

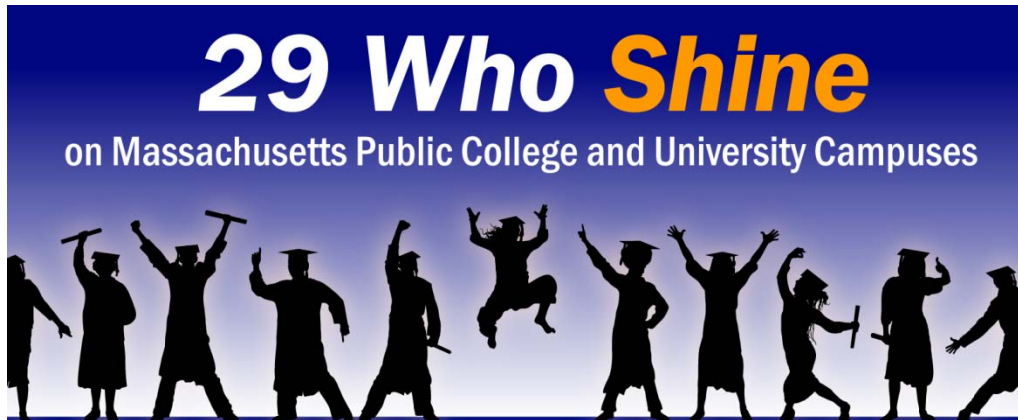


## Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

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Spring 2010

**Berkshire Community College:** *Jessica Russo*, 2010 nominee to All-USA Community College Academic Team, a program honoring the top 370 community college students worldwide. A Pittsfield resident, Russo will attend the UMass Amherst honors program in the fall.

**Bridgewater State College:** *Allison Galanis*, daughter of two BSC alumni, has been accepted to John Hopkins University's graduate program in Cellular and Molecular Medicine. Her father wrote to BSC President Dana Mohler-Faria that his daughter's acceptance to the highly competitive program reflects the fact that "BSC is not a good state school. It is a great institution."

**Bristol Community College:** *Michael Hull*, 39 year-old electrician and former high school drop-out from Fall River, graduates magna cum laude from BCC and will continue on to UMass Amherst after a summer internship at the White House Commission on Remembrance in Washington D.C.

**Bunker Hill Community College:** *Weverton Silva*, a Brazilian immigrant who taught himself English in order to pass his GED, graduates on the BHCC Dean's List and heads to Columbia University in the fall. While at BHCC, Silva served as student trustee and math tutor. He also led workshops for non-English speaking first-time homebuyers and served on a statewide task force to choose a new student health plan for state and community college students.

**Cape Cod Community College:** with both parents out of work, *John P. Stewart* of Hyannis, MA chose Cape Cod Community College primarily for its affordability, and then made the most of the opportunity. He earned an Associate of Arts degree in just three semesters, and graduates with a GPA of 3.76. He will continue his education at Cornell University where he plans to study Industrial and Labor Relations.

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**Fitchburg State College:** *Cassandra Jo Ferreira* of Fairhaven, MA commuted two hours each way from her home on the South Coast to her classes at Fitchburg State because closer state campuses didn't offer her major in human services. A single parent, she completed her education despite the demands of parenting and caring for a mother with cancer. She is the first in her immediate family to graduate from college.

**Framingham State College:** *Danielle Coderre* of Charlton, MA graduates with honors and a degree in consumer science. An internship with Reebok in her junior year led to a job offer; Coderre will move to southern California to begin a marketing career with the athletic shoe company.

**Greenfield Community College:** "What am I doing here with all the kids?" was the question 50-something EMT *Robin LaFerriere* asked herself when she started at GCC. Having deferred her dream of becoming a nurse since her 20's, LaFerriere is now pleased to be part of the graduating class of 2010 and says "the combination of age groups and cultures creates greater diversity in thinking and learning."

**Holyoke Community College:** Graduating senior *Mark T. Humphrey* has just won HCC's BUILD Research competition to encourage and support student research using legitimate library sources. Humphrey's project, "Wal-Mart: How It Hurts Us and Why We Love It Anyway" was cited for its exceptional creativity and extensive use of academic journals and research materials.

**Mass Bay Community College:** Eating disorders and drug addiction derailed *Danielle Smith's* college aspirations in her senior year of high school. Now in a program of recovery, Smith graduates from Mass Bay Community College with a GPA of 3.8+ and says "I love it now when friends call me a nerd" Smith aspires to attend Wellesley College and pursue a career in public service.

**Mass College Art & Design:** *Melanie Blood* is a gifted ceramic artist and aspiring teacher whose artwork was featured in a 2009 national showcase of the country's most outstanding undergraduate ceramicists. At MassArt she organized "Clay for Change", an organization that makes clay objects used in fundraisers for soup kitchens.

**Mass College of Liberal Arts:** *Nadyne Damas* chose MCLA over a private women's college in western Massachusetts, and then proceeded to make the most of her time on the Berkshire campus. She was the driving force behind the Celebration of Haitian Arts & Culture at MCLA and the winner of a 2010 Student Achievement Award. She will attend the Mass. College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Worcester.

**Mass Maritime Academy:** Graduating cum laude in Mass Maritime's Marine Safety and Environmental Protection major, *Kerry McCoy* was chosen as Adjutant for the Academy's Regiment of Cadets, responsible for daily duty assignments for all 1,100 members. McCoy is a recipient of the MMA President's Award and has a job as a project engineer awaiting her at TMC Services Corporation.

**Massasoit Community College:** *Suzanne Morris* is a Honors program graduate, Presidential Student Ambassador, treasurer of the MCC Student Senate and member of the Green Key Society, MCC's highest honor for scholarship and service. A Governor Foster Furcolo Scholarship winner, she will transfer to UMass Boston this fall and hopes to return to MCC someday as an English professor.

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**Middlesex Community College:** *Robert Searle* of Maynard, MA was among those recently honored at the State House as a member of the All-Massachusetts Academic Team. Searle is a business major in the MCC Honors Program, graduating with a 3.9 GPA. He was a founding member of the MCC Business & Economics Club, and played MCC hockey. He will transfer to UMass Lowell.

**Mount Wachusett Community College:** 18 year-old *Lauren Laperriere* of Gardener, MA simultaneously earns a high school diploma and an associate degree this spring. Through Gateway to College, a dual enrollment program for teens at risk of dropping out of school, Laperriere was able to get back on track toward earning a high school diploma while also accumulating college credits. She plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in communications.

**North Shore Community College:** *Eriko Houlette* of Wenham, MA has been accepted to Wellesley College on a full scholarship. Houlette, originally from Japan, was a full-time honors student and has two college-age daughters. At Wellesley she plans to study psychology.

**Northern Essex Community College:** *Younes Zariat* came to the United States from Morocco at 21, unable to speak English but determined to make a successful life for himself as a mechanical engineer. He enrolled in courses at both Northern Essex and UMass Lowell as part of the Northeast Consortium of Colleges and Universities (NECCUM) which allows students to cross register at participating institutions. After maintaining a near-perfect GPA, Zariat will continue his education at UMass Lowell.

**Quinsigamond CC:** *Michael Harper* made the most of every opportunity at Quinsig, immersing himself in campus life, winning election and re-election as Student Senate President, joining the QCC Future Leaders Club, serving as campus tour guide, and writing for the student newspaper. Harper aspires to a career in politics and will attend Clark University in the fall.

**Roxbury Community College:** *Nia Howard* is RCC's first two-time Track and Field Athletic All-America. For the second consecutive year, Howard placed first in the Long Jump at the 2010 National Junior College Athletic Association's Division III Outdoor Track & Field Championships. An Academic All-American in her freshman year, Howard will attend Northeastern on a full athletic scholarship.

**Salem State College:** **Four years ago**, *Laurie Rich's* family was decimated by a fire that destroyed her home, claimed the life of a younger brother, and left her mother in a coma. Over the next three years, Rich was shuttled between 12 different foster care families and treated for post-traumatic stress disorder. She completed four years of college in just three years at Salem State, and plans to attend graduate school to study sociology. She still has no permanent address.

**Springfield Tech Community College:** *Viorica Bragagiu* has a specific life goal: she wants to become the U.S. ambassador to Japan. A native of Moldova who has only been in the U.S. four and a half years, Bragagiu learned English in high school. She did so well that she began tutoring in the STCC Writing Center, helping Americans learn to write in English, all the while teaching herself Japanese. Bragagiu will attend Smith College in the fall on a full scholarship.

**Westfield SC:** *Nicole Nalepa* of Lee, MA heads straight from graduation to NYC for a highly coveted summer internship at the *CBS Evening News with Katie Couric*. Nalepa has made the Dean's List every semester since freshman year and is among the most active students on campus, serving in half a dozen organizations and also as Student Ambassador for the President's Office.

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**Worcester State College:** *Kathryn Fokas* of Auburn, MA earned the Lt. Colonel James F. Sheehan '55 USMC Ret. Academic Excellence Award for the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year at WSC this spring. The psychology major, who carried a 4.0 GPA, worked as a tutor at the college's Academic Success Center and was accepted to present her own psychological research study at this year's meeting of the Association for Psychological Science.

**UMass Amherst:** *Peter Krafft* of Canton, MA was a high school dropout at 16. By age 18 he had earned both his GED and a community college degree. At the UMass Amherst Commonwealth Honors College he took a broad range of neuroscience, mathematics and graduate-level statistics classes. He'll now graduate a full year ahead of his one-time high school classmates.

**UMass Boston:** *Thao Xuan Do*, a Vietnamese immigrant whose goal is to devote her life to fighting the HIV/AIDs epidemic, is the 2010 recipient of the John F. Kennedy Award for Academic Excellence, UMass Boston's highest undergraduate honor. Do was one of 16 finalists chosen from a field of over 600 applicants to receive a National Institute of Health Academy fellowship. She will spend a year conducting biomedical research before beginning medical school.

**UMass Dartmouth:** *Matt Hoyt* of Whitinsville, MA graduates from the Charlton College of Business with a degree in human resources management. He was elected by his peers to serve as their representative to the UMass Board of Trustees and played an advocacy role in the creation of the state's first public law school. He has been active in campus activities and registered more than 1,000 students to vote in the 2008 presidential election.

**UMass Lowell:** After spending six years in the U.S. Navy as an electrician aboard a nuclear submarine, *Ted Serozynski* graduates from UMass Lowell with a 3.8 GPA and a degree in criminal science. He has also won the Chancellor's Medal for Student Service for his leadership in helping student veterans transition from the military to life on campus.

**UMass Medical School:** Not content with just three degrees earned over 14 years –an associate's degree from Quinsigamond Community College, and both a B.S. and an M.S. from UMass Amherst - *Marie King*, lifelong resident of Spencer, MA, graduates from the UMass Medical School's MD/Ph.D. program this spring and beginning her residency at UMass Memorial Medical Center.

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