

# Welcome, MR. PRESIDENT

WHEN THE PANDEMIC HIT, STEVEN RICH  
STEPPED IN AS INTERIM PRESIDENT;  
THIS YEAR, THE POSITION BECAME  
OFFICIAL, ALLOWING HIM TO HELP FISHER  
SOAR TO EVEN GREATER HEIGHTS

P. 14

FISHER COLLEGE Magazine  
Issue Three / 2021

Fisher  
Today

## FAMILY TIES

ALUMNI RECALL THE  
MEANINGFUL BONDS  
THEY FORMED WITH  
FRIENDS, FACULTY, AND  
RELATIVES DURING THEIR  
YEARS ON CAMPUS

P. 20

## STATE OF MIND

TWO NEW GRADUATE  
PROGRAMS IN  
PSYCHOLOGY APPROACH  
THE SUBJECT FROM  
A VARIETY OF ANGLES

P. 26

## THE BEACON

INSIDE FISHER:  
CAMPUS NEWS, NOTES,  
AND IN MEMORIAM

P. 4

## Celebrating 20 Years of Athletics at Fisher

PLUS: FALCONS BASEBALL  
HITS REMARKABLE MILESTONE

P. 10



# Contents / 2021

“I really buy into the mission of the College. That’s why I’ve been here for so long.”

STEVEN RICH,  
PRESIDENT / P. 14



Features

In Every  
Issue

The  
Cover

**14 / Welcome, Mr. President**  
When the pandemic hit, Steven Rich stepped in as Interim President. This year, the position became an official appointment, allowing Rich to help Fisher soar to even greater heights.  
By Pearl Marvell

**20 / Family Ties**  
Alumni recall the meaningful—and often lifelong—bonds they formed with friends, faculty, and relatives during their years on campus. Their stories are a tribute to the Fisher family’s enduring vision that began more than a century ago.  
By Annie Sherman

**26 / Thinking Outside the Box**  
Fisher’s master’s in psychology programs approach the subject from a variety of angles—to suit a variety of students.  
By Alyssa Giacobbe

**2 / From the President**  
Steven Rich

**2 / Contributors**

**3 / For the Record**  
Fisher updates and feedback.

**3 / Connect**

**40 / Artifact**  
The Fisher basketball team’s 1,000-Point Club.

**Steven Rich, President**  
Since joining Fisher College’s finance department 20 years ago, Rich has helped transform the school’s financial profile and program offerings. This year, he became the school’s 10th president.  
**Photograph by Christopher Churchill**



20



26



40

Departments



34

**4 / Beacon**  
As a communications associate for the New York Giants, Delaney McNulty '19 has her head in the game.

**6 / Fisher Today**  
Three Quick Questions with Director of Career Services and Employer Relations Ally Baldwin; Commencement 2021.

**8 / On Campus**  
Ariella Alleyne '23; Legacy: Thomas M. McGovern, Ed.D.; Student Spotlights.

**10 / Falcons**  
Falcons baseball and their extraordinary 2021 season.

**12 / The Academy**  
Fisher’s internship program equips students for real-world success.

**34 / Beyond**  
Kessen Green '01, '04 knows that sometimes the road to success takes a circuitous path; 20 years of Fisher Athletics.

**36 / Pursuits**  
Clinical Game Changer April Rowell '17; outpatient therapist Cameron Lyons '18, '21; the Puzzle.

**38 / Advancing Fisher**  
Fisher College Board of Trustees Member Dr. Peter C. Everett on his gift to the psychology department; Vice Chair of Fisher’s Board of Trustees Rebecca Bortz Costello, Ph.D. '68 on her gift to the biology department; Spot the Difference.

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# Foreword



From the President

## Game On!

WHEN I SAT DOWN TO DRAFT this letter a year ago, I wrote as the school’s Interim President. Like many people, I was entrenched in the complexities of figuring out how to manage an organization during Covid-19. A lot has changed since then, and while the pandemic hasn’t ended yet, I’m proud to say that the Fisher College community is emerging from it perhaps stronger than ever. While many obstacles had to be overcome—and some continue to be challenging—we’ve also worked together to support one another and our institution.

A nimble shift to ramp up online learning and otherwise help students and keep them safe and moving forward in their academics and careers has yielded unforeseen benefits, like a new internship program with Loews Boston Hotel (“Room Service,” page 12). That kind of meaningful relationship building is part of Fisher’s DNA, as we learn from five families who forged bonds during their time on campus (“Family Ties,” page 20). And

“While the pandemic hasn’t ended yet, I’m proud to say that the Fisher College community is emerging from it perhaps stronger than ever.”

I’m glad to announce that analysts at S&P Global Ratings have boosted Fisher’s bond rating and financial outlook. This past year has held many exciting changes for me, too. Last March, I was offered and accepted the role of President of Fisher College (“Welcome, Mr. President,” page 14). When I started here 20 years ago, I never imagined that this would be my path. Since then, Fisher has added dozens of degrees and formed 10 varsity teams in our athletics program, which is also celebrating its 20th anniversary.

Sports are something of a theme in this issue, which also includes Delaney McNulty ’19 (“Team Player,” page 4), a communications associate for the New York Giants; April Rowell ’17 (“The Game Changer,” page 36), who helps Boston-area kids through play therapy; and Kessen Green ’01, ’04 a former basketball star who now works in community outreach (“Game Plan,” page 34). Off the field, gifts from two generous donors will help more Fisher students win in the classroom, too (Advancing Fisher, page 38). It’s all proof that our community improves lives by providing students with the knowledge and skills for a lifetime of intellectual and professional pursuits. It’s a wonderful feeling to be part of a team that embraces this mission on campus, and beyond it, too.

Steven Rich / President

## Contributors



**Paula M. Bodah / Writer**  
Bodah, a Rhode Island–based freelancer who contributes to magazines nationwide on a variety of topics, says her favorite assignments involve writing about interesting people who strive to make their small corner of the world a better place. She says the faculty, staff, and students she reported on for this issue awed her with their passion, their commitment to diversity, and their dedication to excellence.



**Christopher Churchill / Photographer**  
Churchill is a documentary photographer whose work has been shown internationally and is held in private and public collections including The Corcoran Gallery of Art, The J. Paul Getty Museum, The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and the Smithsonian. He has worked with editorial and commercial clients such as *Architectural Digest*, *Condé Nast Traveler*, Bank of America, Google, and Volvo, among others. His first monograph, “American Faith,” was published in 2012 by Nazraeli Press and the Joy of Giving Something.



**Alyssa Giacobbe / Writer**  
Giacobbe is a New England–based writer, editor, and producer for publications that include *Architectural Digest*, *Condé Nast Traveler*, *Wired*, *Entrepreneur*, and *Boston* as well as brands that include Dropbox, West Elm, and Draper James. She has co-authored two books and her work has been recognized by the National Health Information Awards and the Rhode Island Press Association.



**Annie Sherman / Writer**  
Sherman is a freelance journalist in Newport, Rhode Island, where she covers topics at the intersection of food and business and on travel and the environment. She is the former editor of *Newport Life* magazine, author of *Legendary Locals of Newport*, and is writing an environmental adventure series for young readers.

## For the Record

### S&P Issues Improved Outlook and Bond Rating

Despite challenges due to Covid-19, Fisher College’s overall financial standing continues to improve. Last spring, S&P Global Ratings revised its outlook for the school to a stable status and affirmed its BBB+ bond rating. The analysis reflects Fisher’s positive fiscal performance, due in part to low debt levels, sound use of federal grants awarded during Covid, and healthy financial resources when

## Connect

Update your contact information to stay in touch with Fisher College. To learn how to help build our community, volunteer, or support Fisher, contact the Advancement & Alumni Engagement Office.

**EMAIL:** alumni@Fisher.edu  
**CALL:** 617-236-8822  
**VISIT:** www.fisher.edu/alumni

**Help Build Our Community**  
There are a number of ways to draw closer to Fisher. Online, you can join the Fisher College LinkedIn page to see what your colleagues are doing professionally and to build your career network. Or follow us on Facebook,

Instagram, or YouTube and share our content with your fellow alumni. Virtual event options are also plentiful and we’ve resumed in person as well. We invite you to attend or host alumni events, volunteer to be a class correspondent or regional volunteer, or hire alumni for full-time positions.

**Provide Career Services**  
Fisher supports students and graduates in their quest for professional fulfillment. Become part of that endeavor by providing career advice and opportunities for them. Those opportunities include hiring students for internships, par-

compared to medians and peer institutions. • Though Fisher saw some loss of revenue during the pandemic and a slight decline in full-time enrollment, applications and size of the freshman class went up in 2020. The school’s adept shift to online learning also helped maintain stability. Ultimately, S&P analysts “assessed Fisher’s financial profile as strong, characterized by historically sound operations, although margins have compressed recently, and robust financial resources.” They also cited Fisher’s “sound management team and governance policies,” along with the growth of the school’s endowment, which nearly doubled between 2016 and 2020.

**Connect with Students**  
As alumni, you have a lot to offer our students—and vice versa. Get to know each other. Share your know-how by mentoring, speaking to classes, sponsoring learning projects and travel to professional and academic conferences, and becoming a member of one of our Industry Advisory Boards.

**Invest in Our Future**  
Alumni generosity is central to Fisher’s commitment to pro-

vide an affordable, quality education to our students. Gifts to the annual Fisher Fund provide support for many of the College’s most important needs. Additional options include establishing a named scholarship and joining the Staircase Leadership Giving Society.

**Lifelong Learning**  
Advance your career, add to your credentials, or obtain a graduate degree or certificate by enrolling in one of our growing number of professional and master’s degree programs, taking a workforce training and development course, or participating in customized corporate training.

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# The Beacon

WHAT'S INSIDE: *Fisher Works* **4** / *Fisher Today* **6** / *On Campus* **8** / *Falcons* **10** / *The Academy* **12**

## Fisher Works

### Team Player As communications associate for the New York Giants, Delaney McNulty '19 has her head in the game.

BY PAULA M. BODAH

DELANEY MCNULTY '19 FELT CONFIDENT about her choice to major in communication and media studies when she arrived at Fisher College. After all, she'd already earned an associate degree in communications back in the Los Angeles area where she grew up. Still, midway through her junior year, she wasn't quite sure how she would apply her skills. "It's such a broad, general major," she acknowledges.

Wisely, she decided to look for an internship that might help her narrow her options. She was always an athlete, and played soccer at Fisher, so sports seemed like a natural place to start. She came across a summer internship with the Los Angeles Rams football team. Sports and in her hometown—what could be better? Three weeks in, she knew she had found her calling. "It just kind of clicked," she says. "I learned so much in those few weeks."

Evidently, it clicked for the Rams, too, who invited her to come back after graduation. She worked through the 2019 and 2020 football seasons, and in 2021, feeling lucky

to be able to advance in her career despite the Covid-19 pandemic, headed back east to take a job as a communications associate with the New York Giants football team (which, despite its name, is headquartered in East Rutherford, New Jersey).

There's no such thing as a typical day on the job for McNulty. She gets in "bright and early, around 7 a.m." she says, commuting from her home in Hoboken. She might spend time combing news outlets for mentions of the team, getting credentials together for members of the media who are coming to a practice or a game, or orchestrating head coach Joe Judge's post-practice press conference.

Building relationships with the players is an important part of the job, too, McNulty says, and she's thankful to her Rams boss, who suggested she take a psychology class. "We are everybody's PR rep, so we have to get to know them," she says. "There are a lot of different personalities in the locker room."

McNulty is quick to credit Fisher and her professors for getting her started on her promising career. "Everyone was always so helpful," she says, which set her up for a winning future.

**Building relationships with the players is an important part of the job. "There are a lot of different personalities in the locker room."**

**NEW YORK GIANTS  
COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATE  
DELANEY MCNULTY '19**



Delaney McNulty '19 was always an athlete, and played soccer at Fisher, so sports seemed like a natural place to start a career. Despite Covid-19, she's been able to work through the past three football seasons.





Commencement 2021  
Held in person once again, Fisher’s 117th Commencement celebrated students’ success and persistence through trying times.

**Commencement was celebrated** in person this past spring after the 2020 event was held virtually due to Covid-19. Close to 200 graduates gathered under sunny skies May 15 at The Lawn on D in Boston’s Seaport District. To ensure social distancing, Fisher held two ceremonies. A morning gathering for the School of Graduate and Professional Studies included a Commencement address by John McDonnell, Managing Director International at Tito’s Hand-made Vodka and Fisher Board of Trustees Member. President Steven Rich and graduate Cameron Lyons ’18, ’21 also spoke. The afternoon Undergraduate Commencement included remarks by President Rich and Valedictorian Madison Duffey ’21. Dan Rivera, President and Chief Executive Officer of MassDevelopment, gave the Commencement address, and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters. **—Robert Dunn**

Class of 2021: ‘Your Generation Has Been Given a Gift’

President and Chief Executive Officer of MassDevelopment **Dan Rivera**, who is also former mayor of Lawrence, Massachusetts, encouraged graduates to embrace the unprecedented times.

“Your generation has been given a gift,” he said, in the chance to remake multiple institutions at once.  
“Please keep the institutions that have made our country a project worth

fighting for,” Rivera implored. “Keep democracy, keep individual responsibility, keep community responsibility. These are the ways we make decisions and how we live together.” **—RD**



Commencement photographs by Sufian Iwedi '19



Three Quick Questions

Ally Baldwin

Director of Career Services and Employer Relations

**1 / What attracted you to Fisher?** It had been my goal since I got into higher education to become the director of a career center, and Fisher felt like the perfect fit. I especially like the diversity among the students here. Like a lot of the students, I came from a low-income background and was the first in my family to graduate from college. I feel like I’m making a real impact supporting them.

**2 / What new programs have you launched?** We’ve just launched a Skill Building Badge Program to help students develop tools that will make them more competitive in the workplace. Students can earn badges in six areas: Communication, Community Service, Career Readiness and Professionalism, Leadership, Visual and Performing Arts, and Technology.

**3 / What workforce challenges do young people face today?** One of the hardest things is learning how to navigate a rapidly changing workplace. With remote work and so many different ways of communicating, developing workplace literacy—including understanding what people might not be saying out loud—is important. **—PMB**



Great Hospitality An internship at Loews Boston Hotel helped Ariella Alleyne '23 nurture natural and academic talents.

BY PAULA M. BODAH

Everyone loves a celebration, but planning the perfect party can be a daunting task. Unless, like management major Ariella Alleyne '23, you've been dreaming about it since you were a kid. "It all started when I was 12," she says. "I used to watch the show 'My Fair Wedding,' and the way the host, David Tutera, organized events inspired me. I thought it looked like a fun job to have."

A few years later, she spearheaded the planning when about 100 friends and relatives came together to celebrate her grandmother's 90th birthday. "It was a success," she proudly relates, and it sparked her ambition to work in hospitality. Today, as a junior majoring in management with a double concentration in accounting and hospitality, Alleyne is confidently moving closer to turning her passion into a career.

She's getting real-world experience this year with an internship through Fisher's partnership with the Loews Boston Hotel. She started the 12-week program at the front

desk, learning the hotel's reservation and check-in/check-out system. "I got to interact a lot with the guests," she says. "That was my favorite part of working the front desk."

From there, she rotated into housekeeping, seeing what's involved in keeping rooms spotless, then moved on to sales and catering and, finally, the food and beverages division. The latter two, she says, were especially enlightening for a future event planner. This internship has solidified her resolve to work in the hospitality field. "I've learned so much," she says. "It's been such a great opportunity."

When she's not studying or working at the

hotel, Alleyne, who grew up and still lives in Lynn, Massachusetts, might be found at her piano, practicing the worship songs she'll play at the Methodist church where her cousin is the pastor. She plays by ear, she says, and has never learned to read music, even though she's been playing since she was six or seven years old.

Alleyne is determined to succeed, as much for herself as for her mother, a native of the Dominican Republic, who raised her largely as a single mom. Graduating from college is the next step in that journey. One day, she says, "my goal is to have my own company."



Student Spotlights

1 / Linda Martinez '22 The daughter of a lawyer, the criminal justice major plans to follow in her dad's footsteps. Martinez, from Tennessee, has embraced life in Boston, enjoying musical theater and rooting for local sports teams. "Red Sox games are a thrill of mine," says Martinez, who plays left field for Fisher's softball team.

2 / Minh Truong '23 Growing up in Vietnam, Truong dreamed of living and working in the United States. Now that he's here, the business management major with a concentration in human resources has a new goal—to parlay a passion for fashion into a career with a clothing design company. Boston is a big change from Hanoi, but it "has a good mix of calmness and activity," says Truong. "And the diversity is awesome."

3 / Pedro Ruiz '22 Moving to Boston was a big step for this California native and criminal justice major who is also a resident assistant and captain of the men's soccer team. "I like being busy," says Ruiz, who will be the first college graduate in his family. If he needs any extra motivation, a little sibling rivalry will do it. "I have a sister who's a junior in college in Arizona," he says. "If I don't finish first, she'll beat me to it!"

4 / Carla DaSilva '22 The criminal justice major credits TV crime dramas for inspiring her career choice and Fisher for making it a reality. DaSilva, who aims to work as a forensic detective, is considering a master's degree from Fisher, too. Meanwhile, she plays on the women's soccer team and works off campus as a security guard.

"I got to interact a lot with the guests. That was my favorite part of working the front desk."

ARIELLA ALLEYNE '23 STARTED THE 12-WEEK PROGRAM LEARNING THE LOEWS BOSTON HOTEL'S RESERVATION AND CHECK-IN/CHECK-OUT SYSTEM



Photograph by Christopher Churchill

Legacy

In Memory of President Thomas M. McGovern

Thomas M. McGovern, Ed.D., eighth president of Fisher College (2007–2017), passed away on October 16, 2021, in Belmont, Massachusetts. He will always be remembered at Fisher and beyond for a distinguished legacy of service and leadership in higher education and civic life.

When Fisher's trustees named McGovern President, he was a longtime faculty member and division chair who also had experience in public and governmental affairs. He immediately faced the challenge of leading Fisher through the Great Recession. President McGovern was credited with bringing to his new role a clear vision for Fisher's future, a commitment to enlisting the College community in developing a strategic plan, and the focused leadership needed to implement it.

President McGovern worked to transform Fisher from a two-year college to a four-year private baccalaureate institution with emerging graduate programs. Under his leadership, Fisher expanded the number of bachelor's programs. In 2015, the College announced its first graduate program, an MBA in Strategic Leadership.

During his tenure, President

McGovern oversaw the implementation of classroom and online innovations to position Fisher for long-term success in a rapidly evolving higher education landscape. These and other changes resulted in increased enrollment; between 2007 and 2016, the number of full-time students grew from approximately 590 to almost 850. Continuing education enrollment climbed from under 600 to nearly 1,000, and the international student population doubled.

To further strengthen academics at Fisher, President McGovern encouraged faculty to pursue advanced degrees, and many did. Between 2008 and 2014, the number of faculty with doctoral or terminal degrees increased from a third to greater than 60 percent. His own academic background included a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership from Johnson & Wales University; a master's degree in Public Administration from Suffolk University; and a bachelor's degree from Northeastern University.

A U.S. Army veteran, President McGovern advanced the tradition of Fisher as a center of higher education for veterans and sought to hire qualified vets. Under his watch, Fisher also

launched the College 101 program to give students in Boston-area public high schools the opportunity to earn college credits while still in school, at no cost.

President McGovern was known for a personal touch that included keeping his office open to students, faculty, and staff. He and his wife, Elaine, actively engaged in campus life, regularly attending co-curricular student activities including athletic events.

In his parting message in *Fisher Today* magazine (Winter/Spring 2017), President McGovern wrote, "The dedication and sense of duty of our Fisher College community has inspired me each day and has made me a better leader." He continued, "I'm confident Fisher's leadership will continue to thrive and the institution will reach new heights." *Fisher College has established the Dr. Thomas M. McGovern Memorial Scholarship Fund as a tribute to the late president's legacy. Gifts to the fund can be made at fisher.edu/give.*



Thomas M. McGovern, Ed.D.



Winning Strategy

Two decades after launching Fisher’s sports program, Athletic Director and head baseball coach Scott Dulin has achieved remarkable success.

BY PAULA M. BODAH

SCOTT DULIN WORKS FAST.

Back on July 1, 2001, when he was the head baseball coach and Assistant Athletic Director at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, he was tapped by Fisher College to build the school’s athletic program from the ground up. “I was tasked with everything about putting it together, even the team colors and the name,” he recalls. “By September 1, I had it all set.”

In those early years he relied on student workers and part-time coaches. Today he has three assistant baseball coaches, Chris O’Hare, a former Fisher player who was drafted by the Philadelphia Phillies back in 2013; former Red Sox pitcher Manny Delcarmen; and Al Donovan, a former NCAA Division I player and former head coach at Salem State University.

As one of about 250 teams in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, the Fisher Falcons baseball crew has achieved some remarkable success under Coach Dulin. Last year, the team made it to the first round of the national tournament, a feat Dulin likens to playing in the American League championship series in the

majors—one round away from the World Series. It’s hard to compare the 2020–2021 team to past teams, he says, because in 2012 Fisher moved to a conference that has a different postseason format. “It’s debatable whether this was our best year,” he says, “but it was certainly the most challenging because of Covid-19.”

Even under the best of circumstances, the team has always had plenty of obstacles to surmount. “We don’t have the budget of a Boston College, but sometimes we travel like they do,” Dulin says. “And our facilities are off campus, so we have to travel at odd times to practice. You really have to love to play the game.”

As a proud member of the board of the Roberto Clemente Foundation, named for the famed Puerto Rican national hero, baseball player, and humanitarian who died in a plane crash in 1972, Dulin looks for players who are good at more than just swinging a bat and throwing a ball. “You have to be a winner on and off the field,” he says. “You have to be a good person—coachable, humble, a good teammate—that’s what I look for.”



Facts + Figures

22 Fisher players who have signed contracts to play professional baseball

Including three drafted by Major League teams

539 Wins in team history

18 Consecutive years team has made it to the postseason

No. 25 The team’s 2006 U.S. rank

A first for any Falcons team

7 Falcons honored in 2021

The Association of Independent Institutions named Scott Dulin Coach of the Year; other A.I.I. honors included Freshman of the Year, two Gold Glove awards, and two All-Conference team selections

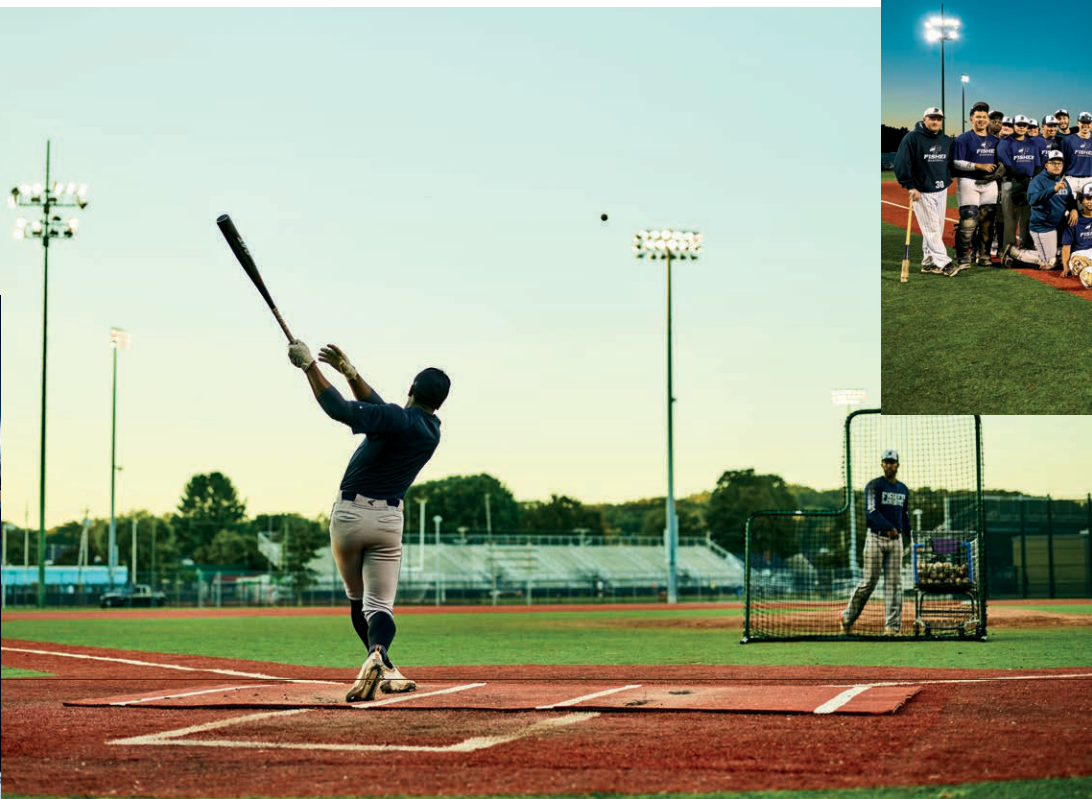


“It’s debatable whether 2021 was our best year, but it was certainly the most challenging. Because of Covid-19, we overcame more than any other team had to in the past.”

HEAD COACH SCOTT DULIN



As one of about 250 teams in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, the Fisher Falcons baseball crew has achieved some remarkable success under Coach Dulin, top center. Last year, the team made it to the first round of the national tournament.





## Room Service An urgent solution to a Covid housing crunch yielded a big win for Fisher's internship program.

BY PAULA M. BODAH

IF A PANDEMIC can have a silver lining, Patricia Barany '21 may have found it behind the front desk of a Back Bay hotel. In the spring of 2020, as Covid-19 was spreading quickly, Fisher College and the Loews Boston Hotel got together and hatched a plan to house students at the hotel—a win-win for Loews, whose business was down because of the virus, and the College, which was looking for ways to keep students safe. Barany was among the 90 students who took up residence in the building.

It turned out to be an auspicious placement, given that Barany was majoring in management with a concentration in hospitality and event planning. In another serendipitous turn of events, Loews Boston's General Manager Robert Rivers learned that all Fisher undergraduates are required to complete an internship. The hotel wasn't among the 60 or so companies that already offered internships to Fisher students, but to Rivers, establishing a program was a no-brainer, especially given that he had willing students living right on site. Barany and Madison Duffey '21, another senior aspiring to a career in hospitality, became the program's first interns.

The Loews program gives students hands-on experience with three-week stretches in four divisions: front desk, housekeeping, food and beverage, and sales and catering. Besides offering a good overall picture of the business, says Nancy Pithis, Dean of International Academic Operations and Curriculum Development and Faculty Internship Liaison, "It gives them a chance to see which area they might be most suited for."

Ally Baldwin, Director of Career Services and Employer Relations, looks forward to working with Rivers to grow the program. "What's special about Loews and about Robert is that they recognize the work ethic and the richness of experience that Fisher students bring to the table," she says.

The immersive experience cemented Barany's commitment to hospitality. In fact, the program was such a success both for Barany and for the hotel, Rivers says, "We offered her a full-time job." Barany, now a front desk agent, is thrilled with her new position.

"Loews is just a great company to work for," she says. "I go to work happy and I leave work happy every day."



## Nice Work

FISHER'S INTERNSHIP PROGRAM EQUIPS STUDENTS FOR REAL-WORLD SUCCESS.

**Fisher College students** go out into the world armed with much more than a degree. The school's requirement that all undergraduates complete at least one internship means Fisher grads step into the workforce with a true competitive edge.

Ally Baldwin, Director of Career Services and Employer Relations, says the school has ongoing relationships with about 60 companies in the Boston area. Well known entities that have hosted interns over the years include the Red Sox, the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Staples, TD Bank, the Worcester County District Attorney's Office, KPMG, Boston Children's Hospital, and the YMCA.

Baldwin's office oversees the internship program, which helps students search for opportunities and find appropriate placements. The program also assists them in gaining experience in their chosen fields. Additionally, Baldwin works with students to encourage them to develop the skills they need to conduct job searches beyond internships.

Students have access to platforms that can connect them to internship and job opportunities nationwide. "I was excited when I saw that one of them, Handshake, has over 12,000 different employers who have identified Fisher as a school they'd like to partner with," she says. "It's amazing that such a wide range of employers recognize Fisher is competitive." —PMB

**The Loews program gives students hands-on experience in all aspects of the business. From left, intern Ariella Alleyne '23, Dean and Faculty Internship Liaison Nancy Pithis, Loews Boston's General Manager Robert Rivers, former intern and current front desk agent Patricia Barany '21.**





# WELCOME,

Since joining Fisher College's finance department 20 years ago, **Steven Rich** has helped transform the school's financial profile and program offerings. Then, when Covid hit, he stepped in as Interim President.

# MR. PRESIDENT

This year, the position became an official appointment, allowing Rich to help Fisher soar to even greater heights.

**BY PEARL MARVELL**

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHRISTOPHER CHURCHILL



# STEVEN RICH

is a Boston guy through and through. When he talks about Fisher College, he drops the “r,” his accent giving away his local roots. Rich grew up in Winthrop, the small seaside community just northeast of the city, has raised his three kids in the same place, and still lives there today with his wife, Denise, to whom he’s been married for 20 years. That kind of consistency is something of a character trait for Rich, who has also been working at Fisher for the past two decades.

Located in the heart of Back Bay, Fisher College, like Steven Rich, is inextricably linked to the City of Boston and its culture. “Steve knows everything about that school,” says Rebecca Bortz Costello, Ph.D. ’68, Vice Chair of Fisher’s Board of Trustees (see “Science Matters,” page 39), a scientific consultant to the National Institutes of Health Office of Dietary Supplements, and a Senior Research Fellow at the Center for Magnesium Education and Research in Pahoia, Hawaii. She believes that Rich’s dedication to Fisher—as Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration, then Interim President, and, now, President—along with his strong background in finance and non-profits, makes him the best person to lead the school right now.

As head of financials, Rich’s vision for the school drove an impressive transformation. “We went from being financially unstable, to having a very strong financial position,” he says. That includes an endowment nearly 20 times larger than when he began.

In his two decades at Fisher, Rich has seen the College grow in other substantial ways, too. When he started, the College’s student body was mostly female (it became coed in 1998) and offered only associate degrees and one bachelor’s degree. Today, Fisher offers more than three dozen bachelor’s, master’s, and online degrees and certificates. The sports program has grown, too. Rich’s years of service at the school coincide with the 20th anniversary of the athletics department. When he began, there were only two competitive sports. Since then, the Department of Athletics has grown to include 10 varsity men’s and women’s teams. Rich credits the program for helping to build collegial spirit and a balanced student body. With sports, Fisher “might not be at the level of Penn State,” he says, “but it certainly creates a good atmosphere for the students.”

Above all though, it’s Fisher’s mission to support the intellectual and professional pursuits of students with personalized and innovative teaching methods that Rich most connects with. “I really think it gives young adults an advantage in life that they couldn’t get otherwise,” he says of the school’s academic approach and culture. These aren’t just trite words about education being the key to success. As a first-generation college graduate himself, Rich embodies the values of education and hard work, and also the empathy required to help others truly succeed as whole people in an academic setting.

“You can see the direct impact that you’re having on young adults’ lives,” he says, “and I think that’s an admirable job.” His vocation is key to his commitment to the school. “My goal is to make Fisher successful,” he says. “I really buy into the mission of the College. That’s why I’ve been here for so long.”

Rich and his wife are, unsurprisingly, big proponents of higher education, and each chose a career path embedded in it. Both have earned MBAs—his from Suffolk University and hers from Endicott College; their son Carmen Rich ’21 earned the same degree from Fisher. Last year, Denise Rich became the Controller at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Prior to that, she was the Controller at Berklee College of Music. “We are a finance family,” says Rich with a laugh, “but we don’t talk about finance at home.”

For Rich, home life is all about family, fun, and getting outdoors. In Winthrop, he likes to get out on the water to go boating and fishing. When he has longer stretches of time, he heads to Maine, to his cabin on a lake. While a knee replacement has made skiing and snowmobiling activities of the past up there, he still enjoys golfing, fishing, and hiking.

When Steven Rich, pictured on campus and with the women’s volleyball team, at right, and the men’s baseball team, previous spread, began at Fisher, the school offered just two sports. Today, there are 10 varsity teams.



**Rich credits the athletics department for helping to build collegial spirit and a balanced student body. With sports, Fisher “might not be at the level of Penn State,” he says, “but it certainly creates a good atmosphere for the students.”**







**“You can see the direct impact that you’re having on young adults’ lives. My goal is to make Fisher successful. I really buy into the mission of the College. That’s why I’ve been here for so long.”**

**I**N JUNE 2020, DURING THE THICK of the pandemic, then-president Alan Ray, Ph.D., concluded his three-year contract. Fisher began its national search for his replacement, but Covid-19 added complexities, and Rich’s role on campus shifted from the head of finance to Interim President. Rich accepted the position as a placeholder, figuring that he’d just be “kicking

the can down the road until after the pandemic,” he says, with his trademark sense of humor. Instead, “the national search ended with me,” he says with a laugh. In March 2021, his appointment became official. (Rich hasn’t entirely let go of the fiscal reigns just yet, however; he’s still very hands-on with financials and accounting while the school searches for a replacement.)

The pandemic presented multiple other challenges, of course, including financial hits like a drop in student enrollments, increased cleaning costs, and on-site Covid testing. But unlike many schools that closed entirely or resorted exclusively to online education, Fisher moved to a hybrid model (with reduced class capacity and compulsory mask wearing, of course), for those who wished to continue their studies on campus.

As an early adopter of online education, Fisher was well prepared for this shift. The school has been offering virtual programs since the mid-1990s, and, according to Rich, 90 percent of faculty were already trained in online teaching when the pandemic struck. Remarkably, Fisher was able to offer students a flexible program that allowed them to learn in whatever environment made them feel most comfortable, whether that was online, in person, or a hybrid of the two. Being quick to launch such an adaptive program meant that the school didn’t lose nearly as many students as other universities and colleges did. As a result, Fisher’s day-division online class offerings have doubled;



today, about 20 percent can be taken remotely. Most students engage in a hybrid model, according to Rich, while about seven percent are fully online.

While Rich feels that at least some in-person learning is key to educational success, he doesn’t see online classes going away anytime soon. “Hybrid learning, going forward, is probably going to stick, particularly with commuter students,” he says. “They maybe will commute here a couple of days a week, but commuting here every day, trying to find parking, two-hour traffic jams—those days are going to be over.”

An undeniable optimist, Rich is also keenly aware that, as President, he will have to grapple with some difficult post-pandemic realities, such as helping students overcome academic obstacles related to struggling with virtual classes or taking the year off altogether. Then there are the financial burdens of rebounding. Thanks to federal grants that have helped cover some costs associated with decreased enrollments, increased safety measures, and general administration, “we’ve been able to manage so far, but it’s going to be a tough few years,” admits Rich. “I call it the Covid hangover.” Getting out of “Covid-mode” he says, and recouping costs associated with it, is one of his top priorities moving forward. Given his winning track record and irrepressible enthusiasm, Rich seems well equipped—and indubitably determined—to steer Fisher’s ship into its next wave of success.

**Above, President Rich takes a swing during batting practice with Fisher baseball players. Last spring, the team made it to the first round of the national tournament in its division (see “Winning Strategy,” page 10.)**

## FISHER’S BRIGHT FUTURE

**WITH TWO DECADES OF SUCCESS UNDER HIS BELT,** it’s no surprise that President Steven Rich has ambitious plans for Fisher College’s next five years. At the top of the list is rolling out more graduate programs, including a master’s degree in informatics, which is already in the works. Building

strategic relationships with other academic institutions, consortiums, and international partners is one way that Fisher is working to broaden the range of programs it offers to students, from the certificate level all the way up to doctoral degrees. Such partnerships will allow Fisher to expand programming without

incurring upfront development costs. A partnership with St. George’s University of Grenada, which will introduce additional pathways in medical and veterinary science, is already underway. Rich also plans to leverage alumni connections, which will help offer more internships and work oppor-

tunities to current students. “Everyone is having a tough time recruiting talent and employees,” says Rich, who sees that connecting aspiring professionals with the companies hungry for them is beneficial for all. On the flip side, Fisher could also become an academic partner that helps companies offer

educational advancement to employees they already have. Such strategic partnerships, he believes, are “going to be the future.” And as for his personal aspirations, Rich doesn’t plan to deviate from Fisher College anytime soon. In five years, he says, “I hope that I’m still sitting in this seat.” —PM



# FAMILY

ALUMNI RECALL THE MEANINGFUL—AND OFTEN LIFELONG—BONDS THEY FORMED WITH FRIENDS, FACULTY, AND RELATIVES DURING THEIR YEARS ON CAMPUS. THEIR STORIES ARE A TRIBUTE TO THE FISHER FAMILY'S ENDURING VISION THAT BEGAN MORE THAN A CENTURY AGO.

BY  
**ANNIE SHERMAN**

PHOTOGRAPHS BY  
**CHRISTOPHER CHURCHILL**

Sara (Fulford) Petruzzelli '13 and Yano Petruzzelli '14 met during orientation on a cruise. They married after graduation and live in Methuen, Massachusetts.





# PERCHED ON FISHER'S BROWNSTONE stoop chatting with new friends while waiting for class to start, Brendan Cook '11 met Isabelle (Baggetta) Cook '12 while teasing her for wearing a Yankees cap.

It was a normal college encounter that seemed unexceptional at the time, yet hindsight illuminates its unquestionable distinction. Sara (Fulford) Petruzzelli '13 and Yano Petruzzelli '14 share a similar, ordinary-yet-memorable first year introduction. During orientation on a cruise, a classmate told a scary story to a group of peers, all of whom have remained tight friends ever since.

Everyday yet seminal moments like these define the lives of Fisher students, especially those like the Cooks and Petruzzellis, couples who married after graduation. But even for siblings like Rob Crowe '15 and Jenn (Crowe) Comeau '15, '17 and sisters Glisery Colón '01 and Yazmin Colón García '05, their time spent at Fisher strengthened family bonds like no other college could. "The Fisher way is very much a welcoming into the family," says Crowe of Manchester, New Hampshire. "It was a vibe everyone projected naturally, and it was neat to experience."

Many alumni emphasize that the downtown location, small student body, and approachable professors are among the quintessential elements that make Fisher unique. With its historic Beacon Street campus burrowed into the capital city, the school encourages unity among its students, like a small school of fish swimming in a big pond. The tight staircases and interconnected classroom buildings, cafeteria, and residence halls enhance physical proximity, too, so students feel a snug sense of belonging from the moment they take a tour of campus until graduation is long in the rearview mirror.

"*This* is the school; *this* is where everything is," says Isabelle Cook, who is originally from upstate New York but now lives in Quincy, Massachusetts, referring to Fisher's compact grounds and its "great little community." But Boston at large "was also our campus," she says, "so I had this whole city to learn and grow in, not just one block."

This atmosphere aligns with what the Fisher family intended when they founded the school in 1903. What started as one small building in Somerville where penmanship was taught has evolved into a beautiful campus in Back Bay that offers deep learning opportunities across more than two dozen undergraduate and graduate programs.

The vision of the Fisher family—to improve students' lives overall by equipping them with intellectual and professional skills—continues to shape how the school operates more than 100 years later.

For Glisery Colón, of Belmont, Massachusetts, Fisher's environment delivered generous opportunities for learning and growth. As the first person in her family to attend college, Colón was eager to find a school with a supportive community and intimate class sizes. She became president of the commuters' club, led the yearbook committee, and was a resident assistant. Fisher turned out to be such a great fit that she recruited her youngest sister, Yazmin Colón García, and other friends to enroll.

"When I stepped into the hallway of 118 Beacon, it was so welcoming—more than other schools," says Glisery Colón. "It was compartmentalized in a way that I felt I could get the services I needed, and I wouldn't be lost. I wouldn't be just a number. People would know who I am, and help me get better at what I wanted to do."

As a bilingual high school student in her predominantly white hometown, Colón García, who lives in Middleton, Massachusetts, says that she was drawn to the diversity of the student body. This, along with small class sizes, delivered a level of comfort and confidence she hadn't previously experienced in school.

Connecting with her peers on "culture and food and conversation," says Colón García, boosted her confidence. "Every time I felt intimidated in a space, it made me feel more assured of myself. I loved Fisher for that."

Many alumni also credit their professors for creating a familial atmosphere. Individualized attention and promoting accountability convinced students like Sara Petruzzelli, of Methuen, Massachusetts, who studied fashion merchandising, that Fisher's professors truly loved their jobs. They also got to know everyone personally, "were very understanding, and made it a point to try and help," she says. "Fisher had a lot that wouldn't be possible on a large scale where you can't get to know everyone as well."

Alumni often affectionately remember individual faculty and staff who elevated their Fisher experience.

For Glisery Colón '01, opposite left, Fisher's environment delivered generous opportunities for learning and growth. Fisher turned out to be such a great fit that she recruited her youngest sister, Yazmin Colón García '05, to enroll.



**"When I stepped into the hallway of 118 Beacon, it was so welcoming—more than other schools. I wouldn't be just a number. People would know who I am, and help me get better at what I wanted to do."**

GLISERY COLÓN '01



“My mom, Patricia McGill ’63, talked about those years as being such a fun time in her life. The college friends that she met here I am still in touch with—they were her best friends.”

KAREN (MCGILL) DUNTON '98, '10



Thirty-five years after her mom's graduation, Karen (McGill) Dunton '98, '10 followed in the footsteps of her late mother, Patricia (Ek) McGill '63, photo opposite. Dunton now serves as Associate Director of Admissions Operations at Fisher, where she's worked for 20 years.

Yano Petruzzelli, for example, recalls baseball coach and director of athletics Scott Dulin (see “Winning Strategy,” page 10) recruiting him out of high school, and remaining a positive influence throughout his college experience. These meaningful interactions weren’t limited to coach-athlete or professor-pupil relationships, though. “It wasn’t necessarily that we were their students,” says Brendan Cook, who was student government president. “But because I saw them every day, they offered advice even if I wasn’t in their class,” he explains of the consistent, welcome guidance provided by faculty and staff.

Other times, bonding with family members is what the experience is all about. For siblings Rob Crowe and Jenn (Crowe) Comeau, who shared their time at Fisher, benefits included having an ally on moving day, as well as someone to hold you accountable if you missed class. Comeau, of New Boston, New Hampshire, recalled that when her brother didn’t show up for an exam in a class they both were taking, their professor asked her to check on him. When he didn’t reply to her text, she went to his room, where he was nursing a bad headache. Although he ultimately missed the exam, and “probably didn’t appreciate that his sister was asking where he was,” jokes Comeau, the built-in sibling support network, propped up by a professor who cared, was something they both appreciated.

“We don’t reflect on it enough, but it was definitely a family experience,” says Sara Petruzzelli who remembers regularly going to the store, park, and gym with a tight-knit group of 15 or 20 classmates. “We had our own unit,”

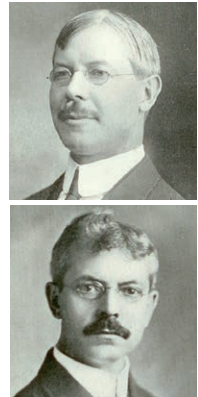
she says, which offered an inimitable sense of security and togetherness.

In some cases, school ties even bridge generations—and not just for the Fisher family. Thirty-five years after her mom’s graduation, Karen (McGill) Dunton ’98, ’10 followed in the footsteps of her late mother, Patricia (Ek) McGill ’63. Back then, Fisher was still an all-female institution focused on secretarial training. Today, Dunton serves as Associate Director of Admissions Operations at Fisher, where she’s worked for 20 years; her brothers-in-law also attended.

Dunton, who is originally from Billerica, Massachusetts and now lives in Buford, Georgia, fondly remembers her mother’s stories about college. “She talked about those years as being such a fun time in her life. The college friends that she met here I am still in touch with—they were her best friends,” she says. “She would have been proud,” adds Dunton, referring to her academic accomplishments, which include an associate and a bachelor’s degree from Fisher. “And the fact that I’m still here—I think she would be happy about that as well.”

The values of friendship and family are such a pervasive part of the Fisher experience that a sense of inclusivity and kindness really does radiate throughout campus—and that spirit stays with students long after they leave. “My dad still has photos of graduation, and I’m the only one of my siblings to have a photo with the school’s president,” Isabelle Cook says proudly. “We knew everybody, and it was a different experience than any other school because of the family aspect. Even though my parents were dropping their youngest girl in the big city, they knew my family at Fisher had my back.”

## THE FISHER FAMILY LEGACY



Brothers Myron C. Fisher, top, and Edmund H. Fisher established Fisher College in 1903.

**IN 1903**, when brothers **Myron C. Fisher** and **Edmund H. Fisher** set out to establish an institution for higher learning, they cared deeply about their students’ success. Originally called Winter Hill Business College and located in Somerville, it flourished offering vocational preparation. While its name has changed and academic offerings have been dramatically modernized, Fisher College’s long-standing commitment to shaping students’ intellectual and professional pursuits remains true. “It’s the stories of successful students that we celebrate and appreciate,” says Alexandra L. Bartsch, J.D., great-granddaughter of Myron and current Chair of the Board of Trustees, “and the reason my family stays committed.”

Though the Fisher family no longer operates the school, its influence remains evident through the mission and values that have become the school’s cultural tradition. For Bartsch, who grew up spending lots of time on campus (her father, Scott Fisher, Ed.D. ’51, was president from 1970–1981), serving on the board for the past 25 years has been a rewarding duty. “My family has always had a strong commitment to helping people through education. And I am particularly interested in the mission of the College and furthering the lives of our students in the same way that M.C. did in 1903,” she says of her great-grandfather. “I believe my entire family shares that dedication.” **—AS**





FISHER'S MASTER'S IN PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAMS  
APPROACH THE SUBJECT FROM A VARIETY OF ANGLES—  
TO SUIT A VARIETY OF STUDENTS.

# THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

BY ALYSSA GIACOBBE

Illustration by KEN ORVIDAS  
Photographs by CHRISTOPHER CHURCHILL



**P**ATRICIA MATCHIN '21 had been teaching English—her second favorite subject, she says—for 17 years when she decided she was ready for a change. Psychology had been her first love, but not an especially sought-after subject when she first began teaching. But more and more of the students coming to her school, the New Mexico Military Institute (NMMI), a public military high school and junior college in Roswell, New Mexico, had been asking for psychology and mental health coursework. They also wanted a better understanding of what Matchin describes as “how to handle the curveballs that life decides it wants to throw at you.” She wanted to help her students get that—and she wanted to get it herself, too.

Matchin began searching for online master's in psychology programs and came upon Fisher College. Although she planned to complete her degree entirely online, she liked that Fisher was a brick and mortar school with a long history and, most importantly, interesting psychology courses. She began the master's program in the fall of 2019—the program's inaugural year. The first curveball came a few months later. “Covid-19 hit,” she says, “and it seemed like every single course that I was taking at Fisher also helped me deal with some issue that I was dealing with at work.”


Fisher's Master of Arts in Psychology programs were created to provide students with a graduate-level foundation in psychology and mental health. Now, they are the school's fastest growing programs, with courses that include topics such as counseling theories, psychopathology, social and cultural issues, psychopharmacology, death and dying, addictions, psychological trauma across the lifespan, research and evaluation, and crisis intervention.

“Students really do have the opportunity to experience and understand how mental health impacts people from birth all the way through the end of the life cycle,” says Alicia Vitagliano, Ph.D., LMHC, Program Director, Master of Arts in Psychology Programs. “We educate and train them to be trauma informed, ethically driven, multiculturally oriented, competent scholar-practitioners. We push them to really understand the whole person in a holistic sense, but also to have the ability to deploy techniques in cognitive behavioral therapy, dialectical behavioral therapy, and client-centered practices.”

There are two programs, each with different formats. The Master of Arts in Psychology, Mental Health Track, which is entirely online, is a 30-credit program designed to prepare students to work in any number of helping professions, advocacy, government, education, or in preparation for a doctorate. “It's for students who have not had a ton of experience in psychology, and maybe want to change careers and want a lot of flexibility,” says Vitagliano.

The Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology is a hybrid online- and classroom-based, 60-credit program that prepares students to sit for the exam to become a licensed mental health counselor. There are three tracks for students to choose from—general, trauma, and addictions. “A lot of people want to have that connectivity, and to be in the classroom with faculty and other students, but also need a little bit of flexibility,” says Vitagliano. Students take all of the courses offered in the Master's in Psychology program, which are transferable should they decide to switch to Counseling Psychology, which also requires students to complete more than 700 hours of clinical training. This makes Fisher's program adaptable in a way that few programs are, even if students change paths once they've started their studies.

“For anyone who may be thinking, ‘Hmm, I'm not sure if I want to be a therapist, or to jump into a grad degree with 60 credits,’ which is quite a few, it's a really good

Alicia Vitagliano, Ph.D., LMHC, Program Director, Master of Arts in Psychology Programs, is seated in a black office chair in a library. She is wearing a white blazer over a colorful patterned blouse and dark pants. She is smiling at the camera. Behind her are white bookshelves filled with books. To her right is a corkboard with various items pinned to it.

**“We push students to really understand the whole person in a holistic sense, but also to have the ability to deploy techniques in cognitive behavioral therapy, dialectical behavioral therapy, and client-centered practices.”**

**ALICIA VITAGLIANO, PH.D., LMHC,**  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR, MASTER OF ARTS  
IN PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAMS





**“A lot of psychology programs are more Eurocentric, but if you’re in a classroom with a bunch of other white people that doesn’t really lend itself to as broad an understanding as I wanted. Lots of schools say they’re focused on diversity, but Fisher does a really good job of actually meeting those promises.”**

**NATHANIEL KAVAN '22**

opportunity to start in one program, and then, if they want, transfer all their credits over into a counseling degree,” says Vitagliano. “And that’s truly unique.”

Brittany Calderon '16, '22 is one such student. After completing the 30-credit program, she wanted to pursue the Counseling Psychology trauma track. The transition “was smooth and perfect,” she says. “I didn’t have to start from scratch.”

Vitagliano built both programs from the ground up, including selecting courses, writing the criteria for admissions, and interviewing and hiring faculty. Until recently, she was a department of one. (Though with this year’s hire of Assistant Professor Joseph Lemieux, Ph.D. (ABD), LMHC, LADCI, she’s now a department of two.)

Nathaniel Kavan '22 was also a high school teacher before deciding to pursue his master’s degree in psychology. Most of his teaching positions were working with kids with a variety of social-emotional needs. He saw pursuing his advanced degree as an opportunity to approach the system through a different lens and chose Fisher specifically for the hyper-focused trauma track. “Master’s in psychology programs can be so broad,” he says, “and I wanted to make the most of my time.”

He also liked the school’s commitment to multicultural education. “A lot of psychology programs are more Eurocentric, but if you’re in a classroom with a bunch of other white people, that doesn’t really lend itself to as broad an understanding as I wanted,” says Kavan. “Lots of schools say they’re focused on diversity, but Fisher does a really good job of actually meeting those promises.” Matchin agrees. “Even though online was what I needed, I was a little apprehensive about the courses being completely digital,” she says. “But there was such diversity among my classmates and professors that I could not have gotten here in New Mexico. I never felt I was being limited by the online platform.”

Calderon, who identifies as Puerto Rican and Cape Verdean, describes Fisher’s community as “culturally shocking in the best way.” In the psychology program, that’s meant being surrounded by peers that make her feel safe, heard, and supported, while also bringing varied worldviews and clinical experience to the classroom. For Calderon, who also currently works in the domestic violence field, that’s helped her in her academics and in the real world.

Other aspects of the programs have produced unexpected benefits, too. Kavan calls “Death and Dying,” which introduces students to multiple theories regarding cognitive and affective reactions to death, dying, and grief, one of the most impactful classes he’s taken so far. “I don’t want to work with a geriatric population, but the material was applied in a very universal way,” he says. “Being elderly isn’t traumatic, necessarily, but there are a lot of life considerations you’re making at that point that people who have been forced to go through trauma have gone through.” In an internship he’s doing with a private psy-

chology practice working with medically fragile students, he finds himself drawing on that material constantly.

Since graduating earlier this year, Matchin, too, has called on her Fisher education nearly daily. Not long after starting the program, she was fairly suddenly promoted from professor to associate dean in the middle of some department upheaval, and was tasked with overseeing NMMI’s Humanities Division, which includes the English, philosophy, communications, modern languages, and creative and fine arts departments. “I was dealing with all of these brand new issues that I had no clue how to handle and had no training for, because the person who was supposed to train me had gotten removed,” she says. “And my Fisher courses helped me in every single way.”

Recently, Matchin leaned on what she was learning in the program’s course on multicultural foundations to create and implement a campus-wide cultural diversity training at NMMI. She’s also drawing on research she conducted during her Fisher studies to develop a program designed to help NMMI’s cadets get more and better sleep.

And, of course, she’s finally getting back to her first love. Next semester, she’ll be adding a class in developmental psychology to her literature course load. “And I’m really, really excited about that,” she says. “The program really rejuvenated my love of psychology. It’s really changed everything for me.”

## **A New Graduate Certificate in Addictions Counseling Enhances Therapeutic Care**

**LAUNCHING IN JANUARY**, the new graduate certificate in Addictions Counseling program was created to build on an undergraduate or graduate behavioral sciences degree to give students a deeper understanding of issues surrounding substance-related and addictive behaviors. Students expand their educational comprehension on topics that include treatments and treatment planning, recovery support efforts, relapse prevention, ethics, and advocacy. After completing the six-course program, they’ll be eligible to sit for the Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor I and II exams in Massachusetts, as well as in several other states. “That allows them to be licensed to conduct substance-abuse counseling with folks in a variety of settings and receive third-party reimbursement,” says Associate Professor Alicia Vitagliano, Ph.D., LMHC, Program Director, Master of Arts in Psychology Programs.

Students without previous clinical experience will also have the opportunity to complete an internship in addictions counseling as part of the program, an area where a gap in existing services is pervasive in many communities today. Overall, the certificate program is designed to allow interested students to develop a focus on addictions counseling and provide them with the training and education they need to effectively help those in need. Coursework stresses professional and ethical responsibilities and strives to educate counselors to provide ethical and therapeutic care to the growing number of individuals, groups, and families affected by addiction. **—AG**



# Join the Fun!



Join fellow alumni, friends, classmates, and colleagues at Fisher's biggest celebrations.

No matter when you graduated or what degree you earned, club you joined, sport you played, or friends you made while you were here, the thread that binds us together is we are **Fisher Falcons for life**.

ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME & FAN FEST

“Celebrating 20 Years of Athletics at Fisher”

April 30, 2022

[fisher.edu/halloffame](https://fisher.edu/halloffame)

ALUMNI WEEKEND

“Celebrating All Milestones”

June 4, 2022

[fisher.edu/alumnireunion](https://fisher.edu/alumnireunion)

*Save the Dates!*



FISHER COLLEGE





As the Director of Outreach and Community Programs for the Cambridge Police Department, Kessen Green '01, '04 is dedicated to being a force for good at a time when our national criminal justice system has been criticized for being unjust toward people of color, especially African-American men.



Alumni  
News

Game Plan  
Kessen Green '01,  
'04 knows that  
sometimes the road  
to success takes  
a circuitous path.

BY PEARL MARVELL

**KESSEN GREEN '01, '04**, never planned to play basketball at Fisher College. In fact, he hadn't planned to play basketball in college at all—or even to attend Fisher, for that matter. As a senior in high school, the Cambridge native had been offered a scholarship to play football at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. “Football was my passion,” says Green.

When a legal scrape closed out that opportunity, another school offered him a scholarship to attend, but when that also fell through due to funding, Green took a gap year in Atlanta, then returned home to live with his mom back in Cambridge. Unsure of what to do next, he was surprised when he got a call from an administrator at Fisher who persuaded him to come to the school and join its basketball team. Back in high school, Green had been in touch with an athletic recruiter at Fisher, but, he says, he has no idea how anyone at the school knew that he was back home.

At the time, Fisher was diligently working to build the school's new athletic program, and was focused on basketball in particular. Just a few years into being a coeducational institution, Fisher was still

BEYOND

struggling to bring in male students, let alone any that could play competitively on a fledgling sports team.

But while football may have been Green's main pursuit, basketball was a close second. He was intrigued, decided to take a chance, and accepted the offer.

That decision was a turning point for Green, who served as team captain for three seasons, and helped lead it to its first ever playoff appearance during the 2002–2003 season. Green, who completed his associate degree in 2001, continued on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Management in 2004. After graduating, he became the team's assistant coach, winning the Sunrise Conference Athletic Championship in 2005. The following year, the star athlete and coach was inducted into the Fisher College Athletics Hall of Fame.

Since then, Green has pursued another passion—helping others. Today, as the Director of Outreach and Community Programs for the Cambridge Police Department, he's dedicated to being a force for good at a time when our national criminal justice system has been put under the microscope for being unjust toward people of color, especially African-American men. “This was my chance to infiltrate a system and make some change,” he says. Working in the community where he grew up, he adds, allows him “to make relationships and to tear down those walls that exist.”

From swapping football for basketball to embracing his position as a role model in the community, Green knows that being adaptable is a valuable skill to have on the path to success at any age in life. Now, his game plan is to help kids in his own community “live and work in the city that they were raised in,” and to show them that “upward mobility is possible.”

20 Years  
of Fisher  
Athletics

2001–2002

Fisher College establishes its athletic program. Athletic Director Scott Dulin begins with four Falcons sports teams: men's baseball, women's softball, and men's and women's basketball.

2004–2005

The men's basketball and baseball teams garner their first Sunrise Conference championships and first trips to the national tournament.

2005–2006

The Falcons baseball team finishes the season ranked No. 25 in the nation, the first Fisher team to reach national ranking.

2007–2008

The men's and women's soccer teams are formed, and baseball player Anthony Perry '08 (who is now the Assistant Athletic Director/ Sports Information) becomes the first Fisher athlete to sign a professional contract.

2012–2013

Fisher Athletics moves to a new conference, the Association of Independent Institutions (A.I.I.).

2017–2018

Fisher introduces its women's volleyball program.

2019–2020

Men's and women's cross country teams are established, and Fisher baseball achieves its 500th win.

2020–2021

The baseball team becomes the first Fisher College team to make it to the national tournament since joining the A.I.I. (see “Winning Strategy,” page 10).

We Want  
to Hear  
From You

**CALL FOR CLASS NOTES** Talk to us! Did you get a promotion? Get married? Meet up with your old classmates? We want to hear from our alumni. Share your updates. *Send notes to [alumni@fisher.edu](mailto:alumni@fisher.edu).*





The Game Changer Part coach and part therapist, April Rowell '17 teaches kids social-emotional skills through sports and play.

BY MEAGHAN O'NEILL

April Rowell '17 is a passionate problem solver. So when she took a class on crisis intervention during her junior year, she realized her natural skill set should be applied to a major in psychology. After graduation, she joined City Year Boston, supporting fifth-grade students and teachers in Boston Public Schools. She loved working with kids, she says, but “knew that teaching was not for me.”

Still, Rowell recognized the value of her work, which largely centered on helping kids with social-emotional skills and self-regulation. So, the following year, she enrolled in Simmons University’s graduate program in social work. During that time, an internship with the Boston International Newcomers Academy—a Boston Public School that supports immigrant English language learners—reinforced her devotion to working with kids.

After earning her master’s degree in 2020, Rowell accepted a position as a Clinical Game Changer with Doc Wayne Youth Services, an innovative program that

offers therapeutic services through play and sports in Boston-area schools. Today, Rowell provides group and individual therapy to young students, focusing on lessons like teamwork, lifting up peers, resilience, and decision-making.

At first, Rowell says, she wondered, “How can I help in a clinical way if I’m just playing sports?” But her efforts, paired with her bright energetic spirit, have paid off. “The kids don’t think of it as going to therapy,” she says, because it’s not an appointment in an office. “It’s a lot of work, but it’s also very rewarding,” says Rowell. “It’s a privilege for them to let me into their lives.”

Finding His Calling

Cameron Lyons '18, '21 has had quite a year. After earning his Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology degree, he was hired as an outpatient therapist by Counseling Service of Addison County in Middlebury, Vermont, and, after moving there, promptly broke his ankle. That forced one more learning experience—figuring out how to conduct telehealth counseling sessions via Zoom and phone.

Originally from Canton, Massachusetts, Lyons came to Fisher to study fashion merchandising. But after taking undergraduate courses in psychology, he became intrigued by the field and pivoted toward a new major. Working at the Pappas Rehabilitation Hospital

for Children in his hometown after completing his undergraduate studies was also “incredibly formative,” he says, and ultimately inspired him to focus on a career in counseling. Around that same time, Fisher had just launched its new graduate degree program in counseling psychology, “so it kind of lined up,” says Lyons, who was glad to return to his alma mater to pursue an advanced degree.

His education and experience at Fisher College, he adds, was crucial in launching his successful career. “The individualized attention, teaching, and support while I was at Fisher was pretty instrumental in moving me toward where I currently am,” says Lyons. Today, despite the broken ankle, Lyons has no regrets about pursuing his chosen path. —Pearl Marvell



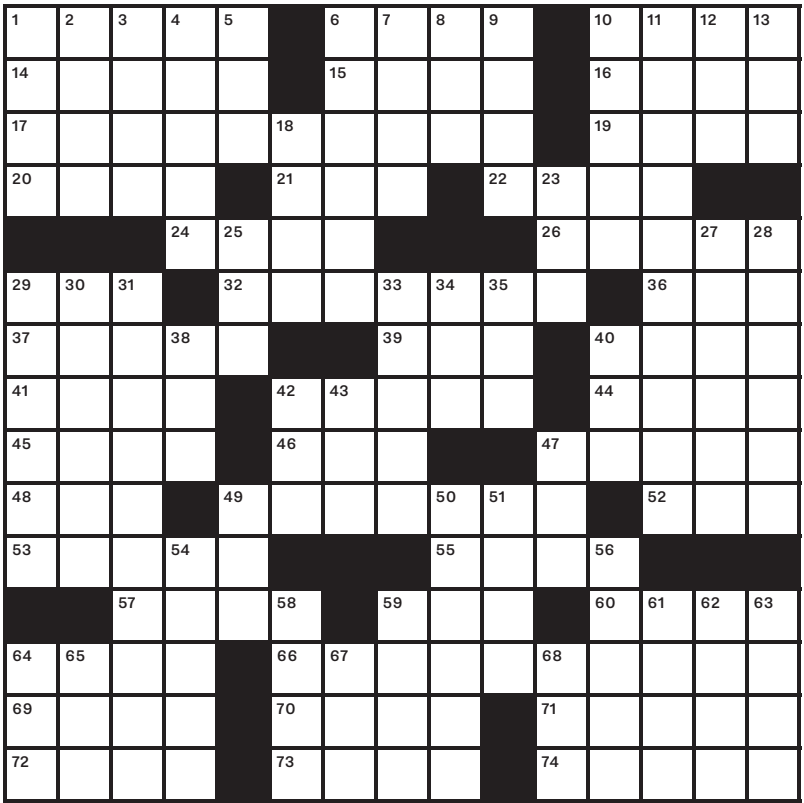
The Puzzle\*

Living History

Founded more than 100 years ago, Fisher has a rich past and enduring legacy tied to its location, community, and founders.

BY DONNA HOKE

\*For solution, go to [fisher.edu/fishtoday](https://fisher.edu/fishtoday).



Across

- 1. ORG. THAT ACCREDITED FISHER IN 1970
- 6. Race bag
- 10. “Careful where you watch this,” in emails
- 14. 11th century Spanish hero
- 15. Barista offering
- 16. Member of the Siouan people
- 17. FISHER’S ORIGINAL NAME
- 19. 1860s soldiers, for short
- 20. “I \_\_\_ bad moon rising...”
- 21. Trending
- 22. “Give me the remote” punishment
- 24. About 2,000 feet of film
- 26. What active people are on
- 29. Roseanne’s TV mom
- 32. THEY FIRST FLEW IN 2001
- 36. “Canterbury Tales” character
- 64. \_\_\_ fide
- 37. Certain talent show winners
- 39. “... sat \_\_\_ tuffet”
- 40. Covering of a seed
- 41. Canyons and Savanas, e.g.
- 42. FIRST FISHER PRESIDENT
- 44. Big Apple field
- 45. Bash on a beach
- 46. Abbr. on a tow truck
- 47. Alabama’s state nut
- 48. 1099-\_\_\_ (IRS form)
- 49. ONE OF 32 ACROSS, ACTUALLY
- 52. Letters on a 32 Across baseball scoreboard
- 53. Additions and deletions, say
- 55. “Hercules” TV spinoff
- 57. “... thunder, lightning, \_\_\_ rain?”: “Macbeth”
- 59. “Me day” getaway
- 60. THEY WERE FIRST OFFERED IN '15
- 64. \_\_\_ fide

Down

- 1. Headlines
- 2. “Night” Nobelist Wiesel
- 3. Accutane target
- 4. “Norwegian Wood” instrument
- 5. Top of a scale?
- 6. Foot doctor?
- 7. “It’s \_\_\_!” (“They love it!”)
- 8. 70 Across protagonist
- 9. Artisan’s furnace
- 10. End of Boston?
- 11. CURRENT FISHER PRESIDENT
- 12. “The Gift of the Magi” gift
- 13. “A Nightmare on Elm Street” director Craven
- 18. “Cheers” actress Perlman
- 23. “Fifth quarters,” in basketball; abbr.
- 25. Awful grades
- 27. Fender product
- 28. EDUCATION THAT WAS PIONEERING IN 1998
- 29. Conspiracy theorist’s forte
- 30. WITH 42 ACROSS, FISHER CO-FOUNDER WHO WENT BY E.H.
- 31. DESCRIBING AN EARLY FISHER EDUCATION
- 33. Apt lipstick shade for a scuba diver
- 34. “Artists Against Fracking” founder
- 35. A Bobbsey sister
- 38. “Gumbo” is its yearbook; abbr.

- 40. “A” playing card
- 42. Gymnast’s milieu
- 43. “Boo-\_\_\_!” (celebratory cry)
- 47. “To hold a \_\_\_ is to be at war”: Voltaire
- 49. “... and not \_\_\_ do”
- 50. Deplete
- 51. Rolling drop
- 54. HERITAGE \_\_\_
- 56. “I have half \_\_\_ to give up on this puzzle!”
- 58. Approx. time it takes for light to travel one foot
- 59. “Hook” character
- 61. “Cordon” color
- 62. “Just \_\_\_ Bit” (2005 hit by 50 Cent)
- 63. In UPS’s hands
- 64. BACK \_\_\_ (FISHER SITE)
- 65. “L’ \_\_\_ del Cairo”: Mozart
- 67. “Deep Space Nine” shape-shifter
- 68. “Tuning in the U.S.A.” broadcaster: Abbr.



Events

December 2021 / Holiday Alumni and Friends Social

January 18, 2022 / Fisher College Giving Day: Give for 118 Beacon Street and the Memories Made

February 2022 / Alumni Meet and Mingle Networking Event: “For the Love of Fisher”

March 2022 / New York Alumni Social

April 30, 2022 / Fan Fest and Hall of Fame: Celebrating 20 Years of Fisher College Athletics

May 2022 / Young Alumni Event

May 14, 2022 / Commencement

June 4, 2022 / Fisher College Reunion: Celebrating Milestones

October 2022 / Homecoming

For details, contact the Alumni Office by email at [alumni@fisher.edu](mailto:alumni@fisher.edu) or phone 617-236-8822.



Donor  
Q+A

Dr. Peter C. Everett

Assistant Professor of Medicine at Boston University School of Medicine and a medical oncologist at Boston Medical Center

**Why did you donate to the psychology program?** In July of 2018, my son Ted died of an accidental opioid overdose at age 25, which was devastating for our family. Too many others have been impacted as mine has been. He left behind a trust that I had set aside for his education. In the context of the larger opioid crisis, there is a need for substance use disorder counseling that is not being met.

**How will the gift be used?** There are students at Fisher who have an interest in pursuing a master's degree in counseling psychology, with a focus on addiction in particular. The Theodore Everett Berlin Scholarship can lower the financial barrier for these students to get the training and education they need to be effective counselors.

**How has Fisher changed in the past decade?** The institution has grown from a two-year to a four-year college with additional graduate degree offerings. We've done this in an environment where other smaller, private colleges have been closing their doors and by serving the educational needs of our students in a way that prepares them to be outstanding contributors, and by avoiding debt.

**What motivates you to serve Fisher?** It's about being involved in my community and supporting an institution that's making a difference in the lives of young people. *To donate, visit [fisher.edu/give](https://fisher.edu/give).*  
—Pearl Marvell



“The Theodore Everett Berlin Scholarship can lower the financial barrier for students to get the training and education they need to be effective counselors.”

DR. PETER C. EVERETT

BEYOND / ADVANCING FISHER



Donor  
Profile

Science Matters  
A gift from  
Rebecca Bortz  
Costello, Ph.D. '68  
benefits the  
biology program.

As a student at Fisher College, Rebecca Bortz Costello '68 gained skills she needed to launch a career in medical science. After graduating with an associate degree from the medical assistant program at Fisher, she went on to earn a master's degree in biology and a Ph.D. in clinical nutrition.

Costello, who is Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees, was stimulated by those courses during her time at Fisher. So when the school launched a bachelor's degree program in biology, Costello, who is a consultant to the National Institutes of Health Office of Dietary

Supplements and a Senior Research Fellow at the Center for Magnesium Education and Research in Pahoehoe, Hawaii, began funding scholarships for biology majors. Now, the program will benefit once more from her generosity.

Costello consulted with faculty before designating her latest gift for the purchase of equipment to help “students accrue the skills they need in order to be successful,” she says. Costello is thrilled to support the next generation of Fisher scientists. “Obviously,” she says, “the biology program is very near and dear to my heart.” —PM

Spot the Difference\*

Prime Location, Water View

Look closely at this image taken from a prime perch on the Fisher campus and it's easy to see why students, faculty, and staff enjoy being so close to the Charles River.

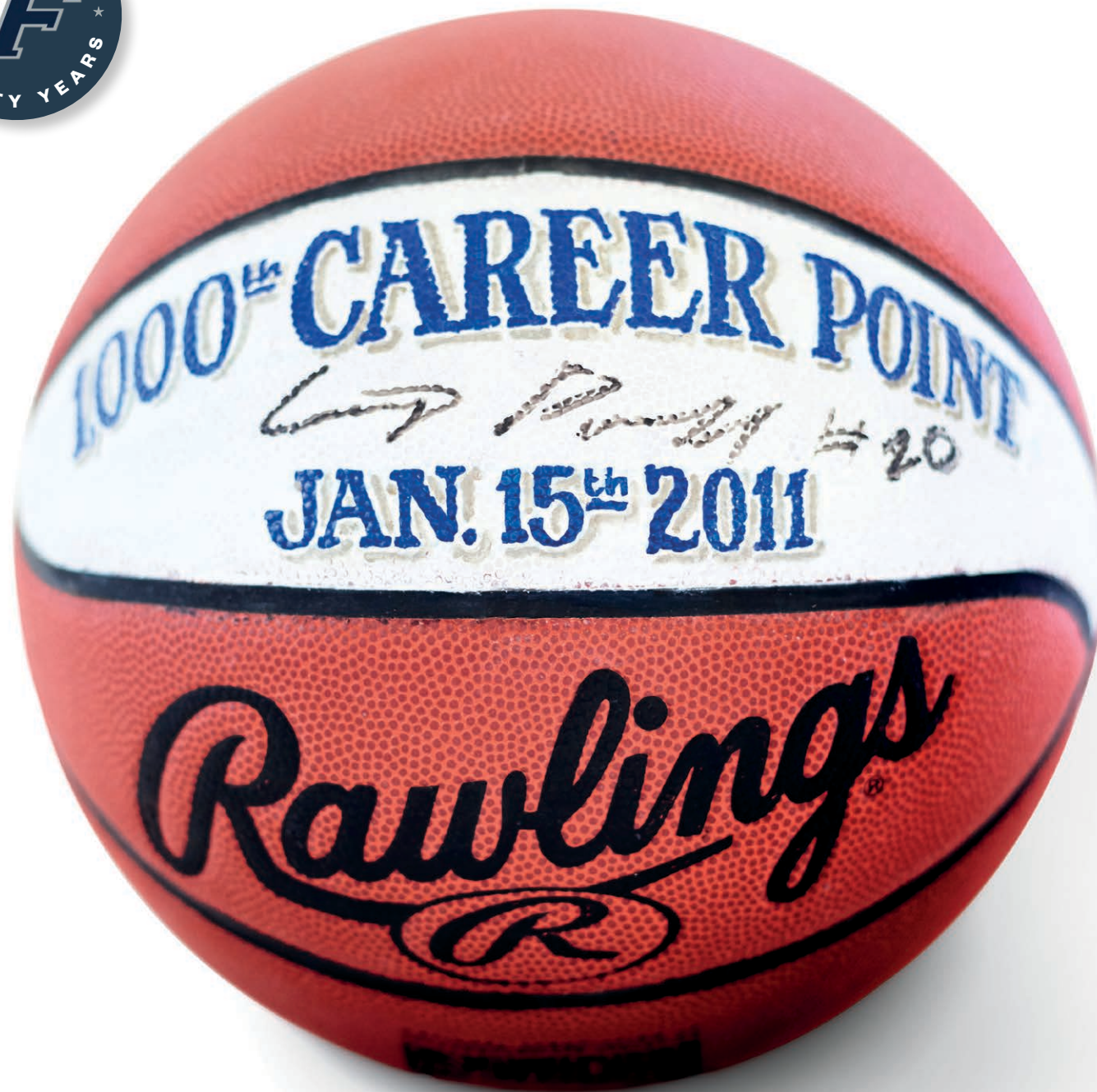


The Fisher community has long taken advantage of the Charles River Esplanade. Nicknamed “Chuck” by local rowers, the Charles flows through 23 communities and, along with Boston Harbor, famously inspired The Standells' 1966 hit “Dirty Water.” The Charles has cleaned up its act since then. And you have to love that view! **See if you can spot the eight changes with a second look at the Charles.**

*\*For solution, go to [fisher.edu/fishertoday](https://fisher.edu/fishertoday).*



# Artifact



## FISHER'S 1,000-POINT CLUB BASKETBALL

It's easy to "join the club and earn points" for a favorite store or airline; just sign up. But to join an elite club of Fisher basketball players, you have to rack up your points *first*—1,000 of them. So far,

11 outstanding Falcons have managed to shoot and score their way to that particular hoop dream over the course of their Fisher b-ball careers. Once players qualify, the College presents them with a customized ball featuring their signature. And, best of all, each player earns bragging rights that never expire. —Robert Dunn

### 1,000-Point Club Members

**MEN'S BASKETBALL** Louis Williams '11 / 1,985. Tyler Shular '16 / 1,893. Michael Newcombe '07 / 1,855. Dennis Norford '12 / 1,419. Kyle Holmes '17 / 1,276. Steven Rice '09 / 1,233. Casey Purcell '11 / 1,136.

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL** Javana Bernard '14 / 1,831. Murphy Carroll '18 / 1,629. Madison Carroll '18 / 1,343. Tiffany Beckman '11 / 1,292.

Photograph by Christopher Churchill



## Are you ready to make a difference to Fisher students for generations to come?

For 118 years, Fisher College has been **transforming** the lives of students and their families. Your contribution ensures that more of our students will learn to **think** critically, **work** together, and **discover** their potential so that by the time they walk the stage at graduation, they are ready to take on the world.

Solidifying the future of Fisher can be simple and satisfying—and make a difference in the lives of many students. A planned or deferred gift is one that is planned for today and allocated at a future date through a **bequest**, **assignment**, **trust**, **charitable gift annuity**, or **restricted endowment**.

## Leave your mark on the future of Fisher.

We would be honored to have a conversation about how you can make a difference through a planned gift. We invite you to contact the Office of Alumni Affairs and Engagement at **617-236-8822** or **amatarese@fisher.edu** or visit **fisher.edu/give**.





**Fisher College**

118 Beacon Street  
Boston, MA 02116

## Advance Your Career with a Graduate Degree at Fisher College

We know you have a busy schedule. Between career plans, family responsibilities, and your social life, your free time is valuable and we want you to make the most of it. That's why Fisher fits your busy life, not the other way around.

Small class sizes, one-on-one attention, extensive course offerings, and flexible scheduling allow our students to shape their education to best meet their needs. We offer convenient 8- or 12-week terms, online or on-campus, **on your time**.

To learn more, visit [fisher.edu/academics/graduate](https://fisher.edu/academics/graduate).

### FISHER GRADUATE PROGRAMS

- **Master of Business Administration in Strategic Leadership, offering tracks in Sport Administration and Healthcare Management** (Online or on-campus)
- **Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology, offering tracks in Trauma and Addictions Counseling** (Hybrid)
- **Master of Arts in Psychology** (Online)
- **Master of Science in Criminal Justice** (Online)
- **Graduate Certificate in Addictions Counseling** (Online)
- **Graduate Certificates in Business—Organizational Leadership, Financial Management, and Healthcare Management** (Online)

