



29 Who Shine

Honoring 29 stellar graduates of our 29 public college and university campuses



Thursday, May 12, 2011
Massachusetts State House
mass.edu/29whoshine

The Ceremony

Welcome **Charles F. Desmond, Chairman**
Massachusetts Board of Higher Education

29 Who Shine Procession

Music *"America the Beautiful"*
Barbara Pierre and Anthony Pires, Jr., Students
Framingham State University

Opening Remarks **Richard M. Freeland, Commissioner**
Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

Paul Reville, Secretary of Education
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The Honorable Therese Murray, President
Massachusetts State Senate

The Honorable Robert A. DeLeo, Speaker
Massachusetts House of Representatives

29 Who Shine Awards *Community College Awards presented by*
Paul Raverta, President
Berkshire Community College

State University Awards presented by
Timothy J. Flanagan, President
Framingham State University

University of Massachusetts Awards presented by
Jack M. Wilson, President
University of Massachusetts

Closing Remarks **The Honorable Deval L. Patrick, Governor**
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Light Reception to follow

Meet the...



From Massachusetts' 15 community colleges...



Amanda Garceau
Berkshire Community College

Amanda Garceau graduates from Berkshire Community College (BCC) with a 3.97 GPA in health/fitness. A cancer survivor and mother of three children all under age 10, Amanda serves as president of the BCC Student Government Association and also in her local Parent-Teacher Organization. She has

volunteered as a peer tutor and with the local "Relay for Life" cancer initiative. Amanda will attend Smith College next fall. Her ultimate career goal is to address the obesity crisis through local work on health and wellness issues.



Chris Wilbur
Bristol Community College

Chris Wilbur graduates from Bristol Community College (BCC) with a 3.97 GPA. He has served as the student representative to the College Board of Trustees. He was editor-in-chief of *The BCC Observer* and was chair of the Massachusetts Student Advisory Council. He also served as a legislative intern to Representative

Stephen Canessa. As an AmeriCorps leader Chris organized and implemented a "Going Green" sustainability initiative. He is a recipient of the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarship and has been accepted to Brown University.



Elsa John
Bunker Hill Community College

Moving to Boston from her native St. Lucia, Elsa John's experiences as a student leader at Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC) reshaped her plans for the future. She has served as Student Government secretary and in a variety of other campus leadership roles. Elsa also volunteers for Horizons for

Homeless Children. At BHCC she founded and co-led the campus Sustainability Club, dedicated to promoting the responsible use of resources. Elsa will attend UMass Amherst in the fall and hopes to one day practice environmental law.



Morgan Opie
Cape Cod Community College

Morgan Opie graduates from Cape Cod Community College (CCCC) at age 17 with a 4.0 GPA. She is a beneficiary of state- and college-funded dual enrollment programs, which allow Bay State high school students to earn high school and college credits simultaneously through the completion of college

courses. She has been editor-in-chief of the CCCC student newspaper, a peer tutor in math and physics, and a founding member and president of the Math (STEM) Club. Morgan is currently taking part in an aerospace program for young scholars at NASA. She has been accepted into the Commonwealth Honors College at UMass Amherst.



Jacob Powers
Greenfield Community College

Jacob Powers graduated from Greenfield Community College (GCC) earlier this year and won a Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarship to Amherst College, where he enrolled this spring. At GCC he served as student representative to the Board of Trustees, consistently made the

dean's list, was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa, worked in the peer tutoring center, and poured his heart into creating a campus community for students in recovery from drug and alcohol addiction. He acted as a liaison between GCC and The Recover Project in Greenfield, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping change the lives of those affected by addiction. He is pursuing a bachelor's degree in English.



Ruben Sepulveda
Holyoke Community College

Thirty-six-year-old Ruben Sepulveda, a formerly homeless high school dropout, entered Holyoke Community College (HCC) through its Adult Learning Center and pursued his studies with a passion while simultaneously working a full-time overnight shift at a local motel. He has been a tireless advocate for

adult education, speaking on this topic at conferences and events across the region. He completed his coursework at HCC and has already begun coursework at Amherst College, where he will pursue a degree in psychology. "I had an opportunity to change my life with HCC, to write a new story for myself," Ruben says. "I want to help others do the same."



Thomas Nguyen Harting
Massasoit Community College

Tom Nguyen Harting is a naturalized U.S. citizen and president of the Massasoit Community College (MCC) chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. As a child in Vietnam, he lost a leg to polio. At Massasoit he has been active in student government and local civic activities such as the Walk for

Hunger and Heat and the Brockton Holiday Parade. Tom is a business owner who runs a painting company with several employees. He managed his business while attending Massasoit full time. He will attend UMass Boston and pursue a bachelor's degree in computer science or business.



Ani Keshishyan
MassBay Community College

Ani Keshishyan is an aspiring Massachusetts business leader who has taken a strong leadership role at MassBay Community College (MBCC) as director of the Marketing, Public Relations and Communications Club. She has enhanced the current and future mission of the club, building

career networking opportunities for students while also developing a new business and marketing plan for a signature MBCC program, The Career Closet. Ani's faculty and staff admirers at MBCC cite her motivated spirit and strong work ethic, noting that she began working as a seamstress at age 10 upon her immigration to the United States from Armenia. Ani plans to attend Bentley University in the fall.



Tara Kirby
Middlesex Community College

Tara Kirby graduates from Middlesex Community College (MCC) with a 3.89 GPA and a certificate in graphic design. She managed to excel in her coursework, win a fellowship to take part in MCC's Paul H. Sullivan Leadership Institute, and participate in campus activities, all while working 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. full

time and caring for two seriously ill family members. "I kept coming back to Middlesex because it helped me stay focused," Tara says. "It's really the professors and the co-curricular experiences that have seen me through hard times."



Christina E. Lajoie
Mount Wachusett Community College

Christina Lajoie is a talented early childhood educator and honors student who has consistently made the dean's list and president's list at Mount Wachusett (MWCC) while participating in a long list of civic projects and raising a six-year-old as a single parent. A dedicated

community volunteer, Christina has raised funds and taken part in activities for Habitat for Humanity, Alternative Spring Break, Reading Across America, National Week of the Young Child, Support Our Troops, the Heifer Project, and YouthBuild. She is also a regular volunteer at her son's school. Christina will continue her education at Fitchburg State University.



Shannon J. Sheltra

Northern Essex Community College

Shannon Sheltra, the single parent of three children, will graduate from Northern Essex Community College's (NECC) respiratory care program with a 3.94 GPA. Her interest in respiratory therapy is based on her own struggle with chronic asthma. In addition to balancing academic work and family responsibilities, Shannon

found time to play a leadership role on campus, founding the NECC Respiratory Care Club and serving on the college's recent presidential search committee. She also volunteers as a therapeutic riding instructor for physically challenged children and received a grant to develop a health education program for students at Greater Lawrence Vocational School. Shannon has been accepted into Tufts University's pre-med program. Her ultimate goal is to become a pediatric pulmonologist.



Karima Erriahi

North Shore Community College

Karima Erriahi immigrated to the United States from Morocco two and a half years ago knowing little English. When she graduates from North Shore Community College (NSCC) this spring, this 28-year-old honors student and mother will be fluent in three languages: Arabic, French and English. It was at North

Shore that Karima discovered a love of chemistry and nanotechnology. She hopes to continue her studies at a four-year institution and pursue a career in chemical engineering.



Jeanne Dee

Quinsigamond Community College

Nursing student Jeanne Dee is president of Quinsigamond Community College's (QCC) chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society. As captain of the College's Jimmy Fund Rally Against Cancer team she has helped raise \$11,182 for the cause. Her fundraising success

helped QCC earn visits from Red Sox pitchers Clay Buchholz and Jon Lester. The winner of several academic scholarships and civic citations, Jeanne is also the single mother of a teenager and caretaker of an elderly parent. Along with a full academic schedule and family responsibilities, Jeanne works an overnight shift at the Fallon Clinic.



Maxwell Opara

Roxbury Community College

Maxwell Opara is an honors student at Roxbury Community College (RCC) and a member of the RCC Student Government Association. An active community service volunteer, he is deeply involved with Leaders of Tomorrow/Boston, a nationwide organization sponsored by the National Black MBA Association. As

part of his work as a student mentor with Leaders of Tomorrow, Maxwell reviews student applications from Boston Public School students and performs various forms of follow-up with them. He plans to go on to a four-year college and then medical school, hoping to specialize in sports medicine.



Angelina Della Cavallini

Springfield Technical Community College

Angelina Della Cavallini is president of Springfield Technical Community College's (STCC) Student Government Association and an aspiring actress with a broad range of talents and interests. She has led her fellow students in raising funds for YouthBuild, collected holiday gifts

for needy children, and taken part in rallies to press for more funding for public higher education. At the Springfield Science Museum she is the Family Science Adventures Coordinator, researching and planning science activities for children. Angelina's passion is theatre; she created an Improv Club on campus and in the drama society is at work on her third production. Her drama professor calls Angelina "a force of nature... STCC is a better college for having her here."

Did You Know?

Massachusetts' public colleges
and universities enroll over

**290,000 students
annually**

in degree and certificate programs.

They awarded more than

**35,000 degrees
and certificates**

in the 2009–10 academic year.

They provide employment to nearly

**35,000
professionals**

in administrative, faculty
and staff positions.

Research has shown that over

85 percent

of graduates of Massachusetts'
public colleges and universities
remain in the state after
graduation, comprising the core
of the Massachusetts workforce.



From Massachusetts' nine state universities and specialty colleges...



Melissa Brulotte

Bridgewater State University

Melissa Brulotte is a chemistry major whose cancer research was presented at an international chemists' conference in Germany this past March. She has won multiple research grants and scholarships in recognition of the importance of her work, which is focused on the mutation of cancer cells. Melissa is president of the

Biochemistry Club at Bridgewater State University (BSU) and student chapter president of the American Chemical Society. Additionally, Melissa mentors BSU freshmen through STREAMS (Student Retention Enhancement Across Mathematics and Sciences). Upon graduation she plans to obtain a Ph.D. in biochemistry.



Eric Gregoire

Fitchburg State University

Eric Gregoire served as president of the Fitchburg State University (FSU) Student Government Association and also served as the elected student representative to the university's Board of Trustees. He has been active in campus efforts to promote student safety and combat sexual assault and dating violence. He served as the

state university student representative to the Student Healthcare Program Steering Committee, where he played a major role in expanding health insurance coverage for Massachusetts students. Last summer Eric interned at Akerman Senterfitt LLP in Washington D.C., where he worked on public higher education policy issues. He plans to continue policy studies at the graduate level.



Danielle Leigh Farmer

Framingham State University

Danielle Leigh Farmer is an honors student active in both student government and peer tutoring at Framingham State University (FSU). Her campus tutoring experience led her to apply for the Teach for America program where, after three rounds of interviews, she was accepted.

Danielle will join the Eastern North

Carolina Corps this summer and teach two years of high school math before returning home to Massachusetts. "Framingham State introduced me to some of the most inspiring programs and people," says Farmer. "That's why I am so passionate about Teach for America and why I had the confidence to apply."



Roseanne Strott

Massachusetts College of Art and Design

Roseanne Strott is an artist and community activist who has played multiple leadership roles within the MassArt community. In addition to serving in student government, she has also helped further the goals of the Gay Straight Artist Union on campus and helped to plan community art events in Mission Hill. Rosie was instrumental in MassArt's collaboration with youth and veterans' organizations to present a collaborative art exhibit highlighting the similarities between combat and urban violence. She plans to continue living and working as an artist in Boston.



Anita Esperanza Parker

Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts

Anita Esperanza Parker is a biology major at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA). She founded a campus club called "Bio Buddies." This peer mentoring program guides students enrolled in the biology program to ensure their academic success, while also providing opportunities for them to take part in community service. Under Anita's leadership, "Bio Buddies" students have participated in fundraising and promoted awareness of autism. Anita also served as vice president of the "Colleges against Cancer" chapter at MCLA, which hosted the "Relay for Life of Berkshire County All College" event last year. Anita's leadership was cited for the campus receiving an award from the American Cancer Society. This Peruvian native has volunteered abroad with ProWorld and hopes to pursue a nursing degree.



Michael G. Doren

Massachusetts Maritime Academy

Michael G. Doren is Mass Maritime's class valedictorian. He has worked tirelessly both inside and outside of the classroom, serving as 5th Company Commander with responsibility for 170 cadets while also volunteering with the Raytheon Company's "Math Moves U" program to tutor middle

school students in math and science. Mike has represented Mass Maritime at the International Association of Maritime Universities Conference in Busan, South Korea. His nominators at MMA also note that he turned down an opportunity to study through Shanghai Maritime University's exchange program in order to remain in Massachusetts, work part-time and help his family pay bills. He has been offered and accepted a job with Raytheon and hopes to eventually pursue an MBA or law degree.



Mark Wheeler
Salem State University

Twenty-eight-year-old Mark Wheeler is a former Marine who graduates this spring from Salem State University (SSU) with a degree in biology. His studies have focused on lipid biochemistry and biomedical adaptations of striped bass. After spending last summer at a marine laboratory in Maine, Mark presented

his research findings on the acclimation of striped bass to warm and cold temperatures at the annual meeting of the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology in Salt Lake City. Mark has been accepted into the Ph.D. neuroscience program at Purdue University.



Kristina Marie Norris
Westfield State University

Kristina Marie Norris “blossomed academically, socially and personally” at Westfield State University (WSU), according to her WSU nominators, having struggled academically in high school following a late diagnosis of dyslexia. At Westfield State Kristina made the dean’s list every semester and gained admission to the Com-

monwealth Honors program. As a College Ambassador she worked with Birthday Wishes, Inc., a non-profit group that provides birthday parties for children living in homeless shelters. A criminal justice major with a minor in political science, Kristina discovered a passion for victim advocacy at WSU. Her honors thesis examines the obstacles and limitations of the Clery Act and its impact on WSU students. She is already introducing policy issues for campus consideration based on her research and study. She hopes to study law and work on policy reform in the area of women’s rights and victim advocacy.

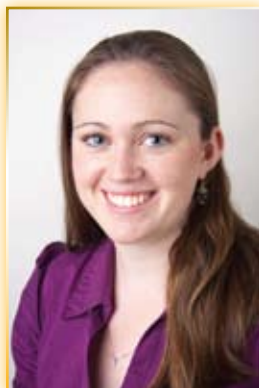


Maureen Carroll
Worcester State University

Maureen Carroll of Worcester is a dual major in geography and urban studies at Worcester State University (WSU), where she has demonstrated academic excellence, effective campus leadership and service to the greater Worcester community. She is a dean’s list scholar and the recipient of several awards for academic excel-

lence. She also serves as president of the Gamma Theta Upsilon Geography Honor Society. Maureen volunteers at the Empower Biodiesel Cooperative where she helps identify restaurants willing to contribute waste vegetable oil (WVO) to be refined into biodiesel. She also serves as an intern at Neighborworks, an organization working to help families caught in the foreclosure crisis, an issue that has affected Maureen personally.

And from the five campuses of the University of Massachusetts...



Christina L. Roth
University of Massachusetts Amherst

Christina Roth is a Commonwealth Honors College student at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She is a psychology major and founder of the College Diabetes Network, “a 501(c)(3) national tax-exempt organization which connects college students who

live with Juvenile Diabetes, creating a support network which will enable students to fulfill their potential.” She will be one of 12 students to be honored as 21st Century Leaders at the UMass Amherst commencement. Christina has presented her psychology research at conferences in the Netherlands and at UMass. She will begin work as a research assistant at Joslin Diabetes Center in Boston upon graduation. Her eventual goal is to pursue a doctorate in clinical psychology.



Engy Mui

University of Massachusetts Boston

Engy Mui, a former Navy medic who was once stationed aboard the USS Constitution in Charlestown, graduates with a 3.91 GPA from the University of Massachusetts Boston. A biology major, Mui is currently conducting cognitive neurobiology research at Children's Hospital in Boston and will present her findings

this month as part of the Honors program in biology. She has been active in veterans' affairs on campus and volunteered in the Emergency Radiology Department at Newton-Wellesley Hospital. Engy is applying to medical school. She is an active member of the Egyptian Network of Boston.

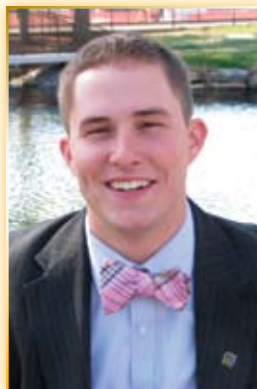


Jarrad Plante

University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

Officials at UMass Dartmouth describe Jarrad Plante as "the best Massachusetts has to offer." As a graduate student in policy studies with a concentration in environmental policy, Jarrad has had a sizeable impact on his local Fall River community. He developed and

implemented food pantries at two middle schools while engaging university service organizations to collect food to stock the pantry shelves. He organized assistance from a local cable access station to help him produce a series of videos to educate middle school students about healthy eating and exercise. Working with Healthy City Fall River, he helped plan, create and sustain community gardens at three middle schools to improve the overall health of the city. "I love being around people who want to make a difference in their community," says Jarrad. "UMass Dartmouth has provided me with the opportunity, knowledge and skills to make good things happen."



Michael R. Mizzoni

University of Massachusetts Lowell

Political science major Michael Mizzoni served the UMass Lowell Student Government Association for four consecutive years as an elected senator, Academic Affairs chair, and two terms at the organization's president. He was also elected as a student representative and voting member of the Massachusetts

Board of Higher Education, representing over 250,000 college students statewide. Michael is a two-time recipient of the *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges* award and the 2010 Student Leader of the Year award. As a member of the International Relations Club, he has represented UMass Lowell as a conference delegate in London and Istanbul. Michael will continue his education at the New England School of Law.



Tara Chute

University of Massachusetts Medical School

Upon graduation from Wheaton College, Tara Chute was chosen for a prestigious Albert Schweitzer Fellowship awarded to those who show potential as "leaders in service." While a student at UMass Medical School, Tara used the fellowship to develop an exercise project with

the Family Health Center in Worcester, whose mission is to improve the health and well-being of traditionally underserved and culturally diverse city residents. Tara worked to increase patients' utilization of exercise programs at the YMCA to improve three specific areas of health concern: diabetes, obesity and depression. Additionally, Tara has worked on a UMass Medical School initiative to foster international medical outreach. She is also a leader of the St. Anne's Free Health Care Clinic offering free care to the underinsured. She will serve her residency in obstetrics and gynecology at the UMass Memorial Medical Center.

Thank You

Thank you to the following newspapers and publishers who have shown their support for Massachusetts Public Higher Education by donating advertising space this week to salute the “29 Who Shine.”

The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield
Andrew Mick, Publisher

The Boston Globe
Christopher Mayer, Publisher

The Boston Herald
Patrick J. Purcell, Publisher

The Cape Cod Times
Peter Meyer, Publisher

The Daily Hampshire Gazette, Pioneer Valley
Jim Foudy, Publisher

The Daily Item, Lynn
Peter H. Gamage, Publisher

The Daily News, Newburyport
Sheila Smith, Publisher

The Daily Times Chronicle, Woburn
Peter Haggerty, Publisher

The Eagle-Tribune, Lawrence
Al Getler, Publisher

The Falmouth Enterprise
William Hough, Publisher and Editor

The Gardner News
Alberta Saffell Bell, Publisher

Gatehouse Media New England
Richard Daniels, Publisher and
Chief Executive Officer

Gatehouse Media includes:

- The Dedham Transcript***
- The Enterprise, Brockton***
- The Herald News, Fall River***
- The MetroWest Daily News***
- The Milford Daily News***
- The Patriot Ledger, Quincy***
- The Taunton Gazette***

The Gloucester Daily Times
Al Getler, Publisher

The Lowell Sun
Mark O’Neil, President and Publisher

The North Adams Transcript
Bob Chapman, Publisher

The Recorder, Greenfield
Dennis Skoglund, Publisher

The Republican, Springfield
George Arwady, Publisher and
Chief Executive Officer

***“I am a big believer in investing
in public higher education
in Massachusetts. These students
are our future, and their obvious
talent will translate into a
brighter future for us all.”***
—George Arwady
Publisher, *The Republican*

The Salem News
Karen Andreas, Publisher

The Sentinel & Enterprise, Fitchburg
Tom Kirk, Publisher and
Advertising Director

The Standard-Times, New Bedford
Peter Meyer, Publisher

The Sun Chronicle, Attleboro
Oreste D’Arconte, Publisher

The Telegram & Gazette, Worcester
Bruce Gaultney, Publisher

The Berkshire Eagle congratulates the...

29 Who Shine

Join us in applauding the "29 Who Shine," a group of outstanding public college and university graduates who will be honored at the State House today for their academic achievements, leadership potential and contributions to the civic life and prosperity of the Commonwealth.

Whether furthering their education or entering high-demand careers here in the state, these stellar students truly embody the vibrant future we all envision for Massachusetts.



A Massachusetts Public Higher Education partnership



The Boston Globe congratulates the...

Join us in applauding the "29 Who Shine," a group of outstanding public college and university graduates who will be honored at the State House this week for their academic achievements, leadership potential and contributions to the civic life and prosperity of the Commonwealth.

29 Who Shine

Whether furthering their education or entering high-demand careers here in the state, these stellar students truly embody the vibrant future we all envision for Massachusetts.



The Boston Globe congratulates the...

29 Who Shine

Join us in applauding the "29 Who Shine," a group of outstanding public college and university graduates being honored at the State House this week for their academic achievements, leadership potential and contributions to the civic life and prosperity of the Commonwealth.

Whether furthering their education or entering high-demand careers here in the state, these stellar students truly embody the vibrant future we all envision for Massachusetts.



A Massachusetts Public Higher Education partnership



Learn more about these students' accomplishments at mass.edu/29whoshine



A Massachusetts Public Higher Education partnership



MASSACHUSETTS
Department of
Higher Education



COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Berkshire Community College
Paul Raverta, President

Bristol Community College
John J. Sbrega, President

Bunker Hill Community College
Mary Fifield, President

Cape Cod Community College
Kathleen Schatzberg, President

Greenfield Community College
Robert L. Pura, President

Holyoke Community College
William F. Messner, President

MassBay Community College
Carole Berotte Joseph, President

Massasoit Community College
Charles Wall, President

Middlesex Community College
Carole A. Cowan, President

Mount Wachusett Community College
Daniel M. Asquino, President

North Shore Community College
Wayne M. Burton, President

Northern Essex Community College
David Hartleb, President

Quinsigamond Community College
Gail Carberry, President

Roxbury Community College
Terrence Gomes, President

Springfield Technical Community College
Ira Rubenzahl, President

STATE UNIVERSITIES

Bridgewater State University
Dana Mohler-Faria, President

Fitchburg State University
Robert Antonucci, President

Framingham State University
Timothy J. Flanagan, President

Massachusetts College of Art and Design
Katherine H. Sloan, President

Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
Mary Grant, President

Massachusetts Maritime Academy
Richard Gurnon, President

Salem State University
Patricia Maguire Meserve, President

Westfield State University
Evan Dobelle, President

Worcester State University
Janelle Ashley, President

UMASS CAMPUSES

University of Massachusetts Amherst
Robert C. Holub, Chancellor

University of Massachusetts Boston
J. Keith Motley, Chancellor

University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
Jean MacCormack, Chancellor

University of Massachusetts Lowell
Martin T. Meehan, Chancellor

University of Massachusetts Medical School
Michael F. Collins, Chancellor

www.mass.edu/29whoshine