



29 Who Shine

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



Thursday, May 2, 2013
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"*
The Allegrettos
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts

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

Matthew Malone, Secretary of Education
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The Honorable Deval L. Patrick, Governor
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

29 Who Shine Awards *University of Massachusetts Awards presented by*
Marty Meehan, Chancellor
University of Massachusetts Lowell
With a special appearance by the UMass Lowell
River Hawks, 2013 Hockey East Champions

State University Awards presented by
Evan Dobbelle, President
Westfield State University

Community College Awards presented by
William F. Messner, President
Holyoke Community College

Celebratory Luncheon to follow, generously sponsored by the Massachusetts Teachers Association

Each 29 Who Shine honoree, their faculty/staff mentor, and their four additional campus or personal guests
are invited into the Great Hall for a seated reception during which the 29 Who Shine will honor their mentors.
Musical entertainment provided by the Woody Vainqueur Duo from Roxbury Community College.

Other guests *are invited to enjoy lunch in the ceremony space.*

Event Photos

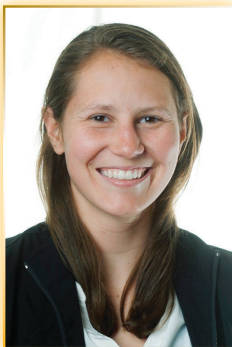
Professional photographs from today's event *will be available on Monday, May 6, at:*

www.mass.edu/29whoshine

Meet the...



From the five campuses of the University of Massachusetts...



Caroline Conena
UMass Amherst

Caroline graduates from UMass Amherst with a 4.0 GPA and a double major in public health and business management. This honors student and track-and-field athlete has shown a dedication to her campus and surrounding community ever since arriving on campus. As a UMass Peer Mentor, Caroline provided crucial academic support to incoming freshmen. As an Honors College

Peer Ambassador, she met with Massachusetts high school students to acquaint them with the College's programs and opportunities.

For two years, Caroline has interned at CommunicateHealth, a health communication and literacy firm in Northampton, MA. She was part of a team that created the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's new universal disaster communications tool for people with limited English skills. Caroline will take a job with CommunicateHealth upon graduation.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Caroline chose to recognize **Paula Stamps, Ph.D.**, Professor and Graduate Program Director, Department of Public Health, Health Policy and Management. "I knew public health was the right path for me after taking Professor Stamp's class, 'Health Care for All.' She not only influenced my early exploration in public health but, the other week, signed off on my honors thesis. This had been a yearlong effort during which she supported my research and encouraged my passion for health communication."



Alyssa L. Trinidad
UMass Boston

Alyssa is a management major (accounting concentration) who will graduate from UMass Boston with a 3.9 GPA.

A recipient of the Chancellor's Scholarship, Alyssa has been on the Honors Program Director's List and Dean's List every semester and is a member of both the Golden Key International Honor Society and Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society. She mentors

new students at the Beacon Beginnings Orientation and serves as a College of Management Peer Leader; as an officer for the business fraternity, Delta Sigma Pi; and as a College of Management Ambassador.

Alyssa has also volunteered for numerous non-profit organizations including the Make-A-Wish Foundation, where she uses her accounting skills to help manage donations and fiscal records. Alyssa will spend a third summer interning at the accounting firm Deloitte & Touche and then enter Boston College, with the aid of a Dean's Scholarship, to continue her accounting studies.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Alyssa chose to recognize **Joyce Morrissey**, Honors Program Coordinator. "As my Honors advisor for four years, Joyce has always been my number-one academic and personal supporter. When I have felt overwhelmed, she has exercised her genuine care to appease the pressures. I cannot express how lucky I have been to have been mentored by her throughout my undergraduate career."



Lauren E. Underwood
UMass Dartmouth

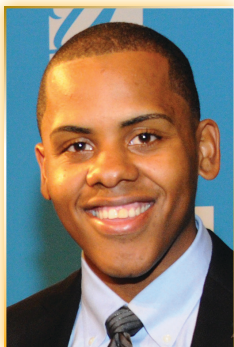
Lauren is a civil engineering major and an active member of the UMass Dartmouth community. She is the Lead Ambassador in the Admissions Office, becoming one of the first faces prospective students and families see. She also coordinates the efforts of other student ambassadors.

Within the Engineering College, Lauren is the student representative on the Civil Engineering Committee and the Undergraduate

Engineering Student Council. She is also Secretary of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Chairperson of the NE Regional Concrete Canoe Competition, and a member of Engineers Without Borders.

Lauren is a member of the UMass Dartmouth Wind Ensemble, trip leader in the Outdoor Club and a volunteer at the Worker's Education Program in New Bedford. Upon graduation she will work as a civil engineer at North Star Industries in Methuen.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Lauren chose to recognize **Kelley Mahoney**, Assistant Director of Admissions. "I have worked with Kelley for almost four years. She has brought me stability and has always been there for me both professionally and personally."



Vladimir L. Saldana

UMass Lowell

Vladimir moved to Lowell from the Dominican Republic at age 10. Learning English quickly, he discovered a passion for business in high school that propelled him to become the first person in his family to pursue a college education.

Vladimir earned an associate's degree in business administration at Middlesex Community College and then enrolled at

UMass Lowell where he distinguished himself as a resident adviser, academic success chair of the campus organization Men Achieving Leadership, Excellence and Success (M.A.L.E.S.) and as a member of the Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Society.

Vladimir has interned with the Merrimack Valley Sandbox, an initiative that fosters regional entrepreneurship and leadership, and studied international business at the University of Barcelona. He has worked at the Northern Massachusetts Telephone Workers Community Credit Union for four years. He will continue his education in the field of business or law, with the goal of a career combining his love of business and community service.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Vladimir chose to recognize **David Jones**, Director of Multicultural Affairs. "David Jones has been a role model for me. He has inspired me with his passion for leadership and academic achievement, which has pushed me to work hard. He is also someone I can count on when I need advice or guidance. I also admire his commitment to academia, as he is pursuing his doctorate in education."



Meredith Walsh

UMass Medical School

With a bachelor's degree from Smith College, a master's in public health from Tulane University, and a Peace Corps stint in the Philippines already under her belt, Meredith Walsh, MPH, RN, spent four years in Thailand on the Burma border, working in and out of refugee camps where she conducted health assessments for the American Refugee Committee and implemented reproductive and child health projects with the Mae Tao Clinic and the Burma Medical Association.

Realizing that clinical skills would enable her to do more for displaced, traumatized refugees, she enrolled in UMass Medical School's Graduate School of Nursing, entering through the Graduate Entry Pathway program to complete her Master of Science in Nursing. Meredith cofounded the Worcester Refugee Assistance Project (WRAP) to support the city's growing community of refugees from Burma. Her volunteer activities have been supported by multiple awards, including a prestigious Schweitzer Fellowship for individuals who show potential as "leaders in service."

After graduation, Walsh will begin employment as a Family Nurse Practitioner at the Edward M. Kennedy Community Health Center in Worcester.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Meredith chose to recognize **Suzanne Cashman**, Sc.D., Professor, Family Medicine and Community Health. "Dr. Cashman has provided a constant flow of support and guidance for me over the past four years. Along with Dr. Heather-Lyn Haley, she has been pivotal in formalizing the work that I have been doing with the refugee community from Burma in Worcester."

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



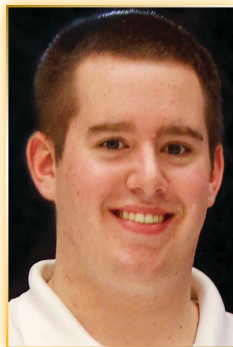
Kayla L. Harvey

Bridgewater State University

Kayla is a political science major and a student in the BSU Honors Program. She has participated in two alternative break trips focusing on the issues of poverty and homelessness, participated in student government, served as the student representative on the BSU Foundation, and worked as a student employee for the Campus Center.

Kayla has received multiple grants to help fund her research projects on immigration and community service. She has also interned for the Washington Center at the Republican National Convention and at Andre House of Arizona, a hospitality center for the homeless in Phoenix. After graduation, Kayla plans to pursue her master's degree in higher education and student affairs.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Kayla chose to recognize **Beth Goad**, Assistant Director of the Rondileau Campus Center. "During my time at BSU, Beth helped to connect me to so many great opportunities and inspired me to pursue a career in higher education. I consider her to not only be a great mentor, but also a truly great friend."



Matthew William Costello

Fitchburg State University

Matthew's academic accomplishments have brought national recognition to Fitchburg State University, while his spirit of civic engagement has helped strengthen the bonds between the university and the city in which it resides.

A five-time Dean's List honoree, Matthew took his written and rhetorical skills to the nationwide stage in the American

Collegiate Moot Court Association national tournament. He competed with distinction against much larger institutions, winning brief-writing awards in his final two years of competition.

On campus, Matthew was elected president of his freshman class, served as student representative to the University's board of trustees for two years, and was elected president of the Student Government Association. Matthew will earn a Bachelor of Science in Political Science and Interdisciplinary Studies with a concentration in pre-law.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Matthew chose to recognize **Paul Weizer**, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs. "Since I enrolled at Fitchburg State, Dr. Weizer has been someone I've admired and looked up to greatly, as a teacher, mentor, and friend. His guidance, expertise and willingness to help me succeed both in and out of the classroom have truly impacted my experience as a student for the better."



Corey Ciullo

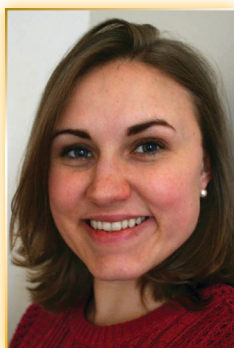
Framingham State University

Corey is a biochemistry major with a GPA of 3.96. He has financially supported himself during his four years at Framingham State by working long hours as a pharmacy technician and as a chemistry and physics tutor in the Center for Academic Support and Advising. He has conducted research at the Abbott Bioresearch Center in Worcester on projects related to multiple sclerosis,

Crohn's disease, and rheumatoid arthritis, and with his FSU faculty mentor to determine whether polyphenolic compounds can decrease the amount of glucose in the blood for people with type 2 diabetes.

Corey has volunteered at the Rhode Island Hospital Dietetics Department and at Ginny's Food Pantry in Leominster, MA. He will enter the Ph.D. program in biochemistry at Clark University.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Corey chose to recognize **Steven J. Cok, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry and Food Science. "My original major was nutrition, and Dr. Cok brought to light that I have a future in chemistry," Corey says. "He inspired me to change my major to biochemistry and helped me find an internship at the Abbott Bioresearch Center. He's also taught me how to be self-reliant in my research."



Emma Corrine Cantrell

Massachusetts College of Art and Design

Emma has put her passion for community engagement into practice through work with MassArt's Center for Art and Community Partnerships (CACP). This art education major has been a Community Leadership Team member, coordinating design projects, installing artworks with CACP's Community Exhibitions Initiative, and

participating in CACP's Community-Based Leadership Trainings.

Emma has spearheaded collaboration between CACP, Gallery Education, and the Senior Center at ABCD Parker Hill Fenway, a community-based organization. She helped create curriculum and implement programming to reach a low-income audience with limited access to the arts.

As a Gallery Education Intern in the Bakalar and Paine galleries, Emma has skillfully assisted in developing curriculum and facilitating gallery experiences for Boston students in grades 4–12. She plans to apply for a position as an AmeriCorps volunteer.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Emma chose to recognize **India Clark**, Curator of Education, Curatorial Programs. "Committed to quality gallery education, India has been an inspiration to me in her exceptionally thoughtful and creative implementation of school and family programs. She deeply believes in the value of sharing art experiences with the public and works diligently to provide those experiences for our community."



Doris Behanzin

Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts

Doris has been a compassionate, effective mentor for youth in the communities near the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA) campus. As an AmeriCorps "Student Leaders in Service" Scholar, Doris served at both the Youth Alive Program and the Rite of Passage Program in Pittsfield, MA, providing support, mentoring and leadership development for young women.

Doris also worked at Mohawk Forest in North Adams, a low-income housing community where she provided development activities for youth. She also inspired local youth to stay in school and attend college through her work with the MCLA Pathways Program.

Most recently, Doris was awarded the Lift Ev'ry Voice Scholarship, allowing her to travel with Semester at Sea, a global study abroad program. She plans to volunteer with AmeriCorps before graduate school, and hopes to one day work in humanitarian law.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Doris chose to recognize **Spencer Moser**, Coordinator, Center for Service and Citizenship. "Spencer has been very influential in helping me to develop strong leadership skills starting with the L.E.A.D. Academy program as a first-year student."



Lauren Anne DeNapoli

Massachusetts Maritime Academy

Lauren is a marine transportation major who has been named to the Academic Dean's List for three consecutive years. As Captain of MMA's Women's Crew Team she was named to the Athletic Director's Honor Roll for four years. Lauren was also the 2009 recipient of the prestigious Commandant's Award for superior performance and exceptional contributions toward the

Regiment of Cadets. As a junior, Lauren was awarded the position of Squad Leader, responsible for the supervision of approximately 50 freshmen cadets. As a senior, she was named the Regiment's Training and Retention Cadet Officer, responsible for regulating the academic status and overall morale of the Regiment's 1200 students.

Lauren is also a dedicated volunteer, having worked with the Department of Children and Families, Homes for Troops and Wounded Warrior Project. Her immediate career goal is to sail as a mate on her United States Coast Guard Third Mate license and to keep upgrading her licenses in the coming years. She eventually hopes to earn a business degree to work within the shipping industry.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Lauren chose to recognize **Captain Elizabeth B. Stevenson**, Vice President of Enrollment Management. "Upon arriving to MMA, I worked in Admissions as a Cadet Admissions Representative. As an alumna and VP at the Academy, Captain Stevenson has been my mentor from both a personal and professional perspective. I look up to Captain Stevenson for her unique people skills, competence, dedication and professionalism."



Anthony Pira Salem State University

Anthony is a 43-year-old career-changer who found his way to social work after 11 years as a professional photographer. His interest in helping others and in social justice led him to found "Invisible Faces" as a way to draw attention to, and work to end, youth homelessness in Massachusetts.

Anthony has used his photography skills to mount a massive outdoor exhibit of

homeless young people in Harvard Square, in the process engendering dialogue and bringing the issue to the attention of legislators, the public and grant-writing institutions. A social work major, Anthony hopes to secure a development position within a non-profit organization.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Anthony chose to recognize **Robert McAndrews**, Ph.D., Professor, Social Work. *"Professor McAndrews inspires everyone to achieve greatness and made a lifetime impression on my work. Giving back to Massachusetts is a central focus to his curricula. My Invisible Faces project was born in his community practice class. Documenting youth homelessness in Mass. through portraits is raising awareness, and funding, for changing stereotypes across the nation!"*



Jaime A. Jaquez Westfield State University

Jaime graduated from Westfield State last December at the age of 20. It took him just two years to earn his bachelor's degree in criminal justice with a GPA of 3.97. He did so while working 40 hours a week, volunteering as a Springfield Police cadet and supporting a family. He was a recipient of the President's Award of Excellence for his efforts.

Jaime worked as a math tutor in the Urban Education Program. He was a member of the Westfield State University Honors Program, Criminal Justice Club, and treasurer of the Latino Association for Empowerment (LAFE). Jaime will pursue a graduate degree in criminal justice at Westfield State in the fall.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Jaime chose to recognize **Joan E. Fuller**, Director, Urban Education Program. *"Joan Fuller is the equivalent of a second mother to me. She didn't only help me excel academically. She helped me grow as a man and a citizen. She taught me the power of giving back to society without expecting anything in return. The gift of humble and selfless service is knowing that I contributed to a better world. I could not have succeeded this far without her."*



Amber Nicole Connors Worcester State University

As one of Worcester State's most active and passionate student leaders, Amber served as a Senior Peer Advisor in the Academic Success Center and held multiple positions in the Student Affairs Office including Resident Assistant, Student Activities programming Assistant, and Orientation Co-Director. She also worked tirelessly each year on WSU's Student Government

Association Auction for the Homeless, which raises over \$25,000 for Worcester-area non-profit agencies.

Amber managed campus activities while maintaining a 3.869 GPA and making Dean's List all four years. She is a member of the Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Society and appears in *Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities*.

Amber will pursue a master's degree in psychology. She hopes to earn a Ph.D. and become a college dean of student affairs.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Amber chose to recognize **Laura A. Murphy**, Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Counseling. *"When I first met Laurie as a freshman I thought she was simply amazing at what she did. Laurie has helped me so much to realize what I love to do. She has helped me to learn about myself and to grow into the person I am today."*

And from Massachusetts' 15 community colleges...



Raymond Dunham Berkshire Community College

Ray came to Berkshire Community College after suffering a serious spinal injury at his job. Unable to work, he found himself at a crossroads. A father of six, he was encouraged by two of his daughters to go back to school. After hearing inspiring stories from other adult students at BCC, Ray enrolled and quickly became a role model for his own children and other students.

He has served as a Student Government Ambassador and as the elected student representative to the Board of Trustees for two years. Ray is a criminal justice major with a 3.7 GPA. This honors student was recently named one of 50 Gold Scholars for the 2013 Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team. He will continue his studies at UMass Amherst and eventually earn his law degree.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Raymond chose to recognize **Deborah Carderella**, Administrative Secretary, Humanities Division. *"Deborah is always honest and supportive. From my first semester on campus she made sure I stayed grounded and kept focused on my long-term plans."*



Mariano Gomes

Bristol Community College

Mariano speaks seven languages and is a student of the world, pursuing dreams that began in a small school in Guinea Bissau amid grinding poverty and war. He was forced to immigrate to Cape Verde where he started an organization to ensure human rights of his fellow exiles. Arriving in Fall River, Mariano purchased a business franchise to support himself while attending

Bristol Community College. He excelled in chemistry and served as a Supplemental Instructor assisting fellow students. Mariano is a Bristol Student Senator and a Student Ambassador and has been named a Commonwealth Honors Scholar. He is a proud resident of Fall River and a St. Anne's Hospital community volunteer. Mariano has won a prestigious Jack Cooke Kent Scholarship to continue his education at a four-year college.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Mariano chose to recognize **Cynthia Hahn, Ph.D., Adjunct Instructor, Chemistry.** *"Dr. Hahn was my first chemistry professor at Bristol Community College. Professor Hahn makes complicated materials fun and easy to learn, and through her class, I developed my passion for chemistry. She is my hero. I want to follow in her academic footsteps and pursue a bachelor's degree in chemistry."*



Valter Gomes

Bunker Hill Community College

Valter arrived at Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC) with a strong interest in sustainability and a passion for entrepreneurship. This business major and honors student became Co-President of the BHCC Sustainability Club and spearheaded a campaign called "Rethink the Way You Drink," which resulted in the installation of a water hydration system at the College's

Charlestown Campus. The initiative was presented at two Boston area environmental conferences.

The first in his family to graduate from college, Valter now helps others as a BHCC student mentor. He also returns to East Boston High School each year to speak with students about how to avoid gang life and overcome educational barriers.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Valter chose to recognize **Michael Dubson, Associate Professor, English.** *"Michael Dubson is a friend who has always inspired me to dig deeper within myself, think outside the box, and use my education to express what I think is right for myself and others."*



Charlotte Levesque Jones

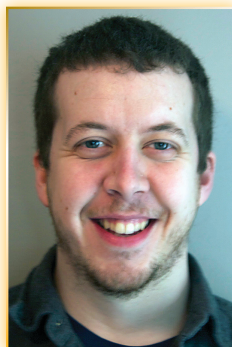
Cape Cod Community College

In 2012 Charlotte earned an Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts with honors as a Commonwealth Honors Scholar. Just one year later she has earned her Associate in Science in Nursing, also with honors. At Cape Cod Community College, Charlotte served as a Presidential Student Ambassador helping incoming students transition to college life. A first-generation

college student and alumna of CCCC's Advantage/TRIO Program, she has also worked as a Peer Tutor assisting TRIO students in writing, social science, and nursing courses.

Charlotte's professional goals include earning her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and pursuing a career as a public health nurse practitioner and nurse educator. She credits her children with motivating her: "I would like to show them that anything is possible."

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Charlotte chose to recognize **Kathleen Mary Cunningham, Administrative Assistant, Advantage/TRIO/SSSS Program.** *"Kathy has been a wealth of knowledge and source of encouragement. With kind words and a friendly smile, she has been an integral part of both my campus life and my academic career, lending strength to the incredible support I have had the honor to receive."*



Andrew M. Curran

Greenfield Community College

Andrew discovered the power of film to advance the cause of social justice at age 13 when he worked at a video store in his hometown of Concord. At Greenfield Community College, he was able to pursue this interest in both academic and community settings. Andrew played a lead role in a sociology class based on the international Inside-Out program, which brings college

students into prisons to study alongside incarcerated students. As President of the Peace, Justice and Environmental Action Alliance, Andrew helped facilitate a themed film and discussion series on environmental issues. He was also a leader and founder of the GCC Film Society.

Andrew's experience with film, courses, and community engagement has led to a strong interest in public policy. He graduated from GCC in December and is finishing his first semester at Amherst College.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Andrew chose to recognize **Trevor Kearns, Assistant Professor of English.** *"Trevor encouraged my interest in film and gave me the opportunity to explore film in a formal, academic way. I took an independent study with Trevor on the construction of American masculinity in war films and literature, and we started the GCC Film Society together."*



Nicole Ouimette

Holyoke Community College

Nicole is a talented community organizer who founded HCC's SAAVE club (Students for Affordable, Accessible and Valuable Education). She organized two campus speak-outs on student loan debt.

As President of the executive board of PHENOM (the Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts), Nicole helped organize the March 5th Student Advocacy

Day, which drew hundreds of students to the State House to lobby for affordable, high-quality public higher education. Nicole was a featured speaker during the morning rally with Governor Deval Patrick.

Nicole's anthropological research on student engagement was selected for publication in *Student Anthropologist*, an online, peer-reviewed journal. A peer mentor and guest lecturer in her former classes, this liberal arts major will attend Westfield State University to pursue gender and ethnic studies.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Nicole chose to recognize **Vanessa Martinez**, Assistant Professor, Anthropology. "Vanessa really engages students in the learning process and is always committed to helping them succeed. She is an outstanding teacher and has a great personality. She's funny and makes class very interesting. She's been my teacher, academic advisor, career planner, counselor, mentor, and a very good friend."



Jochebed E. Miller

Massasoit Community College

As a non-traditional criminal justice student, Jochebed worked hard to make the Dean's List each semester. Active on campus, this honors student participated in the Massasoit Criminal Justice Conference and served as editor and photographer for the *Student Voice* campus newspaper. Her record of leadership and community service includes being Phi Theta Kappa

Vice President (Canton campus), student senator, presidential student ambassador, and coordinator of the Walk for Heat and Hunger event which gave food, clothing, and monetary donations to Canton families in need.

Jochebed will continue her education; she hopes to earn a Ph.D. and return to Massasoit as a professor in the Public Service Social Science department. She also wants to participate in efforts to reform the Massachusetts juvenile justice system.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Jochebed chose to recognize **Aviva Rich-Shea, Ph.D.**, Professor, Criminal Justice, Public Service/Social Science. "Dr. Rich-Shea inspired me from the very first semester I attended Massasoit Community College by instilling in me the values of higher education and learning. Her teaching style challenged me to excel in my assignments and always put forward my best. Dr. Rich-Shea was instrumental in honing my appreciation for social sciences and public service and fostering a learning environment that supports discovery of knowledge and academic success."



Victoria Lynn Woodard

MassBay Community College

Vicki has served on some of the College's most important committees, including the MassBay Foundation Board and the 2012 Presidential Search Committee. She was an elected member of the Student Government Association and an active member of the Domestic Violence Coalition and the Human Services Club. Vicki was named to the Silver Key Honor Society in recognition

of her service to MassBay. She won the college's Student Leadership Award in 2012.

Off campus, Vicki has served as a volunteer board member for numerous organizations including the Women's Alliance, Haymarket People's Fund, and the Boston Foundation. At the State House she has advocated for welfare reform and eradicating homelessness.

Vicki intends to pursue bachelor's and master's degrees in human services at Framingham State University. Her ultimate goal is to open a recovery house for women in Framingham.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Vicki chose to recognize **Lucretia D. Rhodes**, Learning Specialist, Academic Achievement Center. "Lucretia Rhodes is a Reading and Writing Lab staff member who has encouraged me, strengthened me and guided me through some difficult papers as well as difficult times in my life. She is one of the many 'lights' that shine inside of MassBay. And I will be ever grateful."



Gabrielle R. Davis

Middlesex Community College

In addition to achieving her own academic successes, this humanities major, honors student and mother of three has taken time to help others excel, devoting time to help her fellow students to improve their writing capabilities. Gabrielle's record of civic engagement at the college is exemplary; she is MCC's student trustee and has participated in the Women's Leadership Network,

Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society, and Student Government. She will enter UMass Lowell's Peace and Conflict Studies program in the fall.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Gabrielle chose to recognize **Joseph Nardoni**, Professor of English & Humanities. "Professor Nardoni is an encouraging mentor that I rely on for advice and navigation when analyzing my coursework and goals. His support has enhanced my education, providing me with challenging opportunities to grow, learn more about myself, understand my goals and learn the value behind the art of communication."



Christine L. Eck

Mount Wachusett Community College

With three children, volunteer commitments, a full academic course load and a spring internship working with special needs students, Christine is recognized as a champion of Mount Wachusett Community College and public higher education.

Two years ago she enrolled at The Mount despite initial apprehensions about attending college as a non-traditional student. She

is the first woman in her family to attend college. With her encouragement, her oldest son is attending MWCC, and another son will enroll next fall.

Christine serves as Student Trustee on MWCC's Board of Trustees and as a representative on the statewide Student Advisory Council. This honors student has lobbied Congress and Massachusetts legislators for better funding of public higher education. Christine plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in psychology and a career as an applied behavior analyst and continue volunteering in the human services field.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Christine chose to recognize **Janice M. Gearan**, Professor of Human Services/Psychology. "Professor Gearan is an excellent, amazing, inspiring professor and mentor. She has helped me reach academic goals that I never thought I could achieve. There is a permanent impression of knowledge, understanding and kindness within me that has always been there under the surface, only now it is stronger because of her guidance. She honestly cares for her students."



Nicholas Anthony Lovasco

North Shore Community College

Liberal studies major Nicholas Lovasco has excelled in a demanding Honors Program at North Shore Community College with a near-perfect grade point average. He is a strong writer whose poetry and essays have appeared in the college's literary magazine, *Spark*.

Nick was elected President of NSCC's Student Government Association (SGA) and

Student Trustee on the college's Board of Trustees. He was awarded the Senator Frederick E. Berry Scholarship, which he parlayed into a summer internship with Senate Majority Leader Berry. His work earned him a second internship in Governor Patrick's Office of Community Affairs.

Nick has been chosen as North Shore's Student Commencement Speaker. Following graduation, he will pursue a bachelor's degree in biology at Salem State University.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Nick chose to recognize **Lawrence Harvard Davis, Ph.D.**, Professor and Chair, Department of History, Government & Economics. "Professor Davis has been my advisor, and a mentor, since I began college. His skill as an educator goes far beyond his intellect. The way he organizes his course, runs the classroom, and sparks discussions is absolutely inspiring. Taking two courses with him was worth the price of my entire education."



Mark Patrick Hargreaves

Northern Essex Community College

When Mark was laid off from his job at a forklift company, he decided it was time to pursue his dream of obtaining a college education. Entering Northern Essex Community College 15 years after graduating from high school, he excelled in his studies while also serving as a supplemental instructor, tutor, and study session leader for students enrolled in computer science courses.

Mark plans to transfer to a four-year college or university to pursue a bachelor's degree in computer science part time while working full time as an information technology or networking administrator. His first child is due in October. A budding entrepreneur, Mark hopes to develop a networking business and holds patents for computer inventions that he would like to market.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Mark chose to recognize **Russell Gouveia**, Professor, Computer Science. "Professor Gouveia illuminated a path and provided me a direction to build upon my current skill set so that I may succeed in Information Technologies. His knowledge and teaching style engages a class. I will carry the lessons he has passed on to me for the rest of my days."



Charles Whitfield Bleakney IV

Quinsigamond Community College

Chad is an engineering major at Quinsigamond Community College. As Vice President of Scholarship in the Alpha Zeta Theta Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, he has held regular workshops for Honor Society members to teach them about scholarship opportunities.

Chad also chaired the extremely successful

Honors in Action project, called *One Small Step, One Giant Leap: Completion and Science, Math and Technology*. Chad led this event to promote STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) education in which dozens of elementary school girls decorated, packed and launched their own rockets.

An active member of QCC's Engineering Club, Chad is headed to Worcester Polytechnic Institute as an aspiring automotive engineer.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Chad chose to recognize **Dadbeh Bigonahy**, Coordinator of Engineering, Biomedical Engineering and Sciences. "Dadbeh's unwavering belief in attention to detail is inspiring. He expects his students to work hard, and be the best; so by example we learn to hold ourselves to the same standard. His presence and insight are precious, and I am a better person and student for having known him."



Share-Leigh Arneaud-Bernard

Roxbury Community College

Share-Leigh, a scientist and poet, graduates with a 3.98 GPA from Roxbury Community College. This Trinidadian native has served as President of the Science Club, President of the Garden Club, Secretary of the Pizza and Politics Club, Student Representative of the Student Government Association, and a member of the Honors Club.

A biological science major, Share-Leigh won first place in the 2013 Ruth and William Silen, M.D. Awards for her scientific poster presentation entitled *Reclassification of Hodgkin's Lymphoma to Increase Treatment Efficacy*. Share-Leigh also works as a student intern at the Massachusetts Biologics Laboratory in Mattapan.

Share-Leigh plans to earn a bachelor's degree and then enroll in medical school. She wants to earn both a medical degree and a Ph.D. in Bio-Medical Research.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Share-Leigh chose to recognize **Alfred Gaskin**, Adjunct Professor of Biology, STEM/Liberal Arts. "Dr. Gaskin is one of the most student-oriented professors at Roxbury Community College. He always says, 'Think outside of the box.' He has shaped and developed many young men and women at RCC into critical and analytical thinkers—myself included."



Edilena Florentino

Springfield Technical Community College

At 23, Edilena left her native Brazil to complete an English language course in Florida. Moving to Massachusetts, she enrolled at Springfield Technical Community College (STCC), first in the ESL program and then in the Business Administration program with a concentration in Marketing. A successful entrepreneur, Edilena opened LS Cleaning

Service, a residential and commercial cleaning service with 10 full-time employees and three part-time employees. She will soon hire 10 additional employees.

While at STCC, Edilena founded a non-profit organization called "Brasileirinhos" to offer free classes, legal assistance, and counseling to Portuguese-speaking families. She plans to earn a bachelor's degree at Western New England University and continue on for an MBA. She is the recipient of a regional Grinspoon Spirit Award for entrepreneurship.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Edilena chose to recognize **Gail Olmsted**, Professor/Tri-Chair, Business Administration. "Not only has Professor Olmsted guided my academic career, she was instrumental in helping me realize my dream of owning my own business. She's helped me reach my full potential as a student and businesswoman. I can't find the words to thank her for all of her guidance and help."

Thank You



for sponsoring the Celebratory Luncheon
following the ceremony.

**The MTA wishes to applaud the hard work
of the faculty/staff mentors who have
touched the lives of the 29 Who Shine:**

Deborah Carderella, Berkshire Community College

Cynthia Hahn, Bristol Community College

Michael Dubson, Bunker Hill Community College

Kathleen Mary Cunningham, Cape Cod Community College

Trevor Kearns, Greenfield Community College

Vanessa Martinez, Holyoke Community College

Aviva Rich-Shea, Massasoit Community College

Lucretia D. Rhodes, MassBay Community College

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Janice M. Gearan, Mt. Wachusett Community College

Lawrence Harvard Davis, North Shore Community College

Russell Gouveia, Northern Essex Community College

Dadbeh Bigonahy, Quinsigamond Community College

Alfred Gaskin, Roxbury Community College

Gail Olmsted, Springfield Technical Community College

Beth Goad, Bridgewater State University

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India Clark, Massachusetts College of Art and Design

Spencer Moser, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts

Elizabeth B. Stevenson, Massachusetts Maritime Academy

Robert McAndrews, Salem State University

Joan E. Fuller, Westfield State University

Laura A. Murphy, Worcester State University

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David Jones, UMass Lowell

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