

They've Got GAME

FISHER'S BRAND-NEW
ESPORTS PROGRAM
HAS QUICKLY EMERGED AS
ONE OF THE TOP GAMING
SQUADS IN THE COUNTRY

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Issue Four / 2022

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Today

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One of Fisher’s teams from the new esports program, Valorant has a top 50 ranking among U.S. teams and qualified for the Red Bull Campus Clutch 2022 championship in Austin, Texas. Photograph by Christopher Churchill

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Foreword



From the President

A Culture of Growth

TO SAY THAT MY SECOND YEAR AS President of Fisher College has been eventful is something of an understatement. It’s true for me on a personal level as I’ve taken on my new role with enthusiasm, and it’s certainly true for the school as our community emerges from the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic. They say change is the only constant, but here at Fisher I’d replace “change” with “growth.” From the beginnings of a business school that opened in 1903 to the wide range of disciplines and degree programs of today, our school has grown every year (“Fisher Through the Years,” page 38), and this year is no exception. In 2022, for the first time in five years, we saw an increase in the number of students choosing full-time day enrollment. It’s no wonder, given the exciting new programs we’re offering. This academic year we became one of the first Boston-area colleges to offer an esports program, attracting

“In 2022, we saw an increase in the number of students choosing full-time day enrollment. It’s no wonder, given the exciting new programs we’re offering.”

more than 100 students (“They’ve Got Game,” page 18). The Fisher team got off to a great start, beating Texas A&M in one of its first competitions. Also new this year is the bio-lab, a state-of-the-art research space for students majoring in biology and health sciences (see “News + Notes,” page 9). Fisher’s Graduate and Professional Studies Division is also in growth mode with the expansion of the Corporate Advantage Program (“On Target,” page 26). Exciting partnerships with companies in the Boston area and beyond are a win-win-win, helping employers who want to attract and retain workers, employees who hope to continue their education while they’re working, and raising Fisher’s visibility as a leader in online education.

Our advancement office has grown, too, broadening its outreach to alumni and expanding the funding base (“For the Record,” opposite.) As we continue coming out from under the constraints of the pandemic, we look forward to more in-person alumni events to help continue that momentum.

Even as Fisher continues to flourish and grow year after year, there’s one more constant: the school’s dedication to sending graduates out into the world with the tools to build success in their personal and professional lives.

Steven Rich / President

Contributors



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.



Bob Curley / Writer
Curley is a freelance writer based in Rhode Island who writes about travel, food, culture and health, and wellness for publications including *New England Home*, *Caribbean Journal*, *Newport Life*, Fodor’s, and Healthline.



Maria LaPiana / Writer
LaPiana, a freelance writer and editor who lives in Connecticut, has a special interest in architecture, design, and education. She has held senior writing and editing positions at both regional and national publications.



Elaine Lembo / Writer
Lembo is an award-winning journalist from Rhode Island whose work reflects many passions, among them the marine environment, boats, and exploration under sail. She is a contributor to *BC Law*, *Cruising World*, *BoatU.S.* magazine; *41°N*, and the New York Yacht Club magazine.



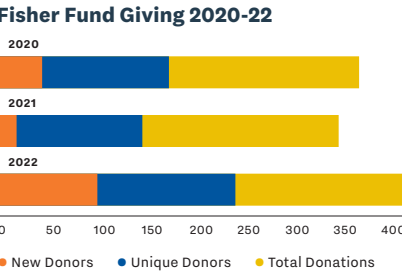
Pearl Marvell / Writer
Marvell is a multimedia storyteller with more than a decade of experience as a writer, reporter, photographer, and producer. Her work has been featured in the *Wall Street Journal* and the *Providence Journal* as well as on The Public’s Radio, Rhode Island’s NPR station.

For the Record

Donations to the Fisher Fund Are on the Rise

The Fisher Fund encourages alumni and other friends of the school to donate to help finance the scholarships so many Fisher students rely on. In fiscal year 2020, 167 people, including 43 first-time donors, made a total of 353 donations. The following year, perhaps as people hunkered down during the pandemic and the future looked uncertain, donations fell a bit. As the pandemic waned and

people got back to work, donations increased. For fiscal year 2022, 97 brand-new donors were among the 192 people who helped feed the Fisher Fund’s coffers. Supporting the Fisher Fund can truly make a difference. *To learn more about giving, visit fisher.edu/give.*



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
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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-

ticipating in mock interviews and the Spring Career Fair, or 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 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

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Fisher Works

Legacy in Action Two new scholarship programs launched this year honor loved ones and ensure their memories live on.

BY MARIA LAPIANA

THE DR. THOMAS M. MCGOVERN MEMORIAL Scholarship is awarded to students who best embody the generous and compassionate spirit of Dr. McGovern, a former Fisher president who passed away in 2021. The scholarship was set up by his widow, Elaine, and the McGovern family. “Tom was a proponent of leadership qualities,” she says. “In reading the essays, I was so proud of the students who applied for the scholarships.” McGovern remembers that when her husband was president of Fisher College, “Tom used to say he had the best job in the world. We wanted to find a way to honor his memory.”

One of three recipients in the scholarship’s inaugural year, **Emily Deller ’23** is a senior in the Management program. President of the Golden Key International Honour Society, Deller holds part-time jobs in four Fisher departments. She believes she was selected at least partly for her dedication to the Fisher community.

“I have experienced so much personal growth at Fisher, and it’s my goal to help other students have a great experience here

as well,” Deller says. “I will forever be grateful for my time here.”

The other recipients are **Alexa Melendez ’22**, who is working toward a B.S. in Management with a concentration in Fashion Merchandising, and **Ariella Alleyne ’23**, studying for a B.S. in Management with a double concentration in Hospitality and Event Planning and Accounting.

The Theodore (Ted) Everett Berlin Scholarship Fund, created by Anne Berlin and Dr. Peter C. Everett to honor the memory of their son, Ted Berlin, is awarded to students pursuing graduate-level coursework in addictions counseling. Ted’s 2018 death from an accidental drug overdose “was completely unnecessary,” says Berlin, “and it’s our hope this will inspire more well-trained individuals to help people like him.”

This year’s recipients are **Cameron Lyons ’22**, who has a Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology and is working toward a Graduate Certificate in Addictions Counseling, and **Chrystal Durfee ’23**, who is studying for a Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology and a Graduate Certificate in Addictions Counseling. “I have been close to people dealing with addiction,” Durfee says, “and I’m proud to follow a career path in addictions counseling.”

“Tom used to say he had the best job in the world. We wanted to find a way to honor his memory.”

ELAINE MCGOVERN



The Dr. Thomas M. McGovern Memorial Scholarship recipients, from left, Emily Deller '23, Ariella Alleyne '23, and Alexa Melendez '22.



Commencement 2022
The 118th Commencement sent a new group of graduates out into the world to accomplish great things.

BY ROBERT DUNN

Fisher College welcomed members of the class of 2022 and their guests to the 118th Commencement. Two hundred-eighty people participated in the event held under sunny skies on May 14 at The Lawn on D in the Seaport District of Boston. Dr. Alexandra L. Bartsch, chair of Fisher’s Board of Trustees, opened the ceremonies, which included addresses by President Steven Rich and three graduating students: graduate speaker Lucia Millan ’20 ’22, Boston campus valedictorian Cydni Bowles ’22, and Graduate and Professional Studies valedictorian Rebecca Scheufele ’22. Julie Frates, an advocate for ALS patients and research, delivered the Commencement Address. Fisher awarded her an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters in recognition of her “extraordinary strength, courage, and advocacy.”

Class of 2022: ‘There Is Always Room to Do Great Things’
Julie Frates shared inspiration from her unexpected journey to becoming an ALS advocate. She is closely involved with the Pete Frates Family Foundation, named for her late husband, who helped popularize The Ice Bucket Challenge for ALS research after he was diagnosed with the disease. “Pete showed me that no matter what cards you are dealt, there is always room to do great things,” she told graduates. Quoting Pete, she advised graduates to “Be passionate, be genuine, be hardworking, and don’t forget to be great.”

Commencement photographs by Marianne Salza



Three Quick Questions

Peter Cassino

Program Director of the Master of Science in Criminal Justice

1 / The program is fairly new. Why criminal justice, and why now? We observed increasing interest in law enforcement and related fields, so we met that need in January 2020. The program is for mid-career professionals interested in career advancement, as well as anyone in related fields. Our hallmark is the personal attention our professors provide.

2 / How do you prepare students for careers in criminal justice fields? Our multifaceted program is taught completely online. We cover every aspect of the criminal justice system and teach problem-solving skills that address many of today’s issues with ethical, evidence-based solutions. The knowledge is applicable to everyone from court officers to social workers.

3 / What challenges face law enforcement today? In recent years, politicized issues have led to early retirements and poor morale. It’s been hard to recruit new officers. I sensed a change in attitude during the anniversary of 9/11; people recalled the feelings of trust and gratitude they once felt. I’m optimistic for the future. —ML

On with the Show Marketing major and drama club president Renesha Knight '23 believes lessons learned on the stage will serve her well in her career.

BY MARIA LAPIANA

As a kid, drama club president Renesha Knight '23 remembers watching Disney and other films with her mom, and being thoroughly absorbed by them. "I loved performing from a very young age, and I studied ballet and tap for nine years," says Knight.

While her family is from Jamaica, she was born and raised in Massachusetts, where she was captivated by theater throughout her time in high school; she loved playing Snoopy in a production of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown."

Knight says drama clubs sometimes get a bad rap. "People think there are no men in them, that it's a huge commitment, and not very fun," she says. That's why she was so pleased to talk with students at a recent club fair and reassure them that drama can be very calming, and that they shouldn't let fear

stop them from giving it a try. "It's such a dream, altering perceptions of what a drama club could be," she says.

The club produces two shows a year: a straight play in the fall and a musical in the spring. Knight is excited to get back to normal after the pandemic and is pleased to be presenting "Little Women" in the fall and "Chicago" in the spring. She credits her growth, on stage and off, to associate professor of Humanities, Dr. Danielle Herget, director of the Liberal Arts and Honors programs, who started the drama club nearly 20 years ago.

She's especially grateful to have been given an opportunity to act as assistant director.

As a marketing major, Knight takes her studies and her acting seriously, seeing similarities between the two. "In many ways, marketing is a performance in itself," she says. "You take a product or a service, you prepare, and you present it. There's a lot of razzle dazzle in both." While many of her peers are interested in the social media side of marketing, Knight isn't sure yet. "I'm open to exploring new avenues ... and there are so many of them," she says.



Student Spotlights

1 / **Madison Kelley '23** Kelley's schedule is daunting. She's an RA in her residence hall; she works as an athletic assistant, and she plays three sports: volleyball, basketball, and softball. From Moosup, Connecticut, Kelley is majoring in Biology. "I want to go into the medical field, but not necessarily be a doctor," she says. "It sounds cliché, but what I really want to do is help people."

2 / **Maisa Lopes '24** Lopes's Brazilian parents paved a path to success in the U.S., but Lopes initially had a hard time adjusting. They were overjoyed when she was accepted to Fisher. The Biology major hopes to become the first doctor in her family. "My biggest dream is to make my family proud, to show them that coming to America was the best choice they made," she says.

3 / **Naomi Mares '22, '23** A transfer student from Colorado, Mares chose Fisher for its location, academics, and the opportunity to play basketball. "I'm proud to be the first in my family to be recruited to play the sport I love—while getting an exceptional education," she says. She's studying for her master's in Counseling Psychology, with a plan to become a licensed mental health counselor.

4 / **Miguel Torres '24** Puerto Rico native Torres has had a passion for baseball since he was seven. He's now playing at Fisher while studying Marketing with minors in Sport Management and Sport Coaching and Fitness. The combination is perfect for him, he says. He hopes to do something that will "help future generations be better baseball players and better human beings."



"In many ways, marketing is a performance in itself. There's a lot of razzle dazzle in both."

RENESHA KNIGHT '23 HAS BEEN PERFORMING SINCE SHE WAS A CHILD, AND CREDITS HER CONFIDENCE, ON STAGE AND OFF, TO FISHER COLLEGE'S DRAMA CLUB

Photograph by Christopher Churchill

News + Notes

Alternative Spring Break

Students hoping to accomplish more on their spring break than getting a good tan can spend the time doing something a bit different: helping build houses with Habitat for Humanity. Every year since 2010 (except for 2021, when COVID-19 put the kibosh on things), a group of Fisher College students has headed to communities in need around the country. There, as part of Habitat for Humanity's Collegiate Challenge, they help build homes for low-income families. Besides the literal nuts and bolts learning of a week doing construction, the students broaden their cultural horizons in the process.

In March 2023, Joshua McKain, college librarian and manager of the Writing and Academic Support Center, and Vivian Lara, coordinator with the Registrar's Office and Academic Affairs, will lead 13 students as they head to Goose Creek, South Carolina.

New Bio Lab

Big things are happening in Fisher's Biology program. Under the direction of assistant professor and program director Dr. Seung-Hwan Kim, the College has a new state-of-the-art bio lab.

Assistant professor and program director Dr. Seung-Hwan Kim stands in Fisher's new bio lab.

Kim, who has been conducting cancer research and teaching for some 30 years, joined the Biology program just this year. With some impressive new equipment, he's able to offer lab courses including cell and molecular biology, biochemistry, and genetics. Ten of his students are working with him on research into pediatric and childhood cancer with the aim of presenting two papers at the annual meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research in Florida in April 2023.

Fisher currently offers a B.A. in Biology, but Kim is hoping to be able to offer a B.S. soon, a degree that will give a leg up to students who are hoping to go on to medical school. "We need to offer physics and calculus and organic chemistry," he says. "The program is growing, and I think this is the right time to upgrade."

Help for Heroes

The pandemic made life tough for just about everyone, but those working in the healthcare field

bore an especially heavy burden. For the students in Fisher's R.N. to B.S. Nursing program, the stress of full-time work during a health crisis only added to the challenge of pursuing a degree. As always, however, the College did what it's become so well-known for: finding ways to break down the barriers for its students. "Many of our R.N. to B.S.N. students are new nurses in their first jobs," says Dr. Nancy Pedranti, program director. As if that's not stressful enough, she adds, they have family responsibilities, they often have student debt, and the B.S. program may be the first time they've engaged in online learning. Knowing that, Pedranti and assistant director Maureen Eisenstein took extra steps to ensure their students' success, arranging extra flexibility in course offerings and assignment due dates and offering support for everything from academics to time management to financial aid. Post-pandemic, the program is stronger than ever.



Hoop Dreams

The new head coach for Falcons women’s basketball hopes determination and hard work will energize his young team.

BY MARIA LAPIANA

EVERYTHING OLD IS NEW again. For years, the Falcons Women’s Basketball Team enjoyed only limited success, but they took a star turn when they made it to conference tournament play over the past four consecutive seasons. On paper at least, it looked as though its new head coach, Kessen Green ’01, ’04, had inherited a strong program.

Unfortunately, the fabric of the team has changed considerably with the 2022–23 season, as often happens in collegiate sports. This year there are only three returning players, and it was a lean team to start, says Green, who was named to the post in August 2022. “We’re starting from scratch, and truly building a team from the bottom up,” he says.

Undaunted by the challenges ahead, Green says he’ll rely on his philosophy in life and sports: “What you put in is what you get out.”

There’s a learning curve with any new job, and Green knows his work is cut out for him.

There’s a culture to learn, new administrative tasks to master, “and I have to get out there and meet faculty and staff, the people

who can help our players,” he says.

He has a plan. A few more players will join the team after volleyball season is over, and Green hopes to recruit talent in January. But for now, he says, many of his young players will be expected to practice and play harder than ever. “We really don’t have a bench, so most of them will be called on to play the entire game. I expect that we’ll take our bumps and bruises,” he says.

“The most important thing to achieve in a restructuring year is finding chemistry and balance,” according to returning center, Madison Kelley ’23. “It’s crucial that we improve during every drill, practice, and game—no matter how many people we have on the team,” she says. “Coach is doing everything in his power to make sure we’re ready for whatever is thrown at us this season.”

Coach Green hopes to instill in his team a strong work ethic while he advocates for them on and off the court. “It takes planning and foresight to build a strong team,” he says. “There’s no such thing as an overnight success.”

Facts + Figures

22 The number of seasons in program history

4 Consecutive trips to the conference tournament

48-45 Record over the last four seasons

2004 The year Coach Green earned his BS from Fisher College

8 The number of coaches in program history

2018-19 The program’s best season record to date

19-11 The program’s best-ever season record



Green hopes to instill in his team a strong work ethic while he advocates for them on and off the court. “It takes planning and foresight to build a strong team,” he says. “There’s no such thing as an overnight success.”



Coach Green has a plan. But for now, he says, his young players will be expected to practice and play harder than ever. “We really don’t have a bench, so most of them will be called on to play the entire game,” he says.

Tailor Made
Fisher’s internship program
combines work experience,
school, and life skills to fashion
a leader in the making.

BY MARIA LAPIANA

XENIA PAEZ ’23 didn’t take the straight and narrow path to a college degree. When she graduated from high school outside of Boston in 2013, she had no idea what she wanted to do. She took the logical next step of enrolling in college, but, she admits, “I didn’t take it too seriously.” Switching gears, she went to work in retail instead. “It took me five years to appreciate the opportunity to go to college,” she says. As a full-time worker and a student at Fisher College since 2020, she’s gotten great at multitasking.

This semester, she was able to parlay her job at the Encore Boston Harbor hotel into an internship that lets her combine work experience with her degree program in Management with a concentration in Fashion Merchandising to prepare for what she hopes will be a rewarding career.

Paez loves fashion and hopes to work in that field eventually (inspired, perhaps, by her mother, who is a technical designer for The TJX Companies), but meanwhile she’s happy to work under the executive director of culinary operations at the hotel. “They have seven restaurants and I help administer culinary changes on a regular basis,” she explains. She believes the experience she’s getting in hospital-

ity is applicable to many fields, including the fashion industry.

The most important takeaway so far has been getting to know people and how to work with them, she says. “It’s important to connect with people, whether they are directly involved in your work or not. I’ve learned that when you don’t have answers, ask questions—and most people will point you in the right direction.”

Paez says she’s hard on herself at work and in the classroom. “You could say I’m a bit of a perfectionist,” she says. “I’m constantly looking for feedback.”

She’s proud of how she’s managed to handle an array of responsibilities at the same time, and hopes it will lead to her dream job. “I’d like to be a technical designer, or maybe a merchandising specialist,” says Paez, “definitely something in a creative field.”

“I’ve learned that when you don’t have answers, ask questions—and most people will point you in the right direction.”

XENIA PAEZ ’23



Photograph by Christopher Churchill

Clothes
Call

FASHION MERCHANDISING STUDENTS ARE RUNWAY READY AGAIN THIS YEAR.

Still riding on the success of last year, students in the Fashion Merchandising concentration are again hard at work coordinating a fashion show, a pop-up consignment shop, and a fashion magazine. Assistant Professor Catherine Murphy, who directs the fashion merchandising concentration, says she is impressed with her students’ sense of style and entrepreneurial spirit.

The program covers everything from marketing and retail management to the history of fashion and textile science. But it’s the hands-on projects that really show off her students’ enthusiasm.

Last year, the fashion show was brought back after a break, and the consignment shop was wildly successful. Students took clothing donations from faculty and staff and sold them to students. The proceeds all went to creating a fashion magazine, with all it involves, including coordinating photo shoots. “It really is amazing how they stepped up and handled every detail,” says Murphy. This year, she says, the program plans to hold the fashion show and the pop-up shop in both the fall and spring semesters.

Held in Alumni Hall, last year’s fashion show was quite an undertaking. “It was the first time we did anything like it since COVID, so I tried to manage expectations, not knowing how many people would show up,” says Murphy. “As we were getting ready, someone looked out and shouted: ‘People are lining up!’ I couldn’t have been happier.” —**ML**

Last year, the fashion show was brought back after a break, and the consignment shop was wildly successful.

Xenia Paez ’23 was able to parlay her job at the Encore Boston Harbor hotel into an internship that lets her combine work experience with her degree program in Management with a concentration in Fashion Merchandising.



IN MEMORIAM

A commitment to community service, a deep love for his family, and a passion for education are the legacy of former Fisher College president Dr. Scott Adams Fisher.

A LIFE WELL LIVED

BY PEARL MARVELL

Dr. Scott Adams Fisher lived his life in service to community. “He always made life better for the people around him and the organizations that he joined,” his daughter, Alexandra L. Bartsch, says.

When Bartsch speaks about her father, who died at his home in Onset, Massachusetts, on January 31, 2022, you can hear the admiration she felt for him. “As a father, he was very extraordinarily supportive and generous,” she says. “He took joy in our successes and helped with our challenges and was a tireless ally.”

Born in 1933 in Somerville, Massachusetts, Dr. Fisher attended Somerville High School at a time when the majority of graduates did not go on to college. He earned his bachelor’s degree at Boston University, continued his education with an MBA from Babson College, and eventually received an Ed.D. from Harvard.

Between college and graduate school, Dr. Fisher was a Lieutenant in the United States Navy, stationed in the Pacific under the commander of the amphibious forces based at Coronado, California. While in Coronado for training, he met a recent college graduate named Laura, who happened to be attending the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority convention at the Hotel del Coronado. The two fell in love and were happily married for 64 years at the time of Dr. Fisher’s death.

Like his father and his grandfather before him, Dr. Fisher was president of Fisher College, the school his grandfather Myron C. Fisher co-founded in 1903. His own tenure lasted from 1970 to 1981. Following his term as president he became the longest-serving trustee of the College and held the post of chair of the Board of Trustees for many years.

One thing that was passed down through the Fisher generations was the importance of community service. “My father had an extraordinary sense of making the community better for the people in it, and he did that through education,” says Bartsch.

She now serves as the chair of the Board of Trustees, a position that she feels honored to hold. “Fisher College is as close to us as a member of the family,” she says. “We’re privileged to be a part of that and to have the opportunity to help students move their lives forward.”

A true Bostonian, Dr. Fisher had “grit,” as his daughter puts it. In 1978, he was diagnosed with cancer and told that he had less than six months to live. He lived another 44 years. “He was told that he wouldn’t see me graduate high school,” says Bartsch. In fact, he lived to see her earn her J.D. and have a successful career as an attorney.

He was also president of the Rotary Club of Boston, director and president of the National Council of Independent Junior Colleges, director of the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges, and chaplain of the Point Independence Yacht Club.

When Dr. Fisher wasn’t chairing or directing, he could often be found on the water. He was a competitive swimmer in high school, a varsity rower in college, and an avid sailor who captained the family’s sloop *Laura E.* around Nova Scotia, Maine, and as far as Grenada in the Caribbean. Sailing is one more passion he instilled in the generations that came after him. “He passed it on to me, and I’m passing it on to my daughter,” says Bartsch, who is a licensed boat captain.

Dr. Fisher kept a little sailboat in front of his house, Bartsch relates, and would invite anyone who showed an interest in sailing to use it. “That was his style,” she says. “He just wanted people to be able to have these opportunities.”

When Dr. Fisher retired, he and his wife, Laura, would spend winters in Naples, Florida, a place that was more her

Like his father and his grandfather before him, Dr. Fisher was president of Fisher College, the school his grandfather Myron C. Fisher co-founded in 1903. His own tenure lasted from 1970 to 1981. Clockwise, from top left, Dr. Fisher’s presidential portrait; with new president, Steven Rich, and past president, Dr. Thomas M. McGovern; sailing with his wife of 64 years, Laura.



choice than his, at least initially, according to his daughter. “My father loved Boston,” she says. True to form, however, he adjusted to his new winter home pretty quickly and jumped into community involvement. “He became the head of the local golf association,” says Bartsch.

As president and trustee of Fisher College, Dr. Fisher also championed diversity. “He didn’t care anything about your identity. He was interested in helping everyone all the time. That’s part of the reason that Fisher College is a wonderfully diverse place,” notes Bartsch. “You’ll see people from all over the world; every shape and form and color and philosophy. Everybody feels at home and that’s the atmosphere that he created.”

President Steven Rich adds, “Dr. Fisher was a visionary in higher education and the heart of Fisher College for over

50 years, as president and Trustee. He was a mentor to many, including me, and an inspiration to students around the world to prepare themselves for a better economic future through education.”

Bartsch wrote her father’s obituary, ending it with a quote from one of his 2013 writings: “I do believe that I have had a good life, significant opportunity, achieved many worthwhile things, have contributed to the welfare of others, have sustained disappointment and success, appreciated my family present and past, and have been continually grateful and thankful for it all.”

His whole family—wife Laura, son Christian and daughter-in-law Michelle, daughter Alexandra, and five grandchildren—will continue his legacy and, with his memory as guidance, create legacies of their own.



Team Valorant in action.

THEY'VE GOT

Fisher's brand-new esports program has quickly emerged as one of the top gaming squads in the country.



GAME

BY BOB CURLEY

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
CHRISTOPHER CHURCHILL

THERE'S A BATTLE GOING ON AT FISHER COLLEGE.

Competitors take aim at opponents, strike powerful blows, and work collaboratively to game-plan their way to victory.

It's not a contest on a sports field. Rather, it all takes place in the cloistered environment of a video game arena, where the College's esports team has quickly emerged as one of the top gaming squads in the country.

Established just this academic year, the competitive Esports program pits players against other colleges in tournaments sanctioned by the makers of some of the world's top video games, including Call of Duty, Fortnite, Hearthstone, Halo, League of Legends, Overwatch, Rainbow Six Siege, Rocket League, Super Smash Bros., and Valorant. And while those names may be foreign to many people born before the era of video games—and even some of those who played Donkey Kong and Super Smash Bros. as teenagers—they're key members of a gaming lineup that commands a huge international following.

"All of our students on our starting rosters are in the top .01 percent of skilled gamers in their respective games, out of hundreds of millions of players," says Bryan Hummel, Fisher's director of esports.

As with any competitive sport, having fun is central to the esports experience. But it's not all fun and games, any more than collegiate football is. Like top-ranked football players, promising esports players are recruited by coaches like Hummel and offered scholarships to come play at the school, and many have their eye on a professional gaming career when they graduate. Others have already enjoyed a successful gaming career starting in their early teens, and are now looking to leverage their experience into a career in the gaming industry.

"Fisher College has successfully transformed the fun activity of 'gaming' into a learning experience that

students will benefit from for a lifetime," says Robert Melaragni, vice president of enrollment management and chief admissions officer.

"I started playing games at about 3 years old," recalls Jackson "Deprive" Brown of Fisher's esports team. "My dad had a Nintendo NES. By age 5, I was better than he was at most games. I never really stopped playing from there. In 2001, I went to a family party where my uncle, who worked for Microsoft, had an Xbox and a game of Halo. I spent the whole party in the basement alone playing Halo and beat half the game in one sitting. That was it, I was hooked."

He dropped out of his traditional sports teams, saved up his allowance, and bought his own Xbox and a copy of Halo, Brown recalls. "From then on, Halo was my only hobby. Looking back, it probably wasn't the healthiest thing, but it paid off in the end, as I now get to go back to school with Fisher."

Brown, who recently secured an internship with Red Bull Esports, intends to pursue a career in collegiate esports. Other students are looking at paths ranging from competitive gaming to game design. Of the 101 students in the Fisher College esports program, about a half dozen are majoring in Sport Management with a concentration in Esports and Gaming Administration; others have majors ranging from Management to Psychology to IT.

And there are plenty of jobs in gaming. The video game industry is a monster—and we don't mean like "Regenerator" from *Resident Evil 4*. Video games generated about \$180 billion in revenues in 2020, which is more than Hollywood movies and all North American sports combined. About two-thirds of U.S. residents play video games at least once a week—part of a community of an estimated

Esports Director Bryan Hummel, whose background also includes a stint as a boxer, says that the thrill of competition is one thing that translates seamlessly from live to virtual sports. "It's exciting to win," he says. "That never gets old."

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BRYAN HUMMEL,
FISHER'S DIRECTOR OF ESPORTS



Of the 101 students in the Fisher College esports program, about a half dozen are majoring in Sport Management with a concentration in Esports and Gaming Administration; others have majors ranging from Business to Psychology to IT. Video games generated about \$180 billion in revenues in 2020, which is more than Hollywood movies and all North American sports combined.

3.2 billion gamers worldwide that grew even larger during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Esports alone is a multi-billion-dollar business, says Hummel. The International 10 competition held for players of Dota 2, for example, has an annual prize pool of \$40 million, while gamers who made the finals of the 2019 Fortnite World Cup vied for more than \$30 million in prizes. Careers in the video game industry can likewise be quite lucrative: a lead game designer can easily pull in a six-figure salary.

Besides making valuable industry contacts through internships and meeting top esports leaders via regular TED talks, Fisher College esports players also learn skills like teamwork, managing teams, running events, obtaining sponsorships and partnerships, and learning the production side of esports, such as live streaming events, says Hummel.

“Gaming develops macro and micro mechanical skills,” he says. “Halo involves map awareness, communication with teammates, and strategy around tracking spawn points.”

Extensive scouting of competing teams also takes place in games like League of Legends, which has 100 million daily players worldwide.

“Esports create an additional avenue for student engagement and support,” says Anthony Scala, chief operating officer of Esports Foundry, a consulting company that helps schools and other organizations establish and run esports programs. “When you look at the data surrounding interest within STEAM [science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics] fields and gaming, you find a lot of overlap. It’s creating a system and developmental opportunity for these individuals who have a passion and interest within those areas. Whether it’s related to careers, community, or competition, there is a place within esports for all students.”

Melaragni says esports has benefits that are much like traditional sports. “After much research, the College realized esports players can develop teamwork and communication skills similar to our student athletes,” he says. “Esports teach students how to think critically under pressure while promoting teamwork to succeed.”

The esports center established by Hummel is comprised of two practice and competition rooms with about 1,400 square feet total and 30 state-of-the-art gaming computers. Teams compete in a variety of tournaments, usually sponsored by game makers themselves. Players can compete at the varsity, junior varsity, or club levels, usually concentrating on the one game at which they are most skilled.

Between practice and competitions, esports team members often play six or seven times per week, says Hummel. Players, who must be enrolled as full-time students and maintain a minimum grade point average of 2.0, are eligible to win prize money.

The Esports program—launched with just a few hundred thousand dollars in initial funding—also has helped

Fisher with recruiting at a time when smaller schools have struggled to compete with larger institutions. “If the College didn’t have this robust esports offering, these students would have enrolled elsewhere,” says Melaragni.

Crucial to the program’s success is Director Bryan Hummel, who led the esports program at Bay State College and taught Esports Management at Emerson College prior to coming to Fisher College to establish its inaugural team. “His reputation in the industry is second to none,” says Melaragni. “Bryan takes the time to learn the strengths and weaknesses of all his players. As a result, Director Hummel gets the most out of his roster within the virtual world.”

Like gaming itself, collegiate esports has grown rapidly; 175 colleges and universities are part of the National Association of Collegiate eSports, for example, and there are more than 400 schools and 10,000 students on the CyberCoders, the world’s largest esports recruiting platform, according to CyberCoders recruiter Cody Dragon.

AT HEAD OF THE GAME

THE FISHER COLLEGE ESPORTS TEAM is just a few months old but has already rung up some impressive accomplishments in the top gaming competitions in the country. Here are some examples.



Valorant

Play: First-person shooter set in the near future and pitting teams of five “Agents” against each other. **Team Captain:** Jack Mingle. **Accomplishments:** Top 50 ranking among U.S. teams. Qualified for Red Bull Campus Clutch 2022 championship in Austin, Texas.



Rocket League

Play: Eight-player teams use rocket-powered cars to hit a ball into their opponent’s goal in this fueled-up take on a soccer match. **Team Captain:** Gianluca Petrozza. **Accomplishments:** Number-one ranked professional team. Recently finished second at HUE Invitational tournament at Harrisburg University.



Overwatch

Play: A multiplayer first-person shooter with squad-based combat sets teams of six “Heroes” against each other in the aftermath of a global robot war. **Team Captain:** Carter Ennis. **Accomplishments:** Third-place finish at HUE Invitational.



League of Legends

Play: Five-person teams have the mission of invading opponents’ territory and destroying the core of the enemy base, called Nexus. **Team Captain:** Yong-min Kim. **Accomplishments:** Second place at HUE Invitational.

“The growth has been tremendous, especially from around 2014 onward,” says Scala. “We’ve seen the expansion of sanctioned esports programs on campuses even more so through the pandemic. We are seeing multiple new esports programs enter the college market as we saw in a traditional sense with lacrosse and other sports.”

Collegiate esports, like video gamers themselves, encounter more than their share of bias, and players and program leaders admit that they still struggle to break the stereotype of esports players being kids living in their basements, drinking energy drinks, and sitting in front of a screen for 20 hours a day. Hummel and Dragon, both former student athletes, defy that perception.

“The stereotype does hurt, but these are some of the brightest and most hardworking kids I’ve ever met,” says Dragon. Natalie Huynh is helping to dispel another myth: that competitive gaming is only for boys. In fact, women accounted for 45 percent of gamers in the United States in 2021, and Huynh is among the women helping to transform the face of esports.

As Fisher’s team manager for Valorant, Huynh’s responsibilities include scheduling scrimmages, registering for tournaments, and keeping track of rosters and players. “Transferring to Fisher College gave me the opportunity to be a part of a program with already established players and experienced staff who could help me learn,” she says. “My main interest is to pursue an esports-related career, but I’m not exactly sure what I want to do yet. I’m an IT major with a cybersecurity concentration, so I hope once I graduate, I can find a career in the industry.”

Huynh says she has faced her fair share of discrimination in gaming. “But I would never let it get in the way of continuing to enjoy my interests,” she says. “I’ve learned how to stand up for myself. Thankfully everyone in the Fisher College Esports program has been very welcoming,

Like gaming itself, collegiate esports has grown rapidly; 175 colleges and universities are part of the National Association of Collegiate eSports. “The growth has been tremendous. We are seeing multiple new esports programs enter the college market as we saw in a traditional sense with lacrosse and other sports.”

CODY DRAGON, A RECRUITER FOR CYBERCODERS, THE WORLD’S LARGEST ESPORTS RECRUITING PLATFORM

supportive, and helpful to me. I hope to be able to help other women and marginalized genders in this space feel just as supported.”

Dragon acknowledges that esports players may miss out on the advantages of physical activity. In fact, he says, some esports teams build in workouts before practices, and sometimes pair real-world sports like soccer with their virtual counterparts.

“It’s hard to break the stigma, but when you come to an event and you see the crowd and the passion, it changes your perception,” says Hummel. “The sport requires millisecond decision-making skills, and you have to really work at that.”

Fisher College’s investment in esports and its successful recruiting effort at both the player and coaching levels has already made the school one of the top programs in the nation. The Falcons squad has finished in first or second place in every tournament it has entered so far, says Hummel.

The director, whose background also includes a stint as a boxer, says that the thrill of competition is one thing that translates seamlessly from live to virtual sports. “It’s exciting to win,” he says. “That never gets old.”

The esports center comprises two practice and competition rooms with about 1,400 square feet total and 30 state-of-the-art gaming computers. Teams compete in a variety of tournaments, usually sponsored by game makers themselves. Players can compete at the varsity, junior varsity, or club levels, usually concentrating on the one game at which they are most skilled.

STUDENT PROFILE: PAUL SANTORO

AN ONLINE COMMUNITY called 2old2play starts welcoming gamers at age 25, so you can see why 32-year-old Paul “PaulyHype” Santoro ’26 might be considered an ancient warrior by esports standards. But Santoro comes to Fisher College’s Esports program not just with decades of gaming experience but a mission to help evolve the future of collegiate esports. “I started professionally gaming when I was 14 years old in 2004 with Halo 2 and Dead or Alive 4,”

says Santoro. “I wanted to go back to college because when I was 18, I dropped out due to my tournament, travel, and practice schedule. I’m returning because I eventually want to be a head coach or director, and I need a degree to pursue those routes. Plus I want to prove that pro gaming doesn’t only exist for people from 14 to 24.”

A personal relationship with Hummel and a great scholarship offer convinced Santoro to join Fisher College’s fledgling Esports program in its first year. During

his time as a professional gamer, Santoro competed in hundreds of games and took part in five major esports productions. He continues to work as a talent host and commentator and as an executive with CSMG/EsportsU which recently hosted the largest nationally ranked college esports tournament in the U.S.

“College is insanely difficult and challenging,” he says. “Imagine having to do full-time school work, full-time practice in your sport, and then there are the days you have to

compete and perform, not just squeak by.”

Santoro has his eye on more than just a post-collegiate career. “Passing my experience with more than 20 years in gaming and esports to my peers and teammates is a joy I feel being here,” he says. “I need to get my degree so that I can further my career as a professional in this industry, but I also want to win a national championship in Halo for Fisher College. That’s a dream I would have had at 18, just completed at 32.” **—BC**



WHETHER THE GOAL IS TO OBTAIN A PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION, COMPLETE A SINGLE COURSE, OR ATTAIN A DEGREE FROM ASSOCIATE THROUGH THE MASTER'S LEVEL, FISHER'S CORPORATE ADVANTAGE PROGRAM IN THE DIVISION OF GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES IS A SUCCESSFUL INITIATIVE THAT FOSTERS COMMUNITY-CORPORATE RELATIONSHIPS WHILE HELPING EMPLOYEES FURTHER THEIR EDUCATIONAL AND CAREER GOALS.

ON TARGET

BY ELAINE LEMBO

Illustration by HARRY CAMPBELL
Photographs by CHRISTOPHER CHURCHILL



Internships and cooperative learning programs are often pitched to students as tickets to a solid career after college. But what happens when the student is already an employee who works at a job and wants or needs more learning to stay up to date, earn a promotion, or get a raise?

Enter Fisher College, an early leader in adult continuing education. At the Titleist golf ball plant in New Bedford, Massachusetts, Fisher outreach resulted in business courses and degrees for everyone from line workers to mid-level managers. Degree-seeking officers of New Bedford's police department have gotten in on it, too, enrolling in the Fisher Criminal Justice bachelor's program by the dozens. From Fall River to Franklin and other municipalities throughout the Commonwealth, Fisher has helped professionals at early childhood centers such as Bright Horizons and KinderCare enhance their skills and knowledge base. Those are just a few of the countless scenarios reaching back decades.

Whether the goal is to obtain a professional certification, complete a single course, or earn a degree from associate through the master's level, Fisher's Corporate Advantage Program (CAP) in the division of Graduate and Professional Studies is a successful initiative that fosters community-corporate relationships while helping employees further their educational and career goals.

In recent months, under the guidance of College President Steven Rich, Robert Melaragni, vice president of enrollment management, and Lynne Robinson, vice president of graduate and professional studies, the 20-year-old program is back in focus, with new energy, new employees, and a full-speed-ahead mission against the backdrop of the coronavirus pandemic.

"First and foremost, we are serving our mission of educating students," Robinson says. "We are educating students at all ability levels, from one course to a master's degree."

CAP is designed for employee recruitment and retention. "Fisher is workplace ready and its educational opportunities are here for the ever-changing workplace," Robinson adds.

That workplace transformation is far from over, and the College is responding in kind. Yet even long before the pandemic and worker shortages, as far back as 1998, Fisher offered flexibility with online courses and degrees; with CAP, that translates into a variety of learning meth-



"We have a very generous transfer credit policy. If an employee works for a company we partner with, we evaluate the courses the employee has taken at other institutions for credit. Our main goal is to find a pathway for them to get a college degree."

LYNNE ROBINSON, VICE PRESIDENT OF GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES



"You can't even describe the stranglehold companies are in because they don't have the staff. Workforce shortages are very real everywhere, and it's particularly dire in industries like healthcare. They're doing what they can to beef up benefits packages to new and existing employees."

TRACY VALLETTI, MANAGER OF CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

ods—whether digital or onsite or a combination of both at Fisher or the partner location—as well as an array of financial incentives.

Discounts work both ways to spread the incentive. For the employer with a group of 20 employee-students, Fisher can offer a bulk enrollment rate and add in an extra individual course at no charge. For the employee, if tuition

reimbursement is also offered, it helps spread the cost of pursuing a degree further, and becomes an incentive to remain with an employer. Once an employee obtains Fisher credits or a degree, those achievements transfer at a new job with a different company.

"It helps the employee and the employer," Melaragni says. "We're here for the industries, who are dying for employees, and this creates an advantage a company can have over another in recruitment. From the employee's perspective, you can work for one of our partner companies and take Fisher courses at a discount."

Also, unlike a state university with an enormous student body and sprawling campus network, Fisher's intimacy and 14:1 student teacher ratio position it well to tackle individual company and employee circumstances.

"What we do here is very bespoke," says Richard Potter, director of enrollment management and administration.



Ashley Gillis at Little Treasures Schoolhouse in Reading, Massachusetts.

“We’re small, we’re nimble. Bob [Melaragni] and I have worked together for several years, and we have a long track record. We can pivot quickly.”

Potter’s long perspective is a byproduct of his 18 years with the college. In CAP’s various iterations over time, he says, if a company wanted to enroll 20 or more employees, Fisher faculty would teach them as a “cohort,” a term in academia for organizing and mentoring a group of students in a single curriculum from start to finish.

Self Help, a Brockton-based community action agency for low-income families that includes Head Start programs for children, was the impetus for Fisher’s cohort offering. “They were the pioneers for us,” Potter says. “Employees were required to maintain accreditation, and dozens of employees went on to pursue degrees with us.”

As enrollment activity accelerated, Potter started tracking the data. “As far as the non-degree professional study student, primarily in childcare centers, we started getting into a groove in 2009–2010, serving approximately 10,000 individuals,” he says.

Trends emerged, resulting in “aha” moments. By 2017, revenue generated from non-degree professional enrollment amounted to nearly \$700,000 annually. Faculty and staff doubled down on their efforts. “We nurtured these students, and we would try to recruit them as matriculated students,” Potter says. “We showed them incentives toward earning a degree.”

For the last seven years that Potter has tracked this particular trend, data show that 13 to 18 percent of annual new student body intake is attributed to conversions of non-degree students into degree-seeking students.

Ashley Gillis first attended Fisher in 2016, taking just one course for a certificate in Early Childhood Education. In 2021, she enrolled as a full-time student to work toward her bachelor’s in that field. “The online courses are really seamless,” she says. “Even back in 2016, they were really easy to access, and it’s only gotten better.” As she works full time at Little Treasures Schoolhouse in Reading, Massachusetts, Gillis is doubling up on classes, hoping to complete her degree program in the fall of 2023, and eventually become a teacher in the public school system.

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Those conversions are the optimal outcome that Fisher faculty and staff are so passionate about. “We want to take the anxiety out of the decision-making about going back to school to get a degree and start changing their lives,” Potter says. “The reason I’m still here after 18 years is because I believe in what we do, and I do believe we’re making a difference. It’s tangible. We can see it every time a student comes back to us and asks us for a reference.”

For Cheryl Hovey, director of Fisher’s Early Childhood Program, it’s all about removing obstacles. “We have a great program with so many incentives,” she says. “My job is to figure out what a student’s roadblock is. If it’s time, you can do your practicum where you work. If it’s money, we offer scholarships. If it’s about convenience, all our courses are online so you take them when it works for you. We have to remove the barriers.”

In the aftermath of the CAP relaunch, the program is hitting a new stride, with commitments from a half dozen corporate partners and queries regularly coming in, due in part to the urgent need of companies in a range of industries to find workers and keep them.

“You can’t even describe the stranglehold companies are in because they don’t have the staff,” says Tracy Valletti, CAP manager of corporate and community outreach. “Workforce shortages are very real everywhere, and it’s particularly dire in industries like healthcare. They’re doing what they can to beef up benefits packages to new and existing employees.”

Some companies are previous Fisher CAP partners in early childhood and healthcare, some are new, and all come in with a range of training needs. One company may need to sharpen workers’ English-speaking and writing skills, another finds it’s behind in cybersecurity measures, website design and information technology, or business disciplines such as accounting.

“A healthcare company we partner with doesn’t necessarily need only employees trained in taking care of people,” says Lynne Robinson.

The programs Fisher offers are also influenced by workers’ academic interests and experience. “We have a very generous transfer credit policy,” Robinson adds. “If an employee works for a company we partner with, we evaluate the courses the employee has taken at other institutions for credit. Our main goal is to find a pathway for them to get a college degree.”

Besides designing degree programs for companies via the cohort model, CAP also offers companies professional development workshops for classes of at least 10 employees. Workshops can be delivered in segments of the company’s choosing; certificates are provided to each employee upon successful completion.

“CAP is a way not only to further our mission, but to diversify our revenue stream from the traditional college-age student to the professional,” Robinson says. “We want to help the working adult.”

CAP Partners Today

A sampling of CAP partners illustrates a diverse range of industries served as well as academic disciplines in which Fisher College specializes. Employee curriculum options include cohorts, workshops, and individual courses.

Cataldo Ambulance Service
Ambulance services

High Point and Affiliated Organizations
Healthcare and substance abuse treatment

Spectrum Health Systems
Addiction treatment

Victory Programs
Housing and healthcare

Walden Behavioral Care
Eating disorder treatment centers

NWN/Carousel
Communications services

Riverside Community Care
Behavioral healthcare

Eliot Community Human Services
Community-based housing and psychiatric services

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**.

FISHER GIVING DAY

Join us to honor the history of 118 Beacon Street, where many Fisher students took their first steps. We encourage you to contribute in any way you can!

January 18, 2023

fisher.edu/give

HALL OF FAME

The Fisher College Athletic Program will honor Class of 2022 hall of famers.

April 29, 2023

fisher.edu/halloffame

Save the Dates!



FISHER COLLEGE



In 2006, Sherry Belanger was hired as a police officer, then quickly rose through the ranks, becoming sergeant, then lieutenant, and eventually captain. Today, she's proud to say, she is the director of public safety and campus police.

BEYOND

Alumni News

A Force for Good As the head of the police department, Sherry Belanger '11, '16, '21 takes the lead in keeping the Fisher campus safe.

BY PEARL MARVELL

WHEN BOSTON NATIVE SHERRY BELANGER graduated from East Boston High School in 1998, she set her sights on a good job with benefits and the potential for advancement. She found it in the law enforcement field when she became a corrections officer at the Suffolk County Jail. “I was responsible for the care, custody, and control of inmates awaiting trial and those convicted of misdemeanors,” she explains.

In 2006, she responded to a newspaper ad for Fisher College’s police department. She was hired as a police officer, then quickly rose through the ranks, becoming sergeant, then lieutenant, and eventually captain. Today, she’s proud to say, she is the director of public safety and campus police.

Among the many benefits of working at Fisher, she says, was being able to enroll in the school’s Criminal Justice program at no cost. She first pursued an associate’s degree, which she earned in 2011. By 2016 she had gone on to receive her bachelor’s in Criminal Justice, and in 2021 she was awarded her M.S. in the field.

“Pursuing my associate’s, bachelor’s and master’s degrees while working at Fisher College allowed me to not only learn about

the history of the criminal justice field and the theories behind criminal behavior, but also to share my professional experiences with students who have yet to work in the field,” she says. Belanger says that Fisher’s staff and faculty were also “truly amazing to work with.”

The COVID-19 pandemic changed the world as we know it, and it had a major impact on college life, which came to a complete halt. That didn’t mean Belanger and the rest of the police force didn’t have anything to do. They spent their time developing a plan to bring the students, faculty, and staff back in a safe manner when the College was finally able to welcome people back to campus in the fall of 2020.

Belanger is especially proud to have received a special recognition award last summer from the Massachusetts Association of Women in Law Enforcement for her work at Fisher College. She was nominated for her outstanding contributions to community policing. “To me, community policing is just getting back to policing basics,” she says. “It’s getting to know your community and working with them to solve problems and keep people safe.” She was honored to be recognized by what she calls “a group of outstanding female police officers.”

Looking ahead, Belanger sees herself growing in her new position leading the department. “I hope to continue building relationships with the staff, faculty, and students in order to keep the campus safe,” she says. “I also enjoy getting to know the students and helping them to understand the types of victimizations for which they are most at risk and how to best protect themselves.”

As a Fisher College alumna who has many achievements in community policing already, it seems clear that Belanger is more than up to the task.

Fisher Through the Years

1903

Brothers Myron Cornelius Fisher and Edmund Hiram Fisher found the Winter Hill Business College in Somerville.

1910

The school’s name is changed to Fisher Business College.

1939

Fisher Business College moves to 118 Beacon Street in Boston.

1944

The school is established as a non-profit corporation, and the name is changed to The Fisher School.

1945

Florence Hall, at 112 Beacon Street, opens as a dormitory for 26 women.

1952

The Massachusetts Board of Collegiate Authority (MBCA) approves a name change to Fisher Junior College.

1970

Initial accreditation is granted by the New England Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

1988

Massachusetts Board of Higher Education approves name change to Fisher College.

1990

Fisher begins offering classes at Brockton Hospital School of Nursing.

1998

Men and women are admitted to Fisher College day school.

2001

Fisher College establishes its athletic program.

2007-2022

Degree programs proliferate, including new B.S. degrees, B.A.s, and master’s degrees in Criminal Justice, Business Administration, and Psychology.

2022

Fisher’s Esports program is launched (see “They’ve Got Game, page 18).



The Path Finder Aiyana Spencer-Lakes '06, '09, '21 devotes herself to helping underserved young Bostonians find their way in life.

BY PEARL MARVELL

A Born Leader

Oscar Brown '09, '11 came to Fisher College for basketball and found his purpose in life. Brown, who played on his high school team in Buffalo, New York, had always liked the collaborative aspect of basketball. "Playing sports, I could communicate well with my actions," he says. He wanted to transfer that ability to the rest of his life, and studying management and leadership seemed the perfect route.

In his junior year, Brown joined Boston University's ROTC program (which welcomes students from a number of Boston-area colleges and universities), and after graduating from Fisher with his B.S. in Management with a concentration in Computer Information Systems, he

joined the U.S. Army. In his six years in the army, including a 10-month deployment to Iraq in 2015, Brown worked his way up the ranks, eventually becoming a captain.

He felt that he was a good leader, but, he says, "I wanted to grow in that sense even more." An intense 18-week course designed to train transitioning service members in IT skills and job placement led to his current position as Operation Supervisor at Blue Diamond Growers, the California-based nut company.

Brown a native of Sudan whose family moved to the U.S. when he was a child, says he will always think fondly about his time at the school. "I would absolutely recommend Fisher to anyone who is willing to put in the work and willing to grow as a person," he says. "At the end of the day, I think that's what we're all striving to do: grow." **—PM**



Aiyana Spencer-Lakes '06, '09, '21 might live in another dimension where there are more than 24 hours in a day. She has a full-time job as a program manager at YouthBuild Boston, a nonprofit organization founded in 1990 to help underserved young people get into the construction and design industries. She is also a co-founder of Metafold, a Boston-based nonprofit that's been working to empower young Black people

since 2019. And if that's not enough to keep her busy, she's a member of her 12-year-old son's PTA and can be found in the stands cheering at his soccer, baseball, and hockey games.

Spencer-Lakes started her college career at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, but transferred to Fisher College after one semester. At Fisher, where she earned a B.S. in Management, she held down a full-time job and played for the basketball team. "It was a perfect fit," she says about the College, both for basketball and academics.

Shortly after getting her M.B.A., also from Fisher,

she joined YouthBuild Boston. "I was drawn to their mission of helping young people to find their paths," she says. "Being able to help people who look like me meant a lot."

Spencer-Lakes sees herself staying in the nonprofit sector for the foreseeable future and she has no plans to leave the Boston area. "My heart is in my community," she says. "I'm going to work to make sure we all have a little piece of something."

How does she manage to do it all—raise a son, work full time, and give back to her community? "I have a great village," she says with a grateful smile.

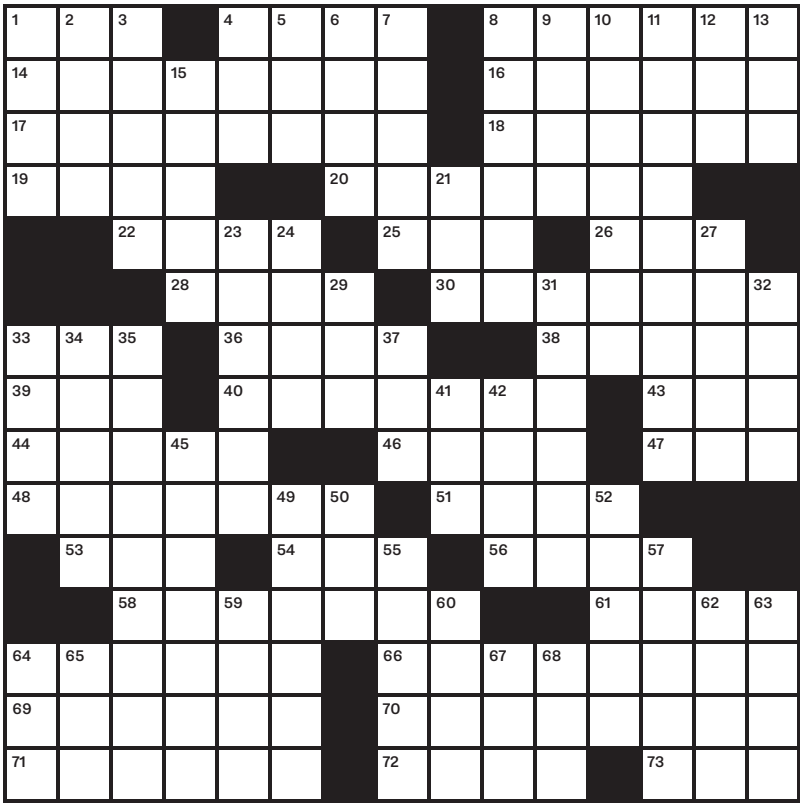
The Puzzle*

At the Top

With visionary leaders at its helm, Fisher College has been expanding its presence in the Boston community for more than a century.

BY DONNA HOKE

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



Across

- 1. Aloof
- 4. "American ____"
- 8. Winston Cup org.
- 14. RICHARD ____ (1980–84)
- 16. Ailment that can get worse in the spring
- 17. THOMAS ____ (2007–2017)
- 18. Number of years the College celebrated in 1933
- 19. Sometime today, say
- 20. "Amadeus" antagonist
- 22. Fizzy drink
- 25. "Winnie-the-Pooh" baby
- 26. Blog feed abbr.
- 28. STEVE ____ (present)
- 30. Discriminatory Dr. Seuss creature
- 33. Synonym for 22 Across, in some regions
- 36. C ration replacements
- 38. Going to the dogs, e.g.
- 39. '80s presidential monogram, but not at this school
- 40. CHARLES ____ (2003–07)
- 43. ____ Z
- 44. "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" reporter April ____
- 46. Tehran's country
- 47. Some Bible versions: abbr.
- 48. SANDFORD (1935–70), 66 ACROSS, AND 11 AND 27 DOWN
- 51. Academics acronym
- 53. 20-20, e.g.
- 54. "Tarzan" extra
- 56. "Arrows" homophone, fittingly
- 58. Time of little advancement
- 61. 1973 World Series stadium
- 64. "Catcher in ____"

- 66. LIKE FOUNDERS M.C. AND E.H. (1903–35)
- 69. Grilled Italian sandwiches
- 70. BRIAN ____ (1985–87)
- 71. Frisky feline
- 72. Arch site
- 73. Cost beyond tuition, say

Down

- 1. 1980s PCs
- 2. Chanel of fashion
- 3. European cars named for their country of origin
- 4. "Chicago Sun-Times" columnist Kupcimet
- 5. Nearly failing grade
- 6. Boat propellers
- 7. Concerning the moon
- 8. "Pledge of Allegiance" word
- 9. "But, ____ was ambitious, I slew him": Brutus
- 10. "Shaken, not ____"
- 11. SEE 48 ACROSS (1993–2001)
- 12. Invoice abbr.
- 13. S. ALAN ____ (2017–20)
- 15. Alum of the college, often
- 21. "Angeles" front
- 23. Jeff Probst of "Survivor" has a prominent one
- 24. Big plot
- 27. SEE 48 ACROSS (1970–80)
- 29. Female-identifying pronoun
- 31. Longtime Disney chief Michael
- 32. Managed care grps.
- 33. College employee, for short
- 34. "... ____ on Blu-Ray"
- 35. TITLE HELD BY ALL THE CAPITALIZED FOLKS
- 37. Go downhill fast
- 41. 1040 collectors

- 42. "Gossip Girl" love interest
- 45. 'There's that noise!'
- 49. Accumulate abundantly
- 50. "Me day" getaway
- 52. Former Israeli Defense Minister Dayan
- 55. Lines of the treble clef
- 57. Book keeper?
- 59. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Sandberg
- 60. Ending with switch
- 62. "Perry Mason" author Stanley Gardner
- 63. "____ sow, so shall..."
- 64. New Jersey hwy.
- 65. "Bali ____" ("South Pacific" highlight)
- 67. "Walking on Thin Ice" singer
- 68. Big boomer?



Events

January 18, 2023 /
Fisher College Giving Day: Give for 118 Beacon Street and the Memories Made

April 2, 2023 /
Accepted Students Day-Alumni resource table

April 29, 2023 /
Alumni Weekend and Athletics Hall of Fame

May 13, 2023 /
Commencement

June 2023 /
Alumni Night at the Red Sox

August 2023 /
Alumni Reception in San Juan, Puerto Rico

September 2, 2023 /
Welcome Back Weekend-Alumni resource table

October 2023 /
Homecoming and Athletics Hall of Fame

October 2023 /
Golf Tournament

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

Donor
Q+A

Delia
Brimmer '14

The financial services professional on why she gives back to Fisher.

Why did you give to Fisher College? I always felt grateful for the scholarships I earned and the experiences I was able to participate in at no cost thanks to Fisher's endowment. Since graduating, I have happily donated lots of my time to the College, but this year I felt ready to commit to donating financially.

Why did you choose to attend Fisher? When I was applying to colleges, I decided I'd like to be in Boston. A friend of mine who was a year ahead of me in high school went to Fisher and loved it, so I decided to apply. On Accepted Students Day, my dad got to talking with the women's soccer coach and by the end of the day I was slated to play for the team. So I got involved with building a community early on.

How did your education set you up for success in life? Fisher was the perfect sandbox for me. It gave me so many opportunities to try a vast array of things. I was an RA, played three sports, worked in the housing and admissions offices, volunteered at weekly soup kitchens, and traveled with the Semester at Sea program. I said yes to as many opportunities as I could, and it all shaped me into who I am today.

What motivates you to continue to support Fisher? Without Fisher, I wouldn't have had the opportunity or means to experience as much as I did in just four short years. Now that I'm able to be supportive financially, it feels great to be able to help another student have those same opportunities. *To donate, please visit fisher.edu/give.*
—Paula M. Bodah



“Without Fisher, I wouldn’t have had the opportunity or means to experience as much as I did in just four short years. It feels great to be able to help another student have those same opportunities”

DELIA BRIMMER '14

BEYOND / ADVANCING FISHER



Violette's 1953 Fisher Junior College yearbook photo.

Donor
Profile

Beatrice Helen McKusick
Violette '53 Remembered
Fisher in Her Will

The Rev. Beatrice Helen McKusick Violette '53 valued education. Violette, who became a minister in 2002 after graduating from Andover Newton Theological School with an M.A. in Divinity, served the Sebec (Maine) Village Community Christian Church from 2003 until shortly before her death last July at the age of 89. In fact, she

preached her last sermon less than two weeks before she passed away. Violette and her late husband, Bob, were grade-school sweethearts who were married for 44 years, but never had children. Her longtime friend and the executor of her will, Sharon McKusick, says Violette chose to leave the bulk of her estate to several of the schools she went to, and Fisher is among the lucky beneficiaries. “She was always very good at school,” McKusick says, “and she always loved school.” Although Violette didn't specify how she wanted her bequest to be used, McKusick is sure she would be pleased to know the college she attended so long ago will benefit.

Spot the Difference*

Girls’ Night In
Look closely at this photo of Fisher students in the cozy confines of a dorm room back in the 1950s, and you’ll see that a lot more than hair and clothing styles has changed.



Dorm life at Fisher College has changed quite a bit since the 1950s. Back then, the women-only college had just one dorm, and the major amenity was the payphone. Now three of the four residence halls are co-ed. The old brownstones where students live have modern amenities including WiFi, sophisticated security systems, and spacious common areas with fridges and microwaves. **See if you can spot the nine changes with a second look at 1950s Fisher dorm life.**

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

Artifact



PLATE COMMEMORATING THE STAIRCASE AT 118 BEACON

Dr. Scott Adams Fisher enjoyed entertaining, whether that meant a reception for prospective students and their parents, holding a Rotary Club meeting, or throwing a holiday party for faculty and staff of

Fisher College. A get-together might well include refreshments served on a plate commemorating the gracious marble staircase at 118 Beacon St., the building the College bought from the Henry Par-

sons King family in 1939. Commissioned during Dr. Fisher's first stint as President in the 1970s, the collection of 64 plates was made in England by the venerable Wedgwood company. —Paula M. Bodah

Next Steps
1 / The staircase at 118 Beacon is one of only two free-floating marble staircases in the U.S. 2 / It has 32 steps. 3 / It was crafted in Italy and shipped in three sections to be installed in the Boston house. 4 / Both Henry Parsons King and his wife, Alice, were waked under the stairs after their deaths. 5 / The College displays its holiday tree under the stairs.



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

Planned gifts offer special opportunities to support Fisher College. 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.**

BEQUEST

A gift made through a will is a simple and high-impact way to support Fisher College and can be for a specific amount, a percentage, or a residual portion.

ASSIGNMENT

Insurance policies and retirement benefits such as pensions and IRA accounts can be assigned by naming Fisher College as the beneficiary.

TRUST

A trust allows the donor to use stocks and other assets—and receive current tax benefits—while declaring their commitment to Fisher.

RESTRICTED ENDOWMENT

This is a durable gift made with a specific purpose.

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY

A donor may earn income throughout their life (payable quarterly) based on their age and the amount of the contribution. A minimum contribution of \$10,000 is required. Tax advantages include a partial tax exemption on the annuity income and a charitable income tax deduction for a portion of the contribution.

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 Advancement and Alumni Engagement at **617-670-4419** or **moliveira@fisher.edu** or visit **fisher.edu/give**.



Fisher College

118 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02116

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To learn more about the Fisher College Corporate Advantage Program, contact **Tracy Valletti, Manager of Community and Corporate Outreach**. Call 617-670-4509 or email tvalletti@fisher.edu.

