



WORCESTER
STATE
UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC
ACHIEVEMENT
AWARDS
2017





OVER 30,000 STRONG

It is with sincere gratitude we acknowledge the generosity of the **Alumni of Worcester State University**. The steadfast support of our alumni provides critical support for the funding of the **Academic Major Awards**. Our alumni, more than **thirty-thousand strong**, are dedicated to assisting today's students, tomorrow's alumni, with their contributions of financial resources, time, and talent. The alumni are pleased and proud to honor and reward the highest-ranking students in each of the academic disciplines. We join with the families and friends of today's honorees in the celebration of their achievements.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



Fanfare

Processional

Faculty Marshal: Dr. Renuka Jain

Student Honorees

Faculty

Platform Party

Host of Ceremonies

Dr. Lois A. Wims, *Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs*

Greetings

Mr. George H. Albro '65, '68 *Chair, Board of Trustees*

Mr. Barry M. Maloney, *President*

Professor Donald Bullens, *President, Worcester Chapter, MSCA/MTA/NEA*

Mr. Craig A. Bovaird '77, *Chair, Worcester State Foundation*

Presentation of Awards 2016–2017

Dr. Russ Pottle, *Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences*

Dr. Linda S. Larrivee, *Dean of Education, Health, and Natural Sciences*

University Awards

Academic Major Awards

Special Academic Recognition Achievement Awards

Presidential Awards

The Lt. Col. James F. Sheehan '55, USMC Ret. Awards

Conferring of Honorary Degrees

Recessional

Reception will be held immediately following the ceremony.

University Award Recipients

Ella M. Whitney Award	Alexzandra Navarro
Paul Tsongas Scholarships	Zoe Bates Serena Jaskolka Matthew Kopacko Alison Mello Hope Shaw

Academic Award Recipients

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Business Administration and Economics

Alumni/Academic Major Award	
Business Administration	Crissostomos Villarreal
Academic Recognition Award	
Raj-Mahendra Jain Award in Business Administration.....	Wendy Matos
Alumni/Academic Major Award	
Economics.....	Matthew Wilcox
Academic Recognition Award	
Wall Street Journal Outstanding Achievement in Economics	Andrew Ngo

Communication

Alumni/Academic Major Award.....	Micah Klayman
Academic Recognition Awards	
Community Service Award	Jennifer Johnson
Department Leadership Award	Celina Frias

Criminal Justice

Vanessa Anne Dunn/Academic Major Award	Tyler Vickstrom
Academic Recognition Awards	
Manning Family Award in Criminal Justice	Brian Johnson Robert Roy
Central Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association	
Spirit of Service Award	Andrew Howard

English

Alumni/Academic Major Award	
English.....	Kasey Wozniak

History and Political Science

Alumni/Academic Major Award.....	Ted Racicot
Academic Recognition Award	
Professor Cheng & Christina Yuan Award for History.....	Cynthia O'Neil

Philosophy

Academic Recognition Award	
Minor Concentration	Emily Daugherty

Psychology

Beth Axelson/Academic Major Award.....	Allison Baker
Academic Recognition Award	
Dr. Lawrence A. Averill Award in Psychology.....	Karissa Bardsley

Sociology

Alumni/Academic Major Award	
Faith T. Zeadey Award for Research and Writing	Andy Sermos
Academic Recognition Awards	
Bob Goss Service Award	Lucille Holmes
W.E.B. Dubois Award for Community-Based Research	Shainy Fuentes-Gonzalez

Urban Studies

Schwartz/Charitable Foundation/Academic Major Award	Kelsey Cummings
Academic Recognition Awards	
Julia Mack Award	Jordann Hauge
Vincent E. "Jake" Powers Award.....	Numen Enders

Visual and Performing Arts

Malcolm Gordon Memorial Academic Major Award	Nicole Huss-Howland
Academic Recognition Awards	
Mary Cosgrove Dolphin Art Award	Nicole Huss-Howland
Anne Marie Shea Award for Excellence in Theatre	Nathen Wheeler

World Languages

Alumni/Academic Major Award

Spanish Melanie Hunter

Academic Recognition Award

Dr. Dorothy A. Escribano Award..... Lindsey Tarbox

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND NATURAL SCIENCES

Biology

Alumni/Academic Major Award..... Sarah Shyllberg

Academic Recognition Awards

Dr. Marlin B. Kreider Biology Award..... Ashley Seymour

Dr. Maureen and Edward Shamgochian Award in Biology..... Isaac Ofori

Biotechnology

Alumni/Academic Major Award..... Edward Dressler

Chemistry

Alumni/Academic Major Award..... Judy Marriki

Academic Recognition Awards

Student Leadership Award..... Joan Racicot

Dr. Maureen and Edward Shamgochian Award in Chemistry Tadas Buivydas

Communication Sciences and Disorders

Alumni/Academic Major Award..... Allison Baker

Academic Recognition Awards

WSU Chapter of the National Student

Speech-Language-Hearing Association Award..... Toni Piazza

The Honorable John J. Binienda Sr. CSD Award Sarah Keith

Computer Science

Alumni/Academic Major Award..... Caitlyn Lambert-Hutchinson

Earth, Environment, and Physics

Alumni/Academic Major Award

Environmental Science..... James Lenoir

Alumni/Academic Major Award

Geography Allison Brown

Alumni/Academic Major Award

Natural Science Oliva Padgett

Education

Alumni/Academic Major Award

Early Childhood Education Katherine DeLeo

Academic Recognition Awards

Madeline A. Wilmarth Award..... Monica Greenlaw

Ruth Cohen Blumsack Award Vanessa Niro

Alumni/Academic Major Award

Elementary Education Deborah Burnham

Academic Recognition Awards

Helen Shaughnessy Award..... Karissa Bardsley

Middle and Secondary Education Award Margarita Szczepanek

Lillian C. '65 and George H. Albro '65 Award in Education Amanda Priest

Health Sciences

Alumni/Academic Major Awards

Health Education Mary McKeown

Public Health Lester Mendoza

Academic Recognition Award

Community Service..... Jasmine Blair

Mathematics

Alumni/Academic Major Awards

Mathematics Alison Feeney-Patten

Mathematics for Elementary Education..... Mollie Jasper

Nursing

Alumni/Academic Major Award..... Kayla Pugliese

Academic Recognition Awards

Army Nurse Corps Spirit of Nursing Award..... Kristen Delisi

Clinical Excellence in the Art and Science of Nursing..... Zachary St. Amant

Fairlawn Rehabilitation Hospital Award

for Nursing Clinical Excellence Christopher Brooks

Florence Nightingale Award Brendan Doherty

Dr. Lillian R. Goodman Award..... Adam Smith

Maureen McDermott Sorge Award

for Clinical Excellence in Maternity/Pediatric Care Kaitlin Mastello

Dr. Jean A. & Michael F. Campaniello Award..... Amelia DiDomenico-Houghton

Ann "Annie" Dolan Award for Compassion Shannen Curtin

Occupational Therapy

I. Robert and Aviva Freeland/ Academic Major Award Jaclyn Becotte



“One of the best ways to show appreciation for what we have received is to give other students the same opportunities we had.”

—Lt. Col. James F. Sheehan '55, USMC Ret.

Presidential Award Recipients

John F. Eager Continuing Education Excellence Award..... Gail LaPointe

Liberal Studies

Academic Recognition Award

Robert H. Kyle Award for Excellence in Liberal StudiesEdlira Xhaferri

The Lt. Col. James F. Sheehan '55, USMC Ret. Award Recipients

First-Year Achievement Award.....Renae Renihan

Sophomore Achievement AwardsJulie Cohen
Sarah Cross

Junior Achievement Award.....Kristen Rando

Senior Achievement Award Melanie Hunter

Conferring of Honorary Degrees

Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa.....Mark W. and Janice L. Fuller
Phillip M. Wasylean II '63

The Lt. Col. James F. Sheehan '55, USMC Ret. Academic Excellence Awards

In 2013, the late Lt. Col. James F. Sheehan, USMC Ret., gave \$500,000 to his alma mater, Worcester State Teachers College (as it was known in 1955). It was the largest cash gift in the history of the University. In announcing this gift, Lt. Col. Sheehan humbly and simply shared, “It’s about time I gave something back.”

Lt. Col. Sheehan, who passed away in 2016, was the most generous benefactor in WSU’s history, sharing an overwhelming \$4 million to benefit students and faculty.

After an incredibly successful and varied career in the United States Marine Corps, Lt. Col. Sheehan used his math and business skills to embark on a second successful career as a venture capitalist. He and his wife settled in Florida, where they established 14 scholarships through a number of charitable organizations.

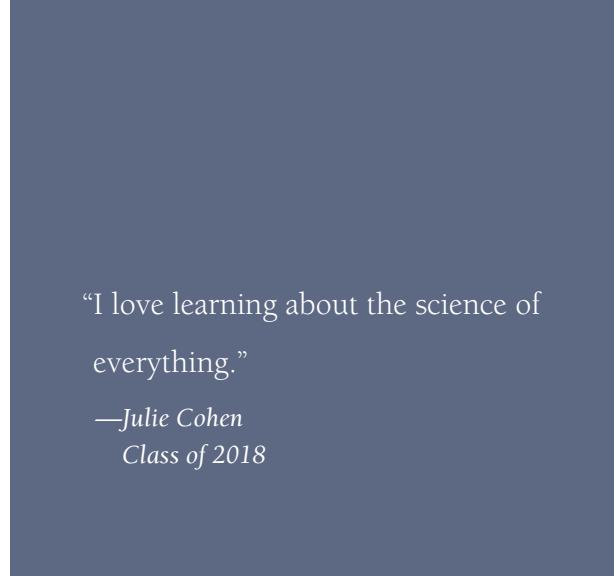
The Lt. Col. James F. Sheehan '55, USMC Ret. Academic Excellence Awards are given annually to full-time WSU students with the best GPA in the first-year, sophomore, junior, and senior classes.

Rewarding and encouraging academic excellence became Lt. Col. Sheehan’s legacy. He had hoped his success and support would be emulated by those students to whom his awards and scholarships have provided, and will continue to provide, assistance.



“I hope to use my musical talents to teach and perform professionally.”

—Renae Renihan
Class of 2019



“I love learning about the science of everything.”

—Julie Cohen
Class of 2018

The Lt. Col. James F. Sheehan '55, USMC Ret. Awards *First-Year Achievement Award*

Renae Renihan's life has always had music play an important part in it. Renae hopes she can eventually use her musical talents to teach and perform professionally. She has played the cello for many years and already teaches in an after-school program for students at the Bancroft School in Worcester.

The Visual and Performing Arts major and commuter student from Auburn was home schooled with her five other siblings (four older sisters and one younger brother), all of whom are also musical. She says the transition to college hasn't been that much of an adjustment, even given her previous unconventional educational experience.

“There's a lot of stigma associated with home schooling, but independent work comes naturally to me. I think home schooled kids are good at understanding and figuring things out,” she says. “I spent a lot of time reading and playing outside. I had a lot of fun.”

Renae is a member of WSU's Unplugged Chamber Orchestra as well as the Clark String Ensemble, a performance group with students from both WSU and Clark University. She also hopes to start a music club on campus soon.

“I've always understood music and find it very fulfilling,” she says. “Learning music theory is much harder and more rewarding than I was expecting.”

The Lt. Col. James F. Sheehan '55, USMC Ret. Awards *Sophomore Achievement Award*

Julie Cohen wants to understand how health works on both the micro and macro levels. That's what appeals to her about Public Health/Pre-Nursing at WSU, a dual degree program with MCPHS that will help her understand issues related to the health of the community in general and to individuals in particular.

“I love to question things to understand them better,” says Julie, a Westford resident who lives in Wasylean Hall. “Talking and working something out is more beneficial than just reading or learning about it. You absorb it better.”

In the Public Health/Pre-Nursing program, students take 83 credits in public health at WSU before entering an accelerated nursing program at MCPHS. When Julie graduates from the program, she will receive a B.S. in public health from WSU and a B.S. in nursing from MCPHS. After graduation, she would also like to pursue a master's degree.

Julie is a member of two honor societies and works for the Conference and Event Services Office setting up for events. She also spends time working out at the new Wellness Center. A former gymnast and a member of her high school's National Grand Champion cheer team, Julie hopes WSU will form a competitive cheer team in the near future.

So far one of her favorite classes has been anatomy and physiology because “you really get to understand what's going on in the body. I love learning about the science of everything.”



“I am not only dedicated to my own personal success, but the success of my peers and this university as a whole.”

—Sarah Cross
Class of 2018

The Lt. Col. James F. Sheehan '55, USMC Ret. Awards *Sophomore Achievement Award*

Sarah Cross continues to take advantage of the many learning opportunities offered at Worcester State, participating in social and academic clubs, study abroad trips, and research projects, while maintaining a pet-sitting business and volunteering in her community. The biology major and commuter student from Grafton also won the Sheehan Academic Achievement Award as a first-year student.

Despite her busy schedule, she hasn't lost sight of what brought her to this point in her life. “I feel so fortunate and grateful to have the opportunities and privileges afforded to me by my country, community, school, professors, family, and friends,” she says. “I would not be where I am today without the support of so many around me.”

Sarah was one of three student leaders participating in a school-sponsored trip to the Dominican Republic over spring break, an adventure she thoroughly enjoyed as a first-year student. She is also a member of the Commuter Advisory Board, Active Minds, the Phi Eta Sigma and Tri Beta honor societies, and she serves as secretary of the Chemistry Club.

In addition to her studies, she continues to volunteer as a water quality monitor for the Blackstone River Watershed Association.

Sarah enjoys organizing study groups of her peers because she thinks everyone learns better when they can ask questions and help each other out. “I am not only dedicated to my own personal success, but the success of my peers and this university as a whole,” she says.



“The combination of sociology and communications gives me the opportunity through my writing to have a voice when it comes to social issues.”

—Kristen Rando, Class of 2017

The Lt. Col. James F. Sheehan '55, USMC Ret. Awards *Junior Achievement Award*

Kristen Rando enjoys writing and laughing, and has a dream of combining her two passions as a comedic screenwriter someday. The communications and sociology double major is on track to graduate early in December, after which she plans to work before entering a graduate program for screenwriting.

“I've always been really interested in television and movies, and exploring the human condition that everyone can relate to,” Kristen says.

The commuter student from Milford, Mass., says she spends a lot of time with her family when she's not in the classroom or studying. She also helps a friend of the family by doing the books for the Westboro, Mass., VFW, a job she has held for several years.

Kristen says her academic work in sociology has helped her advance her screenwriting dream by giving her a better understanding of people and society. She is also entering her work in screenwriting competitions to gain feedback and attention to her writing.

“A lot of content on television and in movies is dark lately. I think comedy helps us understand each other better, and it's what people want,” she says, noting she enjoys comedy that focus on the absurdities of life. “The combination of sociology and communications gives me the opportunity through my writing to have a voice when it comes to social issues.”



“I want to use my knowledge to speak up for students and get them the help they need.”

—Melanie Hunter
Class of 2017



The Lt. Col. James F. Sheehan '55, USMC Ret. Awards *Senior Achievement Award*

Melanie Hunter loves languages and helping people communicate. With her double major in Spanish and communication sciences and disorders, she hopes to combine those two passions, perhaps by focusing on speech therapy for children whose first language is not English. After graduation, she will attend WSU for her master's degree.

“With students who speak another language, their problems may only be due to language differences, not a disorder,” she says. “I want to use my knowledge to speak up for students and get them the help they need.”

Melanie was first introduced to the field when, in high school, she shadowed her school district's speech pathologist in Maynard, Mass. While at WSU, she has used her language skills as a Spanish tutor, a translator at the Latino Education Institute, and an aide in a bilingual elementary school classroom in her hometown. She is also an associate teacher at Bright Horizons Family Solutions in Lexington, Mass.

A fluent German speaker as well, Melanie is a member of Alpha Mu Gamma, the foreign language honor society, serving as vice president her sophomore year. She ran distance races for the WSU track and cross country teams, and was a member of the WSU cross country team that won the 2016 All-Academic Award for the team with the highest G.P.A. on campus.

This is the second time Melanie has won the Sheehan Academic Achievement Award. She was also a member of the Commuter Advisory Board, as vice president, and an orientation leader.

Mark W. and Janice L. Fuller *Doctors of Humane Letters, honoris causa*

The Fuller family's connection with Worcester State University spans more than six decades as champions of scholarship, diversity, wellness, and the arts. Collectively, the Fullers have witnessed—and been an integral part of—the transformation of Worcester State University into a world-class and life-changing institution that changes lives.

In 2009, the Fuller Theatre in the Shaughnessy Administration Building was dedicated to the family in recognition of the extraordinary generosity of the George F. and Sybil H. Fuller Foundation, an independent foundation that supports education, culture, history, health care, youth, religious organizations, social agencies, and schools in the Worcester area. The Wellness Center atrium is also named for the Fullers in recognition of their vital support of this new heart of campus.

The Fullers help Worcester State in many other ways, including supporting the Latino Education Institute, numerous scholarships, and academic programming.

The pair exemplifies “Citizens for Others,” as is evidenced by their leadership at WSU as well as their involvement on numerous charitable local boards. They support the Be Like Brit organization and will be traveling to Haiti in June.

Janice Fuller is the retired vice president of finance at REFCO Inc. and she currently serves as vice chairman and assistant treasurer of the George F. & Sybil H. Fuller Foundation. She



Worcester State University students offer at least one dramatic performance each semester in an outstanding venue, the beautifully renovated Fuller Theater.

was on the Assumption College Board of Trustees from 2001 to 2013. She is the treasurer of First Congregational Church (FCC) Boylston and a director and treasurer of Calliope Productions in Boylston. Jan's connection to WSU also runs in the family—her father, Anthony Thurston, was a professor of biology at Worcester State for more than two decades.

Mark Fuller is an insurance broker for Risk Strategies Company (formerly Benefit Development Group) in Worcester. He is chairman and treasurer of the George F. & Sybil H. Fuller Foundation. He currently serves on the boards of the Barton Center for Diabetes Education, Worcester Education Collaborative, and Worcester Art Museum. He is a member of the Servant Leadership Team at FCC Boylston. He is the past board chairman of the EcoTarium and the YMCA of Central Massachusetts. He is a "Trustee Emeritus" of MCPHS University and past president of Worcester Country Club. Mark also received the Isaiah Thomas award for 2013.

The couple has a daughter, Kelsa Zereski, and a son, Scott Fuller, and five grandchildren. Both Kelsa and Scott are trustees of the Fuller Foundation.

Phillip M. Wasylean II '63 *Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa*

One of Worcester State's most generous benefactors, Phillip M. Wasylean II '63, has donated more than \$1 million to benefit students, especially for scholarships. The first of his family to attend college, he credits the preparation he received at Worcester State Teachers College for giving him the foundation to succeed in his 42-year teaching career. He created the Phillip M. Wasylean II Endowed Scholarship to help the next generation of passionate, dedicated teachers make a difference in the classroom.

Over his career, Wasylean taught English, Spanish, social studies, English as a Second Language (ESL), bilingual education, and drama. He was a yearbook advisor, media specialist, and drama director and producer. He led humanities and writing workshops at the local, regional, and national levels, including at the Massachusetts Association for Bilingual Education's annual convention. He also spent 35 years with the Hampton (New Hampshire) Playhouse as an actor and entertainment director.

Wasylean has contributed generously to a scholarship that honors his class—as well as other classes—at reunion time. His goal is to have every class from the 1960s create an endowed scholarship for future students. He has given more than \$30,000 in reunion giving, some in the form of matching gifts to inspire other alumni to follow his example.

In recognition of his exceptional loyalty, commitment, and dedication to WSU and its students, he was given the 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award for Outstanding Service to Alma Mater. Wasylean Hall was named in his honor in 2004.



Wasylean Hall is home to about 350 Worcester State students, and was named in honor of Philip M. Wasylean II '63, the 2015 recipient of the I. Robert Freeland award.

The Worcester State Foundation also honored Wasylean with the 2015 I. Robert Freeland Award in recognition of his dedication to the ideals, principles, spirit, and benevolence of the late I. Robert Freeland.

Wasylean has also made an impact outside of WSU with his philanthropic efforts. For 25 years, he organized “Magic of Christmas,” a program that generated donations of thousands of toys for children in South Providence, R.I., and Lawrence, Mass.



Academic Achievement Awards Criteria

Major Achievement Awards

Ella M. Whitney Award

Named for Ella M. Whitney, an 1891 graduate of Worcester State (then known as the Worcester Normal School), this award recognizes the qualities Ms. Whitney exemplified as a student and alumna, including scholarship, social aptitude, personality, leadership, executive ability, growth, loyalty, integrity, and, above all else, participation in school activities.

Tsongas Scholarships

These scholarships are given each year to Massachusetts residents for full in-state day school tuition and fees. Recipients must have a GPA of a 3.75 and a combined SAT of 1200. The scholarship is renewable for a maximum of four years to recipients who maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.3.

John F. Eager Continuing Education Excellence Award

This award is given in memory of John F. Eager, the late professor of biology and director of the graduate and evening undergraduate programs at Worcester State University, to the undergraduate evening program senior with the highest overall average.

The Lt. Col. James F. Sheehan '55, USMC Ret. Awards

These awards are given to the highest-ranking member of each class who has maintained full-time student status and has completed his or her coursework at Worcester State University.



Special Academic Recognition Awards

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Business Administration and Economics

Raj-Mahendra Jain Award—This award was established in 2016 by Renuka Jain, former chair and current professor in the Department of Business Administration and Economics, in honor of her parents, Raj and Mahendra Jain. The award is given to a graduating female, senior business administration undergraduate major with at least 15 credits earned through the Division of Graduate and Continuing Education at WSU and a GPA of at least 3.5. Renuka has taught in the department for more than 30 years, following the career path of her father, who was also a professor. He passed away in 2016, a few years after her mother. Renuka named the scholarship for her parents because they were very influential in her life, as well as in the lives of her three sisters.

Wall Street Journal Award in Economics—This award is given by *The Wall Street Journal* to a senior economics major who has demonstrated exemplary work in economics and shows outstanding potential for graduate studies and career success.

Communication

Community Service Award—This award is given to a student who is active in the promotion of communications within the greater WSU community.

Department Leadership Award—This award is given to a communications student with an average GPA of 3.0 or higher who has demonstrated a commitment to professional excellence and dedication within the Communications Program during his or her academic career at WSU.

Criminal Justice

Vanessa Anne Dunn Memorial Criminal Justice Academic Major Award—This award is given in memory of Vanessa Anne Dunn, a student in the Criminal Justice Program who tragically lost her life in 2010 just months before she was scheduled to graduate from Worcester State University. Vanessa's family and friends have provided funding for this award, which is given each year to the senior in the Criminal Justice Program with the highest overall GPA.

Manning Family Criminal Justice Academic Achievement Award—This award, made possible by a gift from Worcester State Foundation Board member Dorothy Manning M.Ed. '88, is given to a high-achieving criminal justice major.

Central Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association Spirit of Service Award—This award recognizes a student of a diverse background who has good academic achievement, professionalism, and a record of community service and exhibits superior potential and commitment to the field of criminal justice.

History and Political Science

Professor Cheng and Christina Yuan Award for History—This award, established in memory of Professor Cheng Yuan and his wife, Christina, is given annually to the highest-ranking junior majoring in history.

Liberal Studies

Robert H. Kyle Award for Excellence in Liberal Studies—Established by Dr. Bobbi Kyle and her family, this award is given to the highest-ranking graduating senior majoring in Liberal Studies. This award has been established in memory of Robert H. Kyle, who embraced lifelong learning and interdisciplinary education.

Philosophy

Philosophy Minor Award—This award is given to a student who is minoring in philosophy who has shown promise as demonstrated by intellectual curiosity, independent thinking, and exceptional growth during his or her years at Worcester State.

Psychology

The Beth Axelson Award in Psychology—This award, which is given to the highest-ranking graduating senior majoring in psychology, was endowed by Worcester State Admissions Director Beth Axelson, who graduated from WSU in 1970 with a bachelor's degree in psychology.

Dr. Lawrence A. Averill Award in Psychology—This award, given to a senior majoring in psychology, was endowed by a former student of Professor of Psychology Dr. Lawrence A. Averill to honor his memory.

Sociology

Bob Goss Service Award—Named after a former academic chair, this award goes to a student who has demonstrated outstanding service to both the Department of Sociology and the Worcester State community, and has a GPA higher than 3.3.

W.E.B. Dubois Award for Community-Based Research—Named after the founder of the NAACP and one of the nation's most distinguished sociologists and anti-racist activists, this award is given to a student who has demonstrated excellence in community-based research and service projects and has a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Urban Studies

Schwartz Charitable Foundation Award—This award is given to the highest ranking undergraduate senior in the urban studies major who best represents the mission of the Foundation and founding donor, Nathan Schwartz, who was a “business visionary” committed to supporting small businesses and community endeavors in Worcester County.

Julia Mack Award—Given to undergraduate urban studies students, this award is given in memory of Julia Mack, an elder student who, with great energy and spirit, fostered a dynamic inter-generational climate on campus. It is given to a student who has developed the ability to see the world and its challenges through a multi-generational lens and the ability and sensitivity to work creatively across ages to meet those challenges.

Vincent E. “Jake” Powers Award—This award is given to undergraduate urban studies students who are innovative, original thinkers whose time in the department has emboldened them to pursue personal and professional opportunities they may not have previously considered and achieve them with determination, grit, and courage. It is given in memory of Vincent “Jake” Powers, a highly respected urban historian and a founder of the department.

Visual and Performing Arts

Malcolm Gordon Memorial Academic Major Award—This award, given to the highest-ranking senior in visual and performing arts, was established by Alan Gordon, class of 1980, in memory of his father, Malcolm Gordon, who died in 2011. A Worcester native, Malcolm Gordon was a nationally known magazine gag cartoonist who published several thousand gag cartoons in dozens of magazines. He authored “The Light Side,” a regular cartoon feature in *Laser Focus*, one of the first laser and electro-optics technology magazines in the United States.

The Mary Cosgrove Dolphin Art Award—This award is given to a studio art student who has demonstrated exceptional creative accomplishment in the visual arts. The award was established to honor the late Professor Mary Cosgrove Dolphin, a dedicated art educator and artist who touched many Worcester State students during her years of service.

The Ann Marie Shea Award for Excellence in Theatre—This award honors a student who has demonstrated consistent and dedicated involvement in Worcester State theatre productions. Named for Professor Ann Marie Shea, who directed, taught, advised, and mentored students for 36 years, the award recognizes an individual who has committed and contributed to serving the often rigorous needs of the production with selflessness, resourcefulness, and initiative.

World Languages

Dr. Dorothy A. Escribano Award—This award is given to a full-time student with a major or a minor in Spanish. The recipient must be a non-traditional sophomore or a junior with a minimum GPA of 2.7 and demonstrated financial need. He or she must have participated in community and/or extracurricular activities, and demonstrated outstanding academic improvement.

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND NATURAL SCIENCES

Biology

Dr. Marlin B. Kreider Award—This award is given in memory of Martin B. Kreider, a former WSU biology professor, to a senior biology student who has shown a commitment to a career in biological research.

Dr. Maureen and Edward Shamgochian Award in Biology—Established by Dr. Maureen Shamgochian, professor in the Department of Biology, and her husband, Edward, this award is given to a junior or senior biology or biotechnology major with a GPA of 3.5 or higher who is engaged in undergraduate research with plans to attend graduate or professional school upon completion of his or her WSU degree.

Chemistry

Student Leadership Award—This award is given to a chemistry major in recognition of the student's demonstrated record of leadership, academic excellence, character, and service.

Dr. Maureen and Edward Shamgochian Award in Chemistry—This award, made possible by a gift from biology professor Maureen Shamgochian '80, Ph.D., and her husband, Edward, is given to a current sophomore, junior, or senior biology major with a GPA of 3.0 or higher. The student must have engaged in scientific research and plan to continue his or her education in the sciences in professional or graduate school. Dr. Shamgochian received her Ph.D. from the UMass Medical School Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and she worked for several years as a research scientist before joining the WSU faculty in 1993. She teaches Introduction to Cellular and Molecular Biology and Human Anatomy and Physiology and was also interim vice president of Academic Affairs.

Communication Sciences and Disorders

WSU Chapter of the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association Award (NSSLHA)—This award is given to an outstanding student majoring in communication sciences and disorders in recognition of the student's demonstrated record of leadership, ability, scholastic achievement, and service to the WSU-NSSLHA Chapter.

The Honorable John J. Binienda Sr. CSD Award—This award honors the late Massachusetts State Rep. John J. Binienda, a WSU alumnus and educator who served in the Massachusetts State House for 28 years. Rep. Binienda was a tireless advocate for education and service to the community. He co-sponsored a bill to increase services for children with hearing impairment, which was signed into law in 2012. To honor Rep. Binienda, this award is given to an undergraduate student who will be entering the WSU graduate program in speech-language pathology and will focus his or her efforts on understanding the challenges facing children with hearing loss.

Earth, Environment, and Physics

Earl B. Shaw Award for Geography—This award is given to honor an outstanding senior majoring in geography in recognition of the student's academic achievement and service to the university community.

Physics Minor Award—This award made possible by a gift from Dr. Lamelas and Dr. Swaminathan is given to a physics minor who shows great promise, as demonstrated by choice of courses, grades received, and intellectual curiosity.

Education

Madeline A. Wilmarth Award in Early Childhood Education—This award is given in memory of Professor Madeline A. Wilmarth, a pioneer in the field of early childhood education, to a member of the junior class with the highest GPA in early childhood education.

Ruth Cohen Blumsack Early Childhood Education Award—This award is given to an early childhood education major with a minimum GPA of 3.5. The recipient must show exceptional abilities in working with and teaching young children.

Helen Shaughnessy Elementary Education Award—This award is given to a junior or senior elementary education student in memory of Professor Helen Shaughnessy, a highly esteemed teacher, faculty member, chair, and administrator at WSU and the surrounding school district. The award recognizes a student with good academic achievement and professionalism who exhibits outstanding potential in the field of elementary education.

Middle and Secondary Education Award—This award is endowed by David Quist, a former Department of Education academic chair, and is given to a junior or senior who has demonstrated a high achievement among his or her peers and the professional qualities required of an educational professional.

Lillian C. '65 and George H. Albro '65 Award in Education—Established by George and Lillian (Brooks) Albro, lifelong educators and generous benefactors of WSU, this award is given each year to a junior or senior majoring in either elementary education or middle/secondary education with a GPA of 3.5 or higher. Preference is given to students who graduated from Leicester High School or are from the town of Leicester.

Health Sciences

Health Science Community Service Award—This award is conferred each year on the department student whose actions best exemplify the commitment to community service at the core of health education and community health professionalism.

Mathematics

Richard Bisk Mathematics Teaching Award—Richard Bisk, Ph.D., was a Worcester State faculty member for 15 years and Mathematics Department chair for eight of those years. Recognizing that the foundation of math is set at an early age, he taught mathematics content to hundreds of pre-service and in-service K-8 teachers and worked tirelessly to strengthen the state-wide math requirements for new elementary teachers. The Bisk Mathematics Teaching Award honors this work and is given to a junior or senior with at least a 3.6 overall GPA who demonstrates outstanding achievement in mathematics along with a commitment to teaching for understanding.

Nursing

Army Nurse Corps Spirit of Nursing Award—This award, given by the U.S. Army Nurse Corps and National Student Nurses Association, is based on community and professional involvement, leadership experience, and academic excellence.

Clinical Excellence in the Art and Science of Nursing—This award is given to a graduate who maintains high academic standing and demonstrates technical competency in the clinical area, above-average ability in clinical judgment and decision-making skills in the practice arena, and caring and sensitivity to patient needs.

Fairlawn Rehabilitation Hospital Award for Nursing Clinical Excellence—This award is given to a graduating senior who has demonstrated excellence in a nursing clinical setting and has an interest in orthopedics or rehabilitation medicine.

Florence Nightingale Award—This award is given to a graduate who exemplifies those qualities of an inquiring attitude, intelligent understanding, studied observation, and therapeutic use of self in maximizing the reparative process toward health in the art and science of nursing practice.

Dr. Lillian R. Goodman Award—This award is given to a registered nurse student who exemplifies leadership, caring, a strong commitment to professional nursing, and vision for the future.

Maureen McDermott Sorge Award for Clinical Excellence in Maternity/Pediatric Care—This award is given to a graduating nursing senior who has demonstrated both academic excellence and a genuine passion for providing comprehensive nursing care to patients and families in either a maternity or pediatric clinical setting.

Dr. Jean A. and Michael F. Campaniello Award—This award was established in 2015 by Dr. Jean A. Campaniello, former chair of the Department of Nursing and WSU professor emerita, to recognize M.S. in nursing students for their service and community engagement. Dr. Campaniello herself has an extremely accomplished record of service and community engagement, providing leadership in nursing and public health at the state and national level. She served on several state-level committees and was appointed chair of the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing. She has also been an elected official in her hometown and served as a board member of AIDS Project Worcester, in addition to serving on the WSU Board of Trustees, the Alumni Advisory Board, and the Worcester State Foundation Board. Dr. Campaniello was awarded an honorary doctoral degree at Commencement in 2015. The Dr. Jean A. and Michael F. Campaniello Award is given to a student with a minimum GPA of 3.25 who is completing a graduate course of study in community health nursing.

Ann “Annie” Dolan Award for Compassion—This award is given in memory of Ann “Annie” Dolan M.S.N. '13 to a nursing student who has demonstrated an enthusiastic and compassionate bedside manner, and a passion to advance the art and science of nursing. Annie was a labor and delivery nurse who returned to WSU to earn her master's in nursing education shortly before her death in 2014. Although she never attained her dream of becoming a nurse educator, she made a lasting impression on the many lives she touched, in the delivery room and classroom alike. She had a unique spiritual and humanistic approach to nursing care, and she was committed to instilling that same spirit of love and compassion into her fellow nurses and the nurses of tomorrow.

Occupational Therapy

I. Robert and Aviva Freeland/Academic Major Award—This award, given to the highest-ranking senior in the Occupational Therapy Department, honors the late I. Robert Freeland and his wife, Aviva. In 1948, after returning home from World War II with combat injury, Freeland founded Come Play Products, a toy manufacturer that employed disabled workers. A noted Worcester philanthropist, he was a charter member of the Worcester State Foundation Board and founded the Worcester Occupational Training Center.



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¹ denotes interim appointment



Academic Attire

Ceremonial garments worn at academic functions take their meaning from the Church of the Middle Ages, the original center of Western learning. Distinctive markings on the gown and hood indicate the level and subject area of the degree earned as well as the institution granting the degree.

The hood offers the most information about its owner. The inner lining identifies the institution at which the degree was earned; the velvet trim indicates the major field of study. A final feature concerns the length and width of the hood. The length of the hood for the bachelor's degree is three feet and the velvet border is two inches; the master's is three and one-half feet in length with a three-inch-wide border; the certificate of advanced graduate study shield is three feet with a graduated border from three inches wide to six and one-half inches wide; and the doctoral level hood is four feet in length with a five-inch border.

The gown's cut signifies the level of degree attained, ranging from the relative simplicity of the bachelor's gown to the velvet panels and bell-shaped sleeves of the doctorate gown.

The cap or mortarboard has been adopted by institutions throughout the United States. It is black with black tassels for holders of bachelor's and master's degrees. Gold tassels are reserved for those with doctorate degrees and for governing officers of educational institutions.

At this ceremony, the colors of many universities and colleges may be seen.

The designated colors for academic disciplines are as follows:

Academic Degree	Color
Agriculture	Maize
Arts, Letters, Humanities	White
Business, Commerce, Accountancy.....	Drab
Criminal Justice.....	Midnight Blue
Economics.....	Copper
Education.....	Light Blue
Engineering.....	Orange
Fine Arts, Architecture	Brown
Forestry.....	Russet
Journalism.....	Crimson
Law	Purple
Library Science.....	Lemon
Medicine	Green
Music	Pink
Nursing.....	Apricot
Philosophy	Dark Blue
Physical Education	Sage Green
Public Administration.....	Peacock
Public Health.....	Salmon Pink
Science	Golden Yellow
Social Science.....	Cream
Social Work.....	Citron
Veterinary Science	Gray



Academic Achievement Award Recipients 2016



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