



FISHER COLLEGE Magazine
Premier Issue / 2019

A Head *for* Business

UNCONVENTIONAL AND
ENTREPRENEURIAL,
THESE WOMEN ALUMNAE
SHOW WHY THEY DESERVE
TO BE AMBASSADORS FOR
A FISHER EDUCATION

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EMILY DAVIS,
BRENT HARDING, AND
JUNE FREEMANZON

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NEW CROSS
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ALL OF THE
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“Technology companies know the best solutions come from people with divergent backgrounds.”

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The Fisher legacy is one of playing the long game, going the extra mile, running, so to speak, the ultimate race—the marathon. So it's no surprise that the college's new cross country team embodies all of the qualities of the winning institution that created it. By Chad Konecky

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Davis was photographed in Maine on October 8, 2019 at her Portland company OpBox, an innovative supplier of portable and customizable commercial spaces. Photograph by Tim Greenway

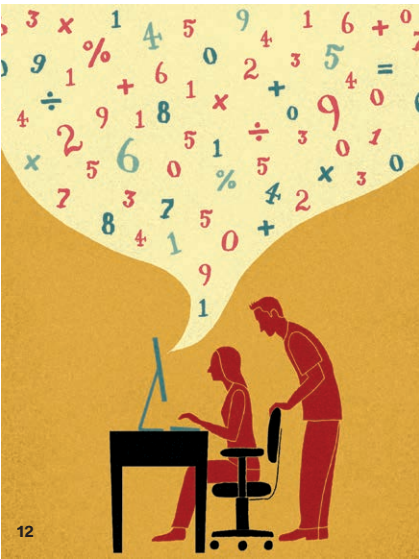


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Foreword



From the President

Welcome to the New *Fisher*

LIKE FISHER COLLEGE ITSELF, the magazine that you hold in your hands is enjoying a renaissance. Last year, this institution stated its intention to reinvent itself—to step out, grow, become increasingly relevant to the world of business and civic affairs. The redesigned *Fisher* magazine is helping us to realize that objective by telling the story of who we are today and what we are becoming. Our rising U.S. News rankings you see elsewhere on this page are part of that story.

Fisher’s 2018 strategic plan laid out specific goals, among them offering academic programs and internships valued by employers; enhancing innovation in the classroom and curriculum; improving co-curricular facilities and programs; building closer relationships with alumni; and creating a strong identity for the College.

Which brings us back to the new *Fisher* magazine, where we have turned some of these abstract con-

“The new *Fisher* magazine turns abstract concepts into real-life stories of striving and success.”


cepts into real-life stories of striving and success.

“A Head for Business,” for example, introduces us to three intergenerational alumnae, one who began her career in the nascent 1950s airline industry then ran a private company before founding the New York Pops. Another is a tech-savvy millennial entrepreneur who established OpBox, a company that manufactures portable commercial modules.


What of our commitment to academic innovation? *Fisher* magazine offers the example of Professor Aspen Olmsted, director of the new Information Technology Program, who is firing up students’ imaginations in classes in game design and cybersecurity.

As for the College’s engagement beyond the classroom, there are stories of exciting internships at area businesses, of a service trip abroad, of our new cross country team, of a deeply meaningful mentorship between a student who aspires to be a lawyer and the Boston attorney who’s helping him become one.

The people who fill this magazine represent a sampling of our best and aspirational selves. See for yourself as the new face of Fisher College emerges from these pages.



Alan Ray, PhD, JD, President

Contributors

 **Adam DeTour / Photographer**
Whatever the subject, photographer Adam DeTour brings a unique eye to his assignments. He is a sought-after food and portrait photographer, with a full service studio in the Allston neighborhood of Boston. His meticulous work has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Boston Magazine*, and *MIT Technology Review*, and fills many pages in this inaugural issue of *Fisher* magazine.

 **Chad Konecky / Writer**
Konecky has been engaged in sports in a variety of capacities, including on-air coverage of the NFL, NCAA sports radio play-by-play, a half-decade at ESPN, and directing the Gatorade Player of the Year program. Though he has also published articles on politics, technology, cultural history, and education, he was a natural to write *Fisher’s* pieces on the new cross country team, Coach Scott Dulin’s 500th win, and the Red Sox’s Jae Holland ’08.

 **Jeri Zeder / Writer**
A Boston-area freelancer, Zeder writes regularly for *Harvard Law Bulletin*, *Northeastern Law School Magazine*, *BC Law Magazine*, and *Simmons Magazine*. Her recent topics have included fake news, government overreach, human rights, and health equity. She reports being impressed by the vigor and savvy of the Fisher alumnae she profiles in our cover story, “A Head for Business,” page 14.

 **Joshua Dalsimer / Photographer**
Joshua Dalsimer’s career started at age 16, not with a camera in his hands but with drumsticks as the drummer for the Mighty Mighty Bosstones. “I always looked at drums and photography as very similar disciplines,” he says. “Both take place behind the scenes... and both lay down a foundation that helps create a look or sound.” His clients include New Balance, Diet Coke, Forbes, Volkswagen, Volvo, and *Time Out* and *Outside* magazines. For *Fisher*, he photographed June Freemanzon ’52 (“A Head for Business”).

For the Record



U.S. News Best Colleges 2020

Fisher College continued its upward trajectory as a top regional college in the North, surpassing previous years’ U.S. News rankings in two categories and achieving the top rank in a new one. These numbers reflect our continued commitment to preparing a diverse population of students for post-graduation success, culturally and professionally.

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: 617-670-4419
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. In-person options are also plentiful. 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. Those opportunities include hiring students for internships, participating in or sponsoring

Best Regional College North No. 17

Fisher rose to No. 17 from No. 21 last year and No. 32 the prior year.

Best Value Schools North No. 10

Rising 5 points to surpass its 2019 ranking, Fisher is in the top 10.

Social Mobility Regional Colleges North No. 1

In this new U.S. News category, Fisher achieved the stop spot.

Mock Interview Day and the Spring Career Fair, or participating in and hosting recruitment and networking events.

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 provide 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 by enrolling in one of our growing number of professional and masters degree programs, taking a workforce training and development course, or participating in customized corporate training.

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The Beacon

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Fisher Works

Tour de Force Fisher interns discover something professorial about the “The Ducks.”

BY VICKI SANDERS

BOSTON'S ICONIC DUCK BOATS—the amphibious behemoths that ply the Charles River and rumble down area streets giving tours of the city's historic sites—is much more than a tourist attraction to a certain cohort of Fisher College students. For them, it's a kind of classroom on wheels, but not exactly for the reasons that one might think.

On their path to graduation, Fisher students must complete two internships. For the ones who choose to fulfill that requirement by interning at Boston Duck Boats, the lessons are as much about history and geography as they are about business skills, particularly those having to do with client relations.

“Our partnership with Fisher, bringing on students as interns and employees of Boston Duck Tours, has been awesome,” says Guest Service Manager Luke Neily, describing the trainees as reliable, smart, friendly, and hardworking. “Their professionalism gives me confidence that our guests will have a great experience.”

The ability to understand customers' needs can't be fully mastered in a classroom setting. Face-to-face with clients, students

learn people skills like patience, self-control, attentiveness, empathy, flexibility, and good communication—aptitudes critical to the service industry and beyond. Add to that the worth of hands-on participation in the inner operations of a company—problem-solving, thinking critically, and handling logistics in real time—and the makings of a career in, say, client management begin to emerge.

That certainly was true for Falcon Josh Rojas '19. The company's efforts to give apprentices like him an appreciation for the working life of the city makes them “strive to graduate as better members of the Boston community,” he says. Plus, they come away from the experience with impressive résumés.

Sometimes, those graduates get to go one step further. Rojas and classmate Elvis Bisono, for example, recently became Boston Duck Boat employees, two among a growing number of alumni to do so since the collaboration between Fisher and “The Ducks” began in 2013.

“Our partnership with Fisher, bringing on students as interns and employees of Boston Duck Tours, has been awesome. Their professionalism gives me confidence that our guests will have a great experience.”

BOSTON DUCK BOATS GUEST SERVICE MANAGER LUKE NEILY



Elvis Bisono '19, now a Boston Duck Boats employee, and intern Patricia Barany '21.

It's a Small World A Fulbright Scholar shares insights into global economics.

Tamila “Mila” Nutsubidze, a two-time Fulbright Scholar, is no stranger to the global community or—having spent the last academic year at 118 Beacon Street—to Fisher College.

While a Fulbright Scholar in Residence, Nutsubidze contributed to the internationalization of Fisher's business curriculum, delivered graduate-level lectures on global economics, taught courses on finance and management, and made online contributions to the curriculum.

Growing up in the aspiring democracy of Georgia after the collapse of Soviet rule, Nutsubidze was propelled into the study of international economics in order to help her nation transition to a market economy. Her more notable scholarship, some of it conducted at Boston College's Center for Retirement Research, has influenced pension reform in Georgia and been noted by the United Nations.

Nutsubidze believed that many of her Fisher students could benefit from better familiarity with the economic issues facing developing countries and made it a point to broaden their horizons. “Now they understand the economy of these very areas, how each region is connected to the rest of the world, the global scale of everything,” she says.

The business students, in turn, have parlayed their newly minted credentials into internships at various relevant businesses and nonprofits.





Honor Bound Challenging program keeps students striving to do their best.

BY VICKI SANDERS

Over the past 10 years Fisher College has established no fewer than four honor societies, a measure of both student excellence and Fisher College's commitment to admit and support high-performing pupils. Add to that a robust Honors Program, and a picture emerges of a community attuned to the needs of promising young scholars and to their potential to impact society.

"We attract remarkable students from many walks of life, some from families who've never before sent a child

to college, some from underserved minority communities far and wide, others, of course, from prosperous households," says Danielle Herget, director of Fisher's Honors Program. "Our philosophy is that kids from every population will grow up to be leaders."

An art and fashion merchandising field trip to New York last spring is an example of the opportunities offered to honors participants.

Students in a study cohort called SEED—the acronym for Sophomore Excel Explore Develop—were escorted by Denise Foley '84 on a WindowsWear fashion walking tour. For those studying fashion, it was an inspiring glimpse into the places where Audrey Hepburn became a fashion icon and where designers Marc Jacobs, Jimmy Choo, Michael Kors, and Tory Burch all got their starts. They also visited *Sex and the City's* Carrie Bradshaw's favorite store and the world's largest shoe floor.

The visit to SoHo Contemporary Art gallery gave students the chance to view

For students studying fashion, it was an inspiring glimpse into where Audrey Hepburn became a fashion icon and where designers Marc Jacobs, Jimmy Choo, Michael Kors, and Tory Burch got their starts.

works from the estates of artists they had studied in class, Andy Warhol and Jean-Michel Basquiat, among them. On a more somber note, the SEED group also visited the 9/11 Memorial and Museum.

Back at home, the College's honor societies—the Golden Key International Honor Society, Psi Chi International Honor Society in Psychology, Alpha Phi Sigma Honor Society in Criminal Justice, and Salute-Veterans National Honor Society—are places where students find community all year long and the intellectual camaraderie of like-minded colleagues.

Class of 2019: Striving for Integrity

Massachusetts Secretary of Veterans' Affairs **Francisco A. Ureña** stood before the large audience gathered in John Hancock Hall on Berkeley Street for Fisher's 115th commencement on May 18 and zeroed in on the 257 members of the Class of 2019.

"The path we walk only ends when we do. And the journeys we take are forged by the experiences we have with those around us, because they are the ones that help us move forward," he told them. In an address full of hope,

the decorated Marine who served in Syria, Kyrgyzstan, and lastly in Iraq, where he earned the Purple Heart for injuries sustained there, called upon the graduates to strive for a life of integrity. "Move forward, and keep moving, because when you come under fire it's your integrity, purpose, and persistence that will get you through it," Ureña urged. "And if you hold fast to those three principles, I promise you'll find yourself happy enough to look back at the end and say, 'I gave purpose.'"



Illustration by Lisa Henderling



Photograph by Adam DeTour

3 Quick Questions

Arthur Asbury Academic Advisor and Support Center Director

1 / Why did you choose Fisher College? I didn't choose Fisher College. Fisher College chose me. I inadvertently left my résumé on a table at a job fair and it was picked up by a Fisher recruiter.

2 / What makes you proud? The diversity of our student body and the number of activities happening on campus every day.

3 / Any memorable field trips? While visiting an exhibit of shackles and chains used on enslaved people, at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in New York, I was struck by the students' reactions. Some actually cried and all were emotionally moved. A few years later, I and a faculty member escorted students to Washington, DC. Half of us went to Arlington National Cemetery, half to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum. That evening at dinner, I was again struck by the fact that all the students were verbally reflective of the solemnity of their experiences.

A Fellowship, a Mentor, and a Bright Future Honor propels aspiring lawyer Andrew Folkes '20 toward a career righting wrongs.

BY ETHAN HATFIELD '19

Campus Compact, a national coalition of colleges and universities that advances the public purposes of higher education, has announced that Fisher's Andrew Folkes '20 is among the 268 students in the organization's newest cohort of Newman Civic Fellows.

An aspiring lawyer and committed social justice volunteer, Folkes is a criminal justice major with a minor in psychology. He has

spent time in Washington, DC, working with the nonprofit Food & Friends, where he delivered meals to those suffering from illness and poverty.

Inspired by that work, Folkes participated in the creation of Reyets, an app that encourages people to uncover and broadcast the truth by enabling them to stream and record video. It also educates them about their rights so they can navigate potentially volatile situations.

The Newman Civic Fellowship is a one-year experience emphasizing personal, professional, and civic growth. It provides

learning and networking opportunities, including a national conference of Newman Civic Fellows, in partnership with the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the U.S. Senate. The fellowship further offers access to exclusive scholarship and post-graduate opportunities.

One of the opportunities presented to Folkes was being matched with mentor Greg Henning, principal attorney at West Hill Associates in Boston. Among other things, Henning has advised Folkes on how to apply to law school, study for the LSATs, update his résumé, and write personal statements.

"Andrew is an amazing young man. He is clearly dedicated to his own academic and professional success, but I admire him even more because the motivation for all of his hard work is to help others in his community and support his family. That's an extremely mature approach for someone his age," Henning says. "Serving as his mentor is a privilege because he is so inspiring."

Henning's support has, in turn, been invaluable to Folkes, who has come to view his counselor as both mentor and friend. "He's tracks on the railway guiding me to my next destination," he says.



Student Spotlights

1 / Sarah Riberio '20 A major in marketing landed Riberio an internship at Boston's Image Unlimited Communications, creating content and handling social media and public relations for the city's bustling restaurant scene. Her biggest celebrity "get"? Writing a press release about a lunch party for *Real Housewives of Beverly Hills* actress Lisa Vanderpump.

2 / Minh Vuong '20 The management major traveled 8,062 miles from Vietnam to attend Fisher. Now he's making tracks on campus. Vuong has become the face of the community, leading campus tours, singing in the Beacon Beats a cappella group, and playing guitar for classmates. "I know I'll be able to take the opportunities I have been given here and apply them to real world experiences," he says.

3 / Sami Brault '19 As a business student with a concentration in fashion merchandising and a minor in diversity, Brault had her hands full at Fisher. At an internship with event coordinator 33 Munroe, she worked on the firm's biggest annual event, Catwalk for the Cure. She was also president of Fisher's Pride Club, which creates community for the LGBTQ students through events on and off campus.

4 / Patricia Barany '21 An international student from Romania studying hospitality and event planning, Barany took advantage of Fisher's study abroad Semester at Sea program. Among her adventures: walking the Great Wall of China, exploring Tokyo, and visiting the Taj Mahal.



"Andrew is an amazing young man. He is clearly dedicated to his own academic and professional success, but I admire him even more because the motivation for all of his hard work is to help others in his community and support his family."

MENTOR GREG HENNING
SAYS OF ANDREW FOLKES, LEFT

News + Notes

Fisher Adds New Masters Programs

In response to the demands of an expanding marketplace, Fisher College has developed three new programs for people hoping to advance their careers or add a graduate degree: a Master of Science in Criminal Justice, a Master of Arts in Psychology, and a Master of Counseling Psychology.

Employment in criminal justice fields is projected to increase by 5 percent over the next decade, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. To prepare today's busy students for those jobs, Fisher has tailored the online criminal justice master's curriculum to police officers looking to advance professionally as well as others interested in obtaining credentials in arson investigation, cybersecurity, and emergency services, among other specialties. The program launches in January.

The two new psychology masters, which began earlier this year, align with Fisher's strategic plan to train the next generation of mental health professionals and psychologists. The job mar-

ket for these specialties is also strong, with double digit growth expected over the next 10 years. The masters in counseling is offered online. The masters of arts in psychology is a blend of online and on-campus classes.

City Council Candidates Speak at Forum

On Oct. 22, Fisher College hosted a forum for two candidates vying for an at-large seat on the Boston City Council. The discussion between Democrat Kenzie Bok, an experienced city government official, and Republican Jennifer Nassour, a lawyer and political commentator, was moderated by Peter Nessen, chair of the Boston Foundation's Audit Committee. The candidates were campaigning in the 8th District, which covers the Back Bay, Beacon Hill, Fenway-Kenmore, Mission Hill, and West End neighborhoods.

Boston Police Commissioner William Gross's appearance on campus last semester brought into focus the strengths and challenges of being a diverse city.

Top Police Official Pays a Visit

Boston Police Commissioner William Gross's appearance on campus last semester—one in a series of talks initiated by Fisher to bring campus and community closer together—brought into focus the strengths and challenges of being a diverse city.

Speaking to a full house in Alumni Hall, the city's first African American commissioner stressed the importance of community awareness, the need for everyone to pitch in to keep the city safe, and his commitment to bolster connections among all constituencies. Gross's message of inclusion and safety resonated with criminal justice majors, in particular, as was Fisher's intent.

The College has made it a priority to draw on Boston's professional resources to connect students with the region's movers and shakers.



Photograph by
Adam DeTour

For Love of the Game

Coach Scott Dulin's 500th win at Fisher is more than a number.

BY CHAD KONECKY

DRIVING DANCEHALL RHYTHMS

and Latin beats bump through the PA system at Fraser Field in Lynn on an early fall afternoon as the Fisher College baseball team takes batting practice. Blustery, unseasonably cool winds whip across the 79-year-old ballpark and straight at home plate, turning the concourse beneath the concrete of the structure's cantilevered roof into a wind tunnel. The players—even the 15 of 34 roster members who are from South America—seem utterly unperturbed.

Hang around with the Falcons' baseball program long enough, and that makes perfect sense. Playing baseball at Fisher College means you gotta want it.

The team's home field at Fraser is a straight shot from Boston, but Hub traffic makes it a patience-testing, 12-mile slog. Indoor winter workouts are 30 miles away in Methuen. Weight training requires a 20-minute walk through the Public Garden to the Chinatown YMCA. Then there's the schedule: 45 regular-season games throughout New England, New York State, the Midwest, and as far south as Kentucky.

"We're no strangers to 16-hour bus rides," says Scott Dulin, who won his 500th game at the Fisher helm on September 21 after bagging a similar career milestone this past spring. "You have to love to play this game."

Now 44, Dulin scored his first head coaching job at 23 at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy before joining Fisher. But his legacy is about more than staying power.

The North Andover native maintains laser focus on organizational culture, but does so with great subtlety. "I'm not a huge talker, but I see everything," he says.

"I think the key is having the same goals in mind every year," adds Dulin, who's endured only five losing seasons in 19 years as Fisher's skipper and owns a 514-394-1 record. "It's building a culture where we get them to do what we want them to do, and how we want them to do it. You also have to be 'good people' to play here. All our kids understand the importance of giving back, and they all come from some kind of winning tradition on the field."

More than a third of those winners are from Puerto Rico, where Dulin recruits about a half-dozen players a year. But Fisher baseball is a melting pot that includes players from Oregon, Florida, Texas, Maine, Maryland, Brooklyn, France, Nova Scotia, Venezuela, and Colombia—all pulling in the same direction. Fisher athletics won the national 2018-19 NAIA (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics) Champions of Charity Award, and the baseball team logged a huge percentage of those volunteer hours.

"He brings out the competitive nature in everybody," says senior first baseman Mitch Ludlow of Plymouth, an NAIA Division I First Team All-American last season. "He gives everybody a chance to go out and earn their spot. He's going to recognize who the best guy is to put on the field on game day."

Facts + Figures

44%
International student-athletes

27.2
Average wins per season

36
Academic All-Conference award-winners, All*

2018-2019 season

12
First Team All-Conference honorees, All*

Since 2013

8
Division 1 All-Americans, NAIA**

First Team, Second Team, Preseason, Honorable Mention

***AII** / Association of Independent Institutions

****NAIA** / National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics

"We're no strangers to 16-hour bus rides. You have to love to play this game."

COACH DULIN

Photograph by Adam DeTour

Behind the Scenes

The Play's the Thing Drama Club thespians strut and fret their creativity upon the stage.

BY JANE WHITEHEAD

“LET’S START WITH THE comedies scene,” says Danielle Herget, kicking off an evening rehearsal of the Fisher Drama Club’s fall production, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)*, a slapstick romp through the Bard’s plays by The Reduced Shakespeare Company. “This whole scene needs to take a minute and a half—the lines have to come super-quick,” she warns the actors. With 37 plays to cram into 97 minutes, speed is essential.

Herget, associate professor of humanities, liberal arts program director, and honors program director, started the student Drama Club sixteen years ago. The club performs two shows a year, a straight play in fall and a musical in spring. “I oversee it, but I really encourage the students to take control, get involved in any way they can, whether it’s acting, costume design, or directing,” she says.

Herget’s success in empowering students’ creativity reached new heights in last year’s fall production. Ethan Hatfield, then a senior, wrote, directed

and acted in *Demon Days*, a dark comedy about estranged siblings, polyamorous relationships, and demonic possession.

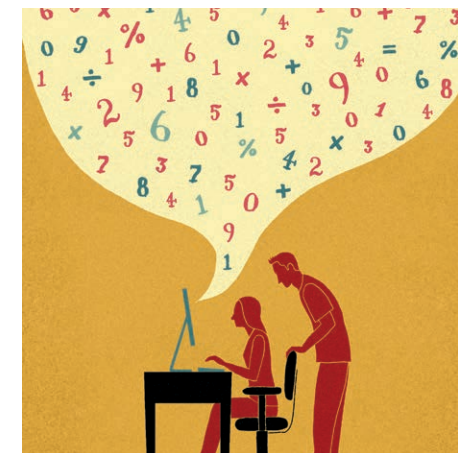
Hatfield joined the drama club in his second semester at Fisher and immediately found a home there. “Everyone was instantly kind,” he says. “You don’t have an option to be cliquey or mean, because you’re all just trying to lift each other up.”

Hatfield also found a mentor in Herget, who embraced his novel proposal to write and direct a play as his senior thesis in the Honors Program. Her belief in him and in the project was invaluable, he says, as were her notes on his early drafts, pointing out where jokes crossed the line or pushing him to “think of something better here.”

Hatfield credits Herget’s approach with enabling him to “look at a piece of work I’d done and be proud of it, but still want to do better.” Since graduating, he’s been doing just that as he develops his own comedy projects. Maybe he can take some pointers from the club’s upcoming Shakespeare production.



Professor Danielle Herget, standing center, with a group of Drama Club students.



Problem Solver Math professor Willem Wallinga subtracts students’ fears and adds understanding.

Willem Wallinga did what any good professor of mathematics would when faced with the question: How can I make math add up for our students? Knowing that the study of numbers may not hold the same fascination for students as it does for him—and determined that he could help them master this essential building-block in their college education—Wallinga in 2016 devised a method to ensure their success. He calls it Math Boot Camp.

“We launched the initiative after identifying a subset of students who were struggling to pass developmental math,” Wallinga said in an article on the website of Cengage, the education company whose WebAssign software he used for the project.

Within a year and a half, something stunning happened. Ninety-five percent of boot camp students, using Wallinga’s customized WebAssign digital modules under the supervision of tutors, had successfully completed the program. There was also a reward for Wallinga in this pedagogical feat. Fisher was presented with the Digital Learning Innovation Award from the Online Learning Consortium.

A HEAD FOR

Unconventional and entrepreneurial, three women alumnae show why they deserve to be ambassadors for a Fisher education.

By Jeri Zeder

PORTRAIT BY TIM GREENWAY

In 2017, Emily Davis '11 founded the Portland Container Company—a supplier of portable outdoor storage units—and then, within the year, OpBox, an innovative supplier of portable, versatile commercial spaces.

BUSI- NESS

One owns a container company. One runs a business consulting firm. Another presided over a spare parts supplier. What could they possibly have in common?

A lot, it turns out.

For starters, they are all Fisher College grads. They are all women. All their journeys to entrepreneurship were winding and instructive. They have all been true to their professional ambitions and personal dreams. Their names are Emily Davis, Brent Harding, and June Freemanzon.

They are legacies of Fisher's long tradition of business education for women. Though throughout most its 116-year history Fisher has been co-educational, there was a short time in the mid-20th century when it served only women as a secretarial junior college. Even as it grew into a four-year institution offering bachelors and masters of science and arts degrees, graduate and professional studies programs, satellite campuses, and online learning, Fisher has remained loyal to its business education roots—and to educating women. Today, with just over 800 students, Fisher boasts a student body of nearly 50-50 men and women.

One member of this lineage is Emily Davis '11, who grew up in coastal Nobleboro, Maine. When she graduated high school, she aimed to study fashion merchandising at a small college in a flourishing city. Fisher College fit the bill. With the networking help of one of her professors, Davis landed a job at DKNY on Boston's Newbury Street while she was still in school. Availing herself of Fisher's online and summer classes, she graduated a semester early, and jumped right into her fashion merchandising career, ending up at DKNY's corporate offices in New York. As she progressed through college and career, Davis was always certain of this: "I'll never own my own business," she says. She worked for DKNY for six years.

And then, her father became seriously ill.

She returned to Maine, settling in Portland in 2015, and worked as an online editor for Maine-based style magazines. Her brother Ben Davis, who lived in the area, was running a successful yacht management business and a holding company. As they cared for their father together, Ben and Emily learned that they made a good team. When

Ben needed her help running his businesses, Emily didn't hesitate to join him.

After their father passed away in 2017, Emily and Ben paused to take stock. "The yacht management business was super high-touch. We were on the road a lot," Davis says. "We just couldn't figure out a way to scale the business, so we wanted to get into something that we could scale and create a legacy for our family moving forward."

The siblings decided to go into business together, founding the Portland Container Company—a supplier of portable outdoor storage units—and then, within the year, OpBox, an innovative supplier of portable, versatile commercial spaces.

Both businesses are growing steadily. OpBox is the more unusual of the two. "OpBoxes" are modular, portable spaces that can be transformed into pop-up shops, trade show exhibition units, docking stations for electric bikes or scooters, even disaster relief housing. Flooring, lighting, window, and other standard or custom finishing options are available to suit customers' needs. The OpBoxes are retrofitted in Maine's Aroostook County, where Davis's company can draw on the skills of the many craftsmen and artists who live and work there. OpBox has drawn the attention of the area's congressional delegation and folks working on rural development. "There is a lot of interest in developing jobs and a manufacturing market up there," Davis says.

Women entrepreneurs like Davis are becoming indispensable to the U.S. economy. Since 1972, the number of women-owned businesses has increased nearly 3,000 percent. Today, 4 in 10—more than 12 million—U.S. businesses are owned by women. They generate revenues of approximately \$3 trillion a year, and employ more than 9 million people.

Nearly 6 million U.S. businesses are owned by women of color. They employ 2.2 million people and generate nearly \$387 billion in annual revenues. The number of

Fisher College grad Brent Harding started The Brent S. Harding Co. three years ago, inspired by the desire to control her professional destiny. Her business specializes in personal and professional development for minorities and women, on diversity and inclusion in organizations, and on improving the corporate bottom line by coaching employees in cultural competency and teamwork.





firms owned by African American women has risen by 164 percent since 2007.

One of those firms is The Brent S. Harding Company, a business consulting firm started three years ago by Fisher College grad Brent Harding. Before Fisher, Harding attended a weekend college so that she could continue her day job with the National Park Service (first at the *U.S.S. Constitution* in the Charlestown Navy Yard, and later at the Maritime National Historic Site in Salem). When the college shut its doors, she went in search of another school. She chose Fisher because its night school program allowed her to continue working, and she thrived there. “You were required to do the work, and I appreciated that,” she says.

After Harding received her associates degree in business management, she attended the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center in Oklahoma, and served as an air traffic controller at the Beverly (Mass.) Regional Airport, and at Logan. She did that for a few years—“I decided that it was time for me to give it up when somebody called in a bomb threat,” she says—and then she went on to gain a wealth of varied work experience in the banking industry, in business, and in the nonprofit sector.

She traveled extensively, too, and that has broadened her perspective on succeeding in business in a global economy. “I have had the privilege of traveling to 58 countries,” she says. “I’ve lived as a temporary resident in Hong Kong, and I have lived as a short-term resident in Trinidad. We need to understand that we are global. We are not the only people on the planet, and if we are going to do business with each other and we are going to have an exchange, then we need to understand the rules of engagement.”

Harding’s mentors were her mother and her grandmother, whom she describes as “maverick women.” Her grandmother attained her high school diploma later in life, and learned to invest in the stock market while working for a bank. She was, Harding says, “the very first black woman to purchase a piece of property on Juniper Street in Roxbury, which at the time was all white.” Harding’s mother, after being divorced, graduated from college with a nursing degree and always supported herself and her three children.

Harding started The Brent S. Harding Co. three years ago, inspired by the desire to control her professional destiny. Her business specializes in personal and professional development for minorities and women, on diversity and inclusion in organizations, and on improving the corporate bottom line by coaching employees in cultural competency and teamwork. “We are only as great as our greatest link,” she says.

June Freemanzon ’52 grew up in a small town near Worcester and chose Fisher because she wanted a small school in a big city. After graduating from Fisher with a business degree, she worked for four years in the communications office of Boston University. In the summer of 1956, Freemanzon visited a friend in New York City who

Women entrepreneurs are becoming indispensable to the U.S. economy. Since 1972, the number of women-owned businesses has increased nearly 3,000 percent. Today, 4 in 10—more than 12 million—U.S. businesses are owned by women. They generate revenues of approximately \$3 trillion a year, and employ more than 9 million people.

had a job with United Airlines, and who encouraged Freemanzon to move to New York. “I was determined that I was going to work for an airline so I could do the traveling that I wanted to do,” she says.

So, she moved to New York and soon landed a job with Alitalia, which had just opened a small office in the city; she purchased the parts needed to keep the planes in the air. As a benefit of being an airline employee, Freemanzon got plane tickets at a discount, and she traveled the world. “I really am a people-person,” she says. “I wanted to see as much of the world as I could, to know about other cultures.” Her two favorite trips were to the Southern Hemisphere—to New Zealand and the Great Barrier Reef, and to Africa—Kenya and Cape Town.

Freemanzon left Alitalia after 25 years and went to work for 9 years at Associated Products Co., where, instead of buying airplane parts, she sold them. When the owners died, she became the company’s president. Along the way, she says, “I wanted to do something that was outside of the business world.”

She had always loved the Boston Pops, but there was no such orchestra in New York. When she read in the newspaper that legendary bandleader Skitch Henderson was starting up the New York Pops, she mailed him a note and enclosed a donation. Three months later, Henderson, who was also a pilot, contacted her. They bonded over their mutual interest in aviation, and Henderson invited her for a meeting. She became a founding member of the New York Pops and still serves on its board. Her friendship with Henderson and his wife, and her involvement with the Pops, have filled her retirement years with meaning and connection.

Freemanzon offers this time-honored advice: Teachers of young people can help the most, she says, by “listening and encouraging, showing warmth and understanding and patience, and instilling leadership.” Students, she says, should “set goals and strive to get where you want to go.” For everyone, she says, “work hard and play hard and do both well. But always remember to have fun.”

After selling airplane parts as the president of Associated Products Co., June Freemanzon ’52 became a founding member of the New York Pops and still serves on its board. Along the way, she says, “I wanted to do something that was outside of the business world.”

CY_ B ER

In **Aspen Olmsted**, Fisher has found an IT professor who's game for anything, literally. And he's using all the tricks up his technology sleeve to prepare students to win big in the billion-dollar computer industry_

By **Andrew Faught**
Photographs
by Adam DeTour

BRAIN_

_20



AS

A KID GROWING UP IN BALDWINSVILLE, N.Y., ASPEN Olmsted scraped together enough dollars from his newspaper route to buy what was, in 1979, a state-of-the-art gaming system—the Atari 2600, whose rudimentary graphics, nonetheless, helped to launch a computer programming revolution

“It was the Stone Age,” recalls Olmsted, PhD, professor and program director for Fisher’s new Information Technology (IT) program, which includes a concentration in game development. “I could teach students to build those games in an hour or two in a mobile app class.”

Forty years later, computers are more than just fun and games, touching nearly every aspect of the human experience. In August 2018, Olmsted relocated to Fisher—from South Carolina’s College of Charleston, where he taught for a decade—to lead the development of, not only a gaming program, but also a concentration in cybersecurity. That involves protecting computer systems, networks, and programs from digital attacks.

Together, the gaming and cybersecurity fields are billion-dollar industries that continue to grow. Fisher IT graduates will have a distinct advantage in landing high-tech work, particularly in cybersecurity, Olmsted says, where 3.54 million jobs will go unfilled by 2021 because of a lack of expertise, according to the research group Cybersecurity Ventures.

“Technology companies know the best solutions come from people with divergent backgrounds,” Olmsted says. “A lot of schools have homogenous student populations that, while they tend to produce people who have had longer computer experiences than Fisher students, they also think in one specific way because their life experiences are similar.”

At Fisher, 32 students, all but one of them from under-represented populations, are enrolled in the IT program,

Together, the gaming and cybersecurity fields are billion-dollar industries that continue to grow. Fisher IT graduates will have a distinct advantage in landing high-tech work, particularly in cybersecurity, Olmsted says, where 3.54 million jobs will go unfilled by 2021 because of a lack of expertise, according to the research group Cybersecurity Ventures.

which started in the fall. They include sophomore Adriel Rodriguez, who is majoring in IT after he took part in the Miami Bitcoin Hackathon last year. Participants were charged with creating computer programming to use the so-called cryptocurrency “in innovative ways.”

Rodriguez, of Chelsea, enrolled in Fisher’s program after exchanging emails with and then meeting Olmsted. He felt an immediate connection. “Professor Olmsted is super cool, and he has an entrepreneurial spirit,” Rodriguez says. “He motivates every single person in class.”

Olmsted’s entrepreneurial streak goes back more than two decades. He is the founder and president of the Washington, D.C.-based Alliance Software Corporation, which creates customer relations management tools, or CRMs— applications used by nonprofit groups and the entertainment community. He sold the software portion of the business, but continues to do consulting work for the company.

Olmsted got hooked on teaching after his alma mater, the College of Charleston, asked if he’d be willing to lead coursework in the computer science program. The experience would, serendipitously, give his life its new locus. “I quickly learned that the eagerness of students is what I really liked,” Olmsted says. “The industry started to change. Businesses just wanted technology done, and they didn’t care how it was done. I was more interested in collaborative work with students and other faculty to really find better solutions to problems.”

Students face myriad professional opportunities. Gaming programs, for example, are popping up in novel ways. As more businesses peddle their goods and services online, “gamification” software is helping to remake commerce. “Students may not build Xbox games, but software for kiosks and websites,” Olmsted says. “Those sorts of things will have more game features in them. Our game development program is really designed to give students a broad programming understanding.”

These are heady times for Fisher’s IT program. Once the college graduates three students from the cybersecurity program, the National Security Agency (tasked with protecting communications networks and information systems) will begin offering internships. Separately, the federal government’s Scholarship for Service program covers up to three years of tuition costs for students who work in a cybersecurity-related position.

The program could also receive federal technology education grants because of Fisher’s success at enrolling Latino students. “There are lots of opportunities with the federal government,” Olmsted says. Last spring, he took part in a White House-sponsored webinar that announced a boost in funding for cybersecurity education.

The nation has had to play catch-up to protect its digital infrastructure, Olmsted says.

“The internet came and we connected more and more equipment, whether that was hardware in our power grid

Students face myriad professional opportunities. Gaming programs, for example, are popping up in novel ways. As more businesses peddle their goods and services online, “gamification” software is helping to remake commerce.



or computers in back offices,” he notes. “It started to become important to think about those interfaces. But we do that poorly, because we as humans tend to trust people by nature. So we overlook the vulnerabilities in our systems.”

But not if he can help it. Olmsted is using his entrepreneurial acumen to generate interest in Fisher’s program among would-be students. Absent a marketing plan because of time constraints, he resorted to a “guerilla approach” to lure inaugural class members. Naturally,

Olmsted resorted to the tools he knows best.

“I created a Facebook group, and in that group I would post job opportunities, internships, webinars, conferences, and scholarships,” he says. “I tried to encourage anyone with an inkling of interest to join that Facebook group and see the value they can get in Fisher’s program.”

Olmsted eventually plans to reach out to Boston Public Schools to publicize the program, to Latinos in particular. Additionally, he’s connecting with women, who have long been underrepresented in STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, and math). Women accounted for just 18 percent of computer science degrees conferred in 2015, according to the National Science Foundation.

For now, there are just three women enrolled in Olmsted’s classes, one of whom has decided to pursue work in cybersecurity. But he is taking steps to boost participation. Last year, Olmsted took students to the Cambridge headquarters of IBM Cybersecurity. The technology company is actively recruiting women for work. (Women interested in cybersecurity have abundant scholarship opportunities, Olmsted says.) Meantime, two of his female students have applied to participate in next year’s Women in Cybersecurity conference, which is being held in Colorado.

Fisher is also providing online IT coursework to five students. In time, Olmsted expects professionals who already are working in technology fields to take courses to build their knowledge. Those with an associate’s degree will be able to get a bachelor’s degree in two years, he says.

Olmstead has even discovered that there’s another sector within the Fisher community eager to learn the language of information technology: the admissions officers. It’s their job to articulate details of the program to prospective students, and they have found in Olmsted a willing tutor.

“Aspen is regularly in touch with my office to get the latest application and admitted lists so he can follow up with students and provide further details on his program,” says Tom Englehardt ’09, MBA, Fisher’s director of admissions. “His efforts are noticed and appreciated.”

With jobs whose annual salaries not unusually top \$100,000, Olmsted is hoping to steer students into decades of fruitful work. “The demand will be there for the life span of these students’ technical careers,” he says.

“The opportunities are unlimited.”



GOING *the* DISTANCE

The Fisher legacy is one of playing the long game, going the extra mile, running, so to speak, the ultimate race—the marathon. So it's no surprise that the college's new cross country team, both promising and surprising, embodies all of the qualities of the winning institution that created it.

By CHAD KONECKY
Photographs by
ADAM DETOUR



Clockwise, from top left, Junior Maurice Gayatay, the team at practice, freshman Danny Morel, freshman Julio Rolando Valladores, Coach Warren McPhail, and senior Vanessa Diaz-Gaumond.

Lest it be lost in a whirlwind of “first-ever” moments for the new Fisher College cross country team, it bears noting for posterity how the Falcons landed their first female runner. As late summer sped toward the 2019-20 academic year, newly hired head coach Warren McPhail experienced some tech issues as he onboarded with the Fisher staff portal. Vanessa Diaz-Gaumond ’20, a student-employee in the IT department, answered his trouble-shooting request. Within a few minutes, Coach “Mack” had locked down an experienced, No. 1 racer.

And while it’s not every day that an IT department can resolve a tech issue as well as conjure a *de facto* team captain and likely course record-setter, the broader strokes of a remarkable era for Fisher athletics is even more counter-cultural. In an age when small- to moderate-sized colleges are contracting, restructuring, cutting sports, or shuttering their doors forever, especially across New England, Fisher is adding its second varsity interscholastic athletic program in three years (having launched a volleyball team in 2017).

“One of the things that drew me to working here was this ‘we’re all in this together—let’s get it done’ attitude,” says Cathy Courtney, now in her third year as athletic director and head athletic trainer. “There’s a sense that no one is above anything, and that the more we work together, the better and stronger we are. With volleyball, it was awesome being part of history and creating something from the ground up.

“Cross country was just as organic,” she continues. “It started as water-cooler conversation: ‘We’re in the middle of one of the most storied running cities in the country. How do we not have a cross country team?’ Once we talked to Coach Mack and listened to his experience, and his history with coaching our type of student, it was so natural. He’s been awesome and the kids love him, the staff loves him, and so he’s the perfect coach to help bring us to that next level.”

Truer words may never have been spoken. An elite (and brand-sponsored) sprint triathlon competitor, McPhail, 52, is in his 28th year of coaching, all at the high school level in both Winthrop and Lynn public schools. His teams have won 12 Northeastern Conference championships in both track and cross country and McPhail has earned NEC Coach of the Year honors 12 times.

“This is my dream job,” he says. “I’ve always wanted to coach at the collegiate level. I want to be their ‘person’ that they can come to. I have the answers to ‘what should I do now, and what should I do next.’ My experience is at a peak. Now, I can impart some life advice in addition to some coaching.”

Scott Dulin, a 19-year coaching veteran at Fisher and the athletics director for 15 years before Courtney took the reins, says that same sense of stewardship and nurturing permeates the Fisher campus. “Ever since I started here, there’s been a family feel and a very personal touch,” says Dulin, who passed the 500-win threshold earlier this year (see story page 10). “The goal throughout my recruiting process as coach here is to get to know everyone. Who their families are, and what the kids are like.”

Even members of the founding Fisher family maintain that tradition. Scott Fisher, who is the son of the founder of the college, officiated at Dulin’s marriage. “There’s a sense of loyalty here,” Dulin says. “That continuity and institutional knowledge helps. As everything is adapting, you have people who still remember the way it was. You can see the change and appreciate that change, but never stray too far from the roots.”

A native of Winthrop, McPhail is already the Obi-Wan Kenobe of Falcons’ cross country, and his athletes comprise a remarkable collection of deeply committed young people. Take, for example, sophomore Hajar El Khalfaoui, 19, a native of Casablanca, Morocco, who had previously run only recreationally. “I’ve always wanted to run as part of a team,” she says after powering (and suffering) through a hill workout with her teammates in Boston Common.

Junior Maurice Gayatay, a biology major who grew up in Providence, R.I., hasn’t run since high school, but he’s

“I’ve always loved running and always wished that we’d have this team. I was interested in the leadership role I could have as an upperclassman on campus because I have experience that I can offer teammates outside of athletics.”
Runner Vanessa Diaz-Gaumond





Junior Maurice Gayatay, a biology major who grew up in Providence, R.I., hasn't run since high school, but he's thrilled with the opportunity to be a two-year intercollegiate student-athlete.

thrilled with the opportunity to be a two-year intercollegiate student-athlete. Freshman Danny Morel, a former high school football player from Yonkers, N.Y., might boast the most natural athletic ability on the 11-member unit (6 men, 5 women), and the 5-foot-8, 142-pound former skill position player has been an inspiration to his teammates, who cheer his explosive split times during the aforementioned hill work.

Meanwhile, freshman Julio Rolando Valladores Cano is the squad's only deliberately recruited athlete. A native of Honduras, Cano was a distance-running standout at Chelsea High after giving up soccer, his childhood love, because he couldn't play it year-round in the Northeast. The 5-foot-5, 155-pound 20-year-old's career-best 5K is 18:54, and his ceiling is considerably higher. The guy just needs a little more recovery time. At the moment, that's tough to come by given that he works 30 hours a week as a shift manager at Wendy's (the 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. shift).

"Running for this team is definitely a high level of commitment," says Cano, a management major. "It's busy, but I actually find it pretty manageable. It's a good way for me to break up the day and get a workout in. It kind of clears your head."

There's no shortage of runners to root for on Fisher's 2019-20 cross country roster, but it's difficult to avoid singling out Diaz-Gaumond, a native of Worcester, who only has a uniform because McPhail was vexed by his computer.

A three-sport athlete who ran cross country and track at Doherty Memorial High, the 5-foot, 3-inch spitfire couldn't pass up a chance to be an NAIA collegiate athlete. Even if only for just one season.

"I've always loved running and always wished that we'd have this team," she says. "I was interested in the leadership role I could have as an upperclassman on campus because I have experience that I can offer teammates outside of athletics. This team is pretty small and we're pretty tight, so we're all kind of working on it together."

Though the tangled web of collegiate eligibility paperwork delayed the Falcons' season-opener beyond press time, the squad will compete this fall as an officially sanctioned Association of Intercollegiate Athletics and Northeast Interscholastic Athletic Conference program. Plus, reinforcements are on deck. Dulin has promised at least a half-dozen crossovers from the baseball team before the final race of the season, and the soccer team has pledged to help pace Falcons' runners at practice.

"The attitude and culture of Fisher is: We've got this common goal, and we're working towards achieving it," says Courtney. "I'm fortunate that my coaches truly buy into that culture and live it, and because of that, our athletes also get along, across all sports. There really is this sense that we're all fighting the same fight and we're all trying to achieve the same goals. That definitely comes from Fisher as an institution. It's a fun place to be."

"My experience is at a peak. Now, I can impart some life advice in addition to some coaching."
Cross Country Coach Warren McPhail

"One of the things that drew me to working here was this 'let's get it done' attitude."
Athletic Director Cathy Courtney

What Makes Bradley Run Mild-mannered accountant is marathon marvel.



At this past April's Boston Marathon, Bradley Mish clocked a 2:24.35 to finish 41st overall.

Bradley Mish handles folks' hard-earned dollars all day as Fisher's associate bursar, but he is the smart money on a marathon course. The Hadley native is in his ninth year at Fisher, has 10 marathons under his belt, and he's a five-time Boston finisher. Mish is no recreational runner, mind you. This past April, the 32-year-old accountant thundered down Boylston Street and clocked a 2:24.35 to finish 41st overall, 39th among men, and 21st among American males. What's more, he ran the race on a lark.

"If you're a runner, you often do a marathon because everyone sort of expects you to, so every once in a while, I'd get sucked into one," explains Mish. "I had a terrible Boston in 2016, so I was off of marathoning and having fun doing other kinds of racing. I was training to break my 5K [personal record] and simply signed up for this past Boston as part of that."

Equally nuts: The 6-foot-2, 155-pound Mish isn't even a lifelong runner. A soccer player at tiny Hopkins Academy (which offered only three interscholastic sports), he gave competitive racing a shot as a freshman at the College of the Holy Cross and flashed immediate talent. By his junior year, he was a captain and, as a senior, he won the 5K at the 2009 New England Division 1 Indoor Track & Field Championships.

Not surprisingly, he brings a runner's strategic and tactical mindset to his day job. "I think our office has built a trust with students and parents," he says. "Fisher has lots of programing and there's a large component of institutional knowledge to build up, but we're able to demystify billing for those who have questions." —**Chad Konecky**

Celebrating a Legacy of Generosity

Since 1903, Fisher College has maintained a tradition of providing a springboard to success for students who might not otherwise have the opportunity to receive a life-altering education. Through a commitment to Fisher and a vision for the future, alumni and friends have made an impact on the College through a variety of planned gifts.

Planned or Deferred gifts are those that are arranged in the present and allocated at a future date.

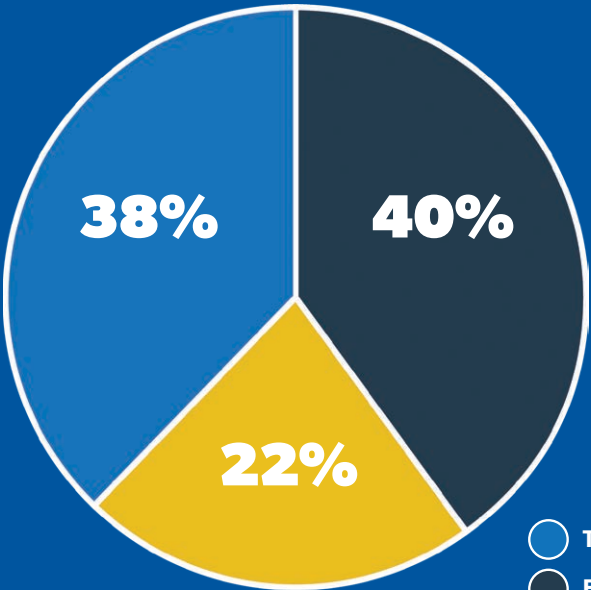
Fisher College is privileged to receive a variety of planned gifts, including bequests, life income funds, gifts of life insurance and retirement plans, and more.



MAXIMIZING THE IMPACT OF YOUR SUPPORT

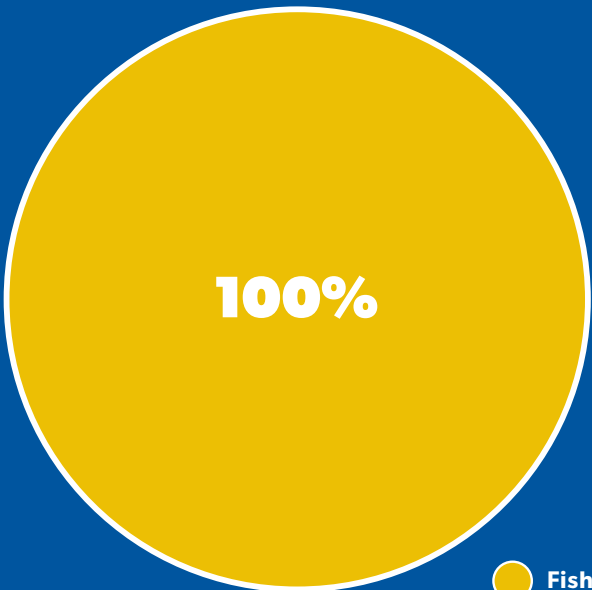
Bequests and Retirement Plans

Fisher alumni have named the College as beneficiary of IRAs and other retirement plans. This requires no lawyers and can have significant savings by avoiding the double taxation of income tax and estate tax if you designated your heirs as beneficiaries.



Scenario 1

Mary leaves her **\$100,000** IRA to her children. After estate and income tax, they may receive as little as **\$37,800**.



Scenario 2

Mary instead leaves her IRA to Fisher. The College is tax-exempt and receives the entire **\$100,000**.

HERE ARE THE FOUR AREAS THAT THESE GENEROUS GIFTS HAVE IMPACTED:

1. The Fisher Fund

In addition to annual donations, alumni have supported scholarship, academic innovations, athletics, student activities, and other areas through bequest, allowing them to make a gift today and also plan to have a greater impact in the future.

3. Athletics

One out of every four Fisher students is a student-athlete, and the entire College benefits from the spirit and camaraderie our teams bring to Fisher and to our extended community. Gifts to athletics have provided critical financial resources to support training and competition needs. The College's student-athletes demonstrate intensive self-discipline, motivation, and heart, excelling not only as competitors, but also as advanced and committed scholars.

2. Enhanced Facilities

With the generous support of alumni and friends, facility projects have been made possible, including The McDonnell Family MBA and Entrepreneurship Center and upgrades to our laboratories, in alignment with our innovative academic programs. Improving the quality of the spaces where our students learn and live honors and reaffirms the commitment they have made to their education.

4. Endowed Scholarships

Named Scholarships have been created and grown through deferred gifts, allowing the College to expand support and make a Fisher education accessible to students and families. Fisher is committed to creating opportunities for talented, dedicated students regardless of their financial circumstances.

To discuss a planned giving opportunity, please contact **Brenda Sanchez**, Vice President of Advancement and Alumni Engagement, at **617-236-8859** or **bsanchez@fisher.edu**.

“At Fisher, I had a clean slate. None of the professors had preconceived notions about my intellect. And I had placed in the highest honor track. They actually saw potential! In me!”

MARY STEWART-JOYCE '90



BEYOND

Alumni News

The College that Changed Everything Once Fisher helped this high schooler discover her voice, even world leaders took notice.

BY MARY STEWART-JOYCE '90

I HOPE YOU ALL KNOW HOW LUCKY YOU ARE.

Thirty-one years ago, I was a nervous girl from the North Shore of Long Island walking into the first floor quad room of Robert Smith Hall at 106 Beacon St. The reality of my mother just leaving me in Boston was difficult to grasp. I left behind my friends and family (not to mention my dog) and entered a world where I knew no one.

I was not a motivated high school student. My teachers and counselors always told me I was lazy, underachieving, and basically a disorganized mess. One even warned, “Don’t set your sights too high.”

I envisioned a future at the local community college, a continuation of my miserable high school career. Then I got my acceptance to Fisher Junior College. I figured I’d give it a try but my hopes weren’t high.

On my first academic day, we took placement tests. When the results were posted, I expected to hear the same things I had in high school. I had no idea what the class sections I had qualified for meant, so when my first English class had only four other students, I thought I was on some remedial track.

Nonetheless, I listened, took notes, and made the decision that I would do my best.

After a week or so, the professor asked if any of us would care to tutor other students.

Huh? What was that?

Here’s the thing. At Fisher, I had a clean slate. None of the professors had preconceived notions about my intellect. And I had placed in the highest honor track.

They actually saw potential! In me!

That changed everything.

I started to ask questions in class, to talk to other students. I found I had a voice and people listened. I explored every inch of Boston and realized how blessed I was to be studying American history where so much of it happened. I got a job at Harvard Vanguard and was able to support myself. I went from being an only child to having dorms full of friends.

In the longer run, I became a world traveler. When I met people I was able to look them in the eye and hold a conversation, rarities before my time at Fisher.

In my various careers, I have interacted with world leaders, celebrities, even royalty, among them Mikhail Gorbachev, Yitzhak Perlman, Robert Kennedy Jr., Nadia Comăneci, and Sarah, the Duchess of York. Had it not been for the knowledge I gained at Fisher College, I doubt I would have been able to muster the courage to sit and talk with them.

So, to anyone who might feel “less than” or simply scared, I say open up to the gift that is Fisher.

Surprise yourself. Raise your hand. Speak up. Look up from your phones, take out your AirPods, and listen to your professors and the heartbeat of the amazing city of Boston. There’s always something to do, someone to meet, and something to learn..

Mary Stewart-Joyce is as an executive global travel consultant for Kalitta Air, a private charter aviation service in Michigan.

Class Notes

1948

ETHEL SHAPCOTT MANAHAN I’m a happy alum of 1948.

1963

MARY HEBERT GAYNOR I went to Fisher way back in '63. We were in Carty Hall, third floor, turquoise window. Over the past five or six years, my roommates and I have gotten together every spring in Florida. Yup, we are now in our mid-seventies.

LINDA M. SIMPSON I was at Fisher from '61 to '63. I went to see my roommate recently; we get together quite often and generally talk about once a week. My bestest friend. We were in Myron Hall. Great memories.

1969

JOAN (IMHOF) RIEGER, a Poinciana, Fla., resident who will soon be moving with her husband Bill to Arizona to be nearer her grandchildren, came to campus Sept. 21 for a mini reunion with **TERESITA DURAN**, **HELENA (MYHAJCZUK) THOMSON**, and **LINDA (GREEN) LACROIX**. The classmates have been meeting annually for 50 years; in 2016 they went on a friendship cruise. During this year’s Fisher visit, when the alums entered the cafeteria and were introduced, the students erupted in applause.

1988

SUSAN PETRILLI CONTE I attended Fisher College night school while I worked full-time for Fisher student services. After sending my boy off to college recently, I started a new job at Spritzo, a kitchen and bath showroom in Vernon, Conn. I also run my own studio, LUXE Beauty and Brows in nearby Ellington, which has expanded four times since first opening in 2011.

We Want to Hear From You

CALL FOR CLASS NOTES Talk to us! Did you get a promotion? Get married? Move to a new country? Meet up with your old classmates? Graduate (again)? We want to hear from our alumni. Share your updates. Your news may appear in our Class Notes section. *Send notes to alumni@fisher.edu.*



The 1, 2, 3’s of Accounting

Donna Brady counts herself lucky to run a camp for high schoolers.

BY VICKI SANDERS

It would be understandable to think that by the end of the academic year Assistant Professor Donna Brady, program director of Fisher’s Bachelor of Science in Accounting, would be ready to shut the lid on her QuickBooks primer and take a break from teaching.

But that’s not Brady’s style. This past July, for the third year in a row, she brought to Fisher the weeklong Accounting Career Awareness Program (ACAP), a learning initiative for high school juniors

and seniors conducted at colleges and universities across the country. Its goal? To increase the number of underrepresented ethnic minorities pursuing careers in accounting.

Directing the weeklong residency program is a labor of love for Brady, whose past experience in the accounting field includes a career at Pricewaterhouse-Coopers (PwC), one of the Big Four auditors and the second largest professional services firm in the world. At PwC (then Coopers & Lybrand), Brady was a supervisor in the audit area, now known as assurance.

As an educator, she enjoys being part of young people’s journey of discovery in accounting. “Students interested in the accounting world really get a hands-on experience throughout the week and a deeper understanding of what is needed to succeed,” she said.

The interactive enrichment program, a kind of accounting camp, introduces students to accounting, finance, economics, and management through a focused, undergraduate-level

“Students interested in the accounting world really get a hands-on experience and a deeper understanding of what is needed to succeed.”

DONNA BRADY

curriculum taught by Fisher faculty and guest lecturers. During their stay in Boston, the Fisher ACAP students receive instruction from employees of a Big Four firm, and go on field trips to Deloitte, TD Garden, Fenway Park, and the Museum of Science. Speakers at each venue offer insights into the role of accounting in their respective businesses.

“I feel that [ACAP] is an excellent opportunity to expose greater Boston area high school students to the field of accounting, business, and to Fisher College,” Brady said. “Students have expressed their approval of the program by stating that they wished it lasted more than a week.”

Sharing a Global Vision

Assistant Professor **Maureen Eisenstein**, a psychiatric mental health and clinical nurse specialist in Fisher’s RN to BSN program, is a born educator and as such is engaged in the world far beyond the classroom door. She goes where her interests take her, and next May it will be to the Dominican Republic with Fisher nursing students completing their practice experience for their Population Health in the Community course. “Being part of the trips means so much to me,” Eisenstein says,



grateful for the opportunities to collaborate on issues of social justice, education, health care, and human rights. “Students can expect to have a life-changing experience,” she adds. “They experience how satisfying it can be to look outside themselves, to know that we are a global society, and that together we can make a difference.” Eisenstein is a board member of Partnering People through Service (PPS), a nonprofit organization based in Plymouth. Its mission is to create partnerships between communities in need and service-learning volunteers in order to improve education and health care.

Illustration by Robert Neubecker / Photograph by Adam DeTour

The Puzzle*

A Sense of Place

Fisher College is surrounded by history and is in the heart of a booming city, where lessons can be learned on every block.

BY DONNA HOKE

*For solution, go to fisher.edu/fishertoday.

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12	13
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17									18					
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48					49					50				
51				52				53	54					
55			56					57				58	59	60
61								62						
63								64				65		

Across

- 1. Aspiring attorney's exam, for short
- 3. Suffix with ball
- 5. Teeny
- 8. Disc-brake-system components
- 14. PATRIOTS' DAY EVENT
- 16. How many a YOLO activity is done; 3 wds.
- 17. WHERE TO FIND 12 DOWN'S HOUSE
- 18. "Been there, done that" feeling
- 19. Perfect scores
- 20. *Family Circus* cartoonist Keane
- 21. "Give ___ break!"; 2 wds.
- 22. Boy toy
- 25. One at Fenway
- 26. *Tootsie* actress Teri
- 27. Melville's 1847 South Seas adventure
- 28. Get a room
- 30. "Start over" button

Down

- 31. Draper of *Mad Men*
- 32. Blue hue
- 33. Suffix with ball
- 34. CENTRALLY LOCATED CAMPUS
- 39. *Scream* director Craven
- 40. Face-to-face exam
- 41. Before
- 43. Cymbal in a drum kit
- 46. Rooney of *60 Minutes*
- 47. Basic travel path
- 48. Has ___ with; is connected
- 49. Adds another to an email, for short
- 50. *Cagney & Lacey* Emmy winner
- 51. *Kidnapped* author's initials
- 52. "Cool" dude
- 53. "Fire" gem
- 55. THE ENVIRONS COMPRISING THIS PUZZLE'S THEME ANSWERS

Across

- 57. PLACE TO SKATE
- 61. Keeping going when you shouldn't
- 62. WHERE TO SEE THE CELTICS, COMICS, OR CARRIE UNDERWOOD
- 63. Late flight from LA to BOS?
- 64. Hairstyles
- 65. "Eww!" inducer

Down

- 1. K-O connection
- 2. ___ Paulo, Brazil
- 3. Airport abbr.
- 4. Angel on one's shoulder, say?
- 5. "Say ___"
- 6. A long, long time
- 7. Armageddon
- 8. *The Age of Bronze* sculptor
- 9. Scott Turow book about the first year of law school
- 10. Atlantic City casino, with "the"

- 11. *The Audacity of Hope* family
- 12. MIDNIGHT RIDER
- 13. ROCK BOTTOM LOCALE
- 15. Quaker's "you"
- 20. BACK HALF OF A FAMOUS NEIGHBORHOOD?
- 22. Pan, e.g.
- 23. "___ the opinion that..."; 2 wds.
- 24. First name in folk
- 25. 34 ACROSS REPRESENTATION
- 26. Characteristic carrier
- 28. Attends, as at 62 Across
- 29. Toni Morrison's ___ *Baby*
- 30. "Let's ___"
- 32. NICKNAME DERIVED FROM A CIRCLE LOGO
- 33. Oil of ___
- 35. DUCK MATE
- 36. Airport code for O'Hare
- 37. Logan boarding site
- 38. Freudian topics
- 42. Delivery room doctors, for short
- 43. SITE OF A FAMOUS PARTY
- 44. Moonstruck; 2 wds.
- 45. Let off steam?
- 46. Huntington half
- 47. Among the best in the league
- 49. Bark boat
- 50. Lady of pop
- 52. "Buffalo Bill" surname
- 53. Novus ___ seclorum (phrase on the one-dollar bill)
- 54. Collectible discs of the 1990s
- 56. Amount past due?
- 57. 1-800-FLOWERS competitor
- 58. What a duck might be
- 59. *The Matrix* hero
- 60. "No CPR" order

Events

December 12, 2019 / President's Holiday Soiree

January 2020 / Young Alumni Winter Social

February 6, 2020 / Fisher Lecture Series: Voices and Views

"The Voting Rights Act of 1965: Where Are We Now?"

February 27, 2020 / Online, Graduate, and Professional Studies Alumni Social

March 3, 2020 / Fisher Lecture Series: Voices and Views "Examining the Anti-Vaccine Movement"

April 2, 2020 / New York Alumni Social

April 16-18, 2020 / Drama Club Spring Musical

April 27, 2020 / Senior and Young Alumni Social

May 2020 / Online, Graduate, and Professional Studies Banquet/ Reunion

May 16, 2020 / Commencement

October 3-4, 2020 / Homecoming

For details, contact the Alumni Office by email at alumni@fisher.edu or phone 617-670-4419.

Homecoming
2019

Students, alumni, friends, family, staff, and faculty gathered to celebrate all things Fisher during the first weekend of October. The celebration began with a kick-off mixer aboard the *Spirit of Boston*, which brought Young Alumni together. The festivities continued as Falcons current and past gathered to play against each other in a rivalry at the Winsor School. The men's soccer and basketball teams beat their alumni opponents in well-fought games. Saturday concluded with a ceremony at the Longwood Inn honoring and inducting some of Fisher's best athletes into the College's athletics Hall of Fame. To top off the weekend, the baseball team defeated the alumni Sunday at Fraser Field.



Commencement
2019

Fisher College celebrated its 115th Commencement on May 18 at Boston's John Hancock Hall. More than 250 students crossed the stage. Speakers included undergraduate class valedictorian Emelie Flessa Persson, graduate and professional study class valedictorian Lee Ann Roderick, and Massachusetts Secretary of Veterans' Affairs Francisco Ureña. Honorary degrees were awarded to Secretary Ureña (see story, page 6) and to retired Somerville Detective Mario Oliveira for his work in the law enforcement community. Others receiving diplomas were 19 MBA's, 19 student-athletes, 91 honors graduates, 98 spring Dean's Listers, and 5 veterans.

Top left / Undergraduate class valedictorian Emelie Flessa Persson '19 and Professor Katie Shea.
Top right / Massachusetts Secretary of Veterans' Affairs Francisco Ureña and Dr. Alan Ray, president of Fisher College.



Donor Profile

Jae Holland '08
Manager of Fan Services, Boston Red Sox

What is your proudest achievement? The ability to contribute and give back.

How did Fisher prepare you for the Red Sox job? The interaction, for sure. Fisher is such a huge melting pot culturally and not just race-wise. With students coming from across the ocean, there was intrigue in holding a conversation and learning that you share the same interests. That opened my eyes.

How have you reached out to Fisher students? I provide tours of Fenway Park, forward internship opportunities, frequently speak to Sport Management classes, and we had a graduate as our HR co-op.

Why do you give of yourself? I want to inspire. Being from Lynn, where the stigma was you could only go to community college, I defied the odds. I want others who think they are limited to know: Just because someone else wasn't able to achieve what they feel is success, doesn't mean you are confined to their level.

A favorite piece of advice? From Herman Melville: "It is better to fail in originality, than to succeed in imitation. He who has never failed somewhere, that man cannot be great."
—Chad Konecky



BEYOND / ADVANCING FISHER

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Your gifts to the Fisher Fund make a truly significant difference to Fisher and its students. Through your support to the annual fund, you help us meet the needs of the current generation and ensure the ongoing financial stability of the College. Last year, nearly 500 gifts were generously contributed to the Fisher Fund. We invite you to join your fellow alumni in this high-impact, long-lasting endeavor by giving today. *To learn how, contact us by email at alumni@fisher.edu or call 617-670-4419.*

How have we improved Fisher for students?

Financial Aid

\$11.3 Million

Student scholarships awarded every year

New Technology, Equipment Upgrades

\$250,000

Computers and lab equipment, and media displays in every classroom

Annual Facility Improvements

\$1 Million

New student center, upgraded tutoring and counseling center, library renovation, and new workout facility

Spot the Difference*

Back to the Future

Look closely at the Class of 1949 Commencement at The Fisher School, an all-women's junior college when this photograph was taken 70 years ago.



Annual tuition was \$420. Nine courses were offered, ranging from executive to medical to legal secretarial. Subjects included shorthand, type-writing, social orientation, and psychology, in keeping with the catalog's directive that "the secretary who wishes to rise above her...competitors is the one who devotes time to securing a broad cultural background in addition to vocational or technical training." **See if you can spot the seven changes with a second look at the Class of 1949 Fisher College commencement (no cheating!).**

*For solution, go to fisher.edu/fishertoday.

Artifact



REMINGTON STANDARD TYPEWRITER, NO. 10

Before computers, before the internet, and long before social media, the typewriter was king of communication, the word processor of choice for more than a century. Invented in 1867, just 36 years before Fisher was founded,

it revolutionized the workplace—though not immediately. According to myTypewriter.com, few businessmen believed that the introduction of typewriters in their offices would be practical. This early specimen from the College archives may look quaint to the modern eye, but it deserves respect. Fisher became a leader in business education because of it. —Vicki Sanders

Typewriters in Fisher's Vintage Collection

1909 / Remington Standard Typewriter, No. 10 (pictured). 1913 / Mignon AEG Typewriter, Mignon 2. 1914 / Smith Premier Typewriter Co., No. 10. 1926 / LC Smith Corona 3 Portable Typewriter. 1929 / Remington Noiseless, No. 6. Typewriter values range from \$700–\$1,100.

Photograph by Adam DeTour

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