



## BAY STATE COLLEGE

June 21, 2011

Dear Bay State Student:

I am delighted to welcome you to Bay State College's First Year Experience Common Reading Program. The Program is an excellent opportunity for all first-year students to engage in a rich and rewarding academic experience with other students, staff, and faculty at the College.

All first-year students begin the Common Reading Program by reading and writing about a common book before arriving on campus in September for First Year Experience (FYE). Then, during FYE, students, staff, and faculty share an exciting intellectual conversation about the book and its themes and ideas. The Program provides first-year students with a clear sense of what to expect at Bay State in terms of critical thinking, effective communication, and the spirit of inquiry that exist both in and out of the classroom.

As part of its mission, Bay State College is committed to preparing its students to achieve their full potential as ethically and socially aware citizens, and the College's staff and faculty believe that active reading and critical thinking are an important means to achieving that potential. As a recent study by the National Endowment for the Arts has shown, people who read are more likely to participate in cultural, sports and volunteer activities, and people who read generally seek ways to become more active participants in a global community.

This year's common book selection is *The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch. This wise and moving autobiographical work combines great storytelling with inspirational insight into questions about why to persevere in the face of adversity and how to find what is most important in living one's life. I hope you enjoy reading this book as much as I have, and I look forward to hearing your ideas about it this fall.

You should receive your copy of *The Last Lecture* along with this packet, which includes the following:

- The Bay State College Common Reading Program Assignment
- The Common Reading Program Study Guide
- The Common Reading Book Acknowledgement (*Please complete and return this immediately*)

Should you have any questions about the Common Reading Program, please contact Kim Nguyen at [knguyen@baystate.edu](mailto:knguyen@baystate.edu) or 617-217-9451.

Enjoy your summer reading, and I will see you this fall!

Sincerely,

Jeff Mason  
Associate Dean of Academic Affairs  
Chair, Common Reading Program  
[jmason@baystate.edu](mailto:jmason@baystate.edu)