

129TH ANNUAL

COMMENCEMENT

SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2025

UNDERGRADUATE SPRING CEREMONY

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to Fitchburg State University and to this joyous occasion—the undergraduate ceremony of our 129th commencement exercises. We come together today to celebrate an extraordinary milestone: the culmination of hard work, perseverance, and academic excellence in pursuit of a college degree. Graduation is not only a testament to the remarkable achievements of our students, but a reflection of the strength and support they each receive from this incredible community.

I am filled with immense gratitude and pride. Since my arrival last year, I have had the privilege of experiencing firsthand the warmth, dedication, and agility that define Fitchburg State. I have been inspired by the stories of resilience and determination shared by so many of you, and I am deeply honored to stand with you on this momentous day.

To our graduates, this ceremony is a celebration of your dedication and achievement. Each of you has embarked on a journey marked



by intellectual curiosity, personal growth, and an unwavering commitment to your goals. You have embraced challenges, explored diverse perspectives, and developed skills that will empower you to make a meaningful impact on the world. Today's ceremony is a reflection of your hard work, and we are so proud of all that you have accomplished.

This celebration is also for the many others who have been part of your journey. To the families and loved ones who have encouraged, supported, and cheered you on, thank you for being the foundation that has helped these graduates succeed. To our dedicated faculty, librarians, and staff, your passion for teaching, commitment to your disciplines, willingness to mentor and support our Fitchburg State students has made today possible. Today, we celebrate all of you as well.

Graduates, as you prepare to begin the next chapter of your lives, know that your education will be a foundation for endless possibilities. It is not merely a culmination but a beginning—a powerful tool to help you navigate myriad opportunities and challenges ahead. You leave Fitchburg State equipped to innovate, problemsolve, and lead. Embrace this next adventure with courage and confidence, and know that the lessons you've learned here will remain with you as you shape a future for yourself, for your families, and for your communities.

On behalf of the entire university, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to each of you. May your future be filled with success, happiness, and fulfillment. As you go forth, always remember that Fitchburg State will remain a home for you, a place that celebrates your achievements and supports your dreams.

With warmest wishes and deepest pride,

Donna Hodge

President

129TH ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT

Undergraduate Spring Ceremony

Presiding

Dr. Donna Hodge, President of the University

Prelude Music

Innovata Brass

"Fanfare from La Peri," composed by Paul A. Dukas

Master of Ceremonies for the Processional

Dr. Charles H. Sides

Professor of Communications Media

Processional

Innovata Brass

"Pomp and Circumstance," composed by Edward W. Elgar

Presentation of University Mace and Faculty Gonfalon

Dr. DeMisty Bellinger-Delfeld

Professor of English Studies

2024 recipient of the Faculty Award for Research and Scholarship

Dr. Laura Garofoli

Professor of Psychological Science

2024 recipient of the Faculty Award for Service

Dr. Monica Maldari

Professor of Exercise and Sports Science

2024 recipient of the Vincent J. Mara Award for Excellence in Teaching

Dr. Robert Shapiro

Professor of Education

2024 recipient of the Contributions to the Graduate Program Award

Call to Order

Dr. Patricia A. Marshall

Provost and Executive Vice President

The Star-Spangled Banner

Fitchburg State University Chamber Choir

"The Star-Spangled Banner," by Francis Scott Key

Fitchburg State University Student Veterans

Greetings from the Fitchburg Chapter of the MSCA

Ms. Linda LeBlanc

Senior Librarian and Library Program Area Chair

Reflections from the President

& Introduction of Commencement Speaker

Dr. Donna Hodge

Commencement Address

Peter H. Reynolds '83

Robert V. & Jeanne S. Antonucci Student Leadership Award

Alexia Perez-Lucas

Musical Interlude

Innovata Brass "Variations on a Theme of Haydn," by Johannes Brahms

Conferring of Degrees

Dr. Donna Hodge

Dr. Michael Fiorentino Jr., Chair,

Board of Trustees

Dr. Franca R. Barricelli

Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs

Degree Name Readers

Dr. Laura M. Garofoli, Professor of Psychological Science

Dr. Erin M. Rehrig, Professor of Biology

Dr. Daniel Sarefield, Professor of History

Dr. David Weiss, Professor of Criminal Justice

Greetings from Alumni

Mr. John Garten, Class of 1989 President, Alumni Association

Alma Mater

Fitchburg State University Chamber Choir
"In Old Wachusett's Shadow"
composed by Ms. Priscilla (Taylor) McLean, Class of 1963

Induction

Dr. Donna Hodge

Recessional

Innovata Brass

"Allegro Maestoso," composed by George Frideric Handel

Fitchburg State University Board of Trustees

Dr. Michael Fiorentino Jr., Chair

Ms. Lynn M. Barrieau, Vice Chair

Mr. David C. Tiernan, Clerk

Ms. Jennifer L. Flanagan

Mr. Matthew Gill, Student Trustee

Mr. Eric A. Gregoire

Ms. Sheila King-Goodwin

Mr. Michael Morris

Mr. Shane Rodriguez

Ms. Karen J. Spinelli

Ms. Carolyn E. Crowley Stimpson

Student Government Association Seniors

Mr. Matthew Gill, Student Trustee

Mr. Michael Burns, SGA President

Mr. Christian Dedier, SGA Vice President

Mr. Elliot Olynciw-Olkuski, SGA Treasurer

Ms. Aline Salles, SGA Secretary

Ms. Selma Martey, Senior Committee Chair

2025 Commonwealth Honors Scholars' Thesis Projects

Maryam Ashraf, Endurance in an Emergency: A Nurse's Role in a Disaster Event

Jarrod D. Bowser, The Business of Being an Influencer on YouTube

Macey J. Bridge, Nurse-led Triage in the Emergency Department- Challenges and Improvements: A Literature Review

Dana E. Cisowski, A Systematic Review of Interventions to Promote Intercollegiate Student-Athlete Mental Health and Well-Being

Oliver S. Cookson, Allostake: Private Investment for All

Cristal D. Crespo, Women as Executives: How Deep is the Underrepresentation? Luke J. Donabedian, Head in the Clouds

Emily B. Dwyer, The Effects of Parent Training on Children's Use of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Systems

Carolina E. Dykes, Appellate Brief: 5th Amendment & 1st Amendment Rights Oliver K. Eason, Evolution of Film Lighting

Autumn D. Garceau, Effects of Competition Order in Elite Gymnastics

Avyah M. Gooding, The Absence of Racial Diversity in Leadership Roles in U.S. Hospitals

Joshua D. Iacoboni, Email Filter Powered by a Local Large Language Model

Emily F. Klein, The Effects of Climate Change-Induced Wildfires on Soil

Isabel E. Lemek, Making Waves: Glass Cullet as a Sand Alternative for Beach Renourishment

Tonia M. Magras, do you remember me?

Matthew K. Messina, Quiet Hours

Jayd N. Moreau, Economic Recessions and the Accounting Profession: How Financial Reporting Contributes to Economic Downturns

Caitlin E. Moriarty, Speaking Up: How Educators Prepare for and Respond to Censorship

Jessica G. Patel, Grit Interventions: A Question of General Effectiveness and Cultural Relevance

Jonah David Charles Pishkin, Meanwhile, In Downtown Vermont

Taylor E. Senecal, The Impact of Athletic Season on Academic Performance: A Comparison of In-Season and Off-Season Academic Performance in Division III Collegiate Student-Athletes

Nicholas Valdez Bojorquez, Hispanic Immigrant Households and Bicultural Identity in Second-Generation Americans

Commencement reception on the Hammond Plaza following the recessional.

Those who are able are asked to stand for the processional, national anthem, alma mater, and recessional, and to remain in place until the faculty have recessed.

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

School of Arts & Sciences

Bachelor of Arts

ENGLISH STUDIES

♦★ Nicholas Valdez-Bojorquez

HISTORY

** Kadriana Aliyah Colon WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Bachelor of Science

COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA

** Jeremy Nathan Allik

Dave Appolon

** Roy M. Benson MILFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

*** Rebecca Lynn Biederman

** Catherine A. Bosse
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

*** McKenzie Elizabeth Calvao

** Nicholas Anthony Castillo
HAVERHILL, MASSACHUSETTS

* Aidan John Cattelan

* Henry David Christiansen

*** Amber Nicole Dalicandro

* Raffael A. DeFeo FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

** Joseph Matthew DiCrosta
WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT

Maurice Galen Dingle BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS

♦★★ Luke J. Donabedian
METHUEN, MASSACHUSETTS

♦★★★ Oliver Kenneth Eason II
WATERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

* Rick S. Edwards STERLING, MASSACHUSETTS

** Christopher J. Emslie

* Molly Jane Flanagan

** Adam Lorenzo Fournier

★ Tyler J. Garten
BELLINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

** Morgan Gilbert-Koff
MARSTONS MILLS, MASSACHUSETTS

Riley Francis Gonynor FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

*** Colby James Hairston
MELROSE, MASSACHUSETTS

** Emjay Hanson GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Desmond Antonio Hart

★ Jonathan Wesley Kamal

*** Victoria M Kiolbasa

Kyle J. Lindfors

*** Ania Catherine MacIndewar

Emily Claire Maestri

♦★★★ Tonia Monique Magras
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

★ Esther Maia LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

*** Isaiah A. Manuel

Isabella D. McCutcheon

** James Allen McGarry
MARSHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Jorge Merino

♦★★ Matthew K. Messina
HOLBROOK, MASSACHUSETTS

* David J. Nugent

** Clayton James Perior WESTMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

** Emily E. Phillips
MILFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

♦ ★ ★ Jonah David Charles Pishkin
ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS

* Seth Ellis Rigby CHELMSFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Jose C. Rosario WARE, MASSACHUSETTS

*** Joseph R. Rouleau LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Elizabeth Rosmond Santry GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

*** Tyler J. Sargent

** Rebecca Ann Selin FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

** Matthew Jay Smith

Anthony R. Sofia MERRIMAC, MASSACHUSETTS

Jullys Souza Jr. FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Naomi Sterling
MARLBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS

** Jarrod H. Sutcliffe

* Jesus Asdrubal Tabares Diaz

** Allison Nicole Thompson WAKEFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

*** Derek Michael Tirrell
ABINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

David Thomas Treska Jr.
DRACUT, MASSACHUSETTS

* Annabella G. Valle BRAINTREE, MASSACHUSETTS

* Kevin M. Veguilla

** Jiovanni N. Walker LONGMEADOW, MASSACHUSETTS

Sierra Josephine Warren SOUTH DEERFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Cole E. Wilkinson

 $\underset{\text{fitchburg, massachusetts}}{Yer\ Yang\text{-}Su\ A}$

^{★★★} Summa cum laude—3.8 or higher

^{★★} Magna cum laude—3.5 or higher

[★] Cum laude—3.2 or higher

Double major

[♦] Commonwealth Scholar / Honors Program

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

** Joa Dane M. Alexandre WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Christopher Barone

** Patrick Michael Barton
SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

Shane M. Bissanti FRANKLIN, MASSACHUSETTS

*** Christopher J. Black
BALDWINVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

★ Colin J. Bozek
TEWKSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Delaney R. Brown BILLERICA, MASSACHUSETTS

Michael Anthony Cooper WEBSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Ariana A. Deleon

Joshua David DiPersio

Anthony F. Divoll

Kyle T. Dupuis

Thomas John Farr

Daniel I. Ferdinand Jr.

Jose David Gamez GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

Michael J. Hilton

Matthew Hartnett Kelly EAST BRIDGEWATER, MASSACHUSETTS

Maxwell H. Kelly

*** Cailin L. LaPlante

* Alydia Trinh Le

*** Joshua F. Lovely

** Nicholas Christopher Lucia
WEST BROOKFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

** Shea X Lucontoni

** Julia Alexis Marsell HOLLISTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Evan Christopher Mayer

Eric J. Mccallum WHITMAN, MASSACHUSETTS

* Bryan P. McCarthy LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

*** Jenna Kathleen Morse
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

* Liam Patrick James O'Connor HUDSON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

* Nicole Elizabeth Orlowski

Anthony Steven Puertas
REVERE, MASSACHUSETTS

Alexis Katherine Raymond

Angela Marie Rumson

Sehraan Sharif

* Asha Lee Speller TEWKSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Brody Ryan Tapply LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

*** Autumn M. Tibbetts
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

* Xioanie Enid Velez Mercado

Owen R. Williams

ECONOMICS

Ahmed Bangura

♦*** Autumn D. Garceau CLINTON, MASSACHUSETTS

** Toivo Kramer

Paras Kumar

** Alexander Colin Marshall FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

ENGLISH STUDIES

** Sydney Anne Bane LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Julia Grace Ducharme
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

** Shannon M. Farley FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

* Matilda M. Goad TOWNSEND, MASSACHUSETTS

 $Skye\ E.\ Guertin$ north brookfield, massachusetts

♦★★★ Caitlin E. Moriarty
METHUEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Michael Joseph Sauvageau Jr. LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

** Ashley Ann Snow ASHBURNHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

★★★ Summa cum laude—3.8 or higher

- ★★ Magna cum laude—3.5 or higher
- ★ Cum laude—3.2 or higher
- Double major
- lacktriangle Commonwealth Scholar / Honors Program
- Sterilite Scholar

GAME DESIGN

** Jonathan M. Arel FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

★ Glenndale D. Bartolome WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT

Jamie Heath Caferelli MILLBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Aboubacar Camara
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

** Isabel S. Cochran

Christian James Giannino

*** Kennedy T. Gough

** Mackenzie Harris
HAVERHILL, MASSACHUSETTS

Samuel J. Hilty WALPOLE, MASSACHUSETTS

** Zachary J. Hinckley

Keshauni Renae Johnson

Nathan Richard Lagerstedt

Dante Claudio Melo

Juan Pena-Deoleo

* Nicholas A. Pinton HOLBROOK, MASSACHUSETTS

Samuel R. Rocha ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS

★ Parker R. Stearns GROVELAND, MASSACHUSETTS

Bryan Vo

** Jakob Andrew Welzel
PRESTON, MARYLAND

Ryan Kristopher Woods WOBURN, MASSACHUSETTS

HISTORY

- * Antonio R. Allen FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS
- ★ Cole G. Bishop
- William Michael Braccini
 BALDWINVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
 - ** Austin Joseph Caron
 FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS
 - Dylan M. Cosner
 - *** Shannon P. Cowan
 - ** Michaela S. Cullen
 - Conlon Timothy Hickey
 - Deacon Kelly LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS
 - ** Annie Paolo

 *Sociology

 WAKEFIELD, RHODE ISLAND
 - *** Max C. Zbikowski ASHBURNHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

HUMAN SERVICES

- * Jannelys M. Gonzalez NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS
 - Jillian Howland
- ** Grace Cecelia Minear
 - Katie A. Moran JEFFERSON, MASSACHUSETTS

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

- Nolan E. Ahearn
- * Ivyanie Ferreira Alves
- * Ephemian Jayme Bailey
 PAWTUCKET, RHODE ISLAND
 - Neyshalis Candelario
 - *** Rebecca Cloar turners falls, massachusetts
 - Cheyenne Jean Coon FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS
- ** Emily Elise Davis ROYALSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
- Ashley Marie De Los Santos LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS
 - Thomas Jyrome Genao
- ★★★ Summa cum laude—3.8 or higher
- ★★ Magna cum laude—3.5 or higher
- ★ Cum laude—3.2 or higher
- Double major
- lacktriangle Commonwealth Scholar / Honors Program
- Sterilite Scholar

- * Alayjah Densie Lane
 WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS
- Arthur (Skip) McDonald
- Elijah Zaire Rabago Mcknight
 - Gregory John Reed II
 SAUGUS, MASSACHUSETTS
 - ★ Julie Anna Richard
 - ★ Ciara Rivera
 - Hannah Meghan Sadler GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS
 - * Amy Elizabeth St. Onge
 - Justin A. Steinbring FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS
 - Grace Marie Wetherbee
 - Jalyn Young BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

POLITICAL SCIENCE

- ** Alexia Rose Perez-Lucas
- School of Business & Technology

Bachelor of Science

APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- * Jacob Douglas Balsamo
 BRIDGEWATER, MASSACHUSETTS
- Zackery David Diamont
 BILLERICA, MASSACHUSETTS
 - Samuel R. Rennick SALISBURY, MASSACHUSETTS
 - Jacob D. Ringer LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

- *** Vanessa B. Akosah
- Jhonnatan Marcelo Alvarez
 - Jorge Alfredo Alvarez WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS
 - Kader Bakayoko
 - Jason Scott Bickford
 EXETER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

- ★ Lucas Francis Boudreau LANCASTER, MASSACHUSETTS
- ••*** Jarrod Daniel Bowser
 - ** Evan Daniel Breidel CLINTON, MASSACHUSETTS
 - ** Hailey G. Burke WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS
- *** Nicholas Matthew Caron
 GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS
 - ** Jacob R. Carter WINCHENDON, MASSACHUSETTS
 - ★ Kenny Chery MALDEN, MASSACHUSETTS
- ♦** Dana Elizabeth Cisowski
 - ❖ Psychological Science TORRINGTON, CONNECTICUT
- ♦ ★ ★ ★ Oliver Straight Cookson
 SHEFFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
- ** Robert William Courtemanche
 WINCHENDON, MASSACHUSETTS
 - *** Andres Manuel Crespo
 LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS
 - ♦ ★ ★ ★ Cristal D'Salome Crespo
 GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS
 - Cristian Ivan Crespo
- Mayla Eduarda Vera-Cruz DeFreitas
 - *** Daniel J. Douglas
 LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS
 - Cole D. DuHaime
 - * Catherine Joyce Egan
 BILLERICA, MASSACHUSETTS
 - * Aidan Dajoon Finn
 ORLEANS, MASSACHUSETTS
 - Ryan William Flinkstrom
 LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS
 - ** Christa G. Francisque
 - *** Jordan Joanne Gaj
 - ** Julia Ann Gauvin
 - ♦★★★ Avyah May Gooding
 FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS
 - Grace Holman HOLDEN, MASSACHUSETTS
 - Myesha R. Hughes
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
 - Jacob B. Hurrell
 - Jarvis E. Joseph MATTAPAN, MASSACHUSETTS
 - Edward Leo Kelly III LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS
 - Christopher Lauritz Larsen
 TOWNSEND, MASSACHUSETTS

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (CONTINUTED)

- * Esther Ayeley Larsh
- ★ Patrick J. Lecain westminster, massachusetts
- * Maxwell Simon Loew STOUGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS
 - * Nicki M. Lovenbury PLAINVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
- Jakob Andrew Lufkin
 WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS
 - ★ Jaclyn E. Maillet LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS
 - ** Israa Majeed
 worcester, Massachusetts

Tony Manu worcester, massachusetts

Patricia Rose Marabello

- * Ella Catherine Marshall GLOUCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS
 - * Isabella Rene Mathis
 westminster, massachusetts
 - Christopher E. Mattone NEW WINDSOR, NEW YORK
 - * Cameron Joseph May
 - Collin James McKenzie

Richard O. Mensah worcester, massachusetts

Derek John Milliken

- *** Samantha G. Mirra
- Mick Edward Mitrano
 LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS
- *** Cameron J. Monette
 WINCHENDON, MASSACHUSETTS
 - ★ Dennise Montejo FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS
 - ♦★★★ Jayd N. Moreau westminster, massachusetts
 - ★ Bruno Moreira LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS
- * Brendan Floyd Morrison FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Dillon Robert Murphy

Michael Nazzaro stoughton, massachusetts

- * An Nguyen ORANGE, MASSACHUSETTS
- ** Dayanara A. Ordonez
 - ** Paridhi Pariwala FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS
- *** Maxwell O. Parvey

Ericko Vitch Paul

Kendra A. Peretzman

** Samantha Allison Peters
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Katherine Ramirez Oller

Dennis Junior Regis STOUGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Yessenia Carmen Rosa

* Eric Jay Rosado

*** Emily L. Sandberg CLINTON, MASSACHUSETTS

*** Gabriel Amner Santiago

** Joeliza Santos

Jake James Santulli

Tyler Sar ATTLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS

* Frederick K. Siayor WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Daniel Siwik BILLERICA, MASSACHUSETTS

Jack Alexander Smethurst
GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS

- * Meng Song
- ** Hannah E. Stewart
- ** Benjamin Grant Stormwind

Javon Taylor saugus, massachusetts

★ Julia Nicole Theriault

Kristen J. Wark

- *** Connor James Williams
 GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS
 - ★ Logan A. Wilson WOBURN, MASSACHUSETTS

Jacob Zamorano

COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS

- * Ethan C. Amadon
- * Todd Luis Armstrong
 BALDWINVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

Miranda Isabel Champion
NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

*** William Walter Paul Gerlach

Liam M. Goldstein CHARLESTOWN, RHODE ISLAND

♦★★ Joshua D. Iacoboni

Jurgen Kola

- * * Robert B. Ovalle
 MAYNARD, MASSACHUSETTS
- ** William Joseph Raymond
- ** Michael Alexander Rene

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Joshua Atemkeng PEABODY, MASSACHUSETTS

Kenneth A. Campbell SOUTH DENNIS, MASSACHUSETTS

★ Glenda Iris Franco LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Joseph P. Hartnett

- *** Casey Anthony LaCombe
 - *** Nathan T. Malicki WETHERSFIELD, CONNECTICUT
 - ** Robin Elizabeth Morris
- * Michael Christopher Omeara
 HARWICH PORT, MASSACHUSETTS
 - ** Masrur Ahmed Sami

Morrilyn Blessed Savice WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Luke Y. Speers

* Mathematics

COLLEGEVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

*** Miles A. Sullivan WESTMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

- ★★ Magna cum laude—3.5 or higher
- ★ Cum laude—3.2 or higher
- ❖ Double major
- ♦ Commonwealth Scholar / Honors Program
- Sterilite Scholar

^{★★★} Summa cum laude—3.8 or higher

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

Taylor Edmund Hanks

★ Jack Johansen
NORTH BILLERICA, MASSACHUSETTS

Jovanni X. Merced SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Jacob C. Moody BRIDGEWATER, MASSACHUSETTS

** Ali Ouedraogo

ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

★ Ginneta Abaidoo worcester, Massachusetts

** Elijah R. Boudreau worcester, massachusetts

Joseph R. Conlan LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

** Caitlyn Ann Curley
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

★ Caroline De Andrade Maciel

Anna Rose Gauvin SUTTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Youssef Mahmoud Hassan
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Eric M. Kasili woburn, massachusetts

Rashad J. Kidd dorchester center, Massachusetts

** Ricky Le worcester, massachusetts

** Eridon Mehmeti

*** Bhim Prasad Mishra WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

** Christopher Joseph Mongiat
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

** Michael Robert Ouellet

Michael Dean Rainville

Quincy T. Taylor BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Cris V. Torres Mejia CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY

Kyler Santiago

Malik Ward

OCCUPATIONAL/VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

* Brian W. Cassidy

*** Zachary Gorman west bridgewater, Massachusetts

** Heather Lynn Gray

** David Robert Marriott

Linda Teresa Rickard
METHUEN, MASSACHUSETTS

** Rafael Rodriguez
NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

* Maureen Mary Siciliano
WESTERLY, RHODE ISLAND

*** Gabriel Laudalino Teixeira
WESTPORT, MASSACHUSETTS

*** Matthew James Theodore

*** Frances M. Williams
NORTON, MASSACHUSETTS

★ Julie Anne Woods NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS

School of Education

Bachelor of Science

EDUCATIONAL STUDIES

Sydney Rose Alto CHELMSFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Emily Bisceglia

* Vivienne Joy Charpentier
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Olivia R. Hood BILLERICA, MASSACHUSETTS

** Catherine L. Ireland

** Bobbie Jo LeBlanc WESTMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Devin Lorae

*** Chemlah M. MacNeil FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Abigail Rakip

** Emmalee Elizabeth Warren LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Bachelor of Science in Education

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

*** Sydney C. Baumber LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Patricia Lorraine Cudmore

*** Kayla V. Dwyer LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

* Leah M. Faria

*** Paige Genevieve Gengler
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

★ Karlsen D. Halstead LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

** Allison N. Hamel
OXFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

** Shianne U. Harewood WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Caileen Corrine Hurley
WHITMAN, MASSACHUSETTS

*** Taylor Jolynn Kerins
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

** Mackenzie E. Leveille

** Danielle Alicia Mitrano
WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

*** Tammara V. Plaza

*** Shania Rodriguez Acevedo WEBSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

★ Sydney Theresa Sartell
BILLERICA, MASSACHUSETTS

*** Arabella May Sauer FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

*** Yingying Sun westford, massachusetts

Madison K. Theriault

** Olivia Grace Triolo

^{★★★} Summa cum laude—3.8 or higher

^{★★} Magna cum laude—3.5 or higher

[★] Cum laude—3.2 or higher

[❖] Double major

[♦] Commonwealth Scholar / Honors Program

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Kyleigh M. Alioto WINTHROP, MASSACHUSETTS

** Sariah Elizabeth Dyer

* Abigail L. Floyd

*** Natalie Gisselle Garcia
MARLBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS

** Morgan M. Genness

** Mallory Kay Judkins
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

Alexa Wray Marchand

** Neyalee M. Natal FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

* Stalyn Quinones Jr.
ATHOL, MASSACHUSETTS

** Lucianna Yasmeen Rawlinson LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

* Alyssa Rebecca St. Cyr

SPECIAL EDUCATION

** Amber R. Camp

♦★★★ Emily B. Dwyer LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

*** Abigail B. Hampson

** Sarah Ann LeBlanc
ASHBY, MASSACHUSETTS

* Kelley N. McNamara LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

School of Health & Natural Sciences

Bachelor of Science

BIOLOGY

★ Tiffany Abirafie Agyepong
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Olivia M. DeLuco FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Brian A. Dicicco

Amricyan Jaydin Fernandez-Scherington
ASHBURNHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

- ★★★ Summa cum laude—3.8 or higher
- ★★ Magna cum laude—3.5 or higher
- ★ Cum laude—3.2 or higher
- Double major
- ♦ Commonwealth Scholar / Honors Program
- Sterilite Scholar

Marisa Lynn Ferreira
WESTPORT, MASSACHUSETTS

** Oliver Tobias Ginnett

Haylee Sue Girouard

Rachel May Herskovitz
TEMPLETON, MASSACHUSETTS

** Catherine A. Jean
SHIRLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

** Marina Odette Kamayou

* Sydney L. Kelly SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Isabella Kayser King WEST TOWNSEND, MASSACHUSETTS

Nobaleigh Laraba winchendon, massachusetts

Jynessa Marie Leary
BARRE, MASSACHUSETTS

Daniel Angel Munoz WINCHENDON, MASSACHUSETTS

Bryce Parker

* Carlos Pineda

* Mason Primrose
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

Kaya Tatyana Scarela FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

*** Jocelyn Tiara Sok

Brandt Lee St. Gelais

ENVIRONMENTAL AND EARTH SCIENCE

* Selena Nicole Bode GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

Kyle M. Godek

♦★★★ Emily Frances Klein
CHELMSFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

EXERCISE AND SPORTS SCIENCE

Dimitri A. Battle LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Alyssa Lee Beaulieu

Kiara M. Bigeau CLINTON, MASSACHUSETTS

★ Sebastian Burmester

** Kelsey Elenora Cabral WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

** Abaigeal Jane Doheny LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Clifford Okyere Fuakye WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

*** Joseph J. Gilbert FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

* Christian Joseph Meade Halbig

*** Kathryn G. Hart

★ Nolan William Hills DANVERS, MASSACHUSETTS

Dylan Michael Kaye

★ Meagan Dorothea Knight WINCHENDON, MASSACHUSETTS

* Andrew David Lanciani

★ Chad Kevin LeBlanc LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

* Michael Christopher Macchioni II

Ashley Mayerjak

Kaylie M. McDevitt

** John Thomas McGarry Jr.
HIGHLAND LAKE, NEW YORK

* Abigail J. Mulry WEBSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Jacob Thomas Nelson CLINTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Raena Skyler Nelson

Riley Mckenna O'Brien TOWNSEND, MASSACHUSETTS

* Kris Saada Olivero

* Brandon R. Patanao MARLBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS

★ Carine Marie Poladian
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

*** Abbey R. Quirbach
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Jonah David Roach

Antonia Grace Sacramone HUBBARDSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

★ Jacob Matthew Sanville
ATHOL, MASSACHUSETTS

*** Taylor E. Senecal RUTLAND, MASSACHUSETTS

Christian Gabriel Sierra GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

★ Paulina Skowronska worcester, Massachusetts

Breanna Ruby White PEABODY, MASSACHUSETTS

GEOGRAPHIC SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

♦ ★ ★ ★ Isabel E. Lemek ❖ Environmental ❖ Earth Science

dardner, massachusetts

★ Johanssel Rosa
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Peter David Sheppard

MATHEMATICS

** Michael Fedirko

*** Tyrian Hobbs

NURSING

- * Yewande Bamidele Adeyinka WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS
 - *** Tasmine Serwah
 Konadu Agyepong
 LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS
 - ** Cynthia Amoabeng
- *** Georgina Amoah-Dankwah
 WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS
- ** Samantha Elizabeth Arruda
 FAIRHAVEN, MASSACHUSETTS
 - ** Stephanie Arruda
 - ♦★★ Maryam Ashraf

Vivica Della Banks SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

- ★ Pratima Basnet MARSTONS MILLS, MASSACHUSETTS
- ★ Sarah Elizabete Blanchette
 SWANSEA, MASSACHUSETTS
 - ♦★★★ Macey J. Bridge
 FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS
 - ** Rachel Karen Capone
 QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS
 - ★ Phoebe Maria Cardoso SAGAMORE BEACH, MASSACHUSETTS

Maribel Caribe

- ** Kyra Marie Celli somerset, massachusetts
- * Michelle Arlene Corbett CHESTERFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

- *** Lauren M. Darling
- ★ Lauren Ashley Davis MENDON, MASSACHUSETTS

Summer Day STERLING, MASSACHUSETTS

- ** Caroline Mary Doherty
 SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS
 - ** Emily F. Doran LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Jessica Lynn Duchnowski

** Marybeth J. Duffin HAMPSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Jocelyn Grace Dunn BRAINTREE, MASSACHUSETTS

Tokunbo Ekpebor BRIGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS

** Hannah Michelle Fagan
MARLBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS

Elizabeth Christine Gianni WRENTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

- * Ashley Morgan Girouard
 HUBBARDSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
 - ** Cyrus Maina Gitau
 BELMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
- ★ Daysi Tamara Gonzales
 WESTMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS
 - ★ Kyla Reese Guertin

Caroline C. Hamel

- ●★ Ava Elizabeth Hannon
 MARLBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS
 - * Stephanie J. Hart SHIRLEY, MASSACHUSETTS
 - *** Suzanne L. Hart
 - *** Lisa Marie Hedges
 WATERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS
 - ** Erick W. Inyanga worcester, Massachusetts
 - ** Rosemary Ireni
 - * Sarah Eve James ASHBURNHAM, MASSACHUSETTS
- ** Simon Kariuki Kamoni
 BRAINTREE, MASSACHUSETTS
- * Nicholas Henry Lafleur FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Lindsey Grace LaFrance WESTMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Sweta Lama BRAINTREE, MASSACHUSETTS

** Matthew Thomas Landadio STERLING, MASSACHUSETTS

- Rylie Madison LeBlanc-Guertin
 GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS
 - * Lily Maluti Lunani
 WARE, MASSACHUSETTS
 - ** Alanna Reese MacMillan
 BURLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Cassandra Tani Martell

- *** David Alexander Mayson Jr.
 WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS
 - ** Cailin M. McDermott
 ROWLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

Mica A. McLaurin whitinsville, massachusetts

- ** Ashley Nicole Meede
- ** Addo Mensah-Frimpong WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS
- *** Ruth Anderson Miller
 EAST DUMMERSTON, VERMONT
- * Gabrielle Nicole Muraca

Drew Elisabeth Murphy

Kaileigh G. Murphy

- *** Colleen Murray
- ** Angella Nanyanzi TYNGSBORO, MASSACHUSETTS

★ Paul O. Oiya

- ★ Lissette Adriana Ortega
- ** Tori Elizabeth Palmerino WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS
 - *** Patrick Kwesi Pecku worcester, Massachusetts
 - ** Alyssa Rose Pimentel
 WESTPORT, MASSACHUSETTS
 - ** Jennifer L. Rivera springfield, massachusetts
 - * Tiana Rodriguez
 - ** Nana Achiaa Sam
 OXFORD, MASSACHUSETTS
 - ** Lizbeth Sanchez
 MEDFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
 - * Lauren L. Serratore WINCHENDON, MASSACHUSETTS
 - ** Amy Cora Simmons
 WENDELL, MASSACHUSETTS
 - * Christina Mary Simpson TOWNSEND, MASSACHUSETTS
 - **★** Natalie A. Smith LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

- ★ Cum laude—3.2 or higher
- Double major
- ♦ Commonwealth Scholar / Honors Program
- Sterilite Scholar

^{★★★} Summa cum laude—3.8 or higher

^{★★} Magna cum laude—3.5 or higher

NURSING (CONTINUED)

*** Madelyn P. Soto

Haley E. Tulip

** Hana Marie Valikangas
ASHBY, MASSACHUSETTS

** Kaylyn Nicole Violette

* Rafaela Lapenda Pires Ward

*** Rym Zebar

PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE

Madison Elizabeth Araujo STOUGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Micayla Winter Bilsbury

* Hannah Moon Burns
WINCHENDON, MASSACHUSETTS

** Ariana Lee Butler GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

** Kaitlyn Byington
AUBURN, MASSACHUSETTS

♦** Dana Elizabeth Cisowski

Business Administration TORRINGTON, CONNECTICUT

Marsha Dadaille

** Kiley E. D'Angelo PEPPERELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Aria Nicole DiCato

Alyssa Ellsworth CLINTON, MASSACHUSETTS

** Alexandra Granchelli
WEST GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS

** Calvin Carvalho Guillaume

** Rylie Jules Harlow
HANSON, MASSACHUSETTS

Sophiana Hem

*** Elizabeth Ann Herget

*** Brianna M. Hernandez

Kimberly Jean-Louis BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS

** Skyler N. Lafrennie
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

*** Madison Ann Lawrence

*** Dylan G. LeBlanc

Caitlin A. Legvold TEWKSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

** Sheiny Mercedes
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

Felicia M. Meza

** Alissa Miyuki Olmsted
ASHBY, MASSACHUSETTS

** Julianna Leigh Palmer
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

♦ ★★★ Jessica Ganpat Patel
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Hannah L. Pelletier ASSONET, MASSACHUSETTS

*** Delaney Jane Ponder EAST BRIDGEWATER, MASSACHUSETTS

*** Rebecca Rains GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Grace Emily Rogers
WAYLAND, MASSACHUSETTS

Nicole Salacinski

** Zipporah Anim Sampomaa
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

** Neisa Cassandra Santos
KINGSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Jacob S. Scholefield PEPPERELL, MASSACHUSETTS

★ Isabella A. Sousa CHARLTON, MASSACHUSETTS

** Henry Roger Spero

** Nashani K. Swain BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS

*** Adelia Lynn Zollo TEMPLETON, MASSACHUSETTS

PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCE

Georgette Adu Agyekum
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Anna Elsa Derival

Ketty Guillaumette BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Agnes Imbrah worcester, massachusetts

Emily Elizabeth LeBlanc WATERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

Bianca Christie Litus
BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Selma Maria Martey WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

** Rita J. Pires
BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS

★ Freda S. Sarfo worcester, Massachusetts

Victoria L. Ta

Kailyn Mariah Tavera

Danira Toribio

Bethannie Toussaint BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS

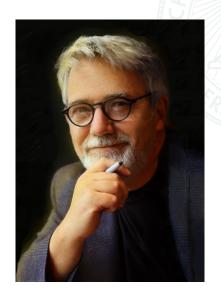
^{★★★} Summa cum laude—3.8 or higher

^{★★} Magna cum laude—3.5 or higher

[★] Cum laude—3.2 or higher

Double major

[♦] Commonwealth Scholar / Honors Program



COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Peter H. Reynolds '83 Author / Illustrator

Peter H. Reynolds '83 is a beloved New York Times #1 bestselling author/illustrator with over eighty titles to his name, including The Dot, Our Table, The Word Collector, Happy Dreamer, Be You, Going Places, I Am Peace, and Love You By Heart. He is also the illustrator of the Judy Moody & Stink series.

Reynolds graduated from Fitchburg State with a degree in graphic design and joined the start-up educational software development firm, Tom Snyder Productions, in Cambridge, Mass., as an artist, illustrator, storyteller, and VP/Creative Director.

After helping grow the firm into a multi-million dollar enterprise, TSP was acquired, and Reynolds used his share of proceeds to found Boston-based educational media and interactive developer FableVision Studios. The digital media/interactive design agency has been creating positive media, storytelling, and tech-powered learning tools for clients such as PBS Kids, Smithsonian Institution, Sesame Workshop, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, the Jim Henson Company, Maryland Public Television, Scholastic, and National Geographic.

His non-profit Reynolds Center for Teaching, Learning, and Creativity provides creativity programs to teachers and students, and also oversees International Dot Day—a global celebration of creativity, which has attracted over 31 million in 190+ countries.

In 2007, Reynolds received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Fitchburg State University, in recognition of his "substantial contributions to education and the arts."

Reynolds was a recipient of the Visionary Award by the Association of American Publishers Learning Group, which celebrates the extraordinary accomplishments of the learning resource industry, and the ongoing mission of helping every child receive a world class education.

Reynolds also founded the independent bookshop The Blue Bunny nearly two decades ago in his hometown of Dedham, Mass., where he is often found sipping coffee and signing books.



ANTONUCCI STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD

Alexia Perez-Lucas B.A. in Political Science

Alexia Perez-Lucas is graduating with a degree in political science, with minors in international studies and criminal justice. Throughout her undergraduate career, Perez-Lucas has engaged with rigorous coursework, including legal research and writing, international relations, comparative politics, global

issues, moot court, and American foreign policy.

Beyond her academic pursuits, she actively seeks opportunities to apply her skills and contribute to her community. She currently serves as a shelter support worker at Making Opportunities Count in Westminster, where she plays a vital role in ensuring a safe and welcoming environment for residents. This experience underscores her commitment to service and her ability to handle sensitive situations with empathy and discretion.

Her commitment to education extends beyond her university studies. As a teacher's assistant at Frances Drake Elementary School in Leominster, she supported a classroom of 23 students by maintaining a clean and organized environment, distributing learning materials, and assisting the lead teacher with supervision and rule enforcement. This early experience demonstrates her dedication to fostering a positive and productive learning atmosphere.

Further enriching her understanding of the legal field, she completed an internship at the Worcester County District Attorney's Office in Fitchburg. This immersive experience provided her with firsthand exposure to the day-to-day operations of the criminal justice system in Massachusetts. She actively participated in case preparation, conducted legal research, and engaged with legal professionals, gaining invaluable insights and building important connections.

Her dedication to academic excellence and leadership is evident through her numerous awards and honors, including the Outstanding Student in Political Science Award this academic year, along with repeat appearances on the university's Dean's List.

With her robust academic background, practical experiences, and dedication to making a meaningful impact, Alexia Perez-Lucas is poised to make significant contributions in her future endeavors. She plans to continue her education at the graduate level in the future.

2024 FACULTY EXCELLENCE AWARDS



Dr. Vincent J. Mara Award for Excellence in Teaching

Honoring former university President Vincent J. Mara, this award recognizes faculty who have contributed with distinction to the university's mission of providing superior undergraduate teaching. Awardees have demonstrated a notable impact on student learning, and a dedication to innovative instruction.

Dr. Monica Maldari, 2024 Recipient
Professor, Exercise and Sports Science

RECENT RECIPIENTS

2023	Jannette M. McMenamy	2020	Paul I. Weizer	2017	Kelly C. Morgan
2022	Kisha G. Tracy	2019	Randy P. Howe	2016	Meledath Govindan
2021	Elizabeth S. Gordon	2018	Beth Walsh	2015	Benjamin A. Railton



Faculty Award for Research and Scholarship

Recipients are faculty with a meritorious record of academic research, creative activity, scholarship, and mastery of subject matter. The awardees characterize the essence of teacher scholars who draw on the research and scholarship to uniform and improve student learning through shared study, experimentation and analysis.

Dr. DeMisty Bellinger-Delfeld, 2024 Recipient Professor, English Studies

RECENT RECIPIENTS

2023	Adem Y. Elveren	2020	Catherine Buell	2017	Teresa Fava Thomas
2022	Samuel F. Tobin	2019	Kisha G. Tracy	2016	Eric N. Budd
2021	Michael J. Hove	2018	Katherine Rye Jewell	2015	Jeffrey E. Warmouth



Contributions to the Graduate Program Award

The award recognizes graduate faculty who have a sustained record of teaching, mentoring and advising graduate students. These faculty awardees have demonstrated a remarkable generosity and commitment to fostering the intellectual, creative, scholarly and professional growth of students who are pursuing the university's highest academic degrees, and nurture a community of intellectual engagement in which they thrive.

Dr. Robert Shapiro, 2024 Recipient Associate Professor, Education

RECENT RECIPIENTS

2023	Daniel C. Sarefield	2020	Daneen P. Deptula	2017	Chola Chisunka
2022	Xuzhou "Brady" Chen	2019	Joseph E. McAloon	2016	Nancy L. Murray
2021	James P. Alicata	2018	John M. Hancock	2015	Harry Semerjian



Faculty Award for Service

The award honors faculty who have demonstrated superior service to the academy, the university, and our broad community. Recipients have a distinguished and prolonged level of involvement and are exemplary university citizens who have applied their role as good stewards of place to improve student learning and the quality of life for both our campus and our wide-ranging community.

Dr. Laura Garofoli, 2024 Recipient Professor, Psychological Science

RECENT RECIPIENTS

2023	Danielle Wigmore	2020	jenn berg	2018	Megan M. Krell
2022	Sean C. Goodlett	2019	Eric N. Budd	2017	Elizabeth S. Gordon
2021	Meledath Govindan				

ALUMNI REPRESENTATIVES

Our thanks to all our alumni who are participating.

Greetings

1989 John Garten

President of the Alumni Association

Alumni Gonfaloniere

2018 Seferine A. Baez

Alumni Representatives

1953 Daniel G. O'Connor
 1971, 1985 David A Iannaccone
 1983 Francine Meigs

1988 Darlene M. Vittori-Marsell

Suzanne Garten 1990 Dawn M. Morton 1990 1992, 2002 Paula J. Stefanakos Amy E.M. Burgraff 1994 1995, 2021 Anthony A. Crowley Michael S. O'Brien 1995 1995, 2002 Sherisa M. Sterling 2002 Coelynn E. McIninch Eric A. Gregoire 2011

2011 Nicholas D. Smith
2011, 2020 Jasmine L. Yang
2022 Erin M. Flayhan
2024 Juliette F. Laford

2024 Tess H. Mason-DiBurgo

REGALIA

The origins of academic dress lie uncertainly in 13th-century England, when Edward III granted a charter to the University of Oxford. A close connection between the university and the church (the chancellor was the bishop's representative) may explain why illustrations depict the members of Oxford wearing gowns resembling clerical cassocks—closed in front and reaching the ground all around. Like the more lavishly trimmed ecclesiastical vestments, costume for advanced degrees was more elaborate.

A more practical reason than religious concurrence may have also prompted the adoption of long gowns. The buildings frequented by medieval scholars were cold and often damp, and so robes (particularly with hoods to protect tonsured heads) may have been worn more for warmth than fashion. The distinctive gown nevertheless set the student apart from his fellow citizens. As late as the Civil War, students at American universities wore caps and gowns daily while in residence. Whatever the origin, academic regalia grew in diversity and splendor, with scholars displaying distinctive costumes for different occasions and achievements. The result was a bewildering variety of designs.

An intercollegiate commission met at Columbia University in 1894 to establish a standard academic costume code, and over the years it has been revised by an official committee of the American Council on Education. The committee's prescriptions, while regulating, still allow for great pageantry at formal academic events.

From the cap, gown and hood it is possible to distinguish the institution from which the wearer was graduated, the field of learning in which the degree was earned, and the level of the degree—bachelor, master, or doctoral.

The distinguishing feature of the black mortarboard cap, standard at most colleges and universities in the United States, is the color of the tassel—black for the holder of a bachelor's or master's degree, gold for a doctor's degree or the governing officers of educational institutions. A few institutions have soft velvet tams instead.

The gown is normally black, and the gown's cut and trim indicate the level of the degree held. The bachelor's has long, pointed sleeves, while the master's has oblong sleeves, open at the wrist, with the front part cut in an arc. The doctor's sleeves are bell-shaped, with three bars of velvet, and the gown is trimmed with velvet down the front as well.

UNIVERSITY SYMBOLS

The university's colors are white, gold and green. White and gold were formally adopted in June 1900, and green was added in 1979. They signify wisdom, inspiration, purity

and perfection. The school motto, also adopted in 1900, is Perseverantia. This Latin word was freely translated to mean "achievements brought about by quiet will."

The university flower, the saxifrage, exemplifies the motto. The saxifrage, a small white flower with a golden center, was often found growing through cracks of rocks in early spring. Tiny as the flower is, it appeared to be so strong it could break rocks, through its gentle perseverance, its ability to overcome difficulties in its growth from seed to fruition, from lower to higher, from darkness to light. These triumphs parallel each individual's growth through education.

In 1900, the saxifrage was adopted as the original college seal. Its white flower petals were surrounded by a golden wreath of saxifrage leaves.

The seal has evolved along with the institution, most recently in 2010 with the attainment of university status. The saxifrage and the motto remain prominent in the design, though they are depicted with a clean, elegant, contemporary look. The current academic logo incorporates a multitude of visual symbols: a shield, a book, an abstract set of wings, and, finally, a subtle "F" in the negative space.

PRESIDENTIAL MEDALLION

The presidential medallion is a symbol of authority and responsibility vested in the office of the president by the Board of Trustees. It is engraved with the names and terms of service of all the past presidents of Fitchburg State University, embodying the legacy of those who have shaped our university into the esteemed institution it is today. The sitting president's nameplate is placed closest to the medallion, signifying their role in carrying forward this legacy of leadership. The medallion is worn by the president at formal academic occasions, representing the president's pledge to preserve and advance the mission of our 130-year-old institution.

Principals / Presidents

2024 – Present	Donna Hodge
2015-2024	Richard S. Lapidus
2003-2015	Robert V. Antonucci
2002-2003	Michael T. Rivard (Interim)
1995-2002	Michael P. Riccards
1975-1995	Vincent J. Mara
1963-1975	James J. Hammond
1953-1963	Ralph F. Weston
1950-1953	Ellis F. White
1945-1950	William J. Sanders
1927-1945	Charles M. Herlihy
1920-1927	William J. Parkinson
1895-1920	John G. Thompson

HISTORY

Established in 1894 by an act of the Massachusetts Legislature, the State Normal School in Fitchburg opened in temporary quarters in the old high school building on Academy Street. Principal John G. Thompson, aided by a teaching staff of three, implemented a two-year



teacher training program for women that had forty-six participants. In December 1896, the school expanded into a new building, known as Thompson Hall, and set up the State Schools of Observation and Practice in city buildings on Day Street and Highland Avenue.

In the next decade the school was a trendsetter for programs in Education. The Edgerly School opened, originally as an eighth-grade model and practice school, and then in 1910, it became one of the first junior high schools in the United States. The following year the school initiated the first practical arts teacher training course in the country for men.

In 1930, the State Normal School was authorized to offer a bachelor's degree in practical arts, and in 1932, when it became the State Teachers College at Fitchburg, four-year degrees were offered in all areas of education.

Under the auspices of the State Division of University Extension, summer courses were first offered in 1915, marking the beginning of the college's commitment to Continuing Education programs. In 1935, the college was also authorized to establish graduate programs and in 1954 the first evening courses were offered.

In 1960, the college changed its name and expanded its mission. The State College at Fitchburg diversified its programs to include degrees in disciplines other than education. In 1965, its name was officially changed to Fitchburg State College, which today offers fortynine undergraduate degree programs in eighteen academic departments, twenty Masters Degree programs, five Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study programs, and seven Graduate Certificate programs. Enrollment is up to 3,100 full-time and 4,000 part-time students, which include 1,100 matriculated graduate students. The campus has expanded from a single structure on High Street to thirty-two buildings on ninety acres, becoming the educational center for the Montachusett region. The college proudly offers traditional and nontraditional programs to serve the educational needs of its students as undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education students.

On July 28, 2010, Gov. Deval L. Patrick signed legislation establishing a State University system in Massachusetts, and the institution's current name—Fitchburg State University—was enacted.

IN OLD WACHUSETT'S SHADOW

Words and music by Priscilla (Taylor) McLean, Class of 1963





Congratulations to the Class of 2025!

We want to hear from graduates—as well as current students and families—how Fitchburg State changed their lives. Please let us know by visiting fitchburgstate.edu/tell-us-your-story.



Congratulations on your achievement! Please visit our digital magazine and stay in touch with your Fitchburg State University community.

FITCHBURG STATE MAGAZINE

fitchburgstate.edu/magazine

