

# Fisher Today

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**On the Cover:** Victoria MacMillan '19 (Management) works on making a positive change at Fisher College.





## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Since last July, I've had the privilege of serving as the ninth President of Fisher College. It's been a year of learning for me, and engagement and reflection for the College, as we undertook the exciting work of strategic planning.

The result is "Moving Fisher Forward: The Strategic Plan for Fisher College 2018-2023." Over the next five years, we will begin to expand our undergraduate, graduate, and Division of Accelerated and Professional Studies (DAPS) enrollments from even stronger applicant pools. In addition, we will increase student retention and graduation rates, launch cutting edge academic programs that better utilize Boston's business and professional resources, hire well-qualified faculty to teach in these programs, increase faculty and staff diversity, improve our athletic facilities and infrastructure, start a full-fledged office of advancement and alumni engagement, and utilize professional branding and marketing to stimulate enrollments and create a stronger, clearer public identity that reflects today's Fisher College.

A faculty member recently heralded Fisher as "a doorway to Boston, a bridge to the world." That's a great description since for 115 years our College has been an entry-point to higher education for students of all backgrounds; students who this year came from 32 states and 35 countries. Our new Strategic Plan will open our doorway wider and extend our bridge further.

These are exciting times for Fisher College, and this issue of *Fisher Today* will show you just a few of the reasons why. Thank you for your continued support, have a great summer, and—go Falcons!

Warm regards,

Dr. Alan Ray  
President

### FISHER TODAY MAGAZINE

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At Fisher College, we believe that college is more than just an education—it's a life changing experience. For more than a century, Fisher has enriched lives by providing opportunities to students focused on the three most important aspects of a college experience: education, dedication, and life. Fisher is a four-year college and graduate school located in Boston's historic Back Bay with locations in Brockton, New Bedford, and North Attleboro. The College provides affordable, real-world educations that prepare students for achieving their career goals and competing in today's challenging economy. Additionally, Fisher College is dedicated to the education of our military service members.





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# FROM the NEST

## CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY NEWS

THE FISHER COMMUNITY IS STRONGER than ever thanks to our students' continued academic success in the classroom and unprecedented records on the field.

The past year was filled with bright smiles, personal reflections, and new beginnings including internships, awarded honors, volunteer trips, and more.

Fisher Falcons participated in charitable contributions to the community, such as collecting donations for those affected by hurricanes Harvey and Maria, and building homes over spring break for Habitat for Humanity.

Students continue to enrich lives, grab hold of opportunities, and strive for personal and educational success.

Mollykate Trumble '19 (Communications),  
Shelby Hayes '20 (Psychology), and  
Karli White '19 (Marketing) enjoying some  
fun in the sun at the Esplanade during  
Fisher's Fall Orientation September 2017









# BOSTON INTERNSHIPS



“This has been my dream since I can remember!”

—Christina Giambanco '18

HARD WORK PAYS OFF, AND NO ONE KNOWS THAT better than Christina Giambanco '18 (Marketing). The first-generation college student joined Fisher in 2015 to pursue a marketing degree, and since then she has had one goal in mind: to break the glass ceiling while climbing the corporate ladder. She landed her third internship of her college career with the 17th largest advertising agency in the United States, Hill Holliday: “I couldn’t believe it when I first got the congratulations email. This has been my dream since I can remember.”

Working for the media buying and new business teams, Giambanco is gaining first-hand experience at a top advertising agency whose strong list of clients include Dunkin’ Donuts, Planet Fitness, and Bank of America.

IN 2015, JILL LAVANGE '19 (COMMUNICATIONS ) CAME TO Fisher as a bubbly first-year student ready to reinvent her academic career. The Norwood native knew her path to success would be through small class sizes and one-on-one attention from faculty: “I wasn’t the best high school student, so I really wanted to go somewhere that would motivate and push me to my full potential.” Her motivation has landed her the second internship of her college career at Nexthink, an information technology analytics company located in downtown Boston. In her new role, Lavange receives hands-on experience in business development, field and partner marketing, sales support, project coordination, and performance reporting.

Lavange has not only paved the path to success for herself, but also for other Fisher students. “After I was offered the position, I was told that they were so impressed with my interview that they are now looking for three Fisher students to come work for them after graduation,” she said. “It’s amazing to know that I have already made such a positive impact.”

“I really wanted to go somewhere that would motivate and push me to my full potential.”

—Jill Lavange '19







## PUTTING A FALCON ON THE ICE

ALEX BELLUSCHI '18 (SPORT MANAGEMENT) HAS ALWAYS been a die-hard Boston sports fan. That's why when it came to finding an internship, NESN was an obvious choice. Working in conjunction with the Boston Bruins production team inside the NESN truck, Belluschi tracks the allowable zone time for the Bruins to keep the puck inside their opponent's offensive zone. These numbers in turn are relayed to Bruin's announcers, Jack Edwards and Andy Brickley, to be shared with viewers at home. From interacting with the players to attending post-game press conferences, no two days are ever the same for Belluschi.

## KNOWING THE LAW

SHYLA TAYLOR '19 (CRIMINAL JUSTICE) KNOWS THAT working towards a career does not mean waiting until you graduate. As students returned for the beginning of the spring semester, Taylor prepared for a different start—an internship at the Boston Attorney General's Office. Taylor is a great example of a Fisher Falcon who has the initiative to pursue her career goals by taking advantage of the variety of resources the college has to offer." Never one to shy away from a challenge, Taylor recognizes the opportunity to prove she is ready for life after Fisher College.





# A FRIEND RETIRES

SERGEANT SYLVESTER EGIDIO TOUCHED LIVES AND MADE A DIFFERENCE

IF YOU WERE A RESIDENT AT FISHER COLLEGE FROM 2006-2018, you know Sergeant Sylvester (Sly) Egidio of the Fisher College Campus Police. Most likely, Sergeant Egidio walked you to your room, unlocked your door (again), or gave you some friendly words of wisdom as you came through the student entrance late at night. After twelve years of dedicated service, Egidio announced his retirement at the end of May 2018.

Egidio is a proud U.S. Army veteran who served in the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam. Egidio is a devoted husband to his wife Camille, father to his children Sly Jr. and Kristine, and proud grandfather to Vincenzo, Owen, Aubrey, and Evan.

During his years at Fisher, Egidio's trademark has been his caring, no-nonsense approach to police work. Egidio's motto is that "Fisher is family" and he treated each student like one of his own children. Egidio worked the overnight shift, with the occasional double shift taking him into the school day. Throughout move-in days, commencements, and campus events, Egidio has always been the face of Fisher. He is often the first person you see in the morning and the last person you see at night. He is well known for checking each and every door on campus. If you happen to be on campus after 11pm and notice the lights dimmed, that is just Egidio's way of letting you know that it's time to quiet down.

Fisher is a veteran-friendly campus, and Egidio has always been an active supporter of the veteran community at Fisher. He is front and center at Fisher's annual Veterans' Day Breakfast, and he represents Fisher at veterans' events throughout the Boston area—often in a vintage WWII military vehicle.

For many years, Egidio was the officer on duty for the annual Orientation boat cruise, where he was known



Sergeant Egidio directing traffic during Orientation Weekend

to bust out a dance move or two.

In 2016, Egidio was recognized by the Massachusetts Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (MACLEA) for his heroic action in apprehending a suspect hiding in a staff member's car parked on Back Street. Alone and unarmed, Egidio subdued the suspect, handcuffed him, and turned him over to the Boston Police. More importantly, Egidio was available to the staff member throughout the criminal court case that followed, providing emotional support along with physical safety. His career at Fisher is marked by deeds big and small, all demonstrating his extraordinary service to the Fisher community.

What's next for Egidio? He plans on spending time with Camille and his grandchildren at their new home in Beverly. We will miss him. **F**



## A PLACE FOR THOUGHTS TO FLOURISH

The McDonnell Family MBA & Entrepreneurship Center is Fisher's think tank for graduate students.



ON OCTOBER 18TH 2017, JOHN McDONNELL, THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF TITO'S INTERNATIONAL, HIS WIFE Cathy, Fisher Board of Trustee members, President Alan Ray, and graduate students celebrated the official opening of the new McDonnell Family MBA and Entrepreneurship Center, located at 111 Beacon Street. John and Cathy's daughter, Erin is a 2015 graduate of Fisher College with a degree in Human Services. "Entrepreneurs are the future," says McDonnell. "With this center, students can start companies and remember where it all began—at Fisher College. This will become a large part of their college experience."

Dr. Neil Trotta, MBA Program Director and Assistant Dean of the School of Graduate Studies says of the center, "It's designed to maximize student's educational experience, create a central location for creative thought, and help strategic business ideas flourish."



(L-R) Back Row: Wei Yu '18, Ibtissam Daif '18, Nadia Jourabchi '18, Christian Fisher, Dr. Alexandra Bartsch, John McDonnell, Cathy McDonnell, President Alan Ray, Matthew Trotta '18, Sarah Geyssel '18, Paul Rowe | (L-R) Front Row: Boyuan Chen '18, Zach Merwin '18, Bach Vu '18, Melanie Appleman '18, Nicole Schwartz '18





## A STAR IS BORN

THE FISHER COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM finished their best season in program history (17-12) with an invitation to the NAIA A.I.I.'s post-season tournament in Gary, Indiana.

While two senior twins, Madison and Murphy Carroll, made a major impact throughout the season, the Falcons were also led by freshman Choon-Hee Chae '21 (Management). Chae came to Fisher from just outside Austin, TX and immediately proved to be an asset. As a 5'6" shooting guard, Chae started in all 29 games of the season, averaging more than 36 minutes of play per game and leading the team in 3-pt accuracy (41%) and free throw percentage (77%) with an average of 15.9 points per game.

Her accomplishments as a freshman are rare for a student athlete of any age, and the coaching staff is excited for the coming seasons with Chae on the roster.

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“If given the chance, I would do this again in a heartbeat.”

—George Gali '18

## PLAYERS GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

FOR TWENTY YEARS, THE ROBERTO CLEMENTE 21 Sports Program has provided a means for inner city youth to play baseball during the summer. Regardless of their background, the young players all have one thing in common: a shared desire for teamwork, friendship, and growth through baseball. Named after famed Pirates outfielder Roberto Clemente, the charity partnered with the Fisher Falcons in 2017, creating an even deeper connection within the community. When Baseball Head Coach Scott Dulin reached out to become a part of the program, his players Yamil Delgado '19 (Management) and George Gali '20 (Criminal Justice) jumped at the chance to assist. During the program, they provided coaching and mentoring both on and off the field, showed kids the mechanics of the game, and helped improve their performance. “During practice, it was about fine tuning the mechanics of the sport,” says Delgado. “From how to hold the ball, to proper pitch form, the kids were eager to listen, and we were eager to help.”

“If given the chance,” says Gali, “I would do this again in a heartbeat.”





## FALCON NAMED ARTHUR J. ASHE AWARD RECIPIENT

THIS YEAR, YAMIL DELGADO '19 (MANAGEMENT) WAS named a winner of the prestigious Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar Award. Inspired by tennis legend Arthur Ashe Jr.'s commitment to education as well as his love for the game of tennis, the award honors undergraduate students who have excelled in the classroom as well as on the athletic field. Delgado, a starting pitcher for the Falcons baseball team, has not only been a star at Fisher, but also within his local community, volunteering with the Roberto Clemente Foundation as a coach, trainer, and mentor for the Youth Sport Program of Boston (RC21YSP).

Delgado has also been actively involved in relief efforts for those affected by Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico. Because of his direct efforts over this past summer, Roberto Clemente Foundation Director Luis Clemente was able to identify organizational leaders who aided in transporting a plane full of supplies to those in his own hometown. Delgado is a triple threat student athlete at Fisher College with his successes on the field, in the classroom (with a 3.0 GPA), and as a pillar of leadership in the community.

It is Fisher's great pleasure to see Delgado recognized for all of his efforts.



## FISHER SENIOR JULIA SCHOJAN BREAKS NAIA RECORD

JULIA SCHOJAN '18 (MANAGEMENT) HAS BEEN A FOUR year letter winner for the Falcons and holds nearly every offensive record for women's soccer at Fisher College. Her leadership and work ethic on the field is matched by her commitment to her academics off the field. Schojan was named the 2014 Newcomer of the Year and a three-time A.I.I. 1<sup>st</sup> Team Player. Finishing the season with 41 goals, Schojan now holds the record for all-time career goals scored at Fisher College and broke a 16-year NAIA all-time career goal streak with 146. The record-breaking goal came against a previously unscored upon opponent for Schojan during a game that also was a battle for the first showing of Fisher Women's Soccer in the NIAC 2017 Championship. This moment epitomized the hard work, dedication, and passion that Schojan has had for Fisher College soccer over the last four years. Schojan will be missed both on and off the field.





(L-R) Back Row: Melanie Appleman (Head Coach), Shelbi Byron '20, Corrie Edstrom '20, Govanna Rosado '21, Cara Concalves (Assistant Coach)  
Middle: Lia Aime '19, Hermoine Marcellus '22, Periya Yath '21 | (L-R) Front Row: Natie Manalo '19, Cynthia Huerta '20

# FALCONS TAKE THE COURT

by Krystyanna Ramsdell

IN FISHER VOLLEYBALL'S INAUGURAL SEASON, THE team's cohesiveness was immediate, which helped them find success more often than not. From day one, Head Coach Melanie Appleman and Assistant Coach Clara Concalves prioritized a strong team culture. Their emphasis on creating a positive environment and teaching integrity in sport contributed to a groundbreaking first season.

Early morning practices were filled with motivation by the ten athletes who formed Fisher's first volleyball roster. Now, with a winning record of 10-8, the team is on track to be a force in the conference.

The 2018 Dennis Bistany Character Award was given to co-captain junior, Natie Manalo '19 (Psychology). From the first day to the last, Manalo has consistently ranked on the leader board of the Association of Independent Institutions. She led in aces per set as well as in digs among the AII and NIAC conference. Manalo was joined by co-captain Cynthia Huerta '20 (Psychology) as NIAC First Team recipients.

Manalo and Huerta are just two examples of the high caliber athletics on the team. The inaugural season players, under the strong leadership provided by Head Coach Appleman, have built a solid foundation, providing a framework of integrity and success. The team's hard work, dedication, and passion for the sport and for academics truly captures the Fisher College spirit. **F**





Alan Lom '19, Raymuno Gomez '20, Jonathan Rosado '21



(L-R) Back Row: Paige Ciavarrro '18, Amanda Santiago '18, Darian Lavino '19, Sara Backholm '20  
(L-R) Front Row: Grace Roach '20, Chelsea Browne '20, Ali Mosdale '20, Reilly Demers '20



Hall of Fame Inductee Davidson Peguero '15 and family



Scott Dulin and Jacques Aime

# HALL OF FAME BANQUET

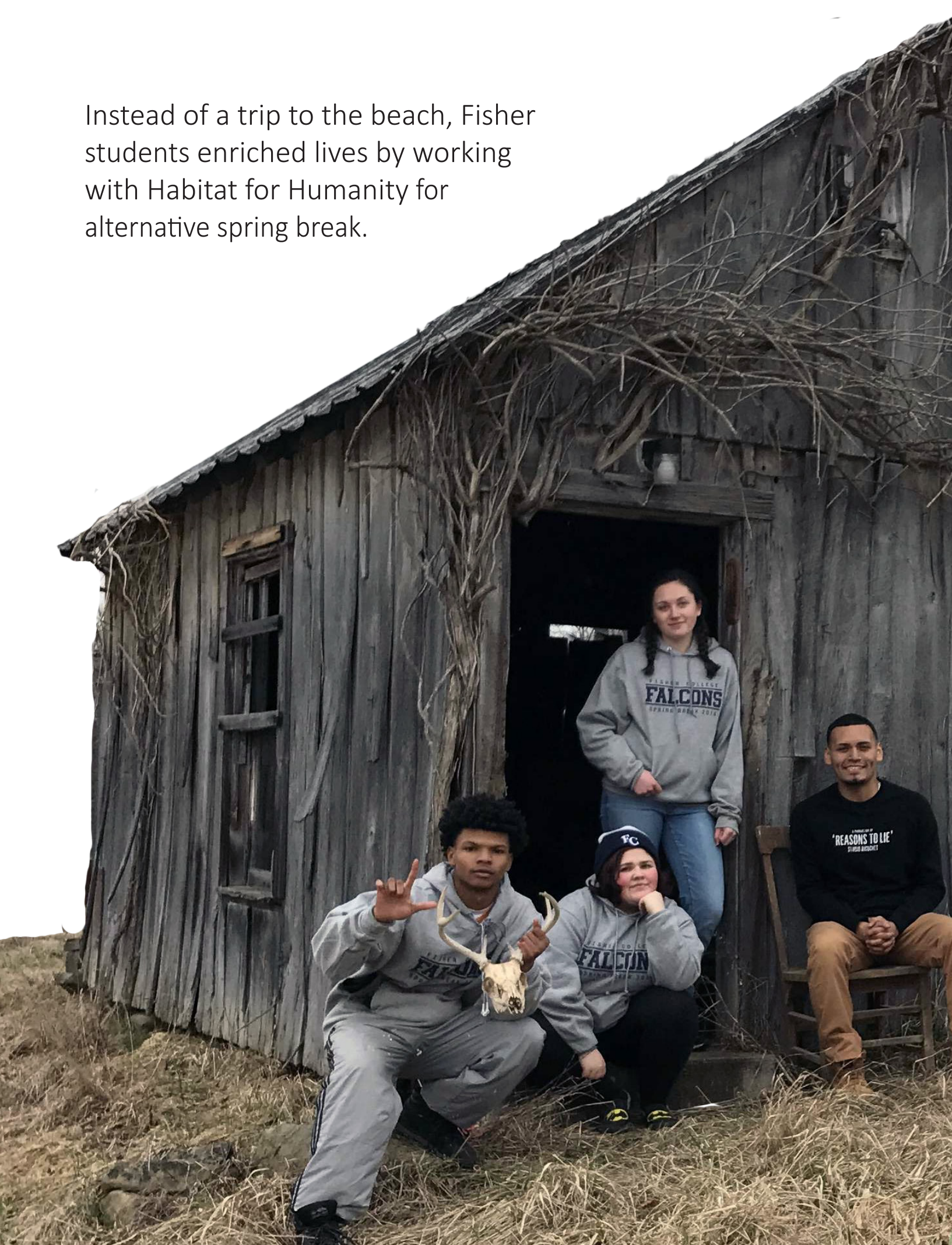
THE ANNUAL FISHER COLLEGE HALL OF FAME AND Athletics Banquet was held on April 29, 2018. The evening began with a lively reception for students, staff, and alumni with tales and pictures of past and current teams gracing the screens. Awards were handed out to honor the outstanding achievements of our dedicated athletes and coaches.



(L-R) Victor Casildo '20, Robert Blouin (Head Coach), DeAndre Pennington '18, Anthony Kellum '19, Malik Seldon '20, Brandon Rembert '19, Daniel Perez '21, Malik Tavares '19, Giovanni Thompson '22, Joshua Graetz '21



Instead of a trip to the beach, Fisher students enriched lives by working with Habitat for Humanity for alternative spring break.







# building a BETTER WORLD

by Amanda Mohan '21







“I was moved by the work we did and the people we helped.”

—Jill Hennessey '18

FOR THE NINTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR, FISHER College offered an alternative spring break program with Habitat for Humanity, and thirteen students traveled to Waynesburg, PA in order to provide housing for displaced and disadvantaged families. During the trip, students volunteered to build houses, shingle roofs, wire homes, and landscape—among many other things. Past alternative spring break locations have included Tampa, FL, Macon, GA, El Paso, TX, New Bern, NC, Los Angeles, CA, Biloxi, MI, Palm Bay, FL, and Cleveland, OH.

Soon after they arrived back in Boston, alternative spring break participants had the chance to reflect on their experiences. Multiple students, including Tori Jacobs '19 (Psychology) and Madison Duffy '21 (Management), were impressed by the positive impact that Camp Director Moriah Merrill had on the group. “Merrill is one of the most influential people that I have ever met,” said Jacobs. “He exudes a strong sense of joy, and he has an optimistic personality.” Similarly, Duffey described Merrill as “such a genuine human being who simply wants to help others and spread positivity.”

Senior and veteran participant Jill Hennessey '18 (Human Services) has had so many formative experiences on the alternative spring breaks that she decided to switch her major to Human Services. “Making the decision to go to Mississippi my freshman year and to continue to travel has shaped my education,” said Hennessey. “I chose to study Human Services and Diversity because I was moved by the work we did and the people we helped there. After this year, I have made the decision to join AmeriCorps (hopefully with Habitat for Humanity) and extend this one week of service into a yearlong journey.”

Fisher College Librarian and alternative spring break advisor, Josh McKain, reflected, “In Waynesburg, we stayed in a large, religiously affiliated facility that had separate bunk rooms for the men and the women, an expansive dining hall with a professional kitchen, an indoor basketball court, a game room with a pool table, a foosball table, myriad board games, and an electric fireplace. “We had a bonfire one night and made s'mores as the snow fell. We piled into two vans and traveled as a group—an important tradition that I firmly believe builds community and lasting friendships.”

A sense of camaraderie is a defining element of Fisher's alternative spring break experience. “Each trip is eventful, each location is unique, each project is rewarding, and each group is different,” said McKain. “What is important is to remind ourselves that we are all in this together for the benefit of a family who will be moving into their first home, and it is imperative that we be respectful to one another, support one another, and be flexible as we navigate these uncharted territories as a group.”

Fisher College is proud of our students who, instead of spending their spring break in a tropical paradise, choose to make the world a better place by exhibiting leadership skills and performing community service in order to help others. **F**

“We are all in this together for the benefit of a family moving into their first home.”

—Josh McKain



# The Magic of Boots

One student's journey to inspire her daughter—and the world

by Isabella Maclea '19

KAREN GASPERINI '19 (MEDIAL CODING) DOESN'T take walking across the floor for granted. This is because Gasperini, a Fisher College student studying Billing and Coding, has battled Beals Syndrome—also known as clubbed feet—all her life.

Although Gasperini's three brothers were around to support her, as a kid she was still bullied, making her syndrome hard to cope with through childhood.

Years later her daughter, Arianna, was diagnosed with the same condition. Living with Beals is not easy, and at only five, Arianna began to push back when it came to the sometimes grueling physical therapy sessions. At this moment, Gasperini knew she needed to do something, and that's when she took pen to paper and wrote *Arianna's Magic Boots*.

Gasperini explained her motivation for writing the story: "My daughter, Arianna, inspired me to write this series. She is who my character is based on and named after. My daughter had a hard time going to physical therapy and wearing her leg braces so I would tell her, 'Let's pretend your leg braces are magic boots and they can take you on adventures.' She loved it." These stories are meant to help her daughter stay strong and cope with the syndrome.

Gasperini would tell her daughter and nephew these stories from time-to-time. Then a friend convinced her to make her tales into a series.

"My children's book series is about a five-year-old disabled girl [named Arianna]."

"Like my daughter, she uses her leg braces, the magic boots called Ankle-Foot Orthosis (AFOs), along with her imagination to take her on adventures such as going to physical therapy, a trip to the beach, or even a trip to the doctor's office."

Gasperini's first book was published in October, 2017 while her second book, *Underwater Sea Adventure*, was published in March, 2018.

"I added my three nieces in the (second) book as the mermaids Arianna meets. I made sure the mermaids are true to my nieces, wearing their favorite colors and other special details. I had the illustrator draw them from a photo and make my niece, Destiny, who wears hearing aids, portray a character in the story also with hearing aids. To make her feel confident, my littlest niece's character, Carmela, is wearing her glasses, which she has had a hard time wearing."

And how has this experience affected Gasperini?

"It has made me feel like I'm on cloud nine. It has been so surreal, kind of like a dream. It's almost what you feel like when you're a child at Christmas, waking up that morning feeling enthusiastic, overexcited, giddy, and everything else in between. I can't believe I published two books within only five months. I remember the day the proof came for my first book. I couldn't even sleep that night I was so excited!"

**"Be who you choose to be. Don't change or try to fit into what someone else considers normal."**

—Karen Gasperini '18





“My stories are made so that children who wear AFOs can have a story they can see and read about a hard time they may have gone through.” Gasperini’s daughter is also very thrilled with her mother’s accomplishments. Arianna strongly believes that her mother’s stories will help children who are having a hard time wearing their AFOs and might need a little magic in their lives.

Gasperini has words of encouragement for writers too: “I would like to tell prospective writers that if you want to write then write. Don’t give up on your dream if publishing companies or agents deny you. Keep pushing until you get a ‘yes’ because you can get a million ‘nos’, but all you need is one ‘yes’ to be published. Or you can do what I did, which is to make your own path and publish your work on your own. I watched tons of how-to-publish-your-own-book videos on YouTube. Also, CreateSpace, an Amazon-based publishing company, offers step-by-step instructions for beginners. Those instructions helped a lot.

In making her book available to the public, Gasperini hopes that she can make a positive impact on children in general.

“My personal message to children would be what I tell my daughter everyday: be who you choose to be. Don’t change or try to fit into what someone else considers normal. If they don’t want to be your friend, that’s their loss. Never make someone feel unwanted for being different.”

Her book also contains a message for her daughter: “I also tell my daughter to show the world how amazing she is so the world can see what I see. And for her to know that she does not have to try and be like everyone else, but just be herself. People like her and I who are born with a disability were born to stand out and that is a very powerful thing.”

The Gasperinis have a tradition of passing knowledge from one generation to the next: “My Grandfather would tell me, ‘Look at that. You were born a superstar at birth which is why people stare at you. Keep your head held high and make sure you always look someone in the eye and say, ‘hello’ with a smile.’ He would tell me to be proud of who I am.”

Gasperini continues to tell her daughter the same. **F**

Readers can find *Arianna’s Magic Boots* and *Arianna’s Magic Boots: Underwater Sea Adventure* on Amazon.



# Listening to a New Generation

Reflections on the academic year  
with Fisher President Alan Ray.

by Vanessa Diaz-Gaumond '20

THE END OF SPRING SEMESTER IS AN EXCITING TIME FOR many. As the stress of the academic year diminishes, summer vacation promises quieter times. For Alan Ray, this is the culmination of his first year as Fisher College's ninth president, and he looks forward to a promising future for the College under his leadership.

Having a multi-faceted background as a lawyer, academic, senior administrator at Harvard Law School, and member of the Obama-era National Advisory Council on Indian Education, Dr. Ray is well-versed in what it means to problem-solve in order to propel institutions forward. His early career was spent in law, but he always held academia very close to his heart.

Realizing that he missed being around academic ideas and the people who love to share them, Dr. Ray made the move into higher education administration at Harvard as the Law School's Associate

Dean for Academic Affairs. In this role, Dr. Ray helped plan the curriculum, create new courses, and work with students to create a learning environment that they truly wanted. He also appeared in the classroom as a Lecturer on Law.

From there he went on to work at the top academic levels of the University of New Hampshire before he was appointed President of Elmhurst College, just outside of Chicago, in 2008. As Elmhurst's president, he felt that all of his prior professional experiences came together as he put his focus on student success. Elmhurst, a small college not unlike Fisher, showed Dr. Ray the ways in which a close-knit environment can be "a laboratory for student success." He explains, "Campus culture is built around a coherent philosophy of student self-formation, strong academics, and community service."







Having found deep satisfaction providing leadership in a small environment, Dr. Ray's interest was immediately piqued when the Fisher College presidency opened. He was attracted to Fisher because, like Elmhurst, the school has a commitment to providing access to higher education for qualified students who come from diverse backgrounds. Fisher's "many first generation students and its inclusive spirit of community" drew him in.

As the summer begins, Dr. Ray can already look back on major accomplishments at Fisher, including the completion and launch of a new five-year Strategic Plan for the College titled "Moving Fisher Forward." The Strategic Plan calls for finding new, attractive spaces for Falcon athletics, a renewed rapport with the College's Back Bay neighbors, and the establishment of an Office of Advancement and Alumni Engagement.

Over the course of his career, Dr. Ray has implemented over a dozen institution-wide strategic plans for improving technology, diversity, emergency procedures, and academic programs to name a few. He now regards the Fisher College Strategic Plan as his most far reaching first-year accomplishment. "The Strategic Plan was built from the ground up utilizing the insights of all campus constituencies," he says.

It is important to Dr. Ray that Fisher make a splash with new and innovative academic programs. Boston is one of the most competitive cities for higher education, with many highly sought after institutions. Bachelor's and master's degree programs in fields such as sport management, human resource management, entrepreneurship, criminal justice, psychology, and information technology (including specializations in cyber security and game technology) will make Fisher more competitive and more appealing to incoming students at all levels, and will keep Fisher at the forefront of current local and national trends.

"With these programs and many others in place," says Dr. Ray, "Fisher will be able to quickly capitalize on a more exciting and competitive academic portfolio not only to attract more well-qualified students, but also to retain and graduate more of the students we already have."

Dr. Ray's goal, as for any college president, is to keep students attending until they complete their degree. His hope and expectation is that the creation of more career-relevant opportunities for Fisher students will result in increased student satisfaction, campus pride, and alumni loyalty and engagement.

The world is a far different place than it was before the 2008 recession. Businesses and schools including colleges, which are both, must adapt to shifting economic and demographic trends.

As the job market evolves through increasingly accelerated implementation of technology in all fields, students and professionals must remain competitive in order to keep up. With such great pressure on everyone involved in education and business, Dr. Ray stays focused on ensuring that the students at Fisher College will not only be molded into great professionals, but also be transformed into the best people they can be.

"We are determined to provide the finest education and opportunities for personal growth possible in order to prepare our students for the ever-changing demands of our world," says Dr. Ray. "As their journeys continue, Fisher will always be there, helping them become the leaders of tomorrow. Their future is our future." **F**

## THE NEW STRATEGIC PLAN'S **SEVEN GOALS**

- Increase program enrollment across the College
- Add new and exciting academic programs positioning Fisher graduates for continued success
- Expand Full-time Faculty
- Grow Fisher's inclusive and diverse community of faculty, staff, and students
- Upgrade College building infrastructure
- Increase philanthropic giving and alumni engagement
- Significantly raise the College's profile and reputation within higher education, the Boston market, and beyond

**MOVING FISHER FORWARD**











# *Commencement* 2018





“Think about how you can alter your professional life to align with the person you are becoming.”

—Paul Francisco

by Lisa Morris '16

ON SATURDAY MAY 12, 2018, FISHER COLLEGE celebrated its 114th Commencement Ceremony at the John Hancock Back Bay Event Center. A total of 234 eager students crossed the stage to receive their diploma and start the next chapter of their lives. This is one of the largest graduating classes that the College has seen since its founding in 1903. Among this year's graduates were nine veterans, 24 MBA students, 31 athletes, and 32 graduating students in the Honors Program. Additionally, this year's graduating students represented eighteen states and seventeen countries, and diplomas were awarded to graduates earning Associate, Bachelor's, and MBA Degrees.

This was also the first Fisher College Commencement for President Alan Ray, who opened the ceremony. “I genuinely feel honored to be Fisher's ninth president,” he said. “Thinking about the trust that role implies puts things in perspective. After all, Commencement is about the graduates, not people like me at the podium.”

President Ray offered guidance to students on how to align themselves with their career as they grow: “Just as you change over time, so can your goals in life. Don't be afraid to recognize change in yourself and your ideas, priorities, and passions.”


Paul Francisco, Chief Diversity Officer and Head of Workforce Development at State Street Corporation, served as commencement speaker.

Francisco has received many awards and recognitions throughout his career, including a Certificate of Achievement from Governor Deval Patrick for his work with the Hispanic Community. Francisco was also appointed by Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker to serve on the Black Advisory Board Commission.

Prior to joining State Street, Francisco was the Managing Director and co-founder of Foster & Francisco LLC, an executive search and diversity consulting firm based in Boston. Francisco also graduated from Boston University with a BA in Political Science and participated in UMass Boston's Emerging Leaders Program through the Center for Collaborative Leadership.

Francisco had words of wisdom that resonated with the graduating students. “Think about how you can alter your professional life to align with the person you are becoming,” he said. “In the long run, you'll be happier in life, since you and your job will be reflections of each other.”

A reception at the College followed the ceremony, and graduates walked the Fisher halls reliving memories, as they were congratulated by friends, family, staff, and faculty.

Fisher College applauds all of the exceptional graduates, wishing them prosperity and success in their new endeavors. As one door closes, another opens, and the doors at 118 Beacon will always be open to Fisher alumni. 









*Congratulations*  
CLASS of 2018





Teach  
The Change  
You Wish  
To See  
In The World  
2018







# CLASS OF 2018 BY THE NUMBERS

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31

Number of graduating athletes



343

Total Number of 2018  
Fisher College graduates  
(Undergraduate, Continuing  
Education, MBA, and Online)



24

Number of MBA graduates

eighteen

Number of states 2018  
Fisher graduates reside



seventeen

Number of countries 2018  
Fisher graduates call home

78

Number of Fisher College  
seniors on Dean's List



Number of graduating veterans

87

Number of students  
graduating with Honors



# MEET THE BOARD

Fisher Invites Four New and Returning Members to the Board of Trustees



Pictured at Fisher College's 114th Commencement exercises held on Saturday, May 12, 2018 at John Hancock Hall in Boston | (L-R) Back Row: Edward Rogers, Paul Rowe, (Undergraduate Valedictorian) Janelle Pepito, (DAPS Valedictorian) Todd Place, James Bayles | (L-R) Front Row: Dr. Rebecca Costello '68, Dr. Scott Fisher '51, Dr. Alexandra Bartsch (Chair), Speaker Paul Francisco, President Alan Ray, Christian Fisher, John McDonnell | *Not pictured:* Dr. Nicholas Bankson, Dr. Stephanie Davidson, Walter Dillingham, Dr. Peter Everett, Dr. Elizabeth Gavett, Ashok Patel

THIS ACADEMIC YEAR, THE FISHER COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTED FOUR MEMBERS: THREE familiar faces and one new one. Returning to Board service after a break are Dr. Nicholas Bankson, Dr. Elizabeth Gavett, and Edward Rogers, who are joined by John McDonnell. Mr. McDonnell is no stranger to nonprofit leadership roles, having served as a member of the Board of Trustees at his alma mater, Suffolk University.

All four individuals exemplify the core values and vision of the College and welcome the chance to work toward Fisher's continued success.

The new configuration of the Board is both multifaceted and cohesive. President Ray points out that "Fisher is very fortunate to attract Board members who share the vision and values of this institution. Each brings with them unique strengths, ideas, and experience that will help position Fisher on the right path to realizing its great potential." **F**





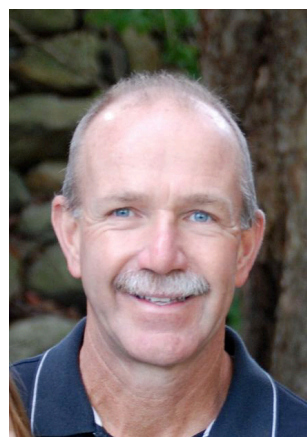
**DR. NICHOLAS BANKSON** has served for 25 years on Fisher's Board of Trustees, including four years as Board chair. He has an AA degree from Graceland College in Iowa, a BS degree from the University of Kansas, and MA and PhD degrees from the University of Kansas Medical Center. His professional area of expertise is speech-language pathology, and he served as the director of speech and hearing services for the Kansas Department of Public Instruction. Additionally, Dr. Bankson has received honors from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association as well as honors from the Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders, and honors from the National Student Speech and Hearing Association. He is the co-author of a college textbook focused on speech sound disorders.



**JOHN McDONNELL** is the newest member of Fisher's Board, having joined in the fall of 2017. McDonnell is the current Managing Director International at Tito's Vodka and the former COO of Patron Tequila. In that role, McDonnell advanced Patron's global distribution from 340,000 cases per year to 2 million. Additionally, he is credited with creating a new category in the tequila market—the ultra-premium bottle priced at \$40 or more. McDonnell has spoken at Fisher twice, and in April 2017, he made a generous donation that enabled Fisher's School of Graduate Studies to build the McDonnell Family MBA and Entrepreneurship Center. McDonnell's daughter, Erin, graduated from Fisher in 2015 with a degree in Human Services.



**DR. ELIZABETH GAVETT** is a licensed Speech-Language Pathologist with more than five publications, and she has presented her findings and research on development and critical thinking strategies for phonological/articulation disorders throughout the country. In 2014, Gavett received the Whitney R. Powers Award for Teaching Excellence from the Boston University College of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences: Sargent College and was named Fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.



**EDWARD H. ROGERS III** is the President & Managing Director at Corporate Advisory Services of New England Special Situations Consulting Company. Some of Rogers' most notable accomplishments include multi-facility manufacturing and distribution increases from \$4 million to \$26 million in annual revenue through his strategic acquisition and integration of numerous organizations. Additionally, he designed and implemented a marketing strategy to penetrate national vertical markets.



# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

## Alumni Discuss their experiences after Fisher College

ATTENDING FISHER COLLEGE AND FINISHING MY degree was one of the best moves I've made in the last ten years of my life. I was an athlete in college, had transferred multiple times to different colleges and universities, and had lived around the country—so coming back home to Boston and enrolling at Fisher really brought things full circle for me. It allowed me to live near my family, continue playing baseball within a competitive athletic conference, and, most of all, finish my bachelor's degree.

My professors in the Communications and Media Department at Fisher always pushed me to grow and learn. They challenged me daily to be at my best in the classroom.

They blended a mix of curriculum and hands-on teaching methods that allowed me to hit the ground running in any entry-level sales, recruiting, or marketing role in the city.



Jordan Berry '17 (Communications)  
Fisher Falcon Baseball Right Field

A year later, I'm working as a technical recruiter for a boutique staffing firm in Boston. I've received multiple raises and promotions and absolutely love the people I work with. I really couldn't be happier in life right now. I interviewed throughout my senior spring in college and landed multiple job offers. Two days after graduating from Fisher I started my full-time job. All of this was made possible thanks to the resume editing and career coaching that Fisher's Career Services Department provided me. They walked me through my entire job search. Every resource you need as a student to set yourself up for success after college is at Fisher. A huge thanks to everyone at Fisher College who helped me get to where I'm at today and best of luck to anyone who's looking to make a positive change in their life!



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Ashley Garcia '17 (Liberal Arts)

LIFE AFTER GRADUATION HAS BEEN STRESSFUL, scary, and really nice. What a combination, right? I started working at Big Sister Association of Greater Boston two days after I graduated. Was it the best idea to start so soon? Probably not, but I don't regret it at all. Every day I come into work and I support amazing relationships between young women and girls that last a lifetime.

Getting here wasn't easy. College was hard. Changing my major 3 times was even harder, and you're never prepared to be an adult. Although things were difficult, I always trusted the process and knew that the challenges I faced were going to help me. They absolutely have.

Stop focusing on the next step. Be yourself and be great.

“Fisher taught me that with hard work and dedication, anything can become achievable.”

—Nadia Jourabchi



Nadia Jourabchi '16 (Communications), '18 (MBA)

MY EXPERIENCE AT FISHER COLLEGE HAS OPENED doors I never thought possible. Fisher taught me that with hard work and dedication, anything can become achievable. My journey at Fisher didn't end in 2016 when I thought I had completed my college education. Instead I came back in 2017 to obtain my Master's degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Strategic Leadership. I can now say I'm a 2018 graduate with an MBA. I used to be a dreamer. Fisher has taught me that dreams do become a reality if you are willing to go the extra mile. That extra mile for me was earning an MBA. When I entered the program I met new people and formed new relationships, which strengthened me as a person. I was able to enhance my public speaking skills and put my communication skills to proper use in the program.

What I love about Fisher is that you are more than a number. At Fisher you are seen as an individual. The College is small in size, but opportunities with a Fisher degree are endless. If you are willing to get out of your comfort zone and go that extra mile, Fisher will be there to lend a helping hand. I'm proud to be a double alumni from Fisher College. I encourage anyone with a passion for academia and a love of challenging yourself to consider entering the MBA program!



# A Look Back



## 1962

Fisher students having a ball in Bermuda.  
Do you have a great photo from your time at Fisher?  
Please share with us [alumni@fisher.edu](mailto:alumni@fisher.edu)!



**FOR 115 YEARS,** Fisher College has been a doorway to knowledge and professional experience. Your support keeps that door **OPEN.**



We look out into the world and we see it: constant change. While Fisher College embraces transformation, we also strive to examine our past and retain our many traditions—the ones you know and cherish. Chief among these traditions is our constant focus on the well-being and education of each and every student.

For over 115 years our College has been a door to knowledge and opportunity through personalized learning that includes one-on-one faculty attention, student mentoring, tutoring, and athletics. Everything we do focuses on helping our students become effective individuals and committed and generous citizens.

Please reflect on all the moments when Fisher College made a positive difference in your life. Think back on the past, on your experiences and friendships, and help us support a new generation of Fisher students who will become a part of our educational tradition. Your generosity will allow us to continue to provide our students with the strong professional foundation that comes not just from a classroom education, but from the diverse and enriching experiences that define Fisher College.

Our reward lies in seeing each Fisher graduate embark on a journey to success and a secure and vibrant future.

*For more information about how you can help to further a student's journey, visit:*  
**[www.fisher.edu/alumni](http://www.fisher.edu/alumni)**



**EDUCATION • DEDICATION • LIFE**













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118 Beacon Street  
Boston, MA 02116  
[www.Fisher.edu](http://www.Fisher.edu)



# SAVE THE DATE

*Homecoming Weekend  
October 12 - 14, 2018*

A community-wide, weekend-long celebration of friends,  
neighbors, alumni, family, students, and familiar faces.