Bachelor's Degrees   The table shows the numbers B (in thousands) of bachelor's degrees earned by women in the United States from 2001 through 2012. The data can be approximated by the linear model

$B = 26.47t + 690.6, \quad 1 \le t \le 12$

where t represents the year, with $t = 1$ corresponding to 2001.   (Source: National Center for Education Statistics)

Year	Bachelor's degrees, B
2001	712
2002	742
2003	776
2004	804
2005	826
2006	855
2007	875
2008	895
2009	916
2010	943
2011	982
2012	1026

Spreadsheet at LarsonPrecalculus.com

DATA

(a) Use a graphing utility to plot the data and graph the model in the same viewing window.

(b) Use the model to approximate the number of bachelor's degrees earned by women for each year from 2001 through 2012.

(c) Compare the estimated to the actual data. Is the model a good fit for the data? Explain.

(d) What are the slope and y-intercept of the model? Interpret their meaning in the context of the problem.

(e) Use the model to predict the number of bachelor's degrees earned by women in 2018.