



ANNA MARIA COLLEGE

PARENT & FAMILY NEWSLETTER / NOVEMBER 2024



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.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Annual Thanksgiving Dinner
November 20, 5:00 - 7:00 pm
Dining Hall

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony
December 3, 4:00 pm
Gazebo Green

President's Christmas Party
December 3, 5:00 - 7:00 pm
Campus Center

Details will be announced through social media and emailed to students.



RESIDENCE LIFE NOTES

Thanksgiving Break: Residence Halls will close on Tuesday, November 26, 2024 at 5 p.m. and will re-open on Sunday, December 1, 2024 at 10 a.m. Students can request to stay late or stay on-campus over the break for extenuating circumstances by completing the Break Housing Form, which was emailed out to all students. We ask that students please submit the form by Monday, November 18. During the Thanksgiving Break, there are no dining services on campus, but all residence halls have common area kitchens that all students can utilize. We also encourage students to fill out the Food Pantry Form if they need additional food during this time. All questions can be directed to reslife@annamaria.edu.

Winter Break: Residence Halls will close on Friday, December 13, 2024 at 5 p.m. and will re-open on Wednesday, January 13, 2024. Students can request to stay late or stay on-campus over the break for extenuating circumstances by completing the Break Housing Form, which will be emailed out to students. During the Winter Break, there are no dining services on campus. We ask that students take home any items that they would need over the break, but they can leave items in their room during the Winter Break. Students will return to the same housing assignment.

Thanksgiving & Winter Break Airport Shuttle Request



**Meet Heather Ventresco,
our new
Director of Residence Life
& Community Standards**

[Read more here!](#)

Heather brings extensive experience in campus life and a global perspective gained through her travels. She joins Anna Maria from Franklin Pierce University. She earned a bachelor's in international relations in Germany and a master's in international law from Italy. Her global studies gave her a deeper appreciation for the diverse perspectives of others.

Heather's predecessor, Drew Melendez, has taken on a new role as our Dean of Students!

Drew and Heather are working together to support students in the residence halls and beyond.

RECENT EVENTS

FALL FEST WEEKEND

Students, families, friends, and Alumni had a blast celebrating Fall Fest Weekend, held on September 27 & 28, 2024! In addition to an exciting football game and nostalgic

alumni events, fun student activities were offered throughout the weekend. Highlights included inflatable games, Henna tattoos, Cat Cab Trivia, petting zoo, and Family Bingo and more!



WELLNESS DAY



Students received a welcomed surprise on October 29th, as classes were cancelled for Wellness Day.

Relaxing activities were provided throughout the day, as well as opportunities to connect with support resources across campus. Anna Maria supports our students' well-being in many ways throughout the year, but this day provided us an opportunity to bring the importance of their mental and physical health into the spotlight.

Highlights from the day included a Late Night Breakfast Kickoff, mindful weaving and visiting with therapy dogs, fitness sessions and self-defense training, and PJs & Self-Care in Residence Halls.

Additional Wellness Day offerings included:

Interactive Singing Bowls, Progressive Muscle Relaxation, Cider & Donuts, Zen Gardens, Mind Mapping, Nature Walk, Coffee & Cookies in the Library, Intramural Night, and mental health screenings with Counseling Center staff.

CAREER FAIR



Director of Career Services, Gregory Walther, is thrilled to share that our career fair, held in the Information Commons on October 23, was a tremendous success, with over seventy employer partners in attendance! It is a privilege to have the opportunity to bring together an incredible group of employers and talented students, each bringing their own unique skills and organizational cultures, making for a tremendous day for our community!

A heartfelt thank you to all our partners for their unwavering support and commitment.



Photo left: Mac the Amcat, dressed to impress, took advantage of networking opportunities with employers like the WooSox!

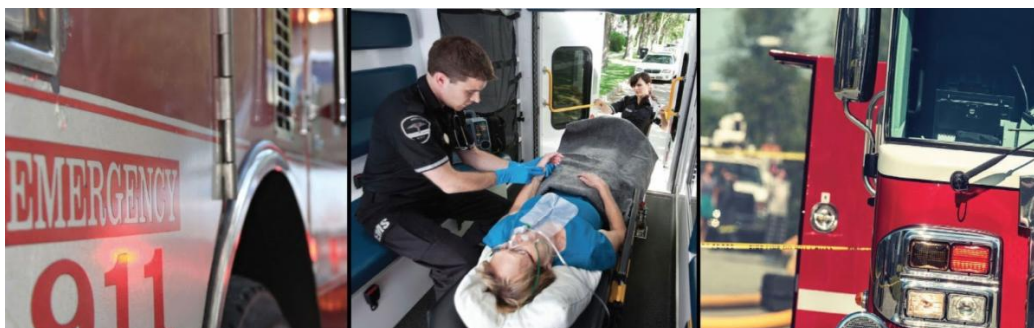
Photo above: The Information Commons was buzzing with Anna Maria students and employers throughout the day!

MORE CAREER NEWS

Training Future Paramedics: New Track and Space Expands Student Opportunities

In the wake of the pandemic, many industries are experiencing worker shortages and sadly the EMS field is no exception. To address the evolving landscape of first responder professions, Anna Maria College recently created a **dual track program** for Paramedics and Fire Science that gives students the competitive edge and comprehensive training that they need to succeed as emergency departments increasingly seek professionals with these combined skills.

In addition to the new academic track, Anna Maria introduced its **new Nursing and Paramedic space** in Miriam Hall. The 7,000 square foot renovated healthcare space includes a dedicated training area for students pursuing Paramedic Science degrees and EMT certifications.



New Grants Enable Program Expansion, Equipment and Trainings

Anna Maria was awarded \$1 Million DOJ Grant to Launch a School Safety and Mental Health Initiative.

This federal grant from the Department of Justice will help us implement the Supportive School Safety Intervention Project (SIP) in

Anna Maria received \$30,000 from Reliant Foundation to Support Mental Health Workforce Development.

The grant helps expand our Job Opportunities in Behavioral Services (JOBS) II Project, a program that builds a diverse

Central Massachusetts to help increase school safety by addressing mental health challenges and promoting supportive learning environments. The grant will support the work of Anna Maria's Mental Health Institute through training funds. Over three years, Anna Maria aims to train 1,500 individuals in mental health first aid, reaching schools in four districts initially and expanding outreach across Central Massachusetts.

pipeline of qualified professionals in mental and behavioral health fields. This funding will directly support initiatives to train and equip students for careers in high-demand areas of mental health, addiction counseling, and social work. Reliant's grant will provide financial support for internship stipends, harm reduction training, and educational resources, including Narcan training for students and staff.

Anna Maria College is the recipient of grants from three Worcester-based foundations: The George I. Alden Trust, The Fletcher Foundation, and the Stoddard Charitable Trust.

Totaling \$975,000, these funds will be used to support Anna Maria College's new **Nursing Simulation and Clinical Labs**. These local foundations have been generous long-time supporters. Similar to these recent donations toward our healthcare space, these partners were instrumental backers during the 2019 renovation of the campus center.

ATHLETICS NEWS



Athletics Begins Transition to New Conference

As fall sports conclude and winter sports begin, the season brings a change in conference for the AMCATS. Next season, AMCAT Athletics will move to the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC). Anna Maria is the first private college admitted to this conference. Men's and Women's Ice Hockey begin their MASCAC games with this winter season. The new conference features matchups with our state college peers which means excellent competition and far less travel for our student-athletes.

[MORE NEWS & TEAM UPDATES](#)

COMMENCEMENT 2025



Alumni Legacy Walkway

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!

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. **Click the link above to purchase a brick!**

CLASS OF 2025 NOTES

Hello, my name is Libby Anderson and I am the Class of 2025 President! Our Class Council has been holding several events and meetings to bring our class together during our final year at Anna Maria. Some things we have been working on this semester are showing support at Senior Day athletic games, hosting Oktoberfest in the AMCAT Alehouse, and looking ahead to planning Senior Week in the Spring. We also look forward to continuing fundraising efforts to build a strong sense of community and establishing a legacy of the Class of 2025.



IMPORTANT DATES

FASFA Reminder

- **FASFA opens December 1st** and will need to be renewed if your student is continuing in 2025-26. Please reach out to financialaid@annamaria.edu for more information or assistance.

Final Exams

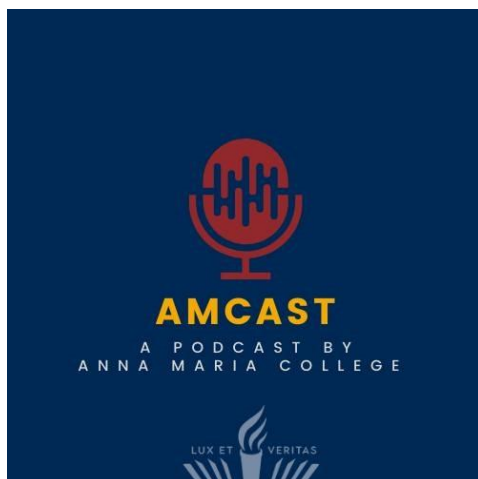
- **December 9-13!** For some helpful tips for families as your student navigates this stressful time, click on the link below.

STUDENT & STAFF PROFILES



“Living moment by moment at your highest potential”

is the mantra of Men’s Soccer Head Coach Joe Dincecco, and the team has taken these words to heart. In this episode, we hear from team captains Valter Santiago and Iweka Iweka about how teamwork and leadership lessons from the field and in the classroom have equipped them with the resilience necessary to tackle life’s challenges. Listen to the AMCAST on Spotify, Apple Podcasts or click the icon below:



BE IN-THE-KNOW WITH THE LINKS BELOW:

Office of Student Activities Instagram

Academic Calendar 2024-25

Parent/Family Survey 2024-25

Campus Resource Directory

Athletic Schedule

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