



130TH ANNUAL
COMMENCEMENT

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026

UNDERGRADUATE CEREMONY

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to Fitchburg State University and to this joyous occasion—the undergraduate ceremony of our 130th commencement exercises. We come together today to celebrate an extraordinary milestone: the culmination of hard work, perseverance, and academic excellence in pursuit of your baccalaureate degree. Graduation is not only a testament to your remarkable achievements but a reflection of the strength and support you have each received from this incredible community.

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

To our graduates, this ceremony is a celebration of your dedication. Each of you has embarked on a journey marked by intellectual curiosity, personal discovery, and an unwavering commitment to your goals. However, do not view today as a finish line, but rather as the moment you hit your stride. You have established a powerful momentum through the completion of this degree; now is the time to build upon that energy as you enter the professional world or pursue further study. You have embraced challenges and developed skills that will empower you to make a meaningful impact. Use the drive you perfected here to propel yourselves into your next breakthroughs.

This celebration is also for the many others who shared in your journey. To the families and loved ones who have cheered you on, thank you for being the foundation of this success. To our dedicated faculty, librarians, and staff: your passion for mentoring and your commitment to our students have made today possible. We celebrate all of you as well.

Graduates, as you begin the next chapter of your lives, know that your undergraduate education is the foundation for endless possibilities. It is a powerful tool to help you navigate the opportunities ahead. You leave Fitchburg State equipped to innovate, problem-solve, and lead. Harness the momentum of this achievement and embrace your next adventure with courage and confidence. The lessons you've learned here will remain with you as you shape a future for yourselves, your families, and your communities.

On behalf of the entire university, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Class of 2026. May your future be filled with success 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



130TH ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT

Undergraduate 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

Tim St. John

Chief Student Affairs Officer

Processional

Innovata Brass

“Pomp and Circumstance,” composed by Edward W. Elgar

Presentation of University Mace and Faculty Gonfalon

Dr. Eric O. Williams

Associate Professor of Biology and Chemistry

2025 recipient of the Faculty Award for Research and Scholarship

Dr. Christopher M. Picone

Professor of Biology and Chemistry

2025 recipient of the Vincent J. Mara Award for Excellence in Teaching

Call to Order

Dr. Franca Barricelli

Acting Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

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

Linda LeBlanc

Senior Librarian and Library Program Area Chair

Reflections from the President

& Introduction of Commencement Speaker

Dr. Donna Hodge

Commencement Address

Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Robert V. & Jeanne S. Antonucci Award

Charles K. Stevenson

Musical Interlude

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

Conferring of Degrees

Dr. Donna Hodge

Lynn Barrieau

Vice Chair, Board of Trustees

Dr. Jannette M. McMenemy

Associate Provost and Dean of Health and Natural Sciences

Degree Name Readers

Dr. Erin M. Rehrig, Professor of Biology

Dr. Christopher Picone, Professor of Biology and Chemistry

Dr. David Svolba, Associate Professor and Chair of Humanities

Greetings from Alumni

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

Closing Remarks

Tim St. John

Recessional

Innovata Brass

"Allegro Maestoso," composed by George Frideric Handel

Fitchburg State University Board of Trustees

Dr. Michael Fiorentino Jr., Chair

Lynn M. Barrieau, Vice Chair

David C. Tiernan, Clerk

Joseph Byrne

Jennifer L. Flanagan

Matthew Gill, Student Trustee

Eric A. Gregoire

Sheila King-Goodwin

Michael Morris

Shane Rodriguez

Karen J. Spinelli

Student Government Association Seniors

Matthew Gill, Student Trustee
Michael Burns, SGA President
Adriana Padilla Salgado, SGA Secretary
Joshua Cronin, Committee Chair
Skye Goba, Committee Chair
Cassandra Israelson, Senator
Adam Quinlan, Senator
Zachary Carlson, Senator
Justin Conner, Senator

2026 Commonwealth Honors Scholars' Thesis Projects

Madison Ambrogi, *Mitigating Flood Risk Through Wetland (Re)construction: A Proposal Evaluating the Economic and Environmental Impacts on Cape Cod*
Zachary Amidon, *The Feeling of Lofi Music Captured Through Art*
Julia Arena, *Medial Tibial Stress Syndrome: A Review of Literature on Pathology, Diagnosis, and Treatment*
Owen Bonney, *Game Night* by Owen Bonney
Maggie Bourgeois, *Exploring Media Reform and Its Plausibility in the United States*
Kole Broderick, *A Systematic Literature Review of the Relationship Between College Education and Policing*
Savannah Caldbeck, *Turning the Page Towards Community-Oriented Design*
Angelia Caron, *The Impact of Foster Care on Children's Mental Health*
Zoe Chrisostomides, *Rebuilding Local News Through Public Access Television*
Kyle Connell, *Fan-Games & ROM Hacks*
Emma DaPonte, *Assessing Membrane Repair Capacity in Myoblast Using Dysferlin-Dependent Dye Tagging Techniques*
Ryan Darling, *The Beauty of a Piledriver: The Art of Professional Wrestling*
David Diaz, *Infrastructure of Puerto Rico*
Daniel DiSessa, *Doorway to My Comfort: Translating Emotion Through Album Design*
Asher Easter, *Chemical Synthesis and Characterization of Iridium Triphenylphosphine Complexes, and their Reactions with Nonsteroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs)*
Peter Elliott, *Tomorrow's Prometheus: A Novel* by Peter W. Elliott
Shantae Espino, *Economic Sustainability of Youth Cheerleading Facilities: Comparing Startup Costs, Return on Investment, and Business Longevity among Small, Medium, and Large Centers*
Sera Gagnon, *How Meditation Helps Athletes Prepare for Sport Competition*
Ahna Gainey, *Feature Length Screenplay*
Skye Goba, *Beyond The Athlete* Short Documentary

Melissa Guillaume, *Tracing the Past, Healing the Present: Examining Racial Disparities in Healthcare and African American Mistrust Through A Nursing Lens*

Vincent Hussey Cerqueira, *Hungry for More*

Cassandra Israelson, *Beyond The Athlete Photo Book*

Lauren Keough, *Mel and I: Art, Self-Conception, and Growing Up A Fraternal Twin*

Lina Kherallah, *The Role of Social Media Influencers on Consumer Behavior*

Cayla Koduah, *Historical Representation of Native Americans: A Comparative Study of Printed and OER Textbooks*

Quintin Lemek, *Exploring Historical Problem Solving Techniques of Islamic and Japanese Mathematicians for a Modern Audience and Integration into Higher Dimensional and Computational Applications*

Geybrell Liriano, *Defining and Measuring Perceived Self Cost in Relation to Empathy & Prosocial Behavior*

Diana Marquez Frias, *The Lost Art of Craftsmanship*

Christian Marsden, *Community Oriented Policing*

Ryann McCullough Nezu, *From Red Carpets to Recommendations: The Changing Landscape of Film Marketing in Response to Streaming and the Pandemic*

Brady McFadden, *Solving Cain's Jawbone*

Matthew Mendrella, *Metal and Movement*

Ian Nano, *Restoring Dysferlin in T252M Dysferlinopathy Models Using 4-PBA and Assessing Effects on Myoblast Differentiation*

Maxwell Riordan, *Smokeless Tobacco Use in Collegiate Baseball Players: Prevalence, Patterns, and Influencing Factors*

Emily Russo, *Past(a) and Present: Exploring Culture and Heritage Through Italian Brand Design*

Rowan Salvas, *Discussing Sex-Differentiated Disparities in the ADHD Diagnostic Process*

Nicholas Solimine, *Portrait Film*

Erica Vogel, *Utilizing Phytochemistry to Modulate Immune Responses*

Caileen Wilson, *Training a Robotic Arm With AI*

Samantha Wozniak, *The Impacts of Childhood Bullying on the Relationships of College Students*

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

School of Arts & Sciences

Bachelor of Arts

CREATIVE ARTS THERAPIES

Autumn R. Hughes***
NEW IPSWICH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Jessica Marie Garcia**
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Bachelor of Science

COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA

Benjamin Kenneth Adams***
SOUTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Vanessa Marie Alejandro***
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Jeremy Nathan Allik**
NATICK, MASSACHUSETTS

Zachary L. Amidon◆***
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Robert John Aurilio
BILLERICA, MASSACHUSETTS

Prince Glory Banangoy
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Ryan Alexander Barker***
WEYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Jack R. Barrow**
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Owen T. Bonney◆***
PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Alyssa L. Brayley***
NORTH ATTLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS

Griffin Brown
HINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Cole Riley Burke*
WEST WAREHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Oriana Veronica Cabas Jimenez*
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Savannah Delaney Caldbeck◆***
SHIRLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

Philip J. Carcia
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Erick B. Carredano**
WAKEFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Aidan John Cattelan*
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

Gabriella Cavallaro***
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Henry David Christiansen**
CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Joshua Patrick Cronin
SEEKONK, MASSACHUSETTS

Jordan James Cummings
SWAMPSCOTT, MASSACHUSETTS

Riley Anne Curtin
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Amber Nicole Dalicandro***
HOPEDALE, MASSACHUSETTS

Bianca De Brito Oliveira**
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Sean Douglas Diggins*
MERRIMACK, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Maurice Galen Dingle
BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Daniel Patrick DiSessa◆**
MALDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Shane David Dolan**
AYER, MASSACHUSETTS

Quinn Patrick Dullea
AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS

Oliver Kenneth Eason II***
WATERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

Christopher J. Emslie**
NORTH YORK, ONTARIO

Pauline Del Mar Farinacci
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

Molly Jane Flanagan*
HUDSON, MASSACHUSETTS

Audrey M. Forte*
HUBBARDSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Adam Lorenzo Fournier***
SOUTHBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Dellabee Marie Gagnon
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Ahna Beth Gainey◆**
LONDONDERRY, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Kyra Elise Galbreath***
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Casey-Lee Jane Gauthier
MARSTONS MILLS, MASSACHUSETTS

Skye A. Goba◆***
NORTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Max Phillip Gofstein***
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Colby James Hairston***
MELROSE, MASSACHUSETTS

Emjay Hanson**
GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Desmond Antonio Hart
SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS

Lily Ann Hay**
CAMILLA, GEORGIA

Valerie R. Hilton**
WEST BOYLSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Vincent John Hussey
Cerqueira◆***
TEWKSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Cassandra N. Israelson◆***
SAUGUS, MASSACHUSETTS

Katherine Lindsey Jajliardo
AUBURN, MASSACHUSETTS

Paul Kariuki
BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Rebecca T. Langone
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Ayden Alena Lassell**
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Jessica A. Lee**
ASHBURNHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Samantha LeMay
AYER, MASSACHUSETTS

Kyle J. Lindfors
MAYNARD, MASSACHUSETTS

James Patrick Mahoney***
ASHBURNHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Milena Milagros Mahoney**
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Esther Maia**
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Nia Rose Manderson-Matheson***
PETERSHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Drew Manzi
NORTH READING, MASSACHUSETTS

Shane Alexnder McCullough*
HALIFAX, MASSACHUSETTS

Charles W. McGarigle***
WEST TOWNSEND, MASSACHUSETTS

James Allen McGarry**
MARSHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Ana'aya M. McGowan Mozell
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS

Donovan J. Meehan*
CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Thomas H. Meehan**
CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Jorge Merino
SALISBURY, MARYLAND

Matthew K. Messina◆**
HOLBROOK, MASSACHUSETTS

Sophia Jacqueline Moore**
DANIELSON, CONNECTICUT

Melanie Aida Olson Nashef*
HOLDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Katharine Rose Nizwantowski*
FREEDOM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Jesye N. Nortey*
WORCESTER, 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

David J. Nugent ★
HUDSON, MASSACHUSETTS

Alexandra J. Papke ★★
BAILEYVILLE, MAINE

Mikayler Corinne Patch ★
NORTH ATTLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS

Clayton James Perior ★★
WESTMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Lyanny Eliz Pinales
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Clarisa A. Plummer ★★★
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Emily R. Puccia
CARLISLE, MASSACHUSETTS

Dea Rami
❖ *Business Administration*
BEVERLY, MASSACHUSETTS

Patrick James Randazzo ★
BELLINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Ross Michael Ricker ★★
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Jose C. Rosario
WARE, MASSACHUSETTS

April Nicole Rosello ★★
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Kayo Rosse
WILLIAMSTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

Joseph R. Rouleau ★★★
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Samantha Rozum ★
MASHPEE, MASSACHUSETTS

Lauren Eileen Ruffing ★★★
WOBURN, MASSACHUSETTS

Emily T. Russo ◆★★★
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

Meghan Mary Russo ★
HOLDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Nicolas Salamack
WHITINSVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

Jared Thomas Sanville ★
ATHOL, MASSACHUSETTS

Nicolas Scarpitta
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Frank Peter Schmidt Jr.
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

Anthony R. Sofia
MERRIMAC, MASSACHUSETTS

Nicholas Diego Solimine ◆★★★
HUDSON, MASSACHUSETTS

Erica J. Spurr
TEWKSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Naomi Sterling
WESTMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Blayn Christopher Sweaney
LAKE ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Benjamin C. Sweet ★★
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Jesus Asdrubal Tabares Diaz ★★
SAUGUS, MASSACHUSETTS

Brooke Taylor
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Allison Nicole Thompson ★★
WAKEFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Gabriel Toomey
GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

David Thomas Treska Jr. ★★
DRACUT, MASSACHUSETTS

Aiden Gerald Truehart ★★
ATHOL, MASSACHUSETTS

Kevin M. Veguilla ★
LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS

Zachary Vigil
FRANKLIN, MASSACHUSETTS

Jiovanni N. Walker ★★
LONGMEADOW, MASSACHUSETTS

Meaghan Jane Walsh ★★
❖ *Game Design*
WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Sierra Josephine Warren
SOUTH DEERFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Vivian Warren
SAINT AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA

Camryn Elizabeth Wedgwood
BURLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Meadow A. Worsley
FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS

Yer Yang-Su A
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Steven Adams Jr. ★★
WINCHENDON, MASSACHUSETTS

Jelizabeth J. Amparo
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Stephen Panel Armand
LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS

Adelaide Selina Barnes
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Christopher Barone
STERLING, MASSACHUSETTS

Owen Christopher Barry ★★
ASHBURNHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Nicholas Sharkey Benson
WILMINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Hannah P. Blash ★
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Natasha Brito ★
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Kole Scott Broderick ◆★★★
GILL, MASSACHUSETTS

Delaney R. Brown
BILLERICA, MASSACHUSETTS

Alexis Marie DeSimone ★★
ASHBURNHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Collin Matthew Dudek ★
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Thomas Reilly Fitzgerald
MARSHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Edwin J. Gonzalez
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Raesean Armani Goodney
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Joshua Paul Googins
BRAINTREE, MASSACHUSETTS

Trinity Marie Hansen
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Andrew J. Hickey
BURLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Latashia N. Hurt
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Timothy Aidan Kinsella ★★
BREWSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Mathieu Niklaus Legault
OXFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Nicolas Giordano LeVangie
MANSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Emma Elizabeth Littlefield
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Maddison L. Lloyd
ORANGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Katelyn J. Mahan ★
ATHOL, MASSACHUSETTS

Christian William Marsden ◆★
TEWKSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Ryan Joseph Mccarthy
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Kdanse Kyla Star Mcgee
RANDOLPH, MASSACHUSETTS

Niveah M. Mcintosh
DOVER, PENNSYLVANIA

Tristen J. Mitchell ★
GLOUCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Samuel Thomas Monteiro
FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS

Charles Logan Moran ★★
HOLLAND, MASSACHUSETTS

Urani Myrtaj ★★
NORWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS

Liam Michael O'Coin
PEPPERELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Nicole Elizabeth Orlowski ★
MANCHESTER, CONNECTICUT

Ashley Marie Perez
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Griffin Liam Petrucci ★★
ASHBY, MASSACHUSETTS

Allison M. Prentis
MANSFIELD, 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

Anthony Steven Puertas
REVERE, MASSACHUSETTS

Paola Krystal Rivera-Sepulveda
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Valerie Rodriguez
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Santamaria Luz Rosa
SOUTHBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Jack Rouhana ★★
WALPOLE, MASSACHUSETTS

Justin Xavier Ruiz
JAMAICA, NEW YORK

Angela Marie Rumson
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Jonah T. Sallese
MAYNARD, MASSACHUSETTS

Sehraan Sharif
HYANNIS, MASSACHUSETTS

Brianna Nichole Taft ★
DOUGLAS, MASSACHUSETTS

Alexius Kiersten Tonks ★
TOWNSEND, MASSACHUSETTS

Jelena Valentin
WINCHENDON, MASSACHUSETTS

Adam David Wholley ★★
LONDONDERRY, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Jillian Marie Williams ★
BLACKSTONE, MASSACHUSETTS

Riley E. Wilson ★
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

DIGITAL MEDIA INNOVATION

Chris Gonzalez
❖ *Game Design*
CONTOOCOOK, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Jarrold Matthew Howard
FRANKLIN, MASSACHUSETTS

Germeine Osei Kwakye
ATHOL, MASSACHUSETTS

ECONOMICS

Paras Kumar ★★
STRAELEN, GERMANY

Paige N. Levesque ★
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Alexander Colin Marshall ★
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Stephane Saint Louis ★★
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Rocco Stefano Zimei ★
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

ENGLISH STUDIES

Kimberly Benham
WESTMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

James Joseph Cremens III
LONDONDERRY, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Julia Grace Ducharme
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Peter W. Elliott ◆★★★
PETERSHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Matthew Patrick Gill ★★★
AYER, MASSACHUSETTS

Adriana Tegan Kruger ★★★
AMHERST, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Brady Elizabeth McFadden ◆★
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Michael Joseph Sauvageau Jr.
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Anne Catherine Skamarycz ★★
WESTMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

GAME DESIGN

Aboubacar Camara
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Tyler Emerson Colecchi
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Luis A. Collazo ★
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Kyle P. Connell ◆★
TYNGSBORO, MASSACHUSETTS

Jake A. Estrada ★★
WILMINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Jake W. Fritz ★★
CROMWELL, CONNECTICUT

Kellan John Gehan ★★★
PEABODY, MASSACHUSETTS

Chris Gonzalez
❖ *Digital Media Innovation*
CONTOOCOOK, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Christian Guzman Carvajal ★★
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Keshauni Renae Johnson
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

Ryan Kidder ★★★
ORANGE, CONNECTICUT

Tyler Charlie LaFleur ★★
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Alexander M. Lopes ★
FALLS VILLAGE, CONNECTICUT

Keng Lor ★★
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Aiko Mei S. McCarthy ★★
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Dante Claudio Melo
WEBSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Ari Harrison Merkwowitz
PEABODY, MASSACHUSETTS

Noah A. Myers ★★
NORTHBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS

Adam John Niemi ★★
HAMPDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Connor J. Novack ★
CHARLTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Andrew J. O'Leary ★
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Oscar Daniel Orellana
MILFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Gregory Linton Rattray ★★
FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Tyler Nicholas Reddin ★★
WEST TOWNSEND, MASSACHUSETTS

Elizabeth Rosmond Santry
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

Ethan Louis Sorrentino ★
SEEKONK, MASSACHUSETTS

Andrew V. Tremarche
FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Meaghan Jane Walsh ★★
❖ *Communications Media*
WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Jakob Andrew Welzel ★★
PRESTON, MARYLAND

Ryan Kristopher Woods
WOBURN, MASSACHUSETTS

Ethan W. Yablonski
BALDWINVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

HISTORY

Michael Paul Burns ★
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

David Robert Cate
PEPPERELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Ryan Dale Keve ★
BEVERLY, MASSACHUSETTS

Cayla A. Koduah ◆★★
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Jack Francis Lamy ★★★
WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Gabriel Gian Rivera
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Howard Glenn Smith ★★
NEW SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS

HUMAN SERVICES

Daniel Alicea ★
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Emer Siobhan Duffy ★
WEYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Lauren Jane Keough ◆★★★
SEEKONK, MASSACHUSETTS

Sophia Rosebud Mahone ★
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Tabitha Lynn Membrino ★★
ATHOL, MASSACHUSETTS

Sara Jean Surette ★★
AYER, MASSACHUSETTS

Sophia Diane Zirtidis ★
READFIELD, MAINE

★★★ 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

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Shannon Abram ***
CLINTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Ephemia Jayme Bailey *
PAWTUCKET, RHODE ISLAND

Natalia Chagnon **
WINCHENDON, MASSACHUSETTS

Zoe Ann Christostomides ♦**
❖ *Business Administration*
SCOTCH PLAINS, NEW JERSEY

Rebecca Clour ***
TURNERS FALLS, MASSACHUSETTS

Justin Robert Conner
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Cheyenne Jean Coon
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Geovanie Alejandro Decarlo
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Justin D. de Diego *
ORANGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Amanda DeLeon Guimaraes **
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Samuel Garcia Jr.
ASHBURNHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Thomas Jyrome Genao
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Matthew Jean-Gilles
WAKEFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Joshua K. Jordan
DRACUT, MASSACHUSETTS

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SHIRLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

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HURLOCK, MARYLAND

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TUCSON, ARIZONA

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WOBURN, MASSACHUSETTS

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PHILLIPSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Berika Zahra Pierre
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CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS

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PHILLIPSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

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POLITICAL SCIENCE

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FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

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❖ *Interdisciplinary Studies*
WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

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❖ *History*
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Zachary Andrew Whitcomb *
WEST LEBANON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

SOCIOLOGY

Anna M. Brew ***
WEST TOWNSEND, MASSACHUSETTS

Victoria Elizabeth Farley
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

School of Business & Technology

Bachelor of Science

APPLIED SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Diana Hadit Marquez Frias ♦***
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Joseph Louis Abt
NEWBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Kristine Avalos **
WEST SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

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BRONX, NEW YORK

Ayanna G. Beach
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Casey Michael Bellew
BEVERLY, MASSACHUSETTS

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Zoe Ann Christostomides ♦***
❖ *Interdisciplinary Studies*
SCOTCH PLAINS, NEW JERSEY

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❖ *Psychological Science*
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ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

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★★ Magna cum laude—3.5 or higher

★ Cum laude—3.2 or higher

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♦ Commonwealth Scholar / Honors Program

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Jarvis E. Joseph
MATTAPAN, MASSACHUSETTS

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Michael J. Kelly
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● Sterilite Scholar

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Paige L. Ward ★
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Sean Jason Willis
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Alyssa Christy Tata ★★★
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Sarah Elizabeth Whittier ★★★
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

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Kiera Shea James ★★★
SOUTHBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS

Ashley Marie Legere ★
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Jacob Roberts ★
CUMBERLAND, RHODE ISLAND

School of Health & Natural Sciences

Bachelor of Arts

BIOLOGY

Egbelis Michelle Parrilla Esquilin
AYER, MASSACHUSETTS

Liliana King
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

Samya Dianmarie Perez
LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS

Brooke E. Sullivan
EAST BRIDGEWATER, MASSACHUSETTS

Bachelor of Science

BIOLOGY

Tiffany Abirafie Agyepong ★
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Madison Ivy Ambrogi ◆★★★
❖ *Environmental & Earth Science*
TEMPLETON, MASSACHUSETTS

Victoria E. Axelson ★★
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LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Baris Bilgi ★★
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STRATFORD, CONNECTICUT

Paulina Skowronska ★

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PLAISTOW, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Jake Wendling ★

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Rachel M. Almeida ★

ROCHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Angela Renee Andrews ★★

HOLDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Adrian-Nicky Kwabena Antwi

OXFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Mavis Antwi Asante ★★★

WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Rachael Winnie Apore

LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

David Yousef Athamni ★★

EAST FALMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Rebecca Lynn Atkins ★★

GRAFTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Melissa Z. Auguste ★★★

MANFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Fatoumata Bah-Kanteh ★★★

FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS

Pratima Basnet ★

MARSTONS MILLS, MASSACHUSETTS

J. Nora Bateman ★★

CLINTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Natasha L. Beauchemin

ORANGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Rita Benewaah ★★★

WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Maria Massiel Bernabel

Maldonado ★★★

DANVERS, MASSACHUSETTS

Kathleen E. Blake

GREENVILLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Autumn Boateng

AUBURN, MASSACHUSETTS

Nicole Browell ★★

WESTMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Felicia Bynn ★★★

WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Hannah Elizabeth Campagnone ★★

TOWNSEND, MASSACHUSETTS

Maxine Colby Carbone ★★

LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Jenn Carbonneau ★

NORTH CHELMSFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Angelia Erika Caron ◆★

ASHBY, MASSACHUSETTS

Ashley E. Cary ★

LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Irene Chetambe

WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Susan Alicia Cicerchia ★★★

OXFORD, 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

Joshua Weinman Clute ***
ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA

Victoria A. Conway-DaSilva ***
CLINTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Kristina Marie Cook *
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Kylie Nicole Cordeiro ***
FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS

Tamra L. Corliss *
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Meredith O. Cormier **
MAYNARD, MASSACHUSETTS

Joseph Alexander Cornish *
WILMINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Savasia Crawford
WEBSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Melissa Danais **
NORWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Lasonta Simone Darlington *
ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Stephanie L. Davis **
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Marilyn Mbombo Dike ***
WEYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Brenda Jean Dill ***
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

Shannon M. Doyle *
BUZZARDS BAY, MASSACHUSETTS

Augusta Ifeyinwa Egbe ***
WESTPORT, MASSACHUSETTS

Alicia Endsley *
HAVERHILL, MASSACHUSETTS

Elizabeth Enyan Acheampong ***
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Shelove Estime **
BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Victoria Rose Feldman **
WAKEFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Brittany K. Fell **
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Allen Queen Folcarelli ***
FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS

Jennifer Forkuo-Garcia **
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Marc Francois
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Lucy Frimpong
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Arlyenis M. Garrastegui *
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Michaela Ann Garvey *
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Shella Gay Chaudry **
BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Janaya Shaniya George
FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS

Sheila N. Goncalves ***
ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS

Ashley Granger Patterson ***
HUDSON, MASSACHUSETTS

Melissa Frantzmite Guillaume ♦ **
WINCHENDON, MASSACHUSETTS

Minouche Jacques *
STONEHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Emily Mildred Jones **
ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Melissa Christine Jordan **
ASHBY, MASSACHUSETTS

Doreen Nakito Kalule **
ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Elvin N. Kaninjing ***
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Meggin Elizabeth Kelly **
ASHBURNHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Stephen Kiarie Kimani ***
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Joram K. Kiriungi
PAXTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Allison Lanier Knox *
BRAINTREE, MASSACHUSETTS

Margaret June Obunga Langa **
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Tamika Nilea Lezin ***
BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Vanessa Ann Louis *
MALDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Sarah A. Luoma *
LEXINGTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Kelli Mack ***
METHUEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Shannon Nicole Mack ***
MARSHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Chase W. Mannila ***
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

Kellie McAnulty **
WEST ROXBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Haley Brooke Mcneil
EAST BRIDGEWATER, MASSACHUSETTS

Yuan Meng **
SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Nina E. Merrill
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Grace Muiruri ***
WEBSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

John Daniel Mundy ***
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Megan Murphy Flood ***
ANDOVER, MASSACHUSETTS

Inutu Mutti Mwinga ***
CHERRY VALLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

Beatrice Nababi **
BILLERICA, MASSACHUSETTS

Hajara Nangendo *
STERLING, MASSACHUSETTS

Micala Megan Newton *
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Fontem Asong Etiendem Nkezea ***
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Julius Nkezea Nwetbefua ***
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Diana Okongo
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Tina Marie O'Leary **
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Noelle Tatiana Olivar *
RUTLAND, MASSACHUSETTS

Liana Orfonidiy **
STOUGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Julie A. O'Rourke *
ASHBURNHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Blessing Ofure Osagie ***
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Dorothy Osei **
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Paige Elizabeth Pacheco **
FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS

Regina Marie Pallotta *
STERLING, MASSACHUSETTS

Tori Elizabeth Palmerino **
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Jamie B. Perez **
HARDWICK, MASSACHUSETTS

Megan Ann Perez **
RINDGE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Kimberly Madiana Petit-Frere
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Kathy Dany Phon ***
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Mindy Lillian Phoummalayvane **
OXFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Marie Ducarme Pierre **
BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Alyssa M. Pinzone **
MARLBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS

Kristin Rose Platek ***
NORTHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Chelsea Pritchett
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Jeanette Reichenbach ***
HYDE PARK, MASSACHUSETTS

Shabana Riaz **
METHUEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Sara Anne Rich ***
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

Erin Richard
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

Yashana Leigh Rivera ***
LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS

Jill Marie Rivers ***
TEWKSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Zachary Joseph Ruby **
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Arianna N. Sandland **
PLAINVILLE, 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

Shyanne Marie Santos ★★★
FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS

Emily Renee Scarpati ★
STOW, MASSACHUSETTS

Amber May Stanley **
WEYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Grace K. Strickland ★
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Veronica L. Talbot ★★★
WILBRAHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Velma Kelly Che Tamfu **
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Liliane Uwineza ★★★
EVERETT, MASSACHUSETTS

Edith Suzy Wandji ★★★
BEVERLY, MASSACHUSETTS

Edmund M. Warren **
HOPKINTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Lucy Amiss Weinberg **
PEMBROKE, MASSACHUSETTS

Terence Timothy Aidan Wilson ★
PUTNAM, CONNECTICUT

Nevaeh Nkaujzouapaj Yang ★
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Esther Young ★★★
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE

Mukandu Ashema
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Hayleigh Nicole Bissonnette
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

Alexander Jordan Ciampa ***
TYNGSBORO, MASSACHUSETTS

Dana Elizabeth Cisowski **
❖ *Business Administration*
TORRINGTON, CONNECTICUT

Emerson Helen DiSalle ★
PRINCETON, MASSACHUSETTS

Nicholas A. Dumoulin ***
TOWNSEND, MASSACHUSETTS

Antoinette Ama Enyim ★
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

William Russell Ernst **
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Sera N. Gagnon ◆***
AGAWAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Emily Rose Gillespie **
AUBURN, MASSACHUSETTS

Samuel Fernandes Gouveia
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Anastasia Nichelle
Goyette-Connerty **
ASHBY, MASSACHUSETTS

Mallory Paige Greene ★
SALEM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Ali-Elizabeth Held
WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Elizabeth Ann Herget ***
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Vioyza A. Kansau Carruyo **
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

Sarah S. Kegbeh
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Tatiana M. Krauss ★
BALDWINVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

Geybrell Gerony Liriano ◆***
LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS

Destiny Adjoua Loabe
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Marvin Zahki Lovett III
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Matthew Mendrella ◆**
LA HABRA, CALIFORNIA

Felicia M. Meza ★
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Stephanie Alexandra Montanez **
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Jackline Lukayah Nabadda
DANVERS, MASSACHUSETTS

Clarel Marlyn Nina **
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Luke Edward Perron
HUBBARDSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Rowan Salvas ◆**
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Alivia M. Smith **
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Sy A. Sullivan
TIGARD, OREGON

Iva Turtulli
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCE

Hailey T. Cormier
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Anna Elsa Derival
LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS

Kimla Jacinda Francis
HYANNIS, MASSACHUSETTS

Makenzie Elizabeth Linda Gillespie
WHITMAN, MASSACHUSETTS

Geneva Grace Herzig **
HUBBARDSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Agnes Imbrah
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Lindsay Marie Moore
WEST TOWNSEND, MASSACHUSETTS

Sydney Amelia Nortelus
NORTH BILLERICA, MASSACHUSETTS

Nethanya Bridgey Pierre-Louis
SAUGUS, MASSACHUSETTS

Victoria L. Ta
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Kailyn Mariah Tavera
BROOKLINE, MASSACHUSETTS

Thoai Duy Thach
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

*Diavian Diamond White ★
CHICOPEE, MASSACHUSETTS

Samantha G. Wozniak ◆**
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

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★★ Magna cum laude—3.5 or higher

★ Cum laude—3.2 or higher

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● Sterilite Scholar



COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll **Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

Kim Driscoll is the 73rd Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. She was sworn in on January 5, 2023, joining Governor Maura Healey in an historic series of firsts: Governor

Healey is the first woman and first openly LGBTQ person elected Governor of Massachusetts, and together, Healey and Driscoll are the first all-women executive team to lead Massachusetts.

Since taking office, Lieutenant Governor Driscoll has spearheaded several administration priorities and initiatives. Exemplified by her extensive and successful career in local government, Driscoll has served as a notable proponent for the economic development of Massachusetts cities and towns. She has awarded state leaders and organizations with grants geared toward improving their communities and has emphasized the administration's commitment to direct investment in our cities and towns. This commitment also includes significant involvement with the state's affordable housing development and improvements to the state's public education policy.

Prior to taking office as Lieutenant Governor, Driscoll served as the City of Salem's first woman mayor. Elected in 2006, she turned deficits into record surpluses and saved taxpayers' money by strengthening city services, revitalizing Salem's downtown, leading a vast improvement in Salem's K-12 schools, reforming city pensions and health insurance programs to protect employee benefits, bidding public contracts, and bringing transparency to city hall. Under her leadership, Salem became one of the first communities in Massachusetts to adopt the expansion of free, high-quality early education opportunities starting at age four.

The daughter of a Navy chef from Lynn and an accountant's assistant from Trinidad, Driscoll spent her childhood in a number of states, before attending Salem State University where she studied government and became a stand-out athlete on the women's basketball team. Like so many Salem State students, she fell in love with Salem and made it her home after graduation, pursuing a career in municipal government, and married her college sweetheart, a second-generation union bricklayer.

After college, as the City of Beverly's community development director, Driscoll embarked on her long career of service to municipalities and eventually, went on to earn her law degree from the Massachusetts School of Law. Before becoming the mayor of Salem, Driscoll served as the City of Chelsea's chief legal counsel and deputy city manager, and also served on the Salem city council.

Lieutenant Governor Driscoll is focused on working with Governor Healey to create a forward-looking Commonwealth and communities that work for, empower, and include all who call Massachusetts home, as well as those who aspire to do so.



ROBERT V. & JEANNE S.
ANTONUCCI AWARD

Charles Stevenson
B.S. in Mathematics, B.S. Computer
Science (Cybersecurity)

The Robert V. and Jeanne S. Antonucci Award is Fitchburg State University's most prestigious honor for a graduating senior. It recognizes students who pair academic excellence with transformative leadership and a profound impact on the campus community.

Charles Stevenson, a resident of Rutland and a veteran of the Army reserve, is a dual major in Mathematics and Computer Science with a concentration in Cybersecurity. As a non-traditional student and adult learner, Stevenson has bridged the gap between professional experience and academic rigor, maintaining a peerless record that earned him induction into Pi Mu Epsilon and the title of Outstanding Mathematics Major.

Beyond his research in lattice-based cryptography, Stevenson has been a pillar of the Department of Health and Natural Sciences. As a Student Ambassador, he represented the university at the national Joint Mathematics Meetings and dedicated his time to mentoring the next generation of mathematicians through the Elizabeth Haskins Mathematics Contest.

Stevenson was selected for his humble leadership and his ability to enrich the university through his unique perspective as a veteran and a father. After completing his undergraduate degree, he is preparing to pursue doctoral research in computational mathematics.

2025 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. Christopher M. Picone, 2025 Recipient Professor, Biology and Chemistry

RECENT RECIPIENTS

2024	Monica Maldari	2021	Elizabeth S. Gordon	2018	Beth Walsh
2023	Jannette M. McMenemy	2020	Paul I. Weizer	2017	Kelly C. Morgan
2022	Kisha G. Tracy	2019	Randy P. Howe	2016	Meledath Govindan



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. Eric O. Williams, 2025 Recipient Associate Professor, Biology and Chemistry

RECENT RECIPIENTS

2024	DeMisty Bellinger-Delfeld	2021	Michael J. Hove	2018	Katherine Rye Jewell
2023	Adem Y. Elveren	2020	Catherine Buell	2017	Teresa Fava Thomas
2022	Samuel F. Tobin	2019	Kisha G. Tracy	2016	Eric N. Budd



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. Beverley A. Hollingsworth, 2025 Recipient
Professor, Business Administration; Chair, MBA Program

RECENT RECIPIENTS

2024	Robert Shapiro	2021	James P. Alicata	2018	John M. Hancock
2023	Daniel C. Sarefield	2020	Daneen P. Deptula	2017	Chola Chisunka
2022	Xuzhou "Brady" Chen	2019	Joseph E. McAloon	2016	Nancy L. Murray



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. Margaret T. Hoey, 2025 Recipient
Retired Professor, Biology and Chemistry

RECENT RECIPIENTS

2024	Laura Garofoli	2021	Meledath Govindan	2018	Megan M. Krell
2023	Danielle Wigmore	2020	jenn berg	2017	Elizabeth S. Gordon
2022	Sean C. Goodlett	2019	Eric N. Budd		

ALUMNI REPRESENTATIVES

Our thanks to all our alumni who are participating.

Greetings

1989 John T. Garten
President of the Alumni Association

Alumni Gonfaloniere

2018 Seferine A. Baez
President-Elect of the Alumni Association

Alumni Representatives

1967, 1975 John L. Lee Jr.
1967, 1980 Nancy A. Lee
1973 Arthur Hall
1988 Elaine R. Hall
1990 Suzanne Garten
1992, 2002 Paula J. Stefanakos
1995, 2021 Tony A. Crowley
1996, 1999 Kelly O. Calamari
1996 Kathy N. Jackson
1996 Kimberly E. Lewis
1997 Carmelle C. Lamour
1998, 2009 Yvonne D. Steadman-Mottley
1999, 2008 Shawn Palmi
2000, 2003, 2007 Rosemary C. Palmi
2011 Nick D. Smith
2017 Cielito L. Sadornas
2022 Xynone Cabal
2023 Matthew Lauzon
2025 Tyler Garten
2025 Alexia R. Perez-Lucas

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 forty-nine 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

The musical score is written on four staves in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: In Old Wachusett's Shadow our Alma Mater stands. Her proud New England banner she holds aloft to all the land. Hail to Alma Mater! Oh raise her name! Always may her sons and daughters justify her fame.



Congratulations to the Class of 2026!

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

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