

ANNA MARIA

COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE | 2023



Creating Unique Opportunities

PAUL A. QUARANTO, JR. '11G

CHAIRMAN, CEO, AND PRESIDENT

BOSTON MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY



Editor
Sloane Perron '15

Vice President for Advancement
Ryan Murphy

Designer
Penny Michalak

Contributors
Hugh Drummond
Patrick McGuane '22
Drew Paulhus '22

Photographers
Meaghan Hardy-Lavoie
Matt Wright
Katie Morrison O'Day

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Anna Maria College
Office of Advancement
50 Sunset Lane, Box K
Paxton, MA 01612

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Mary Lou Retelle

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FAST FACTS

6,254
volunteer service
hours

91%
of nursing students
pass the National Council
Licensure Examination exam.
(NCLEX-RN®)

12:1
student to
staff ratio

35
undergraduate
degrees

1,300
students from
31 states & 12 countries
were enrolled during the
2022-2023 academic year!

34%
of our
students are
from Pell grant
eligible families!

22+
student clubs
from social action to
fire & emergency service

13
D3 NCAA
sports

35%
of students are
first generation
to go to college.

100%
of students receive
financial aid

40
minor
degrees

11
graduate
degrees

STAY CONNECTED



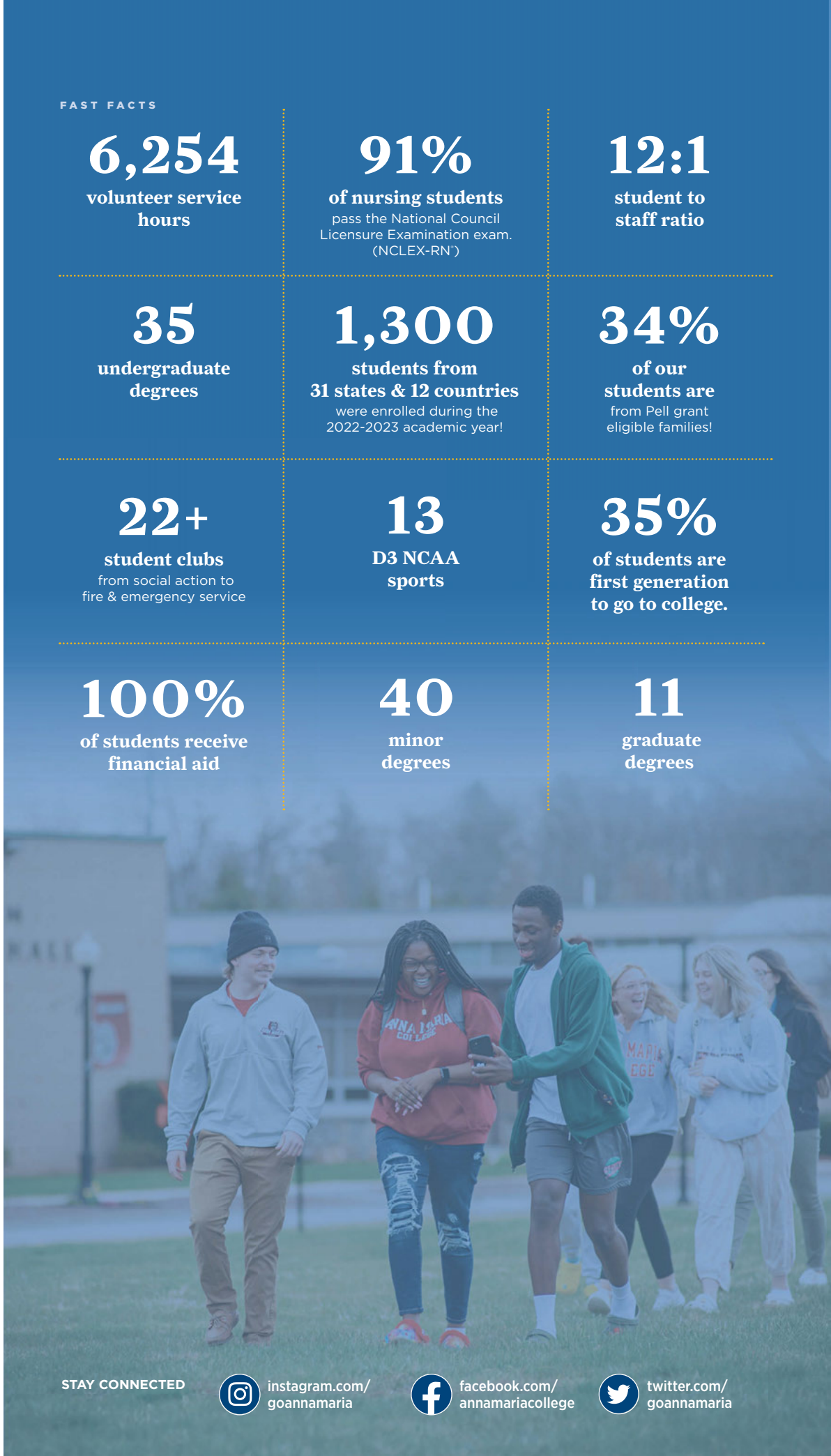
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Moving Forward with Purpose



“Anna Maria’s decisions prioritize opportunities to foster innovative and relevant programs that leverage our strengths and align with market demand.”

In my initial address to you as President of Anna Maria College, I entitled my remarks *Moving Forward*. I recently reread that message, and it struck me how much of what we aspired to in those early years has been achieved and how the same efforts of our mission of public service and community involvement are stronger than ever before. Goals of academic development to meet market demands, strengthening and diversifying enrollment and seeking professional partnerships to advantage our student experience and to raise the College visibility are flourishing.

This issue’s cover story on alumnus Paul A. Quaranto, Jr. ’11G, CEO of Boston Mutual Insurance Company, impressively captures those three key initiatives in such an affirming and supportive way. The faculty continue to seek ways to integrate the classroom experience with opportunities in the community that enhance their learning. This story highlights what great partnerships are being developed.

The years ahead are critical given the challenging higher education landscape with questions concerning affirmative action, the value of a college degree coupled with rising costs, and demographic declines for college-age students affecting enrollment goals across the sector. Anna Maria’s decisions prioritize opportunities to foster innovative and relevant programs that leverage our strengths and align with market demand. When we have strategic choices to make, we ask “What is best for the students’ academic promise?” and “Is our decision mission centric?” This ethos transcends undergraduate, graduate, and online offerings to meet the changing profile of today’s degree seekers.

Our students continue to be first generation, diverse in profile, and have a financial need that Anna Maria continues to support. As we meet that commitment to students, other needs such as facility upgrades and alternate modes of class delivery become greater challenges. The support of alumni and friends drive improvements necessary to remain competitive. We thank those who continue to support the College with their generosity.

I hope this wonderful alumni magazine will make you proud of all your alma mater is doing and how Anna Maria continues to thrive. I am so encouraged by the affirmation of federal support for our programs and funds received from local foundations who believe in our work. I am grateful for our Board of Trustees, known professionals who understand and embrace our vision and support our student success. And I am happy to welcome each class to our campus to begin their journey, as you did, with excitement and hope.

Thank you for supporting Anna Maria—it is a life-affirming experience for our students and one that you can be proud of as an alum.

MARY LOU RETELLE
PRESIDENT

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ON THE COVER

6 PAUL A. QUARANTO, JR. '11G

From MBA student to CEO, Paul A. Quaranto, Jr. is proud of his Anna Maria College education and created an internship program to benefit current classes.

Photo: Boston Mutual Life Insurance Company

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.

One Class Ring

a Lifetime of Anna Maria Memories



(left) Denise Gearan Bilotta '69 gifts Katherine Heffernan '23 her class ring (above) Sisters of Saint Anne ride bikes with books in their baskets to stock the library

Denise Gearan Bilotta, an Anna Maria graduate from the Class of 1969, has a connection to Anna Maria College that defined the rest of her life.

She recalls memories such as watching the Sisters of Saint Anne ride bikes with books in their baskets to stock the library and bus trips to Holy Cross for mixers so Anna Maria girls could dance with Holy Cross boys at a time before the schools were coed. However, her most important milestones came from forming bonds with classmates and meeting her future husband, Vincent Bilotta at an Anna Maria game night, a love that lasted 54 years until his recent passing in February.

After graduating from a large class at Fitchburg High School, Denise knew that a small college setting intensely focused on education was what she needed next. She was undecided about her future and majored in Sociology since Social Work was not a major available at the time. After earning her degree at Anna Maria College, Denise attended Boston College where she earned her master's in social work and LCSW and built a career in medical social work.

"One thing I learned from Anna Maria College was how to be a feminist because it was the nuns alone who kept that place going," Denise said, "Recently I visited campus, and it was an inspiration to drive up and see the college still thriving because of all their hard work."

Denise's four years at Anna Maria College were filled with fun memories and love. Halfway through her senior year, she and Vincent married and started building a life and family together. In addition to her wedding ring, Denise also wore her Anna Maria College Class of 1969 ring which featured the college's original blue and white colors and a medal of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Vincent believed that the class ring should be passed down to another Anna Maria College graduate, so Denise kept the ring waiting for the right person. Over the years she developed a bond with her next-door neighbor's family friend, Katherine Heffernan '23 and was excited when she decided to enroll in Anna Maria College.

Denise took Katherine out to lunch to celebrate her graduation and gifted her the Class of 1969 ring. The gesture was very symbolic for both generations of Anna Maria graduates.

"I am very impressed by Katherine. She was so gracious in accepting my ring which made it so meaningful for me," Denise said, "Anna Maria has an amazing alumna now and I am so proud of the college."

Katherine Heffernan graduated from Anna Maria College with a double major in Forensic

Criminology and Criminal Justice and a minor in Victimology. This hard-working graduate from Thompson, Connecticut comes from a family whose legacy is centered around law enforcement. While her family serves their community as law enforcement professionals, Katherine has her eyes set on becoming a witness victim advocate and being a support for individuals who need help navigating the legal system.

"Anna Maria College's Criminal Justice reputation alongside their Fire Science capabilities are what motivated me to join the institution," Katherine said.

In addition to achieving a heavy courseload and double major, Katherine also completed an internship with Worcester District Attorney Joe Early's Office where the experience solidified that she was entering the right career field.

"I want to be the one who makes a difference in peoples' lives as they go through the criminal justice process," Katherine said.

The recent graduate was very involved in Campus Ministry's Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults program and her passion for the missionary experience has opened the door for an exciting opportunity. In the Fall, Katherine will be leaving for Cork, Ireland where she will live for a year doing missionary work by helping those with intellectual disabilities.

Over 50 years have passed in between the two graduations of Denise and Katherine, but the two will forever be connected by Anna Maria College, their purpose for helping others, and a ring that holds a lifetime of memories.

"I am very impressed by Katherine. She was so gracious in accepting my ring which made it so meaningful for me." Denise said, "Anna Maria has an amazing alumna now and I am so proud of the college."



“This support for Anna Maria is an investment in the communities we serve.”

PRESIDENT MARY LOU RETELLE



Nursing Looks to the Future with \$1 Million Investment

Anna Maria College recently received a remarkable boost to its nursing and healthcare education programs. Congressman James P. McGovern (MA-02) successfully secured \$1,000,000 in community project funding to upgrade the college's clinical simulation and nursing lab. This significant investment aims to enhance the educational experience for future essential workers, ensuring they are equipped with the necessary skills to excel in their careers.

The funding announcement took place during a special visit by Congressman McGovern to the college campus in May, where he had the opportunity to meet with nursing students and faculty. The simulation space plays a vital role in preparing students in the nursing, paramedic, and EMT programs for real-world patient care situations. Over the past two years, Anna Maria nursing students have achieved an impressive pass rate of over 91% on the nursing licensure exam (NCLEX).

Congressman McGovern expressed his enthusiasm for the project. “Every person, no matter who they are, what they look like, or where they live, deserves to get the medical attention they need, when they need it. This federal funding will help teach students the necessary skills to succeed in their careers, using newly renovated classrooms and cutting-edge equipment. I was proud to personally secure this funding during the appropriations process and I'm confident that it will educate students to provide quality care not only in the Second District, but across the Commonwealth and country. We need more medical professionals. But perhaps more importantly, we need to increase access to quality medical training. I know the students at Anna Maria are ready now more than ever to take charge and lead the next generation of health care professionals.”

The allocated funds will primarily cover the construction and renovation costs associated with expanding the simulation space and relocating Nursing to Miriam Hall.

President Mary Lou Retelle expressed gratitude to Congressman McGovern and recognized the positive social impact the college has on the community through its caring professions. Retelle said, “We teach them [the students] to be curious and compassionate about their education and to bring our values to their service-focused professions. This support for Anna Maria is an investment in the communities we serve.”



Above and below: Congressman McGovern met with nursing students and faculty to announce \$1-million in community funding which will upgrade the college's clinical simulation and nursing lab.



“The students at Anna Maria are ready now more than ever to take charge and lead the next generation of health care professionals.”

CONGRESSMAN JAMES P. MCGOVERN



TOURNAMENT WINNERS

1ST PLACE

Erin O'Hara Alison Walshe
Marty McDonald Ryan O'Laughlin

2ND PLACE

Brian Burlas Joe Cundall
Brian Eddy Eric Thanas

3RD PLACE

Dave Gendron Brayden Gendron
Glen Long Joe Sarver

CLOSEST TO THE PIN (MEN)

Alex Madrigal at 3'

CLOSEST TO THE PIN (WOMEN)

Erin O'Hara at 6' 11"

LONGEST DRIVE (MEN)

Brayden Gendron

LONGEST DRIVE (WOMEN)

Renee Pierce

14TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

A HOLE IN ONE FOR ANNA MARIA

On June 5th, Anna Maria College held its 14th Annual Golf Tournament at Pleasant Valley Country Club in Sutton, MA. We want to thank all of the sponsors and participants who helped raise more than \$70,000!



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Paul A. Quaranto, Jr. '11G

BOSTON MUTUAL CEO CREDITS ANNA MARIA FOR SUCCESSFUL CAREER

Paul A. Quaranto, Jr. '11G is Chairman, Chief Executive Officer, and President at Boston Mutual Life Insurance Company. Quaranto became CEO in 2014 after previously serving as President in 2012. Quaranto is only the seventh president in Boston Mutual's 132-year history. He received his bachelor's in administrative science from Colby College and his master's degree in business administration from Anna Maria College. Last semester, Quaranto created an internship partnership with Anna Maria and continues to support his alma mater in the classroom as a professor and guest speaker. He shares his insights on his student experience and how an Anna Maria education was essential to making his career dream come true.

Why did you choose Anna Maria's MBA Program?

This dates back to the early 80s when I was just a couple of years into my working career - after earning an undergraduate degree from Colby College. I was working as a Group Underwriter at State Mutual Life Assurance Company in Worcester (now the Hanover Insurance Group) and a couple of my associates were pursuing their MBAs at Anna Maria. They spoke highly of the program. It was affordable and practical, allowing you to pursue the degree while maintaining balance in your life. You did not have to compromise your commitment to your family or job. I thought an MBA would benefit me from a career perspective, so I decided to enroll.

The program was excellent, it was basically two classes per evening and then I was on my way. However, a job change which took me from Worcester to Boston and our first child put things on hold. Fast forward to the 2000s and I was working as a Vice President at Boston Mutual Life Insurance Company. I was being considered in the

succession pool for the role of President—just the 7th President in the 120+ year history of the Company at that time. My wife, Susan, suggested that perhaps an MBA would improve my chances, so I reached out to Anna Maria to see if I could reengage in the program. Thankfully, they agreed, and I was able to earn my MBA in 2011.

The experience during my second run was amazing. My perspective was totally different after working for so many years. The professors were excellent. They brought real life experience and would lean on me to do the same. My fellow students were amazing—all trying to improve themselves and their career opportunities. All these aspects made me realize that Anna Maria offered something that was very different and very real.

How did the MBA degree impact your career?

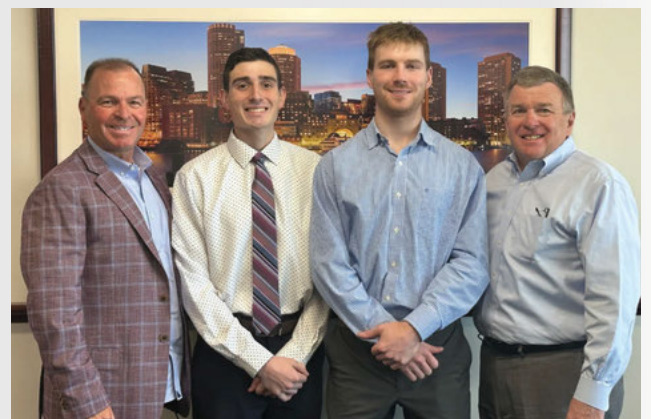
I do not believe I would have been selected as President of Boston Mutual if I had not earned my MBA from Anna Maria. Not only was the degree important, but the experience helped prepare me for the leadership role. I have tremendous respect and appreciation for what Anna Maria has done for me and my family.

As the CEO of Boston Mutual, what motivated you to start an internship program with Anna Maria College?

It goes back to Anna Maria offering something very different and very real. The purpose and mission of the college is very much aligned with that of Boston Mutual. The college affords students who might not otherwise have the opportunity to pursue

undergraduate or graduate degrees with the opportunity to do so and does it in an environment that is grounded in a culture of serving others.

Boston Mutual was founded in 1891 to afford working families with the opportunity to protect their loved ones. We are committed to serving our customers, employees, and communities well. President Retelle and I were both excited and passionate about how we could work together to create unique opportunities for both organizations given the common sense of purpose and mission. The internship program was one such opportunity. In addition to the internship program, we are looking to provide on-campus career counseling and recruiting, and develop some risk-based classes to further educate students about the insurance industry. I also had the opportunity to teach a leadership class in the MBA program this past spring. There are so many opportunities that we would like to explore, and we look forward to the future of this relationship. I believe it will serve as a model for collaborative efforts between business and academic institutions.



Left to Right: Prof. Lawrence Sasso PhD, student intern Mark Cavallaro '25, student intern Brodin Coughlin '24, and Paul Quaranto, Jr. '11G

What are some creative ways that Anna Maria College alums can give back to the Anna Maria community?

Anna Maria does such a good job of instilling a servant leadership mindset into the students. Continuing that beyond their college experience is important. As alums begin their professional careers, being thoughtful about opportunities for current students is key. Talking with their employers about how Anna Maria is different and special and encouraging their employer to look for ways to engage with Anna Maria to the benefit of the students and their organizations are other ways alums can help. Companies need bright young people with a sense of purpose and mission who are willing to work hard and make a difference for all the right reasons. I believe that Anna Maria graduates represent just that — I know they represent what Boston Mutual is looking for in terms of employees and customers.

How is the internship program going so far?

It is going very well, and the value is two-fold. It is project based and gives students the opportunity to provide solutions to business scenarios while gaining real-life work experience. It also serves to engage and educate our leadership team about the value young minds can bring to our organization, even without work experience. The program aligns well with our mission to support the communities in which we live and serve and that includes these students.

Any advice for our students?

Take advantage of opportunities to engage companies, internships are a great example. Visit with company representatives who make themselves available to you. Do your homework in advance, be passionate about who you are and what you are looking to do with your life.



“President Retelle and I were both excited and passionate about how we could work together to create unique opportunities for both organizations given the common sense of purpose and mission.”



Have an idea for an internship or partnership opportunity?

Contact us at
careerservices@annamaria.edu



Leading By Example

Anna Maria College is the first college to partner with Worcester's Academic Center for Transition



Mike Morgan is an Assistant Professor in Anna Maria College's Sports Management program who believes that leadership is taught through hands-on work in the community.

In 2018, Morgan began bringing senior Sports Management students in his Capstone class to Worcester Public Schools' Academic Center for Transition (ACT) where Anna Maria College students make a daily impact on the lives of children who need extra support.

ACT is a therapeutic day school that provides clinical support and positive learning environments for students who are not ready to be in the generalized public-school population. After learning about ACT, Morgan saw that these elementary students were in need of role models. As a result, Morgan's Capstone class required Anna Maria students to provide mentorship to ACT students at least once a week. What began as a class requirement soon turned into strong

bonds developing between the ACT students and Anna Maria students who willingly began to spend more time at the school.

Each week the ACT students look forward to Anna Maria students showing up to play sports with them during recess, read to them, or just be there to listen and let the children know that they are not alone. The sense of friendship that has developed between the two groups also helps ACT teachers motivate their students more.

"They're like celebrities here," ACT Program Director Thomas Lindgren said about the visiting Anna Maria students.

This year's Capstone class had 11 Sports Management seniors who were divided up between 8 ACT classrooms ranging from kindergarten to 5th grade. Many ACT students have faced difficult life circumstances or traumatic events and often need a bit more support which Anna Maria students have

naturally been able to provide in their roles as mentors.

“Our very diverse student population sees a very diverse college population who are successful, respectful, and well-spoken, and they serve as role models,” Lindgren said, “It’s been really interesting to watch the relationships develop.”

Anna Maria College is the only higher education institution mentoring ACT students. The bond with Anna Maria’s 2023 graduating class and the ACT program was so strong this year, that both schools decided to plan a field trip.

ACT 4th and 5th graders were invited to Anna Maria’s campus. The excursion marks the first field trip that ACT students have been on in over 6 years.

The bonds made during the semester were evident as the elementary kids rushed to the college students who had become their friends. After a semester talking to each other, supporting one another, and finding similarities, the ACT students were excited to see how the “big kids” lived.

“I knew that visiting Anna Maria would be amazing, but it was even better than I thought it would be!” said Diovani Vasconcelos, an ACT student.

The mentorship program has been so successful that Morgan and Lindgren are developing a partnership where all Anna Maria students could volunteer at the school. The goal is to create a full-year program rather than just limiting the program to the Spring semester.

“Experiential learning is key,” Morgan said, “It is very rewarding for our students to help children less fortunate than them. I am proud of their work as our students learn the true meaning of leadership.”



Thank You RELIANT FOUNDATION!

Reliant Foundation, a health-focused organization serving the Central and MetroWest areas of Massachusetts, awarded a \$50,000 grant to Anna Maria College to support the College’s Mental Health Awareness and Intervention for Early Career Professionals. The goal is to prepare the next generation of caring professionals as they enter a climate of growing mental health factors and workplace shortages. The Early Career Project program unites Anna Maria’s Human Services, Psychology, and Social Work departments in a curriculum that provides students with training focused on mental and behavioral health.

Work shortages in health professions are prominent in Central Massachusetts, where various mental health, public safety, medical, and public health needs have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic also distressed the field of youth mental health services within the Commonwealth.

“There is an urgent need for well-prepared professionals who can answer the call for help and Anna Maria College’s proactive Early Career Project provides more training so that they can enter their fields with confidence and compassion,” said Anna Maria College President Mary Lou Retelle. “Once in their careers, our students will help to advance community outcomes. They embody the goals of Reliant Foundation as well as our own mission to serve the community. I want to thank Reliant Foundation for their continued support.”

Reliant Foundation President, Kelsa Zereski added, “At a time when waiting lists for mental health services are long and staffing is short, Anna Maria College students give us hope that upon graduation, they will answer the call to support the mental health and recovery needs of this community by joining the local workforce.”

Reliant Foundation’s grant will be used to develop this forward-thinking curriculum, pay for student internship stipends, and education software that students will use to manage their placement sites.

Over the past five years, Anna Maria College has received Reliant Foundation support for the College’s Opioid Regional Conference, Addiction & Recovery Resource Center, Sober Project, and the Counselor Training Center.



Answering the Call for Help

ANNA MARIA STUDENTS TRAIN FOR 911 DISPATCH

Anna Maria College was the first four-year college in the state to offer 911 dispatch training to students. Since 1990, Anna Maria College has been at the forefront of training new generations of leaders who serve as the first line of public safety.

The 911 dispatch training on campus is free and open to any Anna Maria students interested in the field, regardless of major. This year's annual training took place during Spring Break with 13 students completing five days of in-class training followed by two days of training in a dispatch center. After completing the Association of Public Safety Officers Public Safety Training, students receive a dispatch certification.

In addition to offering free dispatch training, Anna Maria College is officially partnering with the City of Worcester's Department of Emergency Communications & Management resulting in internships and

part-time employment opportunities for Anna Maria students at the dispatch center.

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR A CAREER-READY FUTURE

Chief David Armstrong, Senior Advisor to Criminal Justice Operations at Anna Maria College, was one of the founding leaders of the 911 dispatch training program when it began over 30 years ago. He believes that emergency dispatching is great for individuals who are looking for a service-oriented career where they make a difference in peoples' lives every day.

"It's not TV, and it's not the classroom, you could be at the dispatch center in the Worcester PD, and it can be very serious all of a sudden. Natural disasters, fires, missing people, it's real life. And I think the more that our students get that unique hands-

on experience, the more competitive they become for the future careers that they are working towards," Armstrong said.

ANNA MARIA STUDENTS IN THE FIELD

Forensic Criminology graduate, Yarelis Rivera '19, exemplifies how Anna Maria College students become trained professionals who answer the call for help, in her case literally.

The Worcester 911 Dispatch covers the City of Worcester, the Worcester Police Department, the Worcester Fire Department, and the town of Leicester. The Center receives 120,000 911 calls annually making it one of the largest in the Commonwealth. "The most rewarding part of my job is helping people," Rivera said, "You get to help the community that you live in and the people who you live amongst."



“The most rewarding part of my job is helping people. You get to help the community that you live in and the people who you live amongst.”

YARELIS RIVERA '19

A LIFE-SAVING PROFESSION

Charles Goodwin is the Director of Worcester's Emergency Communications & Management who is excited to work with Anna Maria students through the new partnership.

“It's not one of the easiest jobs to be in, but it is one of the most fulfilling jobs,” Goodwin said about working in emergency dispatch, “You get to help people in a way that you never get the opportunity to do in any other career field. You get to help them and talk to them and console them at one of the hardest times in their life when they are calling 911. Most people do not call 911 often in their life, it's a very difficult time for them, so being that calm voice on the other end in a sea of chaos is really a fulfilling career.”

New Fire Science Scholarship Honors Barre Fire Chief

The Donald L. Rich Endowed Scholarship Fund was established in honor of Donald L. Rich, a life-long resident of Barre, Massachusetts, who served as the town's Fire Chief. Chief Rich came from a legacy of firefighters which included his father and grandfather who also served on the department. Together the three generations totaled over 100 years of fire service.

Chief Rich's widow, Virginia “Ginny” Rich, and their daughter, Cynthia Paradis, were inspired by Anna Maria College's mission and dedication to creating leaders who serve in local communities. As a result, they donated \$105,000 to Anna Maria College to fund the scholarship and keep it sustainable for future generations.



During the scholarship luncheon, Ginny and Cynthia met with members of Anna Maria's Fire Science department including Chief Gary Daughtery, Chief Tom Bogart, and fire science student, Juliet Leask.

The Rich family's generosity makes fire science education more accessible for scholarship recipients who will work in the field saving lives and making a difference in the same way that Chief Donald L. Rich did throughout his life.

Learn how to fund your own Anna Maria College scholarship!

Contact Ryan Murphy at rmurphy@annamaria.edu



Left to right: David Flick, Kay Flick, Ryan Murphy, Juliet Leask, Chief Gary Daughtery, Cynthia Paradis, Chief Tom Bogart, Ginny Rich, and Ed Connor



CONGRATULATIONS CLASS of 2023!



Anna Maria College's 74th Commencement celebrated the power of family

On May 15, Anna Maria College celebrated its 2023 Commencement Ceremony at the DCU Center in Worcester. Nearly 300 students saw the results of their hard work and perseverance as they received their degrees. Commencement began with a rendition of the National Anthem performed by Chloe Panico from the Class of 2023 who earned her Bachelor of Arts in Music Education.

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.

"You were challenged in your years at Anna Maria, and you met those challenges as evidence here today," President Retelle said to the Class of 2023, "The journey to the finish line—as in all major life goals - is not always easy. Today you celebrate earning your degree—be it a bachelor's or master's degree—it is part of your life story now and one that I hope you are proud of. Anna Maria will be a part of your foundation."

Student Speaker, Meghan Sonia focused on "Ohana", the Hawaiian word for family which shaped her Anna Maria College experience. The Nursing major from Martha's Vineyard was heavily involved on campus, not just in her dedication to the nursing program and as a member of the Iota Phi at-Large nursing honors society, but in her athletic journey as a member of both the ice hockey and field hockey teams. After graduation, Meghan plans on returning for one more semester to earn a minor in Psychology and finish a 5th year on Anna Maria's field hockey team before beginning her career in Boston as an emergency nurse.

"Anna Maria was not just a school. This was a campus that provided us opportunities for growth. This was a campus that gave us the freedom to express who we are, and most importantly, this was a campus that allowed us to develop the powerful lifelong friendships we cherish and will maintain with us as we continue our journeys through life. So, thank you all for being my Ohana," Sonia said to her fellow graduating classmates.

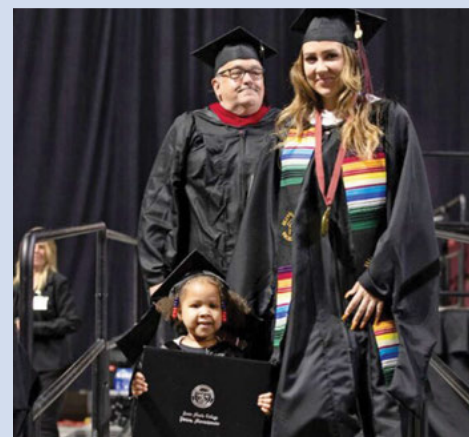
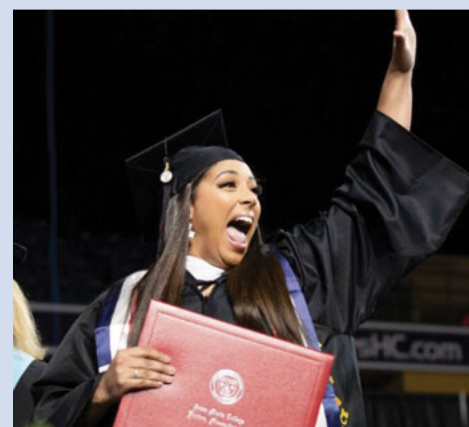
During the 2023 Commencement Ceremony, two honorary degrees were conferred. Sister Carol Proietti, of the Sisters of St. Anne, Anna Maria College's founding order, and an alumna of Anna Maria College was posthumously awarded a Doctor of Education for her legacy of teaching literature, English, and journalism in schools throughout Central Massachusetts and for championing social issues.

Business executive and investor, Peter Caparso, was presented with the honorary degree of Doctor of Business Administration for his decades of entrepreneurship and his leadership in the ever-changing world of e-commerce. For generations the Caparso family have been strong advocates for Anna Maria College with Peter's father Richard Caparso '78G, Hon '87 serving as a former trustee and honored by the name of Anna Maria's athletic field. Peter credited his success to a strong foundation of faith and family.

"I have for the most part lived my life under the following principles: believe and advocate for yourself, ask the question, treat other people fairly, and be present in the moment as you never know when an opportunity will present itself." Peter Caparso

Anna Maria College recognized three graduates who achieved superlatives in academics, community, and service to others: Allene L. Martin was awarded the Bishop Timothy J. Harrington Award; Julia Smith received the Sr. Yvette Bellerose Award; and The Dr. Bernadette Madore Award for Academic Excellence was bestowed on Bendetto Daniele Mazzotta Iaboni.

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 prior to the Commencement Ceremony.





Welcome Father Stephen Lundrigan

NEW ANNA MARIA COLLEGE CHAPLAIN DEDICATED TO FAITH AND COMMUNITY

Father Stephen Lundrigan's journey from the priesthood to his new role as College Chaplain at Anna Maria College was unconventional to say the least.

Born in Springfield, MA, Lundrigan grew up in Brimfield and attended Catholic schools throughout his youth. He earned his bachelor's in psychology from Saint Anselm College and his master's in counseling from Assumption College.

After his undergraduate graduation, Lundrigan began working for a Worcester nonprofit called the Key Program where he discovered his passion for working with at risk youths.

"That was a fascinating experience, going into the worst neighborhoods in the city and walking into rooms full of gang members," Father Lundrigan said about making himself accessible to young people who needed guidance.

Lundrigan eventually opened his own practice and founded a nonprofit to help homeless

young adults. While doing this life-saving work, Lundrigan kept feeling a call for ministry. He joined the monastery at St. Anslem in 1997 and became a monk but left to find a religious order that satisfied his calling to serve. He worked as the Clinical Director at the Department of Youth Services in a maximum-security treatment unit before eventually attending and finishing seminary in 2015.

Before joining as Anna Maria College's Chaplain in July, Lundrigan served as Pastor of Annunciation Parish in Gardner for six years. In addition to his campus ministry work, he will also teach as an adjunct theology and psychology professor.

"I am looking forward to interacting with the students and having those discussions as someone who is a priest, but also as someone who has many years as a therapist and has mentored so many people," he said.



Anna Maria College's Campus Ministry are exploring new opportunities for students to go out into the world and help others.

"The vision is really to help raise the Catholic identity of the college and help give students a positive experience with faith and Jesus Christ," Father Lundrigan said, "I tell my Theology class, 'Look, I'm not here to tell you what to think or believe, I'm just here to present this to you because you can't make an informed choice about faith unless you know what the options are.'"

The Greater Good *begins* Here

Anna Maria's Campus Ministry is always looking for new volunteer opportunities for our student community. Organizations and businesses looking to engage our Anna Maria student volunteers can contact Director of Campus Ministry Joe Jorge at jjorge@annamaria.edu.





**COMING
IN SPRING
2024!**

THE GARDEN OF HOPE

The Molly Bish Center and the Anna Maria Community to develop a Garden of Hope

The idea for this garden was inspired by the Garden of Peace in Boston that provides a memorial for the families and loved ones of homicide victims. The *Garden of Hope* is designed to provide a sanctuary for the families and loved ones of the Missing and Murdered. The design, created by two resident artists from Anna Maria College, incorporates a labyrinth within a larger landscape design that evokes the concept of an embrace. The embrace symbolizes *Hope* and the ongoing commitment to hold that *Hope* for the families, loved ones, and the communities of shareholders that seek to resolve these cases.

The garden provides a place for individuals, families, and communities to come and honor their lost loved ones. For many of those who remain missing, after considerable time has passed, there is no place for families to go to memorialize their loved ones. This *Garden of Hope* is open to all who seek a place in their ongoing process of grief and loss, providing a sanctuary of contemplation, serenity, meditation, invitation, and remembrance. A sanctuary of trees and shrubbery would surround a labyrinth forming a prayer circle. People of all faiths, interests, and commonalities are invited to gather in this peace-filled atmosphere that is suitable for the sharing of poetry, literary explorations, creation of music, social interaction, and much more.

Join us in making this Garden of Hope a reality through your generous donation to this worthy cause. Please call 508.849.3298 for more information.

With Gratitude



**50 years ago . . .
Anna Maria College
experienced two
paradigm changes.
In 1973, the college
became co-educational
and in 1974, it opened a
graduate division.**

**These young men paved
the way for co-education
at Anna Maria College
for the next 50 years.**

**The first male AMCATS were:
Charles D. Bissonnette⁺, Carl L. Rano⁺,
Frank E. Burke, Jr., Richard T. Flynn,
Steven M. Siewert, and Paul Kenechi Ugwu**

⁺deceased

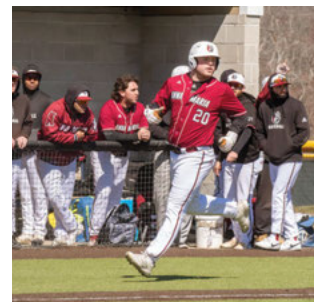


Heroic Students Save a Family

During Super Bowl weekend, four Anna Maria College students, Elijah Rapaport '25, Jarrett Niland '24, Joshua Alexander '24, and Cameron Powell '23, traveled to Philadelphia to support the Philadelphia Eagles. The best friends, three of whom are Anna Maria College Club Ice Hockey players, decided to make the trip together. However, their weekend turned into an extraordinary act of heroism when a house across the street caught fire. Without hesitation, the four men called 911 and assisted those inside. Thanks to their quick action, the residents escaped the fire safely. The group's unity and compassion in the face of danger earned them gratitude and praise from the affected family and the community, including the Philadelphia Eagles who rewarded the students' heroics with merchandise and a letter thanking them for their selfless action. These four students are representative of the many Anna Maria College students and alum who risk their lives every day to serve their communities as police officers, firefighters, and other first responders.

Marifiote takes home GNAC player of the year

Graduate student Jarrod Marifiote (Framingham, MA) was named the GNAC Baseball Player of the Year and to the All-Conference First Team. He also earned D3 Baseball Second Team and ABCA Third Team honors. An outfielder, he played in 41 games while helping the AMCATS to their second tournament runner-up in three years. He was second on the team in batting average (.407) and second on the team in runs scored (38), hits (61) and led the team with 50 RBIs. He was second in slugging percentage (.633). He added 10 doubles and eight home runs.



The AMCATS slugger ranked in the top-10 in the conference in a number of categories on the GNAC leaderboard, ranking third in hits, second in RBIs, and fourth in home runs. His batting average, slugging percentage and on base percentage also placed him in the top-10.

Marifiote is the third AMCAT in the last three seasons to be named the GNAC Player of the Year. During the 2022 season Jason Shell received Player of the Year honors after current graduate student Kosta Drosidis received the honors the year prior. Among the three consecutive Player of the Year honors for Anna Maria, the AMCATS have also taken home 23 All-Conference Team honors in the last three seasons. Five players received All-Conference honors this season.

2020 Athletics Hall of Fame Class inducted

After a pause due to a weather postponement and the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Anna Maria Athletics Hall of Fame Class was inducted at a ceremony and reception on March 25, 2023.

The seventh Anna Maria College Hall of Fame class is an extraordinary group of outstanding individuals: Matthew Brennan '04 (Men's Basketball), Meghan DePatsy '07 (Women's Basketball, Women's Soccer), Kelly Downey '05 (Women's Basketball, Women's Soccer), Ray Frias '84, Posthumously (Men's Basketball, Baseball, Men's Soccer), Nancy Naroian (Staff). Downey was unable to attend and will formally be inducted during the next Hall of Fame Ceremony at the next induction ceremony.

"The Hall of Fame Committee, athletics department, and the college are excited to induct these individuals into the Anna Maria College Hall of Fame on March 25th. This class has waited over two years for this rightfully deserved honor. This group joins a

great group of Hall of Fame members," commented Joe Brady '96, Director of Athletics. "I am excited to be a part of my first induction ceremony and this special occasion for these four outstanding individuals. We also look forward to celebrating Kelly's accomplishments at the next induction."



Left to Right: Nancy Naroian (Staff), Matthew Brennan '04 (Men's Basketball), Meghan DePatsy '07 (Women's Basketball, Women's Soccer), Luis Frias '83 receiving award for brother Ray Frias '84, Posthumously (Men's Basketball, Baseball, Men's Soccer)



"ANNA MARIA COLLEGE IS HONORED TO BE INVITED TO JOIN THE MASCAC FOR MEN'S AND WOMEN'S HOCKEY. WE TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN OUR STUDENT-ATHLETES AND I KNOW THEY WILL REPRESENT THE MASCAC WELL IN TALENT AND SPORTSMANSHIP."

PRESIDENT MARY LOU RETELLE

MASCAC Welcomes AMCATs: Men's and Women's Ice Hockey to Join

On June 13th the The Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC) Council of Presidents and Commissioner Angela Baumann announced that the Anna Maria College men's and women's ice hockey teams will be joining the MASCAC.

Along with Rivier University, Anna Maria will join MASCAC men's ice hockey beginning in 2024-25 and provisionally for MASCAC women's ice hockey. The multi-sport strategic addition of both of these institutions as affiliates adds members to assist in men's ice hockey scheduling and positions the conference in preparations for launching MASCAC women's ice hockey as a championship sport in the near future. They will join Fitchburg State University, Framingham State University, MCLA, Plymouth State University, UMass Dartmouth, Salem State University, Westfield State University and Worcester State University as the competing members in the MASCAC.

"The MASCAC is thrilled to welcome Anna Maria College and Rivier University to the conference," Commissioner Baumann

said. "Partnering as affiliates with these two institutions in our geographic footprint advances the MASCAC membership towards reaching a strategic goal of increasing the number of sports in the league with the addition of women's ice hockey."

The Anna Maria men's and women's ice hockey teams are gearing up for their sixth season in their programs history. Since their start in 2018-19 under the leadership of Head Coach David McCauley, the men's hockey team has amassed a record of 36-53-13 while competing independently at the Division III level.

"I'm excited and thankful for the opportunity the MASCAC has given Anna Maria," said McCauley. "Our alumni, who helped build this program, and current players will be just as thrilled. We would not have this opportunity without the support and commitment from Anna Maria President Mary Lou Retelle and Athletic Director Joe Brady."

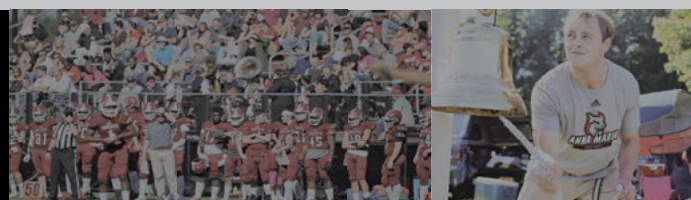
The women's hockey team saw significant growth in the 2022-23 season following the hiring of Head Coach Zach Perkins, who tied



the schools single season win record (7 wins) during his first season with the team.

"Our student-athletes, Coach David McCauley and Coach Zachary Perkins have worked hard to build a respected program in the region and the opportunity to compete in the MASCAC conference is something we are all looking forward to," said Director of Athletics Joseph Brady '96.

"Anna Maria College is honored to be invited to join the MASCAC for men's and women's hockey. We take great pride in our student-athletes and I know they will represent the MASCAC well in talent and sportsmanship" said President Mary Lou Retelle.



SUPPORT ATHLETICS!

Now it's your turn to ring the bell!
Please donate now to the AMCAT CLUB.
Scan the QR code to make your gift!



Soccer Teams Score Big

Two D1 Coaches Join the AMCATS

Anna Maria College is proud to welcome its newest additions to the Athletic Department: Coach Neil Stafford and Coach Joseph Dincecco. Both soccer coaches will use their experience and expertise to inspire their student athletes into a winning season.



The upcoming 2023 season will be Stafford's first season on the sidelines for the AMCATS.

Stafford got his start coaching at the collegiate level in 1995 as a men's assistant coach at Southern New Hampshire, serving until 1997. In 2000, Stafford joined as the associate head coach for the men's and women's programs at Assumption College and the program's all-time winningest coach.

Stafford most recently served as the head women's soccer coach at the University of Cincinnati from 2012-2022. He won a conference championship in 2015 and participated in the NCAA tournament as well as appearing in the conference finals in 2021. Stafford's success was not just on the field, but also in the classroom. During the 2018-2019 school year Stafford's team earned a 3.79 GPA ranking as the highest in the nation (Across DI-DIII). At Cincinnati, Stafford recruited and coached Vanessa Gilles who is currently competing for Team Canada in this Summer's Women's World Cup as well as playing for the Professional Football with Olympique Lyon in France.

A graduate of Marlborough (Mass.) High School, Neil played soccer, hockey and tennis. Stafford attended Norwich University, competing in both tennis and soccer, before transferring to Southern New Hampshire. He helped lead the Penmen to a two-year record of 29-4-4. He also played with the Boston Storm (USL).



Coach Dincecco will bring new energy and a fresh perspective to his position as he works with the students on Anna Maria's Men's Soccer Team.

Dincecco most recently has worked at Scholarbook where he placed 19 student-athletes from Germany and the Czech Republic on to college soccer teams for the upcoming Fall 2024 season. Dincecco is part of the Lexington United Soccer Club as a Pro Coach and served as a Head Coach for the Massachusetts Youth Soccer ODP program.

Prior to Scholarbook, Dincecco was the assistant coach at the University of New Hampshire during the 2021 season. While at UNH Dincecco helped the program set records for wins (17) as well as winning percentage (.857). The UNH Coaching Staff was named the 2021 NCAA Division 1 Northeast Region Staff of the Year as well as the America East Staff of the Year.

Dincecco started his coaching career in 2012 when he joined Manhattanville College as an assistant men's soccer coach. After serving at Manhattanville for two years, Dincecco joined Florida Gulf Coast University as an assistant coach where he helped the program achieve their first NCAA Tournament win. Dincecco would move on to work at the University of South Florida from 2017-2019. Following his time at the University of South Florida he served as the head coach at Friends University for two seasons, where he guided the program to an NAIA National Championship Tournament appearance while also earning 2019 KCAC Co-Coach of the Year honors in his first season at the helm.

Dincecco is a graduate of the University of Richmond. He later earned a Masters in Sports Business Management at Manhattanville College.

“We are going to build a culture of success on the field, in the classroom, and in this great community. Anna Maria is a fantastic fit for me personally and professionally.”

NEIL STAFFORD

A Message From . . .

ALUMNI BOARD ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

Lizette Zajko Reid '12



On behalf of the Alumni Board Association, I have a special invitation to my fellow AMCATS.

Are you interested in staying involved in Giving

Back to your Alma Mater?

Apply to the Anna Maria College Alumni Board and be an engaged ambassador of this institution. The Anna Maria College Alumni Board members meet 3-4 times a year on campus and virtually to discuss plans on how to make the college better and preserve a mutually beneficial enduring relationship between our alumni base and the Institution. Sub-Committees such as Events, Philanthropy, Career Services, and Volunteerism all aim to make 50 Sunset Lane a better place and our Alumni Network strong and thriving.

Alumni Board Members are our biggest fans and advocates. To apply, please send along a letter of interest to the secretary of the board, Ernie Brooks, at ewbrooks@amcats.edu.

I urge you to become an active member of our Board and share in all the exciting activities and opportunities we have to offer!



TAKE A LOOK AT WHERE WE'VE BEEN THIS SUMMER!

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT OUR NEXT EVENT!



Once an AMCAT, always an AMCAT!

Have you moved, got a new cell phone, or email? Let us know! We want to keep in touch. Go to annamaria.edu/alumni to update.

SAVE-THE-DATES

AMCAT Pride Challenge
November 28-December 3

Anna Maria College Alumni Holiday Gathering
December 6, 5:30-7:30pm
Tatnuck Country Club
Worcester, MA

Would you be interested in an Alumni Trip? Please call VP of Advancement Ryan Murphy at 508.849.3342 as we possibly plan something for 2024.



ANNA MARIA
COLLEGE
Graduate Programs

SAVE 20%

Did you know that Anna Maria alums receive a discount on graduate programs?

Learn more at
annamaria.edu/academics/graduate-studies/graduate-degrees

FY23 ANNUAL REPORT OF GIVING



A Message From Ryan Murphy, Vice President for Advancement

College campuses are a special place in the fall. There is so much energy and excitement. After a quiet summer on Sunset Lane, the students return and are learning to become leaders in our communities, competing on the playing fields, participating in clubs, and setting themselves up for successful careers.

I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for your generous contributions to Anna Maria College. Your support as donors has had a profound impact on the educational journey, resources, and programming for our students. This leads to a transformative experience as these lifelong learners pursue their dreams and academic goals. They then go out into the world and have a positive impact on society.

There are multiple ways to stay engaged with Anna Maria College

- **Sign up** to receive emails and monthly eNewsletters
- **Follow us** on Social Media (Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook, and Handshake)
- **Volunteer** such as mentoring a student, speaking to a class, helping admissions, or apply to our Alumni Board
- **Attend** one of our monthly events to network with fellow AMCATS
- **Encourage** students to apply and visit
- **Give Today!** Help our students “Achieve Something Greater!” and strengthen our communities

Once again, thank you from the bottom of my heart for your generosity and support. Your contributions make a significant difference, and I am truly grateful for your faith in Anna Maria College.

Ryan Murphy
VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADVANCEMENT



MAKE A GIFT ONLINE.

YOUR GIFT—COMBINED WITH THE
GENEROSITY OF OTHERS— HAS A
POWERFUL IMPACT ON THE COLLEGE.



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Thank you

On behalf of the Anna Maria Community, we want to express our gratitude to those Board Members who have ended their terms. They shared their time, treasure, and talents with our community in order to pave the way for our future success.

We also want to thank John Spillane, Esq., for his tenure as former Chair of the Board of Trustees.



“The world needs Anna Maria. This is a place that provides opportunities for students to be prepared for all that life has to offer and for them to make a real impact in their communities and society as a whole. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, thank you for all that you do for Anna Maria—our students, faculty, and staff—and thank you for all that you will continue to do to ensure that Anna Maria thrives.”

David P. Trainor, Esq.
CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FY23 ANNUAL REPORT OF GIVING

*Thank you to
all who support
Anna Maria
College.*

KEY TO DONOR GIVING

- * Trustees During Fiscal Year '23
- ★ Faculty/Staff
- + Deceased
- Bold** Lifetime Level (20+ years of giving)

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Call us at (508) 849-3341 to learn more or give today!

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Transferring stock to Anna Maria is, for many, the preferred way to make a gift. It's easy, and your gift is fully tax-deductible at the current market value of the stock. Contact us by email at giving@annamaria.edu or call (508) 849-3341.

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A planned gift offers potential financial and tax benefits. There are many ways to include Anna Maria College in your estate plans. Contact us with questions regarding a traditional bequest, IRA charitable rollover, life insurance beneficiary designation, real estate, or securities transfer.

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Hundreds of companies nationwide participate in the matching gift program. Your company, or your partner's, may be one of them. The idea is simple. For every dollar you give to Anna Maria College, your company may give an additional dollar or more; in some cases, even two or three. To find out whether your gift to Anna Maria College can be matched, contact your company's benefits or personnel office.

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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, 2022 to June 30, 2023 are included in this report. From time to time we make errors in spelling or donor listing. Should you recognize any such mistake, please advise the Office of Institutional Advancement.

“Since 2022, I started working with the United States Forest Service where I work as a firefighter on an engine company based in Las Vegas. I love my job. I can’t thank Anna Maria enough.”

BROCK ESKILDSEN '23 FROM MURRIETA, CA



WHAT OUR STUDENTS ARE SAYING!

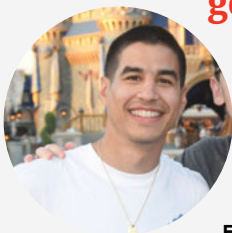


“My favorite memory is giving back to the community through my work with the Academic Center Transition (ACT) Program in Worcester where I mentored students struggling with behavioral issues.”

ELIJAH ALLSTON '23 FROM CHESHIRE, CT

“I am really passionate about my two majors. Right now, I am focusing on finishing my thesis, looking forward to my MBA, and from there

getting a job. I am excited for the real world.”



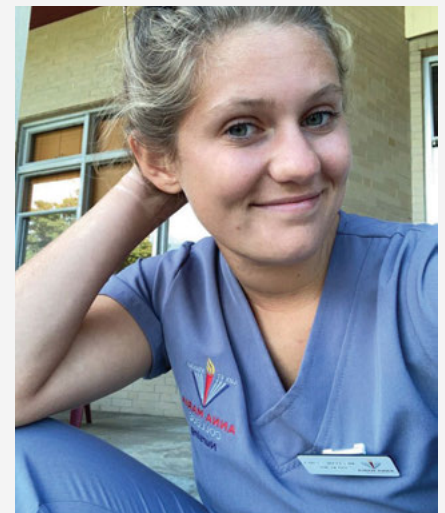
MAGIN GOMEZ '22 FROM PARAGUAY

“One of my life goals was to be an adjunct professor and I’m ecstatic to say that I now teach at Anna Maria.”

TARA M. RIVERA G'16 FROM FITCHBURG, MA

“Anna Maria has a strong reputation among law enforcement officers who complete the program.”

CAPTAIN JAMES PELOQUIN '22 OF THE WESTFORD, MA POLICE DEPARTMENT



“Anna Maria allowed me to be able to continue my love for athletics and pursue my education in nursing. It also had a very small community which resembled the one I grew up in.”

MEGHAN SONIA '23, NURSING GRADUATE

What Does Anna Maria Mean to You?

The answer might lie in the moments you had in the classroom of a favorite professor. Or the friendships that have enriched your life for 10, 20, 30, or more years. Or the thrill of personal achievement in the field.

You can honor your meaningful moments with a gift that lives through time. Planned gifts take many forms, but each one lets you prioritize Anna Maria in advance—providing scholarships for students of talent and promise, sustaining a faculty of for whom teaching is a calling, and creating facilities and spaces that celebrate the accomplishment and community for which Anna Maria is known.

Planned giving pays it forward but can also benefit you in the here and now. Gifts through your estate, gifts that pay you income, and other types of planned gifts support Anna Maria while delivering financial and tax benefits to you and your family.

What lives in your memory? Let that moment of personal significance guide your gift. Explore ideas. Be creative. Find inspiration in the gifts of other donors, and contact us for more information when you're ready. We look forward to helping you write the next chapter of your Anna Maria story.



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JOIN THE ANNA MARIA 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 those who want to provide opportunities for future generations by including Anna Maria in their will or by establishing a planned gift. These long-term arrangements are crucial to the growth and development of the College.

Your visionary planning provides a legacy of leadership for Anna Maria's future. Thank you.

Questions?

email: alumni@annamaria.edu call: 508.849.3341

Why I include Anna Maria in my Estate Planning.

“There is a certain peace of mind that comes with an estate gift. It is comforting to know that when I ‘go gentle into that good night,’ I will also, through my gift, say a final thank you to an institution that paved the way for a happy and productive life.”

– Suzanne Chapdelaine Kelly '59

“I wanted to endow a scholarship at Anna Maria for a student in financial need, but the amount of money needed today was beyond my reach. What I’ve done instead is leave the College a portion of my estate to endow a scholarship in the future that will last forever.”

– Elizabeth “Tad” Chickering '74



Make a (Big) difference.

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April 20th, 2023, was our Anna Maria College **Day of Giving.**

We raised \$41,000
beating our total from
last year in just one
day. Alumni, Students,
Parents, Faculty/Staff,
and Friends of the
college stepped up to
make a difference
by donating to our
Annual Fund.

Mark your calendars!

Giving Back is one of the
values of Anna Maria College.
It certainly showed, and we
are looking forward to
“Feeling the Love for AMC”
by celebrating with a 2024
Day of Giving on Valentine’s
Day, February 14, 2024!

1 day

276
donors

\$41,000
raised for Annual Fund

