



ANNA MARIA COLLEGE

PARENT & FAMILY NEWSLETTER / APRIL 2025



Email: families@annamaria.edu | Call: 508.849.3388 | Visit: annamaria.edu/families

We are excited to share the 2024-25 year with you and your students! Our family newsletter has information about upcoming events, important dates, and topics of interest for college families. We hope that you enjoy this issue - please reach out if you have any questions or comments.

PRESIDENTIAL ANNOUNCEMENT



President Mary Lou Retelle announced last summer that this academic year (2024-25) will be her last as president. Her impending retirement marks the conclusion of a decade marked by transformation, resilience, and unwavering dedication to the College's mission.

President Retelle acknowledges the steadfast support of the Board



The Board of Trustees of Anna Maria College recently announced the appointment of Dr. Sean J. Ryan as the institution's 12th president, effective July 1, 2025. The Board's vote was unanimous. Dr. Ryan will succeed President Mary Lou Retelle, who has led the College since 2015.

A New England native, Dr. Ryan joins Anna Maria College from

of Trustees, faculty, and staff in navigating unprecedented hurdles such as the pandemic, economic shifts, demographic changes, and skepticism about the future of private colleges.

A poignant highlight of President Retelle's reflection is her deep appreciation for Anna Maria's students, whom she describes as the "heart and soul" of her leadership. "Every decision I made was guided by their educational dreams and aspirations," she affirms, emphasizing the profound impact of their journey at Anna Maria.

Rooted in the values instilled by the Sisters of Saint Anne, who founded Anna Maria College in 1946, President Retelle underscores the enduring relevance of these principles in today's educational landscape. "These values are more relevant now than ever," she notes, emphasizing their integration into every aspect of teaching and student support beyond the classroom.



Bellarmino University in Louisville, Kentucky where he currently serves as Senior Vice President, directing for Administration, Strategic Initiatives, and Trustee Affairs. Since joining Bellarmine in 2007, Dr. Ryan has held positions of increasing responsibility, including Vice President for Enrollment Management and Dean of the School of Continuing and Professional Studies.

"After a comprehensive national search, we are delighted to welcome Dr. Sean J. Ryan as the next president of Anna Maria College," said David P. Trainor, Chair of the Board of Trustees. "Dr. Ryan's impressive track record in leadership, commitment to Catholic higher education, and proven success in enrollment growth and financial management make him exceptionally qualified to lead Anna Maria College into its next chapter."

The Board approached this search with great care and dedication, confident that this decision will have a positive and lasting impact on Anna Maria College. Dr. Ryan's passion for our mission and ability to articulate our values while honoring the College's rich tradition founded by the Sisters of Saint Anne perfectly aligns with our vision for the future."

[Read more here!](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Supporting Your Student During Finals

Spring 2025 Final Exam Schedule

On Friday, April 11th, Student Affairs & Academics hosted a virtual parent and families program titled **"Supporting Your Student During Finals"**. During the event Academics shared the final exam schedule, reminded families of the resources offered from Student Academic Support Services (SASS) and provided tips on how families can best support their students during one of the more stressful times in the semester. Additionally, Counseling Services is also available to connect with any students who may benefit from additional support in the next few weeks. Student Affairs will



also be hosting a **Late Night Breakfast** to kick off the start of final exams on Wednesday, April 30th, from 8:30pm-10pm in the Dining Hall.

If you have any questions around how to best support your students through the end of the semester, please contact Vice President for Student Affairs **Jessica Eckstrom** (jeckstrom@annamaria.edu) or Dean of Student Success and Retention **Dr. Arlicia Miller** (amiller@annamaria.edu).

Finally, please be on the lookout for additional virtual family programs for Summer & Fall 2025 coming soon!

Relay for Life

Anna Maria will be hosting our 3rd annual Relay for Life event on **Saturday, April 26th, 2025 from 7 pm to Sunday, April 27th at 7 am.**

This event will take place on Caparso Field and we would appreciate your help!

Click the link below to donate to your child's team or create your team. Any amount helps and we appreciate the support!

Click here for details!

Parents & Family: How to help your student's Relay For Life

1

DONATE! Your student is working hard to make a difference in the lives of those affected by cancer. Support them with a donation to their personal fundraising page or by dedicating a luminaria.

2

Share the event with friends, family, co-workers, neighbors, and on your social media. Be sure to include the link to the event site!

3

Take it to work! Many employers support employee volunteering and fundraising by matching donations 1:1 or even 2:1! Others will also incentivize employees to volunteer their time with charitable organizations through voucher programs.



CHECK TO SEE IF YOUR EMPLOYER WILL MATCH YOUR GIFT



About the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life:

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life movement is the world's largest peer-to-peer fundraising event dedicated to saving lives from cancer.

For over 35 years, communities across the world have come together to honor and remember loved ones and take action for lifesaving change.

Funds raised through Relay For Life directly support breakthrough research, 24/7 support for cancer patients, access to lifesaving screenings, and much more.

Spring Week April 22-27

The Student Activities team has lined up a week's worth of fun for **Spring Week** - always a highlight of the Spring semester!

Encourage your student to check out the events happening on



campus before they head into finals!

Students attending the drive-in movie enjoyed a warm spring night at the tailgate field (photo below)!



Commencement Weekend 2025



Baccalaureate Mass/Hooding Ceremony:

Saturday, May 10th at 4:00 pm in Fuller Activities Center, Anna Maria College.

Student RSVP required for guests. Reception to follow in the Campus Center.

Commencement (Graduation Ceremony):

Monday, May 12th at 10 am in the DCU Center Arena, Worcester.

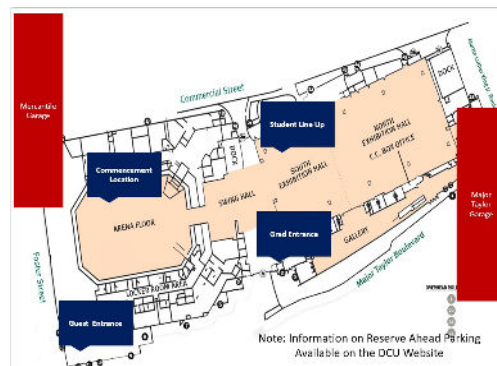
No tickets or limit required for guests; student RSVP required. Doors open for students at 8:30 am. **Graduates must arrive at the lineup area by 9:00 am!**

Graduating students have received this information and the RSVP form, due May 2.

Questions? **Email us here** or call 508-849-3388.

DCU Information for Guests

- Doors open for guests at 9 am
- Enter through main entrance to DCU Center Arena
- Recommended parking: Mercantile and Major Taylor Boulevard Garages
- Drop off area at guest entrance for guests with limited mobility
- Limited accessible seating available. Wheelchair and low-mobility seating is first-come, first-serve; visit the accessibility table inside the main lobby upon arrival.
- A concessions stand will be open and flower bouquets will be for sale in the lobby.
- The Anna Maria College Bookstore will have items available for order and purchase in the lobby as well.
- The following items are not allowed in the DCU: Helium balloons, large bags/backpacks, outside food/beverages.



[Click here for](#)

[Click here for more DCU Center details!](#)



Celebrate your achievement or your graduate's achievement and add your message to our Legacy Walkway! The Class of 2025 can add their brick for \$20.25!

Giving as a gift – we will provide a certificate to present to the graduate!

[Click here to purchase a brick!](#)

Honor Your Graduate with a Commemorative Brick

In August 2017, Anna Maria's iconic gazebo was moved to the center of campus. The students saw a need to make the new location easily accessible and were inspired to create a personalized brick pathway to the gazebo.

As their senior gift to the College, the Class of 2018 began efforts to sell bricks to students, alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and community members. We are currently working towards a new installation to the walkway in 2025.

RECENT EVENTS

Academic Symposium & Career Fair



The **Annual Academic Symposium** was held on April 9th. Anna Maria College students and faculty proudly displayed and discussed their recent scholarly work, including research projects, creative writing, artwork, and more. As Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Chioma Ugochuckwu, noted, the symposium "was well attended and gave our students another opportunity to engage in scholarly activities."



The **Spring Career Fair** was also held on April 9th, with more than 60 organizations – and a few mascots – represented. Director of Career Services, Gregory Walthers, organized this professional development opportunity. Students were able to speak with prospective employers and get a professional headshot taken as part of the program.

In addition, students were invited to attend

**Read the abstracts
online here!**

workshops prior to the Career Fair,
including **Financial Literacy Education**
and **How to Work a Career Fair**.

Rooted in Success

Throughout the spring semester, the Student Affairs team hosted **Rooted in Success**, a series of events on campus that helped students to learn about on-campus resources such as Student Academic Support Services and Campus Ministry, engage in meaningful dialogue with their peers around community building, and build key connections to boost their success here at AMC all while enjoying some great food from local Worcester eateries like Addie Lee's Soul Food, Queen's Cups, and more!



Photo: Fr. Stephen Lundrigan and first-year student Lukas Joseph enjoying some great conversation around the Anna Maria College mission and walking away with some AMC pride swag at the last installment of Rooted in Success.

Alternative Spring Break



Ephesians 2:10: "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Students and Campus Ministry worked an **Alternative Spring Break** at Bethlehem Farm in Appalachia.

Bethlehem Farm transforms lives through service with the local community and the teaching of sustainable practices.

Thanks to faculty and student volunteers, we were able to make a difference for this rural community in West Virginia. We served individuals that had little access to resources and we worked at the local farm!

Our students worked with Saint Scholastica College and helped to build a wheelchair ramp, placed flooring, built a garage, and cleaned up a burned down home.



Sarah Collins Rudolph

addressed students, faculty, staff, and outside guests on February 10th as a featured Black History Month Speaker.

She is the only survivor of the 16th Street Baptist Church Bombing of Sept 15, 1963, that killed four children, including Sarah's sister. Her deeply personal story generated immediate questions from students, faculty, staff and outside guests.

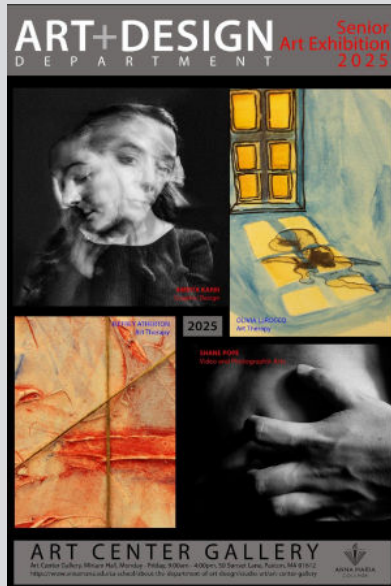
"By the grace of God I am here today, a walking miracle."

Sarah Collins Rudolph

(pictured seated above with students in attendance)

[Read more here!](#)

After speaking, Sarah, joined by her husband George, a Vietnam Vet, signed her book, "The 5th Little Girl." A copy is now available in the Anna Maria library. Chapter Two begins: "I had a relatively happy childhood in Alabama, until life forced me to grow up quickly one cruel September day."



Senior and Graduate Art Exhibitions

The Art Center Gallery in Miriam Hall showcased the Senior Art + Design Exhibition from March 26 - April 2.

The Graduate Integrated Media Arts Exhibition ran April 9 - 23.

Opening receptions, welcoming students, faculty, staff, and guests, were held for both exhibitions.

[Read more about the exhibitions here!](#)

RESIDENCE LIFE NOTES

- Undergraduate students must be moved out of the dorms by 5:00 pm on Wednesday, May 7, 2025.
- Graduating students must be moved out of the dorms by 5:00 pm on Monday, May 12, 2025.
- If any students need an extension on move out, please contact Heather Ventresco, Director of Residence Life: [Click here to email](#)



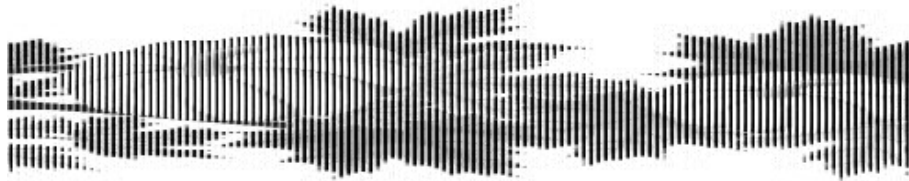
Don't want to drag everything home just to drag it back in the fall? Need a space to store your items? AMC has partnered with College Boxes to make move-out and move-in easy!

Step 1: [Sign up here!](#)

Step 2: Simply pack and label your boxes.

Step 3: College Boxes will pick up your boxes, store them for the summer, and return them to you in the fall!

PREPARING FOR FALL



The fall semester will be here before you know it! As your student enjoys some well-earned rest and relaxation over the summer, here are a few notes to keep in mind.

- Returning students will need to bring their student ID with them in the fall.
- The Fall 2025 academic calendar is available - see link at bottom of newsletter.
- Returning student move-in is August 24th - students will receive details by Amcats email.
- Fall athletes will receive their move-in date from Athletics staff.
- Classes begin August 25th!

Reminder: If your student refers a friend to Anna Maria and that friend enrolls, your student will receive \$500 toward tuition.

Did you know we have an **ATM** in the Campus Center?

Students may open a free account (and avoid the surcharge) by scanning the QR code at the ATM or visiting this link.



[Open an account here](#)

ATHLETICS NEWS



Senior women's basketball player **Marinique Reddin** was named to the GNAC All-Conference First Team as well as the **D3Hoops.com** All-Region Third Team after a historic season with the AMCATS.

[Read more here!](#)

Athletics Speaker Series

The Athletics Department, led by Executive Director of Athletics David McCauley, hosted a series of inspiring speakers throughout the spring semester.

The first speaker, NHL legend Kevin Stevens, is featured in the the link below. Students packed Zecco Auditorium to hear from the two-time Stanley Cup champion, who shared his powerful journey of overcoming addiction.

[Athletics Speaker Series - NHL Legend Kevin Stevens](#)

ANNA MARIA COLLEGE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

SPEAKER SERIES

ZECCO AUDITORIUM



KEVIN STEVENS
FEBRUARY 04 | 7:00-8:00PM

- 16 NHL SEASONS
- 2X STANLEY CUP CHAMPION
- 3X NHL ALL-STAR
- US OLYMPIAN
- 2024 US HALL OF FAME
- 2 YEAR CAPTAIN BOSTON COLLEGE
- NCAA ALL-AMERICAN

UPCOMING EVENTS
MARCH 04 | 7:00-8:00PM
TO BE DETERMINED


APRIL 03 | 7:00-8:00PM
JACK SMILEY



ANNA MARIA COLLEGE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

SPEAKER SERIES

ZECCO AUDITORIUM




VICTORIA NOLAN
MARCH 04 | 7:00-8:00PM

- 3X CANADIAN PARALYMPIAN
- 6X WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP MEMBER
- 4 MEDALS INCLUDING GOLD
- AUTHOR: BEYOND VICTORY: STORY OF MILANO POWER
- TELEVISION CO-HOST OF AMI THIS WEEK

SPEAKING EVENTS
FEB 04 | 7:00-8:00PM
KEVIN STEVENS

MAR 04 | 7:00-8:00PM
VICTORIA NOLAN

APR 01 | 7:00-8:00PM
JACK SMILEY



ANNA MARIA COLLEGE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

SPEAKER SERIES

ZECCO AUDITORIUM




JACK SMILEY
APRIL 01 | 7:00-8:00PM

- NCAA DIVISION III ATHLETE
- MEN'S ICE HOCKEY CAPTAIN
- CO-HOST ENDICOTT TEDX EVENT
- EXERCISE SCIENCE MAJOR
- STROKE SURVIVOR
- MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER

SPEAKING EVENTS
FEB 04 | 7:00-8:00PM
KEVIN STEVENS

MAR 04 | 7:00-8:00PM
VICTORIA NOLAN

APR 03 | 7:00-8:00PM
JACK SMILEY




Club Hockey to Nationals

The ROAD TO NATIONALS for Anna Maria Club Hockey - The 2024-25 season was nothing short of historic for Anna Maria Club Hockey. With an overall record of 17-1, the team posted its best season in program history. Adding to the accolades, The Club Hockey AMCATS captured their first-ever NEIHC (New England Independent Hockey Conference) championship.



Spring Sports Season

Baseball, Softball, and Lacrosse are in full swing! Click the link below to keep up to date with all our teams.

Read featured Athletics stories here!

BE IN-THE-KNOW WITH THE LINKS BELOW:

Office of Student Activities Instagram

Academic Calendar Spring 2025 & Fall 2025

Parent/Family Survey 2024-25

Campus Resource Directory

Athletic Schedule

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