

FISHER COLLEGE

116TH COMMENCEMENT



Sunday, the twenty third of August

two thousand and twenty

eleven o'clock in the morning

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Joshua McKain, MS, *College Librarian*

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FISHER COLLEGE - FOUNDED IN 1903

Set amidst the regal brownstones of Boston's historic Back Bay, and invigorated by the academic spirit of this, the epicenter of American higher education, Fisher College changes lives. For 117 years, Fisher has, in the words of its founders, moved lives forward.

The mission of Fisher College reflects an unyielding spirit to training each and every student for a rewarding and fulfilling life:

*Fisher College
improves lives by
providing students
with the knowledge
and skills necessary
for a lifetime of
intellectual and
professional pursuits.*

Fisher College opened its doors in 1903 as Winter Hill Business School in the working-class city of Somerville, Massachusetts, just two miles north of Boston. The School's founders Myron and Edmund Fisher saw opportunity in empowering factory workers through education. In 1939, the School opened a campus in Boston's Back Bay on Beacon Street. After the War, it became The Fisher School for Men (Somerville) and The Fisher School for Women (Boston). In 1952, after consolidating its programs, the school became Boston's Fisher Junior College.

In 1957, the Board of Regents of Higher Education of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts approved Fisher Junior

College as a two-year, degree-granting college. In 1970, Fisher moved forward again, gaining accreditation from the New England Association of Schools & Colleges.

In 1975, The Division of Graduate and Professional Studies began to serve adult and non-traditional learners with satellite locations currently located in Brockton, North Attlenborough, and New Bedford. Expanding its vision of providing educational excellence, in 1998, Fisher began a partnership with Signature Healthcare Brockton Hospital School of Nursing, whereby students can earn an Associate of Science in tandem with the Nursing Diploma. In 1988, thirty-six years after becoming a junior college, the school adopted its current name, *Fisher College*.

Fisher continues to respond to the needs of each generation. In 1998, the Fisher community expanded globally through Fisher Online, a pioneering distance and online-education model. In 1999, the College's first bachelor's degree – the Bachelor of Science in Management – was offered, and in 2015, the College authorized the first master's degree – a Master of Business Administration with a focus on strategic leadership.

Today, Fisher shapes the lives of students and citizens who are more connected to and more influenced by the world around them. Currently, the College boasts a diverse population of students from 39 states and 50 countries, who benefit from Fisher's home in Boston, teaching-first philosophy, and commitment to career readiness.

ACADEMIC HONORS

Honors are bestowed as recognition of outstanding academic achievement and as a means to further encourage sound scholarship. Fisher College supports academic achievement and is pleased to recognize and reward degree-seeking students whose performance merits special attention.

At Fisher College, our students are distinguished in the following manner:

- Gold cords are worn by students who have completed all degree requirements and meet the following criteria for graduating with honors. These cords signify the Honor (Associate) or Cum Laude (Bachelor) status.

GPA	Associate	Bachelor
3.75-4.0	Highest Honors	summa cum laude
3.5-3.74	High Honors	magna cum laude
3.3-3.49	Honors	cum laude

Honors or Cum Laude status is awarded to students who have fully completed their degree requirements.

- Gold stole and royal blue & gold intertwined cord signify a member of the Golden Key Honor Society.
- Blue and gold medal along with an intertwined cord signify Alpha Phi Sigma Honor Society.
- Platinum stole and platinum & dark blue intertwined cord signify a member of the Psi Chi Honor Society.
- Gold stole and royal blue & gold cords signify a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.
- Red, White & Blue cords signify current member of the U. S. Military or Veteran.
- Gold mortarboard tassel signifies a member of the Fisher College Honors Program.
- Drab mortarboard tassel signifies a Master's degree.
- Black mortarboard tassel signifies a Bachelor's degree.
- Blue and white mortarboard tassel signifies an Associate's degree or Certificate.

What does cum laude mean? Translators define cum laude as "With Praise." Scholars define magna cum laude meaning "With Great Praise." Most define summa cum laude as "With Highest Praise."

Golden Key Honor Society

The Golden Key Honor Society was established at Fisher College in 2012. It is open to bachelor degree-seeking students who have met the required academic criteria.

Alpha Phi Sigma

The inaugural chapter of Alpha Phi Sigma was founded at Fisher College in 2016. Alpha Phi Sigma is open to students studying Criminal Justice who meet required academic criteria.

Psi Chi International Honor Society

The inaugural chapter of Psi Chi was founded at Fisher College in 2015. Psi Chi is open to students studying Psychology who meet required academic criteria.

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

A chapter of Phi Theta Kappa was established at Fisher College in 1965 with the name Nu Omega. Students are eligible for membership should they meet required academic criteria.

Honors Program

The Fisher College Honors Program invites a select community of students on a journey of excellence.



Martin J. Walsh

Martin J. Walsh, a lifelong champion of working people and a proud product of the City of Boston, is the City's 54th mayor.

Mayor Walsh's vision is of a thriving, healthy, and innovative Boston — a City with equality and opportunity for all, where a revolutionary history inspires creative solutions to the challenges of the 21st century.

The Mayor has led Boston to the forefront of the global **innovation economy**, by attracting industry-leading private sector employers, upgrading the City's digital infrastructure, and using technology to transform government services — from a parking meter payment app to a new City website. At the same time, he has created powerful tools for low-income workers, including a “learn and earn” job apprenticeship program and an **Office of Financial Empowerment**.

The Walsh Administration has been hailed by President Obama for its work in expanding young people's opportunities and breaking new ground in both **crime prevention** and **police-community relations**. Other milestones include the nation's first municipal **Office of Recovery Services** dedicated to the prevention

and treatment of substance abuse; the City's first **Cultural Plan** in a generation to restore Boston's identity as an arts leader; and, in a sign of strong fiscal management and economic policy, the City of Boston's first perfect **AAA bond ratings**.

Finally, the Mayor has invited the people of Boston to help build a blueprint for the City's future in **Imagine Boston 2030**, the first citywide plan in half a century. Before taking office, Mayor Walsh served in the **Massachusetts House of Representatives**, where he was a leader on job creation, worker protections, substance abuse, mental health, homelessness, K-12 education, and civil rights. He also played a key role in defending Massachusetts' pioneering stand on marriage equality.

Mayor Walsh also made his mark as a labor leader. After following his father into Laborers Local 223 in Boston, he rose to head the **Building and Construction Trades Council** from 2011 to 2013. He worked with business and community leaders to promote high-quality development, and created a program called **Building Pathways** that has become a model for increasing diversity in the workplace and providing good career opportunities for women and people of color.

Born and raised in the neighborhood of Dorchester by immigrant parents, Mayor Walsh is driven to make sure Boston is a City where anyone can overcome their challenges and fulfill their dreams. As a child, Mayor Walsh survived a serious bout of Burkitt lymphoma, thanks to the extraordinary care he received at the **Boston Children's Hospital** and **Dana Farber Cancer Institute**. His recovery from alcoholism as a young adult led to his lifelong commitment to the prevention and treatment of addiction. While working full-time as a legislator, he returned to school to earn a degree in Political Science at **Boston College**.

Mayor Walsh continues to reside in Dorchester, where he shares his life with longtime partner, Lorrie Higgins.

COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM

Call to Order

Dr. Alexandra L. Bartsch
Chair, Board of Trustees

Welcome Address

Steven Rich
Interim President of the College

Commencement Address

Martin J. Walsh
Mayor, City of Boston

Overview of Commencement Program

Dr. Janet Kuser
Vice President for Academic Affairs

Introduction of Graduate Speaker

Dr. Alicia Vitagliano
Program Director, Master's Degrees in Psychology

Graduate Speaker

Gretchen Lipman

Announcement of Graduate Candidates

Dr. Neil Trotta
Assistant Dean, School of Graduate Studies

Valedictory Address

Andrew Folkes
Boston Campus

Melissa Mendes-Boatwright
Graduate and Professional Studies

Announcement of Undergraduate Candidates

Dr. Neil Trotta
Assistant Dean, School of Graduate Studies

Conferring of Degrees & Certificates

Steven Rich
Interim President of the College

Closing Address

Brenda Sanchez
Vice President of Academic and Alumni Achievement

Musical Performances

Minh Vuong, Anie Marie Severe, and Eugenie Coste



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