

ANNA MARIA

COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE | 2022



**BELIEVE
THERE IS
GOOD IN THE
WORLD**

Class of 2022

Celebrating the 73rd graduating class of Anna Maria

Alumni Spotlights

See how three Anna Maria alumni are making a difference in the world

Dear World

Anna Maria community shares their personal stories

Who do you recognize
in this blast-from-the-past
yearbook photo?



CLASS OF 1972

then



now

CLASS OF 2025

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Coming Soon!
Anna Maria's
new baseball and
multipurpose field



ON THE COVER

Anna Maria College's 73rd Commencement ceremony was held at the DCU Center for the first time. Many festive graduation caps were on display this May.

PHOTO: MATT WRIGHT/KATIE MORRISON.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

We have a lot to let you know about from campus events to our alumni's accomplishments. Don't miss out on updates and events! Make sure we have your email address. Contact us at alumni@annamaria.edu or 508.849.3341.

thank you

to everyone who joined us to celebrate Reunion and Homecoming on October 1! It was wonderful to see so many alumni on campus. The day featured the traditional alumni mass, football game, family-friendly activities, and so much more. A special congratulations to those who celebrated their 50th reunion this year!

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See how Anna Maria alumni are making a difference in the world every day

FAST FACTS

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For story ideas and feedback, email alumni@annamaria.edu.

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THINK GREEN

Help us go green and reduce mailing costs! Be sure we have your preferred email address by visiting AnnaMaria.edu/update.

MOVED?

Please send address or name changes to the Office of Institutional Advancement, Anna Maria College, 50 Sunset Lane, Box K, Paxton, MA 01612 or email alumni@annamaria.edu.

100

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

provide internship, volunteer, and employment opportunities for our students.

97%

OF NURSING STUDENTS

pass the National Council Licensure Examination exam. (NCLEX-RN)

1,505

STUDENTS from 34 STATES & 12 COUNTRIES

were enrolled during the 2021-2022 academic year!

35%

OF OUR STUDENTS ARE

first-generation college students!

STAY
CONNECTED



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Making a Difference in the Lives of Others

The social impact of community outreach has been embedded in the values of Anna Maria College since its founding. Throughout the decades, students who have graced the hallways of our institution have continued on to become working professionals with a mission to serve others.

Anna Maria College students gain a well-rounded and practical education as they strive to join the ranks of our alumni who serve as the backbone of their communities. Our nurses, counselors, social workers, and health care professionals care for society's most vulnerable; our teachers, coaches, and mentors provide life-changing encouragement to students; public safety responders always answer the call regardless of the risk; and alumni serving as business and civic leaders create opportunities and strengthen communities.

Service is what makes Anna Maria College students stand out. Our students take the academic experience provided to them by faculty and turn it into action. Every day, you, our Anna Maria College alumni, are making a difference in the lives of others. Whether you are a student, alum, professor, or staff member, once you join the Anna Maria College community, you are part of a winning team.

Our most recent alumni, the Class of 2022, became the first to experience the DCU Center as Anna Maria College's new Commencement venue. The expansive arena and live-screen jumbotron provided students and families with a truly memorable send-off. In April, the Academic Symposium and Career Fair showcased the academic rigor of our student body while presenting them with job opportunities from nearly 50 organizations. The Campus Ministry Alternative Spring Break inspired a new student-led volunteering club, AMCares, dedicated to helping others, while Anna Maria's Student Nurse Association gave back to the community by collecting care items that were donated to nursing homes, Veterans Inc., and Abby's House.



As impressive as our students are, the new landscape for higher education is not without enormous challenges in the aftermath of the pandemic. For Anna Maria, this means thinking strategically about our future, looking at enrollment trends and adapting programs to support students' interests and choices. This year we made the very difficult decision to teach out the remaining students in our music programs by the end of 2025. We are committed to supporting these students as they complete their music degrees.

To position us for the future and continue to do great things, our students and this institution need your ongoing support and generosity. We are grateful that new federal and foundation funding and industry recognition are elevating our academic programs and laying the groundwork for the next chapter of campus improvements. Due to a burgeoning interest in athletics, both intramural and across conferences, Anna Maria College is excited to begin construction of a new multipurpose field/baseball venue. The groundbreaking will take place this fall. Once complete, the new space will serve as a much-needed addition to our beautiful campus.

Your contributions, both financial and within your communities, are the mainstay of our institution. The support that you provide transforms our ideas and projects into tangible realities that improve the student experience at Anna Maria College. Your generosity continues to impact and strengthen your alma mater.

Thank you for being part of the Anna Maria College family!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mary Lou Retelle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "L".

MARY LOU RETELLE
PRESIDENT



CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND SOCIAL WORK

Rachael Rollins Visit

Federal justice official met with criminal justice and social work students

On February 14, Rachael Rollins, United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts, held a group discussion and Q&A with Anna Maria College students in the criminal justice, social work, and public safety programs. Attorney Rollins came to campus after a day of meetings with law enforcement and justice officials in Worcester County. Her nomination as U.S. Attorney was confirmed by the U.S. Senate in December, and this visit was one of her first public stops in Central Massachusetts.

Attorney Rollins shared her career journey as a biracial woman and attorney who was first elected to public office when she was 46 years old. Students had the chance to ask Attorney Rollins questions, and she discussed a variety of headline topics, including human trafficking, addressing violent versus non-violent crimes, mental health responses, collaborating with social workers in law enforcement, and criminal justice reform.

Anna Maria College President Mary Lou Retelle, Board Chair John Spillane, and Board Member and Worcester Chamber President Tim Murray welcomed the Justice Department officials and updated them on the College's programs.



CAREER AND LEADERSHIP

Academic Symposium and Career and Internship Fair

On April 12 and 13, Anna Maria College celebrated its annual Academic Symposium and Career and Internship Fair

An annual event since 2011, the academic symposium featured presentations by students and faculty alike and any student, undergraduate, or graduate, could participate.

Nearly 50 organizations offered informational tables for students to learn about available jobs, internships, and career options. Everything from local public schools and community health centers to summer camps, health care facilities, and police departments were present. Many students brought their resumes and eagerly asked questions of those hiring, and some were hired on the spot!

"The academic symposium provides students with an opportunity to practice and fine tune their presentation skills," says Shelie Wells '92, the field placement coordinator and professor of practice, who organized the fair this year. "Faculty sponsors work with their student(s) and preview presentations to be sure each is of high quality and fitting for the field of interest. Students typically research and present on a topic that expands their knowledge related to their future career goals."





Nursing Symposium

While the first day of the symposium was open to students from all disciplines, the second day focused solely on presentations from nursing students. Throughout the day, 34 nursing students gave poster presentations and initiated discussions on topics such as emergency preparedness, working conditions for nurses, elder abuse, best practices for pregnant women with diabetes, and innovative approaches in premature infant care, among many others. Topics included:

- Best Practices to Promote Client Safety Inside Hospitals
- Reducing the Incidents of Shaken Baby Syndrome
- Reducing Medication Errors in the Home Setting
- Alarm Fatigue in Hospitals
- Pain Management at End-of-Life Care
- Kangaroo Care for Premature Infants

Sabrina H. Liston '22, a nursing student from Rehoboth, Massachusetts, presented the following:

Exercising During Pregnancy

My main goal for this project was to see what type of exercises are beneficial and safe for women to participate in while they are pregnant. I was also looking for the benefits of exercising during pregnancy and the disadvantages of not exercising while being pregnant, as well as why not a lot of women exercise during their pregnancy. Through my research, I concluded that low-impact exercises like walking, aerobic exercises, stretching, and hydrotherapy are the most beneficial exercises for women who are pregnant. Also, if a woman exercises throughout her pregnancy she is more likely to lower her incidence of excessive gestational weight, gestational diabetes, and gestational hypertension. Exercising also lowers the incidence of having a preterm birth. Exercising while pregnant will also strengthen the abdominal and back muscles. Some of the reasons uncovered as to why not a lot of women exercise during their pregnancy was because they were given unclear or conflicting advice, and they also didn't feel supported by their significant other and their doctor.





STUDENT LIFE

Alternative Spring Break Trip 2022

Flash back to spring break March 2020, and you'll find Campus Ministry on their usual Alternative Spring Break Service (ASB) Trip in Bel Air, Maryland.

Reports were just starting to surface about the novel coronavirus hitting the United States. The group of 11 made it successfully through the week only to arrive back home, unable to return to Anna Maria's campus until Fall 2020.

While 2021 found students exploring the "Alternative Spring Break Alternative" service program which found success in its own right, the gratitude was high this spring for the first traditional ASB trip this past spring break since 2020. An enthusiastic group of six students stayed a little closer to home this year by driving the short distance to Springfield, Massachusetts, to aid the familiar work site of a Habitat for Humanity affiliate.

The group included Liam Egan '22 (student leader), Opal Powers '22 (student leader), Emma Candelli '25, Tania Kalampouka '25, Peter Walsh '22, and Seth Ward '25—a unique mix of seniors

and freshmen, three of whom had been on service trips before and three of whom had not. Regardless, the whole team took on the brisk New England weather (snow included) and gave each project, task, and interaction their all. From moving supplies across town, recycling cans, framing walls, stacking insulation, and siding a house to everything in between, these students knew each assignment had a significant purpose for the small team of employees at Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity.

Living in a time when many people are still finding their way back into the normalcy of certain pre-COVID activities, this group of students was determined to give their first or last spring break to someone who needed their free time more than they did.

During the reflection time each night, students shared with each other their thoughts on the day and what was on their mind. A common theme emerged from these discussions: doing the hard thing, having the difficult conversation, and bringing extra love into those hard situations is always worth it.

“[We] will be working with Habitat for Humanity through our fidelity, compassion, and cooperation to humbly serve our neighbors.”

—ASB TEAM MISSION STATEMENT



NURSING

Giving Back Is the Norm, Not the Exception

The officers of the Student Nurse Association self-identify as women with “big hearts who are always willing to help others.” Tabitha Franceschet ’22, a senior and president of the association, feels strongly about what it means to be part of a community. “As nurses, we have chosen a field focused on service—it’s in our nature,” Tabitha shared. “We are fortunate to be part of a warm and supportive atmosphere here at Anna Maria—and it just makes you want to give back all the more.”

An annual tradition since 2010, the Anna Maria College Student Nurse Association, along with nursing faculty, come together to collect comfort items for those who are less fortunate within Greater Worcester. This fall, the nursing students collected socks for Veteran’s Inc. during Homecoming Weekend and toiletries for Abby’s House, an organization that works to provide shelter and affordable housing as well as advocacy and support services to homeless, battered, and low-income women.

Dr. Karin Ciance, DNP, RN, an assistant professor of nursing, spoke about the importance of the three Cs: caring, comfort, and compassion. “Giving a donation to Abby’s House in Worcester has been a long-standing tradition since 2010. As one of the faculty advisors, along with Marie Remillard ’84G and Danielle Shaver, we have tried to instill in the nursing students a sense of community and giving back and by showing a small act of kindness can go a long way,” Dr. Ciance shared. “We have increased our donations to 60 bags [of toiletries] this year, as the new women’s shelter can house up to 60 women. Sometimes this is the only Christmas gift they receive on Christmas morning.”

In addition to needed toiletries delivered to Abby’s House, each bag contained a personal holiday message signed by the College’s nursing students. “It’s so important to band together and support others,” said Tabitha. “The mission of Anna Maria really resonates with me and my classmates—giving back is the norm rather than the exception and this effort allows us to lead by example.”





STUDENT LIFE

AMCares

BY KAYLA BEER, CLASS OF 2023, PRESIDENT OF AMCares
JOHN KELLY, CLASS OF 2024, VICE PRESIDENT OF AMCares

AMCares is Anna Maria College's very first volunteering club, which was established in late 2020. It grew out of the Alternative Spring Break program, run through Campus Ministry, and provides students with a month-long service project. The aim of AMCares is to have a more structured and permanent outlet for volunteering opportunities for students to make an impact in both the Anna Maria community and beyond. To rally new members, the group hosted a variety of activities on campus, including a very successful bingo night and a spike-ball tournament.

The first off-campus volunteering event took place at Turn Back Time (TBT) in Paxton. TBT is a non-profit farm stressing the power of nature to teach and heal, with a

mission to increase the quality of life for children of all abilities through nature exploration, farm education, and play. TBT boasts a working farm, nature playground, beaver ponds, an extensive trail system, and offers a wide variety of programs for both youth and adults. AMCares helped in cleaning and setting up an outdoor learning space for the non-profit.

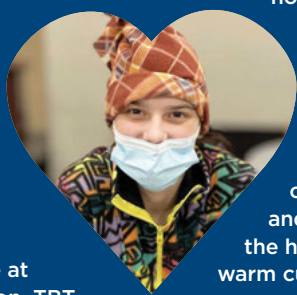
The spring semester saw the group blossoming with events both on and off campus. The "Hats and Hot Cocoa" event took place on campus, where students could come to the dining hall and make hats and scarves for the homeless while enjoying a warm cup of hot cocoa. All hats and scarves were donated to the Mustard Seed Catholic Worker, a Worcester organization that runs a soup kitchen

and food pantry while also providing donated essential supplies to those struggling with homelessness or food insecurity.

Later in the semester, a group of AMCares volunteers went to help with a cleaning project for the Mustard Seed Farm, an arm of the Mustard Seed Catholic Worker that supports their mission.

After a successful first year, AMCares is looking forward to bringing new volunteer opportunities to Anna Maria students, such as working with a local animal shelter, helping at more camps for children, running a drive for bone marrow donations, and so much more.

To learn more about the continuing adventures of AMCares or to suggest other volunteer opportunities, please follow them on Instagram at [amc_amcares](#).





STUDENT LIFE

DMC Runs AMC

On February 28, Anna Maria received a visit from one of hip hop's pioneers, Darryl "DMC" McDaniels

Darryl McDaniels, more commonly known as DMC, is a founding member of the hip hop group Run-DMC. The group began in the early 1980s in Hollis Queens, New York, and went on to become a multi-platinum selling group, famously collaborating with Aerosmith and spurring what many refer to as "hip hop's golden age."

However, among all the success and accolades, McDaniels found himself grappling with his mental health and alcoholism. After getting sober in 2004, he published *Ten Ways Not to Commit Suicide*, a memoir featuring his struggles with alcohol and suicide.

McDaniels is now a frequent speaker at schools, encouraging young people to ask for help and providing his personal lessons and insights on mental health. He stresses that hip hop can be used to break the stigma of mental illness, but breaking that barrier in a way record labels are receptive to, and that will sell albums, is a challenge.

Dennis Vanasse '94, a professor and director of the Anna Maria's Learning Center, was responsible for bringing McDaniels to campus. Vanasse has used hip hop for years as a way to connect with his students and speaks about the potential hip hop has as a tool: "What's been great about hip hop [is that] you connect with individuals who are unheard and through the music, you teach them about being unheard. I've noticed a huge change in the students: [hip hop] gives them a voice."



STUDENT LIFE

ESTHER'S VISION CONTINUES

Envisioned and created by the Sisters of Saint Anne, Esther's Academy provides students with college preparation strategies and opportunities to bond with other students

Originally a week long, the program offers freshmen the option to earn a college credit before the semester starts as well as attend a seminar to receive personal feedback on their writing.

This year's updated Esther's Academy features two one-day sessions that equip students with crucial tools from the start of their college career to navigate their path to academic success. Through Esther's Academy, incoming freshmen who may have struggled academically will be given the resources they need to read and write at a college level while making them more confident as they begin the next chapter of their lives at Anna Maria. In addition to the academic tools they will receive, students will be introduced to key programs and individuals who are committed to helping them achieve academic success at every stage of their Anna Maria journey. From guidance from faculty and staff to peer mentors, Esther's Academy provides students insight into how their Anna Maria journey can flourish into a proud career after college.

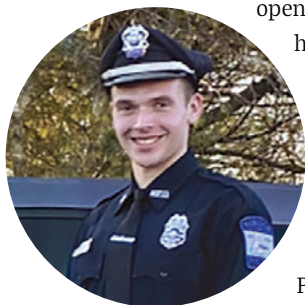


Focusing on Serving Others

Scott Merrell '21

Criminal justice major Scott Merrell '21 was excited to enter the law enforcement field when he graduated this May but was not sure what facet of criminal justice he wanted to explore first.

Rather than box himself in, Merrell took a chance and applied for every opening that interested



him, regardless of where it was located.

He received conditional offers from Utah Highway Patrol and South Dakota Highway Patrol

before deciding to accept a job as a police officer for the Rindge Police Department in New Hampshire. He served the town of Rindge for a year before moving on to a position at the Jaffrey Police Department.

Merrell said that hard work and diligence, such as being organized, looking tidy, and showing up on time, are key to landing a job in your field. However, it was his criminal justice education at Anna Maria College that gave him the edge over other applicants.

"I was amazed at the learning curve required to go into law enforcement . . . and I don't think anything can prepare you for that other than actually just doing it. But Anna Maria prepared me as far as showing up to class and getting into a good rhythm of experiencing different classes. I think the different perspectives I learned at Anna Maria and the classes helped me in my ventures later on," he said.

Merrell enjoyed the wide range of topics he learned at Anna Maria. Instead of just focusing on legal statutes, the classes he took explored issues within the criminal justice system, such as social

issues, the impact of new technologies such as body cameras, and police reform measures.

The fact that the criminal justice professors work in their perspective fields was a huge plus for Merrell, who was able to take in the experiences from professors who worked throughout the industry as police officers, probation officers, corrections officers, and so on. Originally, Merrell wanted to join the FBI but after having first-hand discussions with an adjunct professor who was at the bureau, Merrell changed his mind and found a track that better suited his goals.

"When I went looking for a college to get my bachelor's degree something that was very important to me was what the faculty-to-student ratio was, and Anna Maria had the smallest one. I liked the feel of campus; students have access to resources and networking. But at the same time, you're in a classroom with only 10 or 15 other kids. It's not like you're in a baseball stadium, where you have 300 students put to one professor. I wanted something more personal. Something that was important to me was that I could discuss things with my professors, and they would know who I was."

Chief Samuel Santiago '21G '22G

Chief Samuel Santiago of the Shirley Police Department is an adjunct criminal justice professor who actively shares his extensive knowledge of the field with his students. He believes that providing real-world scenarios is just as important as theoretical knowledge of the field.

"I try to incorporate my experiences, the good, the bad, and how I deal with the public; I'm very customer centric. The citizens pay our salaries, we serve the

public, and my job is to make sure that whoever works for me is professional, educated, they provide the best services, and they have empathy at the end of the day," he said about how he prepares students for a future career in criminal justice.

In addition to teaching the Foundations of Criminal Justice and the History of Policing and Race in the Department of Criminal Justice, Santiago is also an alum. The chief has earned a Master of Science in criminal justice, a Graduate Certificate in leadership and administration in criminal justice, and a Master of Business Administration from Anna Maria College. Santiago is currently pursuing his doctorate in criminal justice from Pennsylvania Western University.

Santiago could have just stopped at his bachelor's degree, but he believes that education is imperative to growth, especially as a chief in a leadership position. "Everything, especially in the policing field, is constantly changing, ever-evolving, so I think you need to be on the cusp and be educated along the way," he said.

Diversity and inclusion has always been important to Santiago, whether in the classroom or in his leadership role.

Santiago is also a member of the Diversity and Advisory Committee for the city of Worcester.

"My job is to educate the next law enforcement professionals and the next leader of my position because I'm not

always going to be here. So, our job is to mentor and train the next law enforcement professionals and leaders, and Anna Maria is a great start to that program because they are service oriented and put the public first."





PUBLIC SAFETY

Battle of the Badges

excites potential public safety students

Anna Maria College brought police, fire, SWAT, and a Life Flight helicopter to campus in July to give prospective students a behind-the-scenes look at the diverse and exciting world of public safety careers during its 3rd Annual Battle of the Badges.

High schoolers interested in Anna Maria's criminal justice, fire science, paramedic science, and emergency management programs were immersed in the world of public safety during the free three-day, overnight event on campus.



This year's Battle of the Badges schedule was jam packed with unique and educational events led by experts in the criminal justice and fire science fields. High-profile guest speakers such as Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early, Jr. and Former Boston Fire Commissioner and Chief of the Department Jack Dempsey provided first-hand stories from their careers and took Q&As from the students.

Some of the timely topics discussed included environmental enforcement, dealing with mental health situations and community policing. Students also experienced how to gather evidence in a simulated crime scene, watched aerial drones in action, and observed demonstrations from Worcester Police Department's SWAT Team, K-9 Unit, and the Mounted Patrol.

In addition to the various public safety events, students also participated in fun bonding activities, such as game nights, a kickball tournament, an ice cream bar, and the 3rd Annual Dodgeball Championship where aspiring fire science students took on their criminal justice counterparts in friendly competition.



Check out local coverage of the Battle of the Badges by the Worcester Telegram & Gazette by scanning the QR code.



PUBLIC SAFETY

The mental health of public safety professionals in the spotlight of \$1M federal funding

Earlier this year, Senator Edward Markey and Senator Elizabeth Warren secured \$1.075M in Congressionally Directed Spending for Anna Maria College to provide Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training to public safety professionals throughout Massachusetts. These funds will help expand Anna Maria's capacity toward the goal of increasing the number of mental health first aid instructors across all public safety sectors, including law enforcement, fire science, paramedic medicine, corrections, and dispatch.

"The COVID crisis has been extraordinarily challenging for our nation's mental health," said Senator Edward Markey. "I am proud to help secure crucial funding for Anna Maria College's Mental Health First Aid Training program to equip our public safety professionals with the skills and education they need to manage a mental health crisis and support people in need. With this investment, we are taking a step toward healing the mental health epidemic in our country."

"Anna Maria College was established to support communities through education and service. For us, this means addressing mental health, one of the most pressing concerns that communities face," said President Mary Lou Retelle. "This federal support provides Anna Maria College with vital resources, which will expand our mental health training, reach more organizations, and make our communities stronger and healthier. Senator Markey was so helpful throughout the submission process, and we thank both Senator Markey and Senator Warren for supporting this initiative."

Congressman James "Jim" McGovern is also working hard on Anna Maria's behalf. His Congressionally Directed Spending request for FY 2023 includes critical funds that would help Anna Maria College expand its nursing and health care simulation space. The state-of-the-art equipment will provide health care students with hands-on training, making them competitive and prepared professionals easily able to transition into careers at cutting-edge facilities. With Anna Maria serving as a leader in the region for training and producing qualified health professionals, this funding request will benefit the community in ensuring that we can continue serving the region's growing health care workforce needs. We expect to learn more about Congressman McGovern's request in the coming months as it moves through committees.

BIGGER AND BETTER

COMING SOON! SYNTHETIC TURF BASEBALL VENUE AND MULTIPURPOSE COMPLEX



Athletics are an integral part of the Anna Maria experience, uniting our community on the field and in the stands, and enhancing wellness, focus, productivity, and leadership among student-athletes. As they learn from caring coaches, practice and compete, our student-athletes pursue individual and group excellence with character and integrity, and discover the value of collaboration, teamwork, and victories that can't be measured on a scoreboard. This on-campus facility will not only be utilized by the men's baseball team, but men's and women's soccer and lacrosse, as well as women's field hockey, will take advantage of the space as well.



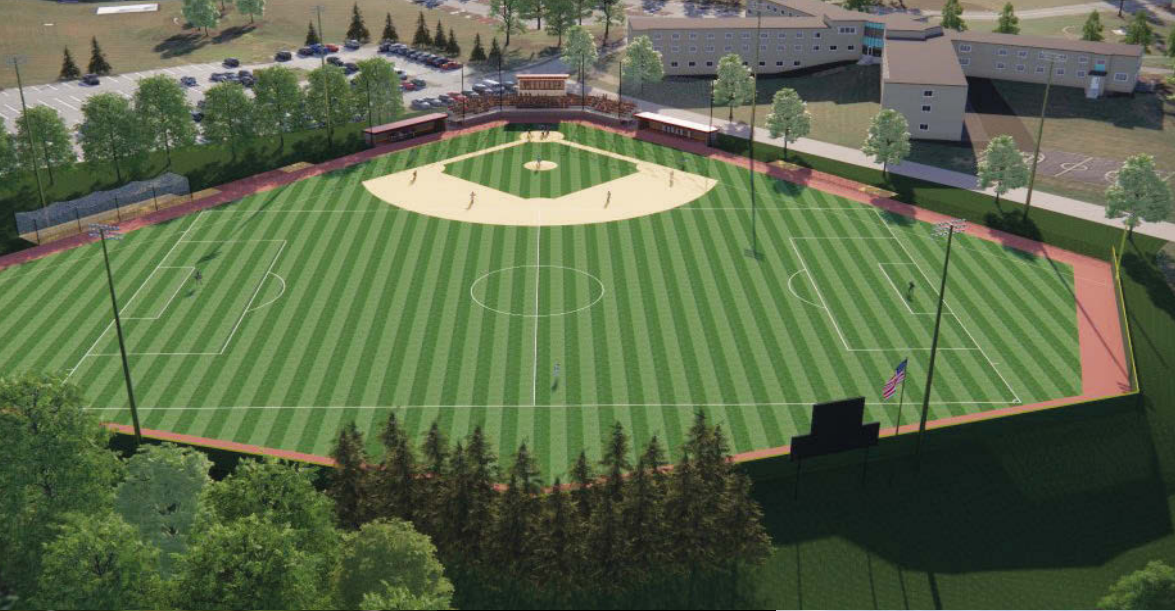
SCOPE OF PROJECT

Full synthetic turf field with up-to-date athlete and visitor facilities, including:

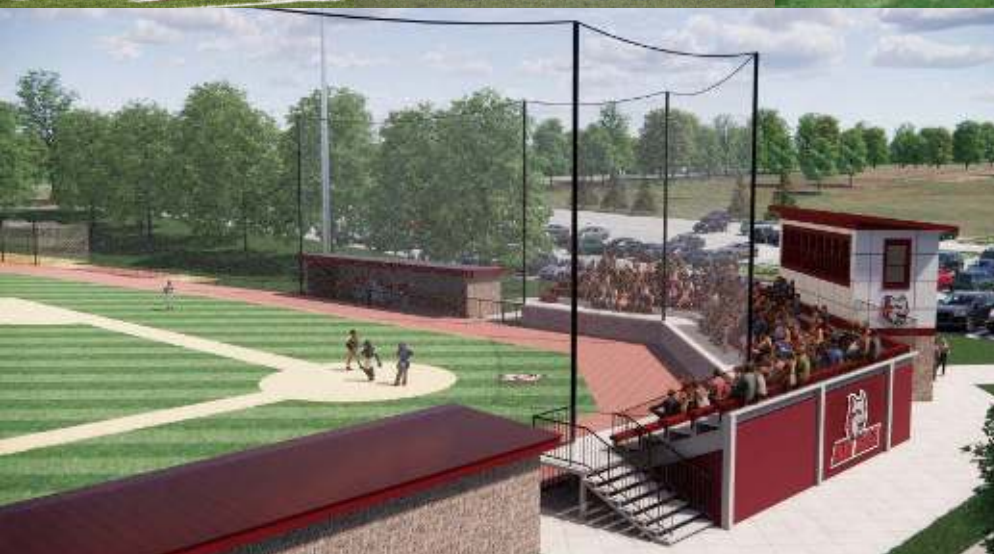
- Two bullpens
- Backstop and netting
- Two 40' foul poles
- Scoreboard
- Field and site lighting
- Team Dugouts

"The new turf complex on campus is going to be a major addition for our athletic programs and campus community. It will give our teams a premier facility to compete and practice. The complex will be the new home for our baseball team, and the addition of the multipurpose field will give us a great space to continue to develop our student-athletes and provide them with the best experience possible while they are here at Anna Maria."

—JOSEPH BRADY '96, DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS



The renderings and design are being completed by Derck & Edson, a top architectural firm specializing in college campuses and athletic facilities.



To learn more about this project, visit us at: www.annamaria.edu/multi-purpose
If you would like to make a gift in support of the multipurpose fields, please visit us at annamariafield.com or scan the QR code here.



Go Amcats! Ring the Bell!

ATHLETIC TRAINER

Ray LeBoeuf Retires After 35 Years of Service



Ray LeBoeuf served as Anna Maria's athletic trainer since 1986.

"When I think of Anna Maria and Anna Maria Athletics, the name Ray LeBoeuf immediately comes to mind. His long-time dedication to Anna Maria and the athletes who have played here is evidenced whenever former athletes come back and ask 'Where's Ray?' and 'Is Ray still here?' His service over four decades has certainly left a lasting impression on every athlete, coach, and employee that he has worked with throughout his career. Ray epitomizes the Catholic mission of Anna Maria College," says Anna Maria Men's Basketball Coach Shawn Conrad. And his words are echoed by many.

Long-time Anna Maria athletic trainer Ray LeBoeuf recently retired after 35 years of service. In his time on campus, he has seen dramatic changes with the introduction of new athletic teams and facilities, new student spaces, and campus renovations. But one thing that never changed was Ray's presence on campus: he was an integral part of the positive student-athlete experience for so many AMCATs over the years.

Ray began his athletic trainer journey by obtaining his bachelor's degree from Northeastern University in 1979. He became one of the first athletic trainers licensed in the state of Massachusetts—number 22 to be exact! Serving as athletic trainer at the College of Saint Rose, Shrewsbury High School, and Grafton High School, Ray landed at Anna Maria in 1986 and never looked back.

Distinguished for his dedication, hard

work, and team-first mentality, Ray was awarded the President's Excellence Award in June of 2018. The President's Excellence Award is given to an administrator, staff member, or faculty who demonstrates more than a desire to be excellent but shows evidence of excellence in his or her day-to-day work.

"I have had the pleasure of knowing Ray as a student, a former coach and now as the director of athletics here at Anna Maria. Ray loved his job as an athletic trainer but more importantly, he loved Anna Maria, the student-athletes, and staff. He has always been someone that goes above and beyond what his job is, does things without asking, and is always willing to help with whatever needs to be done," says Joe Brady '96, director of athletics. "Ray has been part of the many major team and individual successes, new facilities, and new athletic programs. I know I speak for everyone when I say thank you for everything you have done not only for the Anna Maria Athletics Department and our student-athletes and coaches, but for the entire campus community." Congratulations Ray, on your well-deserved retirement!

"Ray was a critical and an essential piece to the positive growth of the Anna Maria Athletic Department and the campus community. He has worn many hats, completed countless acts, and helped and supported many coaches, players, and administrators, while treating thousands of student-athletes with dignity and respect and maintaining a high standard of care in the most professional manner. Ray has always encouraged all and found the positive in any situation. Thank you so much for ALL you have done for us!"

—Sharon Zenevitch '84, Former Anna Maria College Field Hockey and Softball Coach

ATHLETE SPOTLIGHTS



Samantha Dahill '23

HOMETOWN: Maynard, Massachusetts

MAJOR: Graphic Design

AMCAT ROLES: Women's Ice Hockey, Goalie; Softball, Third Baseman

Why did you choose Anna Maria?

I chose Anna Maria because I had the ability to play the two sports I love as well as get a degree in graphic design. Along with having my major and the athletic opportunities, I love the small community that Anna Maria has. Everyone at Anna Maria is truly a family and supports each other athletically, academically, and socially.

What is the hardest part of being a student-athlete?

The hardest part of being a student-athlete is time management. You have to ensure that you balance your time correctly to be able to have the best opportunity for success on and off the ice/field.

What is the best part of being a student-athlete?

The best part about being a student-athlete is the relationships you make within the community. You make a family away from home with not only your teammates but your peers, coaches, and staff that you meet along the way.

What are your goals for your future?

My number one goal is to always make my parents proud. Hopefully this leads to a rewarding career in graphic design, continued involvement with the sports I love, and the continued ability to be surrounded by family, friends, and loved ones.



Kennedy Minix-Rogers '22

HOMETOWN: Smyrna, Georgia

MAJOR: Sports Management

AMCAT ROLE: Basketball, Point Guard

Why did you choose Anna Maria?

I chose Anna Maria because it felt like the perfect place for me. The size and atmosphere matched who I am as a person and allowed me to feel at home 17 hours away from home.

What is the hardest part of being a student-athlete?

The hardest part of being a student-athlete is forcing yourself to go to class when you are worn out from games and practices. Also, managing your time to ensure you are completing your assignments on time while still having everything that comes with your sport is a challenge.

What is the best part of being a student-athlete?

The best part of being a student-athlete is the reward you get when you go into the community to give back, and kids and fans make you feel as if you are a NBA player. Also the relationships you build with your teammates and classmates because people are more open to converse with you when they recognize you as an athlete.

What are your goals for your future?

My goal is to go play overseas basketball following my graduate year. If that does not pan out, I plan to move back to Georgia and begin a coaching career.



Meghan Sonia '23

HOMETOWN: West Tisbury, Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts

MAJOR: Nursing

AMCAT ROLES: Field Hockey, Center/Mid-field; Women's Ice Hockey, Center/Wing

Why did you choose Anna Maria?

I chose Anna Maria for the amazing nursing program and for my ability to play my two favorite sports. When I visited Anna Maria, I realized that this would be more than just a school to me—it was going to be a home. My coaches have been such huge supporters in my career and my teammates have become my best friends.

What is the hardest part of being a student-athlete?

The hardest part that I've struggled with is dedicating 100% of myself to each aspect: education and athletics. My coaches have been my biggest supporters in this struggle. They have helped me grow as a person and understand that it's okay to ask for help when I do get overwhelmed.

What is the best part of being a student-athlete?

The best part of being a student-athlete has been my personal development throughout my 3 years here at Anna Maria. With the help of my teammates and my coaches, I have developed more confidence and leadership skills that I will be able to carry through with me my whole life. I am also proud of the friendships that I have built. The women who I have had the opportunity of playing alongside have become my sisters.

What are your goals for your future?

My life goal is to become a nurse in Boston. I hope to one day be a trauma nurse at Mass General Hospital. As for my sports career, I hope to be able to coach either field hockey or ice hockey.

Dear World

Encouraging the
AMC community
to share their
personal stories

On March 16, Anna Maria College welcomed the Dear World project to campus as students, faculty, and staff participated in the award-winning photoshoot and speaker ceremony. Dear World is a portrait program that encourages individuals to share their deeply personal stories of loss, resilience, and triumph. Through their in-depth questionnaire and message-on-the-skin portraits, the Dear World project helps participants of all backgrounds bond and gain a deeper appreciation for each other's life stories. The Dear World project made a lasting impression on Anna Maria participants with several students and faculty sharing the personal meanings behind the words that they wrote on their bodies.

Janmary Plaza Sepulveda '25 "AFTER ALL I'M STILL HERE"

Janmary Plaza Sepulveda is a freshman social work student whose life journey is a testament to her personal strength. Immigrating from Puerto Rico when she was 14 years old, Sepulveda knows firsthand the difficulties that come with trying to learn a new language and culture while trying to find your place in the world. While navigating her new American citizenship, Sepulveda worked to come to terms with being a survivor of sexual abuse. After working with social workers and therapists throughout her youth, Sepulveda was determined to raise her voice about her experiences and help others. Her goal is to ultimately become a therapist and empower others. Advocacy is at the center of Sepulveda's journey and is demonstrated by the way she shines a spotlight on critical issues, such as sexual abuse, through her work as a member of the Students Against Sexual Abuse, Social Action, and Latinos Unidos. The Dear World project allowed Sepulveda to share her personal experiences. "I've been wanting to talk about it for a while," she said about being open as a sexual abuse survivor. The words "After All I'm Still Here" demonstrate her resilience as she moves forward, determined to help other survivors. "I get to be an advocate, raise my voice, and bring awareness," Sepulveda said about her journey as a social work student.



Dawnisha Franklin '22 | "I'M WHERE I'M MEANT TO BE"

Life is full of unexpected twists and turns, and no one knows this better than business major senior Dawnisha Franklin. Originally from Louisiana, Franklin was attending Newbury College when the school announced its closure. Thinking about how that unexpected negative experience brought her to new positive opportunities at Anna Maria, Franklin was inspired to have the words "I'm Where I am Meant to Be" written on her body. Not only does the message apply to her college transfer, but the message applies to many other facets of life as well. In addition to taking part in the photoshoot, Franklin was asked to be one of the speakers at the Dear World unveiling ceremony. At first, she did not know what she was going to say, but then Franklin focused on the importance of being present in the moment and enjoying life's journey. "You may think you are lost, but you are just in unfamiliar territory until you get to your destination," Franklin told ceremony participants. "Losses make the wins all the more sweeter." During her time at Anna Maria, Franklin traveled throughout New England with the basketball team and discovered a love of travel. After graduation, Franklin wants to travel and discover new experiences before settling down into a future communications career. Franklin was proud of herself for speaking at the Dear World event and enjoyed the experience so much that she wants to bring the project to her high school back home in Louisiana. "I want people to be open about their stories and struggles in a comfortable place where they are not judged," she said.



Dr. Jim DiReda | "LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

Whether it is getting a pie thrown in his face or having words of inspiration inscribed on his head, Dr. Jim DiReda, associate professor of social work, always believes in supporting campus events and is happy to be a visible presence for his students both in and out of the classroom. DiReda was part of the planning committee that invited the Dear World project to Anna Maria's campus, but it was his colleague Kelly Sullivan who encouraged him to join the photoshoot. Students decided which words would be written on DiReda's head. "I had no idea what they were going to write," he joked. According to the professor, the Dear World projects and other events, "Give a voice to students and stimulates a part of them that oftentimes goes untapped." DiReda believes that getting students out into the real world and giving them unique opportunities to critically think, learn from one another, and gain experience are essential aspects of learning. "You can learn about something by reading about it, or by doing it. You can read how to ride a bike or you can actually ride, and I find that students do much better when they ride the bike," DiReda said.

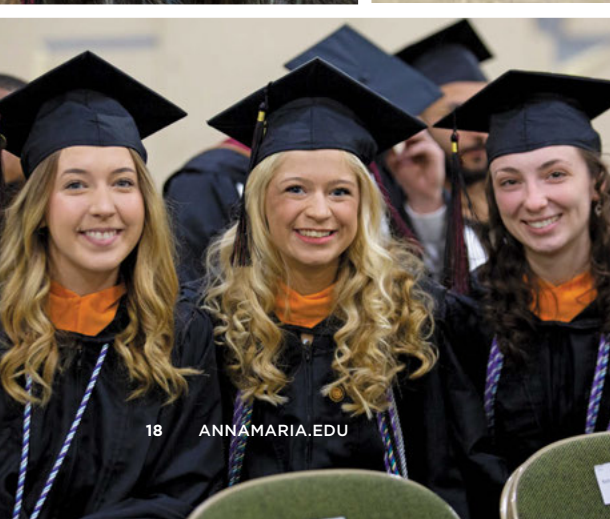
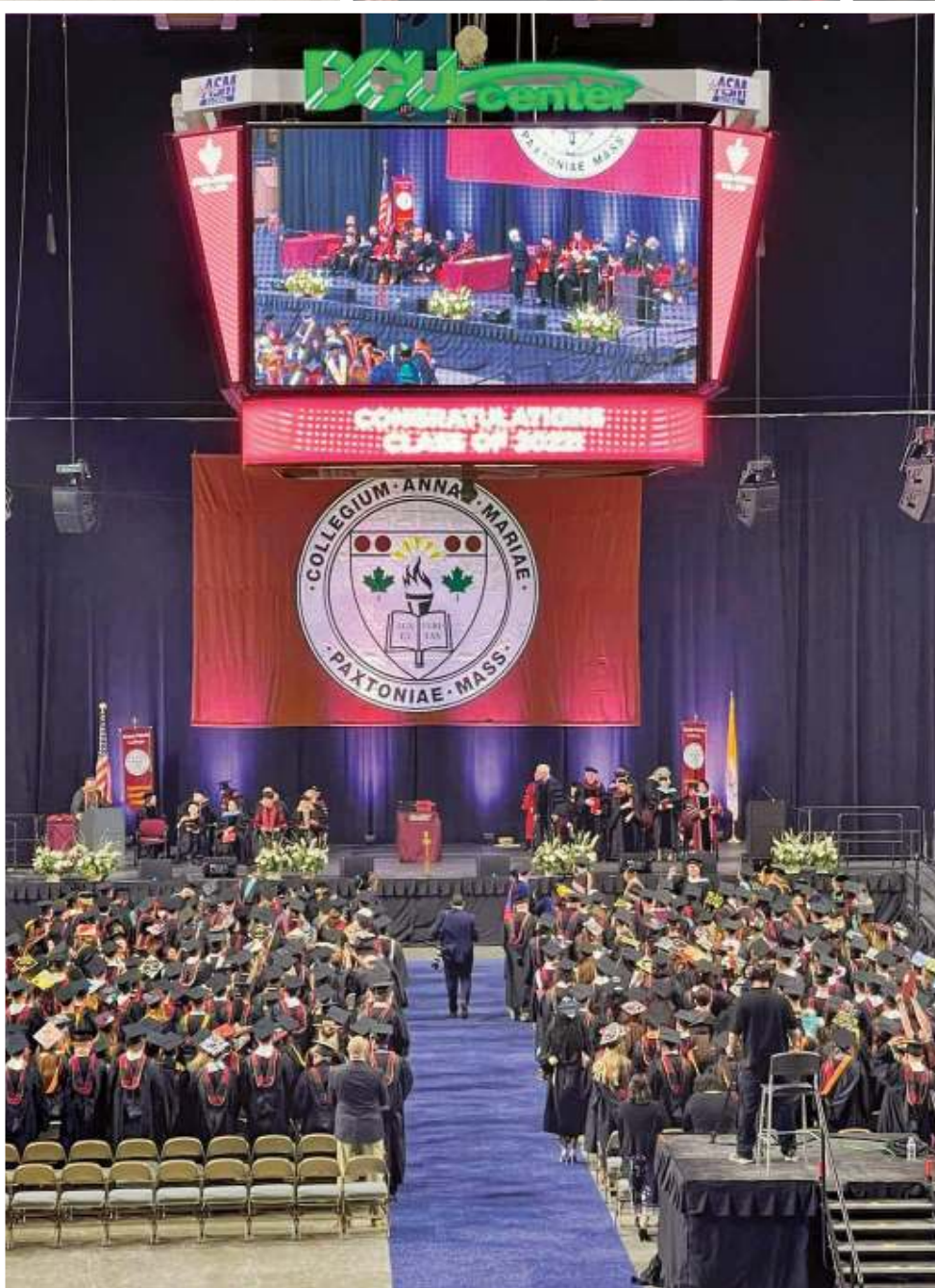
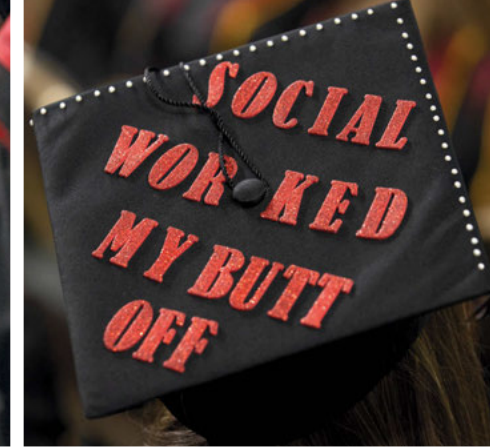
Kelly Sullivan | "NEVER QUIET YOUR VOICE"

Kelly Sullivan, director of the BSW program, was very proud to see students be so vulnerable and open with one another during the "beautiful" Dear World event. Originally approached about the event by Melissa LeNeve, director of campus ministry, and Jessica Eckstrom, vice president for student life, Sullivan thought that the event was a "holistic way" to reflect the college's values. The event began with participants completing a questionnaire before being partnered up to share their stories. Sullivan was excited to see people participating from all different areas of the campus from President Mary Lou Retelle to other recognizable faces in the Dining Hall, like Travis Parker. "Not only were they telling their personal stories in a private way, but they had words on them that could publicly be seen," Sullivan said. She brought her entire class over to participate in the photoshoot and subsequent speaker ceremony where selected participants went more in-depth into their stories for the audience. "There is something in everyone's story that makes them an important and vibrant part of this community. It is important for them to recognize that their story is important and that their voice is important," Sullivan said about the impact of sharing and respecting personal stories. The raw emotions and bonding resulted in powerful portraits that empowered those who participated. "I did not expect it to be as moving as it was and I really hope that we bring it back."





CLASS OF 2022 BSN



CLASS OF 2022 MSW





2022 of Classes

On May 9, Anna Maria's 73rd Commencement ceremony was held for the first time at the DCU Center in Worcester. Almost 300 students received their diplomas and certificates as 3,500 guests cheered them on. Even with the larger capacity, the DCU Center retained Anna Maria's sense of a tight-knit community as the newly minted alumni threw their mortarboards high into the air.

Commencement began with a rendition of the National Anthem performed by Krystal J. Melendez '22, who graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Music Therapy.

Anna Maria College's 11th president, Mary Lou Retelle, recognized the graduates' accomplishments while highlighting the College's values and the social impact alumni have on their communities.

"We look for solutions that advance the common good. We respond to the call to serve. We incorporate service into everything we do—in academics, athletics, clubs, activities, and faith ministries. Think about this past year and you will find each value has been tested, debated, embraced, and influenced our decisions. You have been involved in these values, and you are better for it," Retelle told the Class of 2022.

Student Speaker Dream Whitaker '22 personified Anna Maria's commitment to nurturing and educating well-rounded students who will be impactful future leaders. A graduate who double-majored in forensic criminology and law and society, Whitaker will be attending law school at UMass Dartmouth. She spoke about the role that faith played in applying for Anna Maria and how four years later, she developed friendships and bonds that will last a lifetime.

"My Mimi always said to me 'Carry yourself like someone is watching, because they just might be.' I say that because I've witnessed firsthand how every professor at Anna Maria takes the time to get to know every student. We were never another face or just a number. I can walk away from my time here at Anna Maria knowing that I was able to play a small, but active role in building the Anna Maria community that has given me so much," Whitaker said.

John and Cynthia Monahan from Worcester were named this year's honorary degree recipients for their work in public safety and their dutiful spiritual support of the Catholic Church and the Christian community.

Anna Maria College recognized three graduates who achieved superlatives in academics, community, and service to others.

Nursing major and Honor's Program graduate Peter Walsh '22 was awarded the Bishop Timothy J. Harrington Award for compassionate service towards others and for promoting peace. The Sr. Yvette Bellerose Award was presented to Ashley Garcia '22 for embodying Anna Maria's values and serving as a role model to other students. The Dr. Bernadette Madore Award for Academic Excellence was bestowed upon Noah Morning '22, who completed a Bachelor of Science degree in both criminal justice and forensic criminology with a cumulative GPA of 4.0.

The Baccalaureate Mass, hooding ceremony for the senior class, Pinning ceremonies for nursing and social work graduates, and a champagne brunch for families were held on campus the previous day.

Congratulations Class of 2022!

Dr. Joan-Beth Gow
and her son Sam '16



The Gows:

Ripple Effects of Change

Hard work and a passion for education run in the Gow family, but it is their focus on enriching the lives of others that makes them stand out

DR. JOAN-BETH GOW, professor of biology, has been a full-time faculty member at Anna Maria College for 16 years. An accomplished academic, Gow recently published her first medical textbook, *Medical Terminology: Active Learning Through Case Studies*, through Jones & Bartlett Learning.

The textbook utilizes case studies to provide students with engaging, real-world scenarios that enhance their in-class learning experiences.

Despite suffering serious injuries from a car accident, Joan-Beth's commitment to her students was tantamount to her as she worked hard on her recovery to get back to her natural sciences and biology classes.

"I have invested much of my time and energy in recovering, and I hope to continue on a positive trajectory. A big goal of mine was to come back to work, and I am going to full time in the fall so I have achieved that," she said.

Throughout her time at Anna Maria, she has interacted with hundreds of students, most notably her own son!

Sam Gow '16 graduated as a double major in English and secondary education in 8th-12th grade and received The Sister Bernadette Madore Award of Academic Achievement.

"I love Anna Maria and loved having Sam at AMC with me. We were in completely different programs, and for a while no one knew he was my son so I could kind of anonymously sit back and watch his achievements. I liked how invested he was in the college and how he was involved in so many different things," she said.

Having her son at her college gave Joan-Beth many unique and memorable moments that most parents do not get to experience, such as spending time with Sam in her office in between classes and handing him his diploma when he graduated.

Sam followed in his mother's footsteps as an educator before an unexpected opportunity changed the trajectory of his career.

In October 2020, Sam and his girlfriend Kate were invited to manage and run Honey Nut Farm in Hopkinton. The organic farm is a no-till business that focuses on regenerative agriculture, permaculture, and food sustainability.

Ironically, during his time in college, his mother was in the Health Sciences while Sam was in the Humanities department. However, now Sam is using scientific elements to analyze the biology of the soil and create ecosystems of plants that symbiotically work to attract pollinators, fertilize plants, and provide natural pest control.

"There is movement in regenerative agriculture to combat climate change, and it is absolutely imperative for our long-term survival," Sam said.

Recently, Honey Nut Farm was awarded a Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) grant in conjunction with the USDA, to help the farm further conservation efforts as it focuses on soil health.

While the farm itself is only about two years old, Sam has been at the forefront, spearheading innovative methods and strategies that enrich the land while also growing and selling organic crops that focus on food resiliency.

Ultimately the goal is self-sufficiency. By creating a farm that naturally supports itself through strategized ecosystems, Honey Nut Farm is not dependent on supply chains and, therefore, can supply fresh foods to the community regardless of external factors.

Sam credits Anna Maria College with providing him with leadership opportunities that gave him the confidence to try new things and take on positions with a sense of confidence and purpose.

"It is nice that it was a small community with staff and faculty supporting student-led projects," Sam said.

Whether starting the on-campus literary magazine *Habit* or participating in Anna Maria's Education Club and Education Honors Society, Sam always took on a variety of different positions which gave him new learning experiences.

Through education and agriculture, the Gows are causing ripple effects of change in their communities both on-campus at Anna Maria College and beyond.

"I am proud of a lot of things about Sam. I am proud of his independence and how once he decides he wants to do something there is no stopping him," Joan-Beth said.



Grace Ankrah '22: An Unstoppable Force

Grace Ankrah '22 has overcome every obstacle that stood between her and her dream of obtaining a social work degree at Anna Maria College

GRACE ANKRAH '22 OVERCAME every obstacle that stood between her and her dream of obtaining a social work degree at Anna Maria College. Her determination became legendary on campus after she Zoomed into class from her hospital room just after giving birth to her third son.

"I wasn't going to give up on the dream of being where I want to go because I just gave birth," she said about the idea of missing class.

The constant deadlines and studying can be stressful for any college student, especially for a nontraditional student who is raising a family at the same time. However, not only did Ankrah achieve her dream of earning her Bachelor of Social Work (BSW), but she also excelled with a 4.0 GPA and graduated summa cum laude this May.

Kelly Sullivan, director BSW Program, professor of practice, and director of study abroad became a huge part of Ankrah's support system during her four years in college.

"Whenever I felt like giving up, Kelly told me no, and I would have to step up my game," Ankrah said about Sullivan encouraging her to finish her degree.

Balancing motherhood and college studies was a very difficult endeavor for Ankrah, and at times, she was afraid that she would feel disconnected and detached from her peers, but instead just the opposite happened. She was touched by how faculty and students went out of their way to include her.

During one class with Sullivan, Ankrah was supposed to give an important class presentation but had to bring her baby. She was nervous about bringing her infant son to school, but Sullivan and the other students rallied around her and took care of the baby so she could focus on giving her presentation.

"It was like they were saying 'No matter what you're a part of us,'" Ankrah said about the sense of community she experienced at Anna Maria College.

Diversity and respect were aspects that Ankrah was searching for when she first applied for colleges, and she was happy to find a community that embraced her on campus. Ankrah was very weary of racism when she began her studies.

"I've been looking for that (racism) in the school, but I've never found it here. It's always been inclusive. All the teachers encourage you regardless of color. I saw cultural diversity at the school," she said.

Kelly Sullivan is very proud of her former student and described her saying, "People are drawn to Grace—she is enthusiastic, gracious, and empowering."

Sullivan praises Ankrah for having a baby in the middle of a pandemic, right in the midst of the semester, and somehow staying on the Dean's List while raising her family.

Earning a Bachelor of Social Work is just the start for Ankrah, who started her graduate program in social work at Anna Maria College this summer. One day she hopes to focus on helping families and children with her education and experience as a social worker.




“She has a heart to serve others and I believe that her choice of career path is evidence of that. Social work is not going to be just a job for Grace, it is her passion, and it is who she is.”

—Kelly Sullivan

Director BSW Program, Professor of Practice,
and Director of Study Abroad



Grace Ankrah '22 balanced motherhood and education on her journey to obtain her Bachelor of Social Work.

A portrait of Michael Molla, a middle-aged man with a grey beard and mustache, wearing a white shirt and a dark blue blazer. He is smiling slightly and looking directly at the camera. The background is a textured, abstract painting in shades of green, yellow, and brown. The entire image is framed by a solid blue border.

Anna Maria alumnus
Michael Molla '84 has
been president of the
Pennsylvania College of
Art & Design since 2018.

Michael Molla '84:

President, Pennsylvania College of Art & Design

Instilling Anna Maria values into a new generation of students

WHEN ART MAJOR MICHAEL MOLLA graduated from Anna Maria College in 1984, he had no idea where his degree would take him. Well, it took him to the top: Molla has been president of the Pennsylvania College of Art & Design since 2018.

Molla is the third president to lead the institution, and his tenure here came after a long career at the Maryland Institute College of Art, where he previously served as vice president of strategic initiatives.

Molla credits Anna Maria with instilling values that last a lifetime: “Our education at Anna Maria College was embedded with the value of engaging in community service. For me, that work was transformative. The volunteer opportunities for service learning, for student leadership, and the work with developmentally disabled adults at St. Colletta’s community residence all made such an impact on me.”

After his time at Anna Maria, Molla still looks back fondly on colorful memories such as the school’s tradition of painting the boulder at the campus entrance, the “All Call” switchboard where the Sisters of Saint Anne made announcements, and, unforgettably, having a massive ball painted as the planet Earth fall from a truck and bounce down Tatnuck Square as Molla and his friends tried to transport it to Anna Maria’s Spring Fling event.

Molla credits members of Anna Maria’s community such as the Dean of Students Holly Ingraham, Sister Paulette Gardner, and Ralph Parente, actively shaped him into the leader he is today. Parente and Molla kept in touch for over 40 years with

Parente mailing him a birthday card every year until his recent passing. Molla understands the power of mentors and student-centered experiences which is why his leadership style focuses on the holistic needs of students as he encourages them to reach for the stars and achieve their future goals.

“I think the three most important skills for students to develop as they discern their futures are creativity, vulnerability, and adaptability. The world is changing fast. Futurists predict today’s students will have 17 jobs in 5 industries during their lifetimes, with many of these jobs not even imagined yet. How they use their ability to continue to learn will be critical.

The liberal arts foundation is a crucial way to build up and navigate a dynamic and ever-changing world,” he said.

Service to others is at the heart of Anna Maria College’s mission and something that Molla incorporates into his own academic institution. “When I became president of Pennsylvania College of Art & Design, I wanted to institute this value from the very beginning. So, a campus-wide Day of Service was part of my installation ceremony to set the tone. Continually, I challenge the faculty and students on my campus to ask how we can look at art and design as tools of service to the community.”

As Molla continues his career in higher education, he always remembers his AMCAT roots and gives credit to the faculty, staff, and friends that helped make him the leader that he is today. “So much of my work and vision comes from the valuable learning and incredible people at Anna Maria College,” Molla said.



“I think the three most important skills for students to develop as they discern their futures are creativity, vulnerability, and adaptability.”

THE 2022 SERVICE AND SUCCESS AWARDEES



EMMANUEL "MANNY" FAMILIA '23

Police Officer,
City of Worcester
(Awarded Posthumously)



MATILDE CASTIEL, M.D.

Commissioner of Health
and Human Services,
City of Worcester



CHRISTOPHER KORETSKI '16

Firefighter/EMT,
Centerville/Osterville/Marston's Mills
Fire District

ON THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2022, Anna Maria College recognized three community leaders with its Presidential Service Award, Anna Maria's highest honor for outstanding humanitarian service. The 2022 awardees were: Worcester Commissioner of Health and Human Services Matilde Castiel, M.D.; Centerville-Osterville-Marston's Mills Firefighter/EMT and Anna Maria alumnus Christopher Koretski; and Worcester Police Officer and Anna Maria alumnus Emmanuel "Manny" Familia (posthumously).

The second annual Celebration of Service and Success was co-hosted by John J. Spillane, Esq., Chair of Anna Maria College's Board of Trustees, and Timothy P. Murray, Esq., Trustee, and took place at the AC Hotel in Worcester.

"Anna Maria College honored three remarkable leaders committed to serving communities which is one of our core values," said Mary Lou Retelle, president of Anna Maria College. "As a small college, Anna Maria has an outsized social impact when you look at the public service professions our graduates are drawn to. The same can be said for our honorees: Dr. Mattie Castiel has been at the forefront of Worcester's battle with COVID-19; Firefighter Christopher Koretski exemplifies how our graduates turn their Anna Maria education into action and opportunity; Officer Manny Familia made the ultimate sacrifice serving his community. Students come to Anna Maria seeking an education associated with purpose. When they graduate, they go on to bring social impact to their communities."

The evening concluded with the exciting announcement of a new multipurpose athletic and baseball field on campus (see page 12). The building of this facility will enhance the campus experience for both athletes and fans, and the community could not be more excited!

service *and* success





GOLF TOURNAMENT

A HOLE IN ONE FOR ANNA MARIA

On Monday, June 6, Anna Maria College held its 13th Annual Golf Tournament

This year the tournament was hosted at Pleasant Valley Country Club in Sutton, Massachusetts. With perfect sunny weather and a gentle breeze, over 100 players joined us on the greens for a good-natured competition in support of Anna Maria. There were plenty of chances for players to have a winning day, from raffles to hole-in-one contests; no one won the Rubicon Jeep this year (pictured right with President Mary Lou Retelle), but there's always next year! We want to thank all of the sponsors and participants who helped to make it a wonderful and successful event. Because of their generosity, we raised nearly \$100,000 for scholarships at Anna Maria!

GOLF SPONSORS

Official Tournament Sponsor:
 Sodexo

Luncheon & Awards Sponsor:
 Citizens Bank

Breakfast & Registration Sponsor:
 Congress Asset Management Company

Cart Sponsors:
 Boston Mutual Life Insurance Company
 Risk Strategies

Longest Drive Contest Sponsors:
 Marsh McLennan Agency
 J.J. Bafaro Mechanical Contractors

Closest to the Pin Contest Sponsors:
 Country Bank
 The Hanover Insurance Group

50/50 Contest Sponsors:
 Allways Health Partners



JULY 1, 2021-JUNE 30, 2022

Annual Report of Giving

Thank you!

ANNA MARIA
COLLEGE

Established 1946

“With all the challenges in the world today, we need Anna Maria College more than ever. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, thank you for your continued support.”

JOHN J. SPILLANE, ESQ.

Chair, Board of Trustees, Anna Maria College



Yvette E. Bellerose, S.S.A. '72, Hon. '91

Rita M. DeRoy, S.S.A. '68, Hon. '21, *Secretary*

Diane E. Gould, LICSW

Abraham W. Haddad, D.M.D.

Kimberly A. Kennedy '97G, *Vice Chair*

Barbara Gallow Lyman, Ph.D., '69

Julia M. McNamara, Ph.D.

Kateri Mitchell, S.S.A. '71 Hon.'05

Timothy P. Murray, Esq.

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Mary Lou Retelle
President since July 1, 2014

John L. Shea '90G

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John J. Spillane, Esq. *Chair*

Dennis J. Thompson '79G

David P. Trainor, Esq.

Stephen H. Yerdon

Farewell

On behalf of the Anna Maria community, we want to extend our deepest thanks to our board members whose terms have come to an end this past year. The time, energy, and dedication of our board members is crucial to the ongoing success and advancement of Anna Maria, and we could not do it without them.

Peter J. Dawson, Esq.

Gerard A. Dio '91G, Hon.16

Maureen A. Griffin, Esq.

Rev. Richard F. Reidy

Thank You!



A MESSAGE FROM . . .

Vice President for Institutional Advancement
Bridget Leung-Rogala '22G

I've got exciting news!

Ground has been broken—the multipurpose/baseball field is becoming a reality! We expect the project to be finished in Fall 2023.

And there's more: Our football AMCATS are predicted to be number 1 in the ECF Conference! Fans are solidly—and noisily—filling the stands and cheering the team to victories.

With classes in full swing, the campus is abuzz with activities, and we're enjoying some lovely early-fall weather.

In 2021-22, your gifts and pledges reached the \$2.1 million mark. And I'm very happy to tell you that contrary to alumni-participation trends in the fundraising field, our alumni giving has remained steady. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Your generosity enables our students to challenge themselves and to become agents for change in their communities and beyond. I'm profoundly grateful for the Anna Maria community, who believe in and respond to the College's mission.

I wish you all a fine autumn filled with leaf peeping, the College's fall sports, and crisper days and cooler nights.

Read on for the Annual Report of Gifts!



“Our momentum continues to build, and your generosity is the reason why.”

BRIDGET M. LEUNG-ROGALA '22G

DONORS BY THE NUMBERS

651
ALUMNI

34
CORPORATIONS
& FOUNDATIONS

22
TRUSTEES

75
FACULTY &
STAFF

47
PARENTS &
PAST PARENTS

23
CURRENT
STUDENTS

83
FRIENDS

THANK
YOU!

935
TOTAL

UNRESTRICTED
\$350,021

RESTRICTED
\$1,624,586

GRANTS & FOUNDATIONS
\$222,250

\$2,196,857 TOTAL



ANNA MARIA
COLLEGE

FY22 Annual Report of Giving

KEY TO DONOR GIVING

- * Trustee
- ▲ Alumni Association Board Member
- + Deceased
- ★ Faculty/Staff

LOYALTY SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Loyal donors are the cornerstone of Anna Maria's success, providing the means by which the College can carry out its mission of educating students to become individuals who will transform their world as ethical leaders and community-oriented professionals.

- Bold** LIFETIME LEVEL
(20+ years of giving)
- MILESTONE LEVEL
(5–19 years of giving)
- CHARTER LEVEL
(2–4 years of giving)

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE (\$10,000+)

Anonymous
George I. Alden Trust ●
Anthony-Arthur Foundation
Joseph Bafaro Hon. '11 ●
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Maureen Logan Coghlin Fund of the Greater Worcester Community Foundation ●
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Julia McNamara ●●
Paul Quaranto '11G ●
Reliant Foundation, Inc. ●
Rena Richard '55
Mary Lou Retelle ●●★
John Shea '90G ●●
Sisters of Saint Anne, Marlborough, MA
John Spillane ●●
M. Jeanne Tasse '55 +
Martha and Douglas Waite ●

FOUNDRESS CIRCLE (\$5,000 – \$9,999)

Congress Asset Management ●
Gerard Dio '91G, Hon. '16 ●●
Abraham Haddad ●●
Dorothy Gasper Iorio '64
Iorio Charitable Foundation ●
Kimberly Ragsdale Kennedy '97G ●●
Michael Nockunas '11 '12G ●●
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Worcester County Memorial Park

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Tori Dalbec '20

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

Why did you choose Anna Maria?

I chose Anna Maria because of the reputation it held and the high standards they expected from both their students and professors. My mother was a graduate from Anna Maria for her Master of Education, and I vaguely remember sitting in on her classes in awe of the class.

What experiences or values from Anna Maria have you carried with you into your career?

At Anna Maria I was fortunate enough to learn from some of the best and brightest professors. A value that I strongly believe I carry with me since graduating is the importance of being a listening ear. Sometimes someone just needs to know you hear what they are saying and respect them. This value that I hold has made me a stronger social worker for my clients.

Focusing on Anna Maria's commitment to serving the greater good, what is the social impact of your work?

As a Medical Social Worker, the people that I mainly serve are homeless populations, elderly who have no one to care for them any longer, and individuals struggling with substance use. Every day I advocate for my patient to have the proper care and resources that they not only need but deserve. Some of these resources include finding homeless shelters, setting them up with methadone/suboxone or other treatment centers. Currently, a major crisis many hospitals are facing are elderly being brought in by their family as their dementia or other medical conditions have worsened, and the family can no longer provide them the care they need. I then work with the family to help find the patient the appropriate level of care.

What advice would you give to current students and recent graduates?

The best advice I would give to current students or graduates is to go outside of their comfort zone. When I first began social work, I never would have imagined myself having the drive and passion for working with adults in the hospital setting. I always thought I would be working with children. And, as a social worker, you are constantly reminding your patients to find one thing that they enjoy doing, and to do that every day as an act of self-care. I thought it was time to practice what I preach and this past March I tried trapeze yoga for the first time and fell in love with it!

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 Thomas Rice '20
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 Annette Boyer, SSA '69 ●
 Jonathan Bray '99 '00G ●
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 Karen and Kent Liston •
 Sally Curran Loman '60 •
 Christi Lucia '03G •
Catherine King Lunde '70
 Stephen Lundrigan '17G •
 Claire Letourneau Magee '59 •
 Elizabeth Bradley Maiorano '73 •
Kathleen Beddia Malatras '75
Ann Marie Proulx Mandeville '73
 Patrick Manning •
Michaline Chomicz Manno '57
LaWanda Manor '74
 Kerriann Marden ★
 Ann Gagliarducci Mariani '62 •
Louise Marsello '64
 David Marsh & '14
 Elizabeth Nolin Martin '11 '13G
 and Adam Martin '11 •
 John Marzec •
Joyce Wilk Mastroianni '59
 David McCauley •★
 Jane Richardson McCracken '76 •
 Renee McCue-Hall '85G •
 Joanne Smith McGinn '78 •
 Patrick McGuane
Renee Merolli '79 '88G
 John Monahan '90 •
 Andrew Moore '87 •
 Mary Gearin Moran '67 •
 Abriana Morgan
 Michael Morgan '12G •
 Mary Morley
 Greta Morris '82G •
 Carlo Morrissey '82G •
 Annmarie Mortimer '76G •
 Debra Benoit Mossey '79 •
 Ann Murphy •★
 Barbara McKiernan Murphy '79 •
 John Murphy '90G
 Robin Murphy-Dow '83 •
 Michelle Keith Nadow '83 •
 Annette Nance Holt '19G •
 Tara Nawrocki '97 •
 Lori Westerlund Nelson '91
Richard Newton '84G
 Robert Nickerson '89G •
 Nora Nolan
 Mary Sheridan Notaro '74 •
 Katherine Cheney Novosad '71 •
Ann O'Connell '65
 Ann O'Connor
Eda Oteri '90G



Colt Hagmaier '08

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

What is your current role?

I am the deputy assistant administrator (DAA) for recovery at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). I lead a team of nearly 8,500 employees supporting communities and families across the nation as they recover from disasters. I am responsible for the largest grant programs in the Department of Homeland Security, regularly delivering over \$10 billion in disaster aid through the Public Assistance and Individual Assistance Programs.

How has your Anna Maria education impacted your career?

I knew I was interested in a career in emergency management and there weren't many schools offering those degrees at the time. Anna Maria was different. It was in-person, and it was taught by practitioners who really know their stuff because they live it every day. I was a freshman at the University of Virginia for less than a month when the United States was attacked on September 11, 2001. I knew then that I wanted to be an emergency manager. I started at Anna Maria in the fall of 2005 pursuing a Master of Science in emergency management. Hurricane Katrina devastated Louisiana only a week or two after I started at Anna Maria. I knew that this was the profession for me.

What experiences or values from Anna Maria have you carried with you throughout your career?

My Anna Maria education has proven invaluable time and again. Bob Thompson taught me the basics of meteorology and I use that every day when I listen to the National Weather Service briefing during the daily National Operations Brief. I understand how to speak with our Department of Defense partners because of the military courses I took. Even more recently, I leveraged much of what Dr. Swedis taught me in epidemiology as I advised FEMA and the secretary of Homeland Security on the national COVID-19 response.

Focusing on Anna Maria's commitment to serving the greater good, what is the social impact of your work and how do you help others?

The most rewarding days are the ones where I get to go to the field. Days when I visit with community leaders or talk with individual families. Most of the really tough challenges that we face after a disaster existed before the disaster as well—we're just seeing them magnified such as poverty, illiteracy, homelessness, lack of affordable housing, inadequate medical care, and inaccessible social services. That is why the many public service programs at Anna Maria College are so important. We need to prepare leaders in all of these disciplines to rise up and tackle these challenges together.

What advice would you give to current students and recent graduates?

Find people who are experts. Build relationships with them. I am never the smartest person around. I am rarely ever the expert. As an emergency manager, my superpower is knowing enough about a lot of things to make linkages and to apply limited resources in a way that delivers favorable outcomes.

Lucinda Pacheco-Benoit '93G •
 John Paciorek '85 '88G •
 Michael Padgeon
 Kathleen Paiva '88G •
 Nicholas Pappas '94 •
 Elizabeth Parks '08 •
 Michelle Pasqualine •
 Jill Conte Pellegrini '76 •
 Jacob Pesarcik '18G •
 Teresa Popek '81G •
 Michele and Jared Powers
 Opal Powers •
 Ryley Powers
 Paulette Prunier Pratico '93G •
 Kelly Gaydusek Prendergast '99G •▲
 Jeffery Pringle '91 •
 Francis Prisco '85G •
 Caroline Prout '77 '81G •
 Michael Quirk '89G
 Kenneth Rabadou Jr. '83G •
Julianne Mansueti Rabschnuk '62
 Julie Racette '99 •
 Lori Reando ★
 Susan Redekas '73 •
James Ricci '86G
 Mary Rice '73 •
Catherine Richard '89
 Margaret Alleva Roffee '66 •
 Sarah Ross
 Angela Rossi '19 •
George Ryan '81G
Patricia Jean Sadin '67 '92G
 Mark Saunders '95G •
 Mary Schneller '91G •
 Robert Seltzer '14 •
Barbara Desjardins Seymour '60
 David Shea '93 '03G •
 Michelle Shea •
 Cynthia Shipp Sheehan '70 •
 George Sherrill '97G •
 Janet Minty Shirazi '83 '01G •
 John Shliapa •★
 Sharon Shliapa ★
 Pamela Sigel '96 '02G •
 Marie Hannon Simoneau '84 •
 Alexander Smith '19G •
 Shirley Uryniak Spiewak '69 •
 Suzanne and Philip Stacy •
D. Lyn MacDonald Stevens '75
 Cathy Mason Stolarczyk '83 '87G •
 Daniel Stout '19 '21G •
 Paul Studenski '88G •
 Donna Sullivan '84G •
 Patricia Reilly Tamulis '69 •
 Elizabeth Cattaneo Tantillo '84G •
 Dawson Taylor
 Bruce Teittinen '84G •
 Joan Theodoropoulos '69 •
 Susan Trefry •
 Cheryl Eckland Trimby '85 •
Mary Darmody Troxel '84G
 Doris Troy •
 George Tyburski •
 Joseph Ursaleo •
 Elizabeth Esip Van Atten '60 •
 Ellen and Ralph Viger •
 Veronica Villacis '15 '19G
 Grace Vinacco
 David Wahl
 Marybeth Walker '88G •
 Lauri Jones Walsh '02 and Sean Walsh '03 '11G
 William Warner '85G •
 Tami Warner '19
 Ryan Warren '14 •
 Dianne Farr Wawrzusin '81 •

Dianne White •★
 Bonita Curtis Willand '69 •
 Jennifer Wilson-Tucker
 Thomas Wojtila '14 •
 Mary Carberry Wood '70 •
 Barbara Nowak Wyatt '79G •
 Jolene Yates
 Kang Zou
Margaret Enright Zytkeiwicz '63

IN MEMORY OF

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bowe
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Jeffery Hanks
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Sr. Mary Rose Isabel
 Ann Krajewski '67
Andrew McCarthy
 Margaret Fitzgerald
Stephen Minardi
 Marie Remillard '84G
Claire and Roland Remillard
 Marie Remillard '84G
Lola Riordan '60
 Brian Talbot
Louise Soldani
 Georgene Riedl '70
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Stanton
 Kevin Dowd
Richard Talbot
 William Stanton '84G

IN HONOR OF

Maureen Logan Coghlin '57 Hon. '16
 Nancy and James Coghlin Sr.
Samantha Dieches
 Caryl Dieches
Jane Gebby
 Thomas Kennedy '76G
Rosalie Rolhealeu Grenon '60
 David Grenon

LEGACY SOCIETY

The Anna Maria Legacy Society was established to honor those individuals who strengthen the future of the College through their estate plans. Anna Maria is delighted to recognize alumni, parents, and friends who want to provide opportunities for future generations by including Anna Maria in their will or by establishing a planned gift.

Danielle Abbott '64
 Rosemary Lee Barat '58
 Elizabeth Chickering '74
 Thomas Connelly Jr.
 Walter Dzieniszewski
 Ann Marie O'Sullivan Giambruno '53
 Eric Gustafson '04G
 Theresa Emmons Jackman '73 '78G
 Suzanne Chapdelaine Kelly '59
 Bridget Leung-Rogala '22G
 Mary Navaroli Madden '68
 Gail Riordan McGrail '61
 Richard Radesky '98G
 Rena Richard '55
 Christine Parenteau Saulnier '61
 Mary Doyle Stankus '71 '90G
 Maureen Grady Wilkinson '90

GRANT PARTNERS

The following are grant partners who gave awards to Anna Maria in the 2021–2022 year

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Every effort has been made to accurately recognize all who have contributed to Anna Maria College. All gifts received between July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 are included in this report. From time to time we make errors in spelling or donor listings. Should you recognize any such mistake, please advise the Office of Institutional Advancement.

Upcoming Alumni Events

BASEBALL ALUMNI

The Mercantile Restaurant
 Worcester, MA
 October 12, 2022
 5pm – 7pm

ALL ALUMNI!

The Fix Burger Bar
 Worcester, MA
 November 3, 2022
 5pm – 7pm

Bowlero
 Auburn, MA
 December 3, 2022
 6pm – 8pm

Val's
 Holden, MA
 December 14, 2022
 5pm – 7pm

Visit us online at annamaria.edu/alumni
 or call 508.849.3341 for details



By Supporting Anna Maria,
you help ensure our legacy.

What difference
will **you** make?

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