On the weekend of February 28, 1992, Babson hosted a display of a portion of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt. The Quilt has more than 14,000 individual panels, each a dedication and tribute to the life of someone who has died of AIDS. It is a project of international scope, with people of twenty-six nations represented.

"My first thoughts were not to let the quilt affect me in any way . . . Once I arrived on the site, though, I experienced the emotions and energy there, heard names read . . . I began to understand."

—Quilt visitor

The Quilt serves many purposes: it educates and awakens, it memorializes those who have died, and it unites communities and allows a sharing of their grief and their hope. At Babson, the Quilt powerfully impacted the community on many levels. More than 350 volunteers — students, faculty, and staff — collaborated on the organization and staffing of the exhibit. The scope of this humanistic enterprise is unprecedented in Babson's history. Asked about her experience, Carole Worsh, the Director of Health Services, commented, "Working on the Quilt project together with so many others has created a sense of community that serves as an inspiration. AIDS is an overwhelming phenomenon, and ignorance, fear, and prejudice limit our ability to meet its great challenges with the power of a unified people. I am deeply impressed with the response of the Babson community to this significant event, and I take hope."

The exhibition closed on Sunday with the addition of new panels to the Quilt. Perhaps the most moving and difficult part of the weekend for some, the addition of the new panels touched home; the new panels memorialize five members of the Babson community who have recently died of AIDS — three alumni, an employee, and a student.

The World Health Organization estimates that, in the United States alone, 2 million people are now infected with the AIDS virus. As the number of deaths grows alarmingly, it has become evident that the disease has penetrated all communities regardless of their "risk factor." We are all at risk. Education and prevention remain as yet our only powerful weapons against the epidemic. We must all act with greater responsibility and care, and we must respond with courage and compassion as AIDS grows ever-closer to each and every home.

Carole Worsh
Director of Health Services
February 28-March 1, 1992

AIDS Quilt Display