer advice. Prior to 1970, the meetings were held in Boyden Hall; after that, in the Ronduleau Campus Center.

At most of those meetings I would be part of a small crowd – four or five people – in the audience for the meeting. But once in a while, if something controversial were on the agenda, the room would fill up quickly.

I recall one such occasion specifically. I had arrived at the meeting in the Campus Center – then called the Student Union - just before it was to begin and discovered that every seat was taken. Adjacent to the room was a small office whose door faced the room directly, and I saw there was a chair in that office. I sat down and could see and hear everything going on, so I thought ‘this will do.’

But during a particularly heated moment in the discussion among the student senators, one of them said, ‘And where is anyone from the college administration? Why isn’t someone here to help us when we need it?’ One of the other senators interrupted the young man. ‘Dean Deep is right over there,’ he said, pointing to the open office door. All the heads turned in my direction. ‘He’s here every week. He never misses a meeting.’ I was glad the record had been corrected.

Q. You worked with both Fred Clark when he was a student and his wife Carrie, correct?
A. Fred was very active in student government and since I was the advisor, I worked with him a great deal in his role as attorney general for the organization. He did superb work in that position and I recall that he quickly and firmly helped settle any problems that arose. I always admired both his ability and his maturity.

Carrie was a member of the college’s student government also and the editor-in-chief of the student newspaper, The Comment, and so I got to know her very well also.

She was an exceptionally good leader for her fellow students and, as editor of the paper, she worked tirelessly to produce a first-rate edition every week. And she was also a pleasure to work with.

In the years that followed after they graduated, we stayed in contact and I was happy to see them marry, raise a family and have the fine careers they did. When Fred was appointed president, it was a special privilege for me to attend his inaugural.

Q. You were dean of men during one of the most tumultuous periods in BSU’s history, which occurred in March, 1970, when students staged a week-long strike to protest the fact that a professor’s contract had not been renewed.
A. Dr. Donald Dunbar, chairman of the Department of Philosophy, was notified that his
contract would not be renewed, which led to a number of student demonstrations and, ultimately, a week-long boycott of classes called for by the student government association. In the end, President Rondileau decided to put the issue to a vote of the entire campus and Dr. Dunbar accepted the results.

It was a very challenging period but in the end, the campus community came together and healed. Throughout that difficult week I continued to keep in close contact with the officers of the student government and our conversations were always civil.

In fact, at one point several of the SGA officers came to my office with an unusual request: they had flyers they wanted printed announcing upcoming demonstrations and the mimeograph machine they needed to produce the material wasn’t working.

Sheepishly, they asked, ‘Would it be possible for us to use your machine to print these?’ I looked at the sample they had, read the words, and then I said, ‘Sure, I can help you. Did you bring your own paper?’

And so we used the mimeograph machine in the Student Affairs Office to print them, and they were very grateful. I saw no point in aggravating the situation and possibly harming my future good relations with them over such a simple issue.

Q. Among the many “firsts” with which you were associated at Bridgewater was the establishment of the bus service which became such a vital part of the community as the university expanded.

A. We started having discussions with the Brockton Area Transit (BAT) authority in the early 1980s for two reasons: first, we were continuing to draw a large number of students from Brockton and we hoped to facilitate their daily journey by extending public transportation between the two locations; second, the expansion of the campus to include what is now East Campus was well underway.

We knew that we had to find ways to develop better ways to move people around.

Thirty-four years ago, the BAT busses began operating on the campus.

Our initial discussions with BAT focused on a shuttle service from Brockton to Bridgewater, and the idea was warmly received. Peter Hartel was on my staff and he worked hard on this, along with Ed Meaney, then the director of

In December student drivers were trained with help of BAT to qualify for licenses.

BSC TRANSIT BUS SERVICE LAUNCHED

The “Bridgewater State College Transit Service” has officially been launched, and now regular bus service between the College and Brockton, plus a dawn to midnight campus role in the original planning, development, and implementation of the new service. He worked closely with his colleagues at the College and with BAT to make the service a reality. Daily
March 1, 1973: In an interview published in the student newspaper, Dean of Men David Deep - then in his seventh year in that position - answered a reporter's questions, most of which focused on parking issues (for the first time, commuters had been required to park across the railroad tracks on the Great Hill side of the campus) and he also addressed the college's rapid expansion. "The growth factor is satisfying in many regards, but the casualness and closeness of a smaller community is greatly missed," he said. "I can recall being adept at calling most students by their first names. But the college is still growing. It's compelled to." The reporter, incidentally, described him as "cordial and friendly."

personnel at BSU, and Lou Perry, director of development. Soon we had a regular shuttle service and then a full campus bus system.

Now the commuter rail connects Brockton and Bridgewater – that began in 1997 – and the campus bus system is a major success which, with our campus spread over 270-plus acres, is a lifeline for the institution.

Q. Judy was subsequently hired as the college nurse by Dr. Shea, correct?
A. Yes, a year after I came to Bridgewater Judy, who had been working as a nurse at the Bridgewater Nursing Home, just a few miles from our home on Pleasant Street, was hired as the head nurse at Bridgewater.

Dr. Shea knew of Judy's background and when she needed a nurse for the college, she called Judy herself and arranged an interview.

Afterward, Dr. Shea then came to me and said, 'I just hired a nurse for our health services office. It's Judy.' That was 1965.

Q. In 1967, two new residence halls opened on what we now called East Campus. This was the first time the university expanded beyond its original confines. What do you recall of that?
A. Originally called the 'Great Hill Dormitories,' later renamed Shea Hall, for Dean Ellen Shea, and Durgin Hall, for George Durgin, a beloved mathematics professor, opened with 600 students in residence on land we
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In 1977, President Adrian Rondileau announced in the student newspaper the appointment of former Dean of Men David Deep to Dean of Students and former Assistant Dean of Women, Martha D. Jones, ‘64, to Associate Dean of Students.

“Martha was a wonderful colleague and a dear friend,” recalls David Deep. “She had learned her craft under the tutelage of Dr. Shea and she was simply outstanding in every respect.”

had purchased several years before across the railroad tracks.

The dormitory wasn’t coed in those days; women lived in what is now Shea Hall and men lived in what is now Durgin Hall.

There was nothing else on the that side of the campus at the time. Now it’s a large and thriving community of its own with a dozen academic and residential buildings, but it was quite a job to get it all going.

For example, when the building first opened in September of ’67, the dining hall, on the Durgin side of the building, wasn’t yet functioning so we had to send the students home for several days to get that fixed.

Back then too there was no campus bus service so students had a long walk from Great Hill to the main campus and they had to cross the railroad tracks to get to what is now West Campus.

A bridge connecting the two halves was finally built in 1971, and remained until 1997 when the present-day underpass was constructed.

Q. You were also a founding member of the Bridgewater State University Foundation, which is today the major development arm of the university. How did that come about?

A. One day back in 1982 Jim DiNardo, then the executive vice president of Bridgewater, came into my office. “I need $100 from

In 1967, the area between Great Hill and the main campus was a grassy, swamp-like and mostly empty space.
David P. Deep, vice president of student services emeritus, is seen above at left with Mr. Robert Berger, '83, who was president of the Student Government Association when he was a student. The photo was taken on September 1, 2015, when President Clark was sworn in as BSU's 12th president and Mr. Deep traveled from his home in Barre, Vermont to attend the event. He and his wife Judy, who was BSU's head nurse for more than two decades, have had a long association with President Clark and his wife Carrie.

Q. When you retired from Bridgewater, you went home to Vermont.
A. Yes, we settled in Quechee, a village of just over 600 people in eastern Vermont, about midway up in the state. I had a part-time job in the local general store and so did Judy.

   It was a wonderful place to meet the locals and talk on a daily basis with them. We stayed there for a few years and then returned to Barre.

   After all these years and all the things we’ve done together, we’ve come, as I said earlier, full cycle and are very happy.
BSC Wishes Happy Retirement to David and Judy Deep

Hundreds of David and Judy Deep's friends came to the campus in December to wish them a happy and healthy retirement, and the crowd filling the ballroom of the Adrian Rondileau Campus Center was treated to an evening of tales of humorous episodes and recollections of a husband and wife who are remembered with pride and affection by several generations of Bridgewater students.

Martha D. Jones, Acting Vice-President of Student Services, and a colleague of both David and Judy for two decades, was the host.

In an issue of Bridgewater Today from 1989, the story of the retirement celebration in honor of David and Judy Deep was told. As Martha Jones, then acting vice president of student services said in her welcoming remarks to the hundreds in attendance in the Campus Center Ballroom, "It's impossible tonight to list all of the wonderful contributions David and Judy have made individually and collectively to this college community, but this evening - their evening - we want them to know how much we treasure them and how much we value everything they have done to improve every corner of this institution."

Mrs. Judy Deep was the head nurse at then Bridgewater State College for 23 years, and in addition to her professional skills, she was a valued and trusted friend to generations of students, faculty, staff, alumni and members of the greater Bridgewater community.

As did her husband, she arrived when BSU was still a small college and was here during the years of its most significant growth. This interview with her was conducted in September, 2017.

David and Judy Deep and their daughters who are, from left, Nancy, Beth and Karen. All three grew up in Bridgewater and attended the Martha Burnell School, the town middle school and its high school.
Q. Please describe your background.
A. I grew up in Barre, Vermont, a single child with wonderful parents and my maiden name was McLeod.

My father had been born in Scotland and he worked as a linotype operator for the local newspaper, the *Barre Daily Times*. My mother was a registered nurse.

When World War II broke out, everything changed for us because my father had to go into the service in the Army Air Force and our lives were put on hold until he returned.

Aside from that period, I had a very good childhood growing up because we lived in a close-knit neighborhood in Barre and I went to school right across the street from our home.

Q. When did you first meet David?
A. I met David when we were small children, playing in a neighborhood park. We started dating in high school – I was a year behind him at Spaulding High School – and we’ve been together ever since.

Q. After you graduated from high school, what happened next?
A. I went to New York City to enroll in nursing school at St. Luke’s Hospital. I had wanted to be a veterinarian but my family didn’t have enough money to send me to college so I took the next best choice.

Q. Did you stay in contact with David?
A. We were both very busy with our studies, he in Bridgeport, Connecticut, while I was in New York City, but we saw each other probably once every two or three months. Neither of us dated anyone else.

Q. After you and David married in 1956, what came next?
A. David was sent by the Marine Corps to
Quantico, Virginia, to attend officer candidate school. We lived there in base housing for six months until he completed his training and then we went to Camp Pendleton in California for his first assignment with the Corps.

Q. What was Camp Pendleton like?
A. It's a very large military base in a small town, Oceanside, and we were there for almost three years. Our older daughter, Beth, was born while we were there.

Q. When David finished his Marine Corps tour, and you returned to the East, you next went to upstate New York?
A. Yes. David was hired to teach physical education at a school on a Mohawk reservation and we remained there for four years. Our next two daughters were born while we were there.

Coming from Vermont ourselves, we didn't mind the winters and enjoyed the many opportunities we had for skiing. It was really an idyllic life because we found the people there to be extremely welcoming and there were endless year-round recreational possibilities. Our time there gave us many happy memories.

Q. Was it a difficult family decision when David decided to leave his teaching position in New York and enroll in Springfield College to earn a master's degree?
A. We were ready to go and we knew it would be a challenging year for us and for our three children, plus a dog. However I was able to secure a full-time nursing position at what was then Springfield Memorial Hospital - today it's Bay State Medical Center - so I became the chief breadwinner.

We lived in a tiny, three-room apartment just off of the campus and because of the number of students living nearby, we never had a problem getting a baby-sitter if we needed one.

Q. What were your first impressions of Bridgewater in 1963?
A. I thought Bridgewater was a lovely town. While David was being interviewed I went for a walk through the center and surrounding streets and was impressed. Bridgewater was much smaller then, of course, compared to today and I liked the feel and atmosphere of everything I saw. I knew if he came to Bridgewater that we could be happy here.

After David was hired, we next found a local real estate office and a home to rent on Pleasant Street, just a few miles from the campus. We remained in that house for nine months until we moved just a short distance away to the home where we were to live for the next 25 years. The house was in need of a lot of work when we moved in but it was great for the girls because we had nearly four acres of land and a barn so we could have a variety of animals.

Q. Did you continue your nursing career then?
A. For the first few months I didn’t but then one day in church I was talking to a woman who operated the Bridgewater Nursing Home on Pleasant Street. She said, 'I need a registered nurse. Would you be willing to come to work for me?' And so I went there.

Q. How long were you there?
A. Not long – less than a year. Then one day I received a telephone call from Dr. Ellen Shea, dean of students, for whom David worked. 'I'd like very much to talk to you,' she said. 'I need a nurse for the college and I know your background. I know you'd be a good fit for what we need.'
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talked it over with David and accepted.

Q. What do you recall of Ellen Shea?
A. Ellen was a remarkable woman in every respect and I had the pleasure to work with her and for her for more than a decade before she retired. As far as senior administrators go – and I worked with a good number of them, both at Bridgewater and elsewhere – she was truly in a class by herself.

She was kind and gentle, smart and capable, tough when she had to be and, perhaps more than anything else, she lived a life of profound service to others.

These qualities endeared her to students, for whom she was an outstanding model, and she believed firmly that her job was not only to reach students intellectually but to help them develop good manners, a positive outlook and good decision-making skills.

Whatever the problem, and whether it was a student, or a faculty member or a fellow administrator, Ellen was always eager to listen and to offer straightforward, no-nonsense advice.

And she loved Bridgewater, her alma mater, dearly.

Q. What was the health services office like in 1964?
A. At the time, the health services office was located in a small area in Pope Hall and I was the only nurse. We didn’t have an ambulance but we did have a police cruiser that was a station wagon, and when necessary, we used that to transport those in need to Brockton Hospital, the closest medical facility in the area.

Q. In addition to the nursing staff, physicians were available to treat students, correct?
A. We contracted with local physicians to provide on-site medical care and we were so very fortunate to have, without exception, a number of high quality, truly excellent doctors as part of our staff.

I could name a number of them but certainly I’ll always recall with great fondness and respect Dr. Terrence O’Toole from Brockton, who was for many years our on-call gynecologist. The students loved him and so did the staff. He was a joy to welcome when he came for his regular visits and, in addition, he would come immediately whenever an urgent situation arose. He was a legend among us.

The registered nurses and athletic trainers were a superb group and a great
team to work with. I'd like to mention too Dr. Dan Diethelm, who joined the college staff in 1973 as the director of counseling. He was just terrific in working with students and he helped countless numbers of them stay in school and work through whatever problems or issues they were confronting. He was extraordinarily good at what he did.

Q. Eventually health services moved to Tillinghast Hall
A. We needed a larger space and so the decision was made in the late '60s to close the infirmary in Pope Hall and relocate to a much larger space in Tillinghast where we could have several examining rooms and more comfortable quarters.

Q. For a number of years, health services provided full, 24-hour a day coverage. That ended in 1986. What was your response to that?
A. I fought it as hard as I could. I thought then, and I still think, it was a mistake. But the president at the time decided, without consultation, to close the infirmary after 11:00 p.m. Those who have experience on college and university campuses know that the midnight hours can bring a lot of problems, and I worried about the students. However, I was never given the chance to present that side of the argument.

Q. You remained at Bridgewater for 23 years. Looking back, what did you most enjoy about your time here?
A. First and foremost, the students. Every day I'd meet terrific young men and women and I always considered myself blessed to meet them, talk to them, and help them solve whatever issues they were dealing with.

When you work as long as I worked in the medical field, and on a college campus, you encounter a full range of all the things that young people have to deal with. There are great joys associated with that and, inevitably, the occasional serious medical issue or even tragedy, and my job was to do as much as I could in every situation to be effective, comforting and supportive.

I was blessed to have a very good relationship with the faculty and I enjoyed the many times that professors would stop by just to have a cup of coffee, to talk about life in general or to ask for an aspirin to help them through the day.

Q. And because you and your husband both remained at the college all those many years, your home lives were stable.
A. That was very important to us because our daughters, in their youngest years, had moved around a bit. But once we settled in Bridgewater, a community they really liked and where they made many friends, they led good lives.

Beth, Nancy and Karen all attended local schools, starting with the Martha Burnell Campus School and continuing
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through middle school and the high school. Each of them has gone on to have careers they enjoy and families of their own.

Q. After you retired from Bridgewater in 1988, did you ever work in nursing again?
A. When we moved to Vermont I did work for a while at the hospital associated with Dartmouth College. It was some distance from our home in Quechee, Vermont, and required a commute along the highways connecting New Hampshire and Vermont. After a while, and at David's urging, I gave that up. I acquired a new part-time job - working as a gardener at the general store where David had a part-time job. It brought me outdoors to work in the sunshine and I found that to be good exercise and fun to do.

Q. You're happily retired now?
A. David and I love our life back in Barre, our hometown. We still keep in contact with our friends from Bridgewater and David has remained a member of the university's foundation, a position he'll hold until the end of this year. But no matter our connections, we'll always consider ourselves members of the Bridgewater family.

And we're just absolutely delighted that Fred Clark is the now the president because David and I were close to Fred and his wife Carrie when they were students and we remain close to them today.

In fact, not too long ago we were traveling in New Hampshire and stopped at a restaurant for dinner at the same time that, by pure coincidence, Fred and Carrie arrived there too. They invited us to join them and we had a lot of good memories to share that evening and much fun times to recall.

Fred is doing a superb job as president and we couldn't be happier for him and for Carrie and for the university.

The grandchildren of David and Judy Deep: From left to right: Heather Correia, Greg Smith, David Henderson and Ashley Correia.