

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC
ACHIEVEMENT
AWARDS
2018



WORCESTER
STATE
UNIVERSITY



WORCESTER
STATE UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI

MORE THAN 30,000 STRONG

It is with sincere gratitude that 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 **30,000 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
Student Honorees
Faculty
Platform Party

Host of Ceremonies

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

Greetings

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 2017–2018

Dr. Russ Pottle, *Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences*
Dr. Linda S. Larrivee, *Dean of Education, Health, and Natural Sciences*

University Awards

Special Academic Achievement Awards

Academic Major Awards

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

Recessional

Reception will be held immediately following the ceremony.

University Award Recipients

<i>Ella M. Whitney Award</i>	<i>Lauren Brown</i>
<i>Paul Tsongas Scholarship</i>	<i>Jaymi-Lyn Souza</i>
<i>John F. Eager Continuing Education Excellence Award</i>	<i>Cassandra Cataldo</i>

Special Academic Award Recipients

Liberal Studies

<i>Robert H. Kyle Award for Excellence in Liberal Studies</i>	<i>Mikaela Davis</i>
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Women's Studies

<i>Women's Studies Concentration Award</i>	<i>Ashley Dziejma</i>
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Library

<i>Library Research Award</i>	<i>Korey Dupont</i>
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Academic Major Award Recipients

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Business Administration and Economics

Alumni/Academic Major Award

<i>Business Administration</i>	<i>Stephen D. Smialek</i>
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Academic Recognition Award

<i>Raj-Mahendra Jain Award in Business Administration</i>	<i>Mary Daly</i>
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Alumni/Academic Major Award

<i>Economics</i>	<i>Branden Greb</i>
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Academic Recognition Award

<i>Wall Street Journal Outstanding Achievement in Economics</i>	<i>Andy Dellasanta</i>
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Academic Achievement Award

<i>The Tyler Stratton '12 and Jessica Tea '12 Academic Award</i>	<i>Tommy Truong</i>
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Academic Recognition Award

<i>Edward G. Shamgochian Memorial Academic Award</i>	<i>Wendy Matos Segura</i>
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Communication

Alumni/Academic Major Award.....Shayla Schoeneberger

Academic Recognition Awards

Community Service Award Noah Goldfarb

Department Leadership Award Alexandria Murphy

Criminal Justice

Vanessa Anne Dunn Academic Major Award Kelsey Anisko

Academic Recognition Awards

Manning Family Award in Criminal Justice Brianna Millett

Central Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association

Spirit of Service Award Kiara Ortiz

English

Alumni/Academic Major Award..... Cynthia O'Neil

History and Political Science

Alumni/Academic Major Award..... Monique Manna

Academic Recognition Award

Professor Cheng & Christina Yuan Award for History..... Brian Dempsey

Philosophy

Academic Recognition Awards

Minor Concentration Christopher Lazzaro

The Daniel C. Shartin Emerging Philosopher Award..... Joshua Buck

Psychology

Beth Axelson Academic Major Award..... Sarah Moriarty

Academic Recognition Award

Dr. Lawrence A. Averill Award in Psychology..... Steve Rose

Sociology

Alumni/Academic Major Award..... Antoinette Ansong

Academic Recognition Awards

Bob Goss Service Award Deborah Burnham

W.E.B. Du Bois Award for Community-Based Research..... Janet Novack

Urban Studies

Schwartz Charitable Foundation Academic Major Award	Morgan Molloy
Academic Recognition Awards	
Julia Mack Award	Laura Wheeler
Vincent E. “Jake” Powers Award.....	Peter Peloquin

Visual and Performing Arts

Malcolm Gordon Memorial Academic Major Award	Dakota Moon Smith-Porter
Academic Recognition Awards	
Mary Cosgrove Dolphin Art Award	Rhianna DePriest
Anne Marie Shea Award for Excellence in Theatre	Jasper Bliss

World Languages

Alumni/Academic Major Award

Spanish	Erica Remillard
Academic Recognition Award	
Dr. Dorothy A. Escribano Award.....	Marcela Chavez

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND NATURAL SCIENCES

Biology

The Dr. Anthony Thurston Academic Major Award.....	Heidi Roy-Choquette
Academic Recognition Awards	
Dr. Marlin B. Kreider Biology Award.....	Megan Rouillard
Dr. Maureen and Edward Shamgochian Award in Biology.....	Alexis Anderkin

Biotechnology

Alumni/Academic Major Award.....	Heather Hutnick
Academic Recognition Award	
Lincoln C. Donohue Award.....	Dominique Garceau

Chemistry

Alumni/Academic Major Award.....	Kayla Bobbitt
Academic Recognition Awards	
Student Leadership Award	Alexander Zielinski
Dr. Maureen and Edward Shamgochian Award in Chemistry	Katelyn Rioux

Communication Sciences and Disorders

Alumni/Academic Major Award.....	Sarah Moriarty
Academic Recognition Awards	
WSU Chapter of the National Student	
Speech-Language-Hearing Association Award.....	Amalia Davis
The Honorable John J. Binienda Sr. CSD Award	Kendall Charpentier

Computer Science

Alumni/Academic Major Award.....	George Matthew
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Earth, Environment, and Physics

Alumni/Academic Major Award	
Environmental Science.....	Leah Stanley
Alumni/Academic Major Award	
Geography	Nikola Gjanci
Alumni/Academic Major Award	
Natural Science	Craig Mahan
Academic Recognition Award	
Earl B. Shaw Award for Geography.....	Ashley Dziejma
Alumni/Academic Major Award	
Physics Minor Award.....	Alexander Zielinski

Education

Alumni/Academic Major Award	
Early Childhood Education	Briana O'Hanlon
Academic Recognition Awards	
Madeline A. Wilmarth Award.....	Brianna Deacon
Ruth Cohen Blumsack Award	Monica Greenlaw
Alumni/Academic Major Award	
Elementary Education	Nicole Putnam
Academic Recognition Awards	
Helen Shaughnessy Award.....	Emily Walker
Middle and Secondary Education Award	Wyatt Rogers
Lillian C. '65 and George H. Albro '65 Award in Education	Monique Bisnette

Health Sciences

Alumni/Academic Major Awards

Health Education Haley Chamberlain

Public Health Julie Cohen

Academic Recognition Award

Community Service Samantha Chartier

Mathematics

Alumni/Academic Major Awards

Mathematics Jon Pentland

Mathematics for Elementary Education Veronica Kimmens

Richard Bisk Mathematics Teaching Award Veronica Kimmens

Nursing

Alumni/Academic Major Award Kevin Owens

Academic Recognition Awards

Army Nurse Corps Spirit of Nursing Award Elizabeth Dugas

Clinical Excellence in the Art and Science of Nursing Award Whitney Pyle

Fairlawn Rehabilitation Hospital Award

for Nursing Clinical Excellence Allison Tevis

Florence Nightingale Award Andressa Macalpine

Dr. Lillian R. Goodman Award Keona Gavin

Maureen McDermott Sorge Award

for Clinical Excellence in Maternity/Pediatric Care Rachel Lauzon

Dr. Jean A. and Michael F. Campaniello Award Tina Schwartz

Ann “Annie” Dolan Award for Compassion Christopher Hawes

Occupational Therapy

I. Robert and Aviva Freeland Academic Major Award Kimberly Lapointe

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

First-Year Achievement Award Han Nguyen

Sophomore Achievement Awards Hade Dabbagh

Serena Jaskolka

Junior Achievement Awards Amy Nguyen

Michael Schroth

Senior Achievement Award Kristen Rando



“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.

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’m hard working, and I put in a lot of effort.”

—*Han Nguyen*
Class of 2021

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

Han Nguyen '21 is only in her first year as a chemistry major at Worcester State, but she has a clear career goal: to help people with mental health issues.

A native of Vietnam who lives with her aunt in Worcester, Han says mental health problems are stigmatized in her culture. As a result, too many Vietnamese suffer with anxiety and depression. After graduating from Worcester State, she hopes to enter graduate school for pharmacology to investigate better drug solutions for mental health treatment.

Han says playing the piano helps her deal with her own anxiety issues. A music minor, she will be performing in the Visual and Performing Arts Department Spring Mosaic this May and hopes to become more involved with campus performance groups next year.

She left her home in Vietnam at an early age to attend high school as an international exchange student at St. Bernard's High School in Fitchburg and Holy Name Junior/Senior High School in Worcester. While the transition was difficult at first, she met wonderful friends who helped her adjust. “Without them, I might not have made it,” she says.

Han says she is looking forward to exploring her love of chemistry and learning all she can at Worcester State.

“I agree with the saying that success is one percent genius and 99 percent effort,” she says. “I’m hard working, and I put in a lot of effort.”

“You have to treat a patient like
a person, not an assignment.”

—Hade Dabbagh
Class of 2020



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

Hade Dabbagh '20 always knew he wanted to pursue a career in the medical field—partly because an accident several years ago caused him to spend many hours under the care of medical professionals at UMass Memorial Medical Center.

“I know what it’s like to be a patient—I’ve seen both the good and the bad,” he says. The most important lesson he learned was, “You have to treat a patient like a person, not an assignment.”

Although he damaged his right (and dominant) hand in the accident, the nursing major from Shrewsbury hasn’t let his disability slow him down—if anything, it has helped him work harder and be more empathetic, he says. His experience showed him how nurses help promote health and wellness, and that mission appeals to him. In the future, he is considering graduate school, maybe even at UMass Medical School, to pursue his D.N.P.

Hade is the third member of his family to attend Worcester State—sister Ruba '19 is currently a junior and sister Rana '16 is now in Tufts Dental School, following their father’s footsteps into the dental field.

Outside of the classroom, Hade enjoys working out at the Wellness Center and staying fit. To earn money, he is a certified referee for youth recreation and travel soccer leagues in Central Massachusetts. He is also a member of the Delta Alpha Phi honor society.



“I know that I have to work hard to get where I want to be in my career.”

—Serena Jaskolka
Class of 2020

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

Serena Jaskolka '20 is a communication sciences and disorders major currently studying abroad in Prague, Czech Republic. Her ultimate goal is to attend graduate school and become a speech-language pathologist.

The Mattapoisett, Mass., native was always interested in the health care field, and she learned about speech-language pathology when her father received therapy after an accident in which one of his vocal cords was paralyzed. “I want to work in this field because of the profound direct impact it has on the lives of others,” she says.

Serena is enjoying her study abroad experience, reporting that she has already visited seven different countries. She has traveled to many historical sites, including Dresden, Germany, and the Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland. “The best part is being able to see and experience the world for myself firsthand,” she says. “The other day I went to the center of Prague and there was an international dance festival, where you could see all different kinds of traditional folk dances.”

When not traveling around Europe, Serena loves to bake, garden, and exercise. On campus, the Sheehan Hall resident is a member of Active Minds, a club dedicated to fighting the stigma surrounding mental health.

She says the secret to her success is, “I always put care and effort into all of my work, proofread my papers, and show up to class. I rarely procrastinate. I know that I have to work hard to get where I want to be in my career.”

“I took one psychology class and
I fell in love.”

—Amy Nguyen, Class of 2019



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

Amy Nguyen '19 is a psychology major with a mental health concentration who has taken advantage of opportunities to work with Worcester State University faculty on research projects. Her ultimate goal is to earn a Ph.D. in clinical psychology so she can help address mental health issues in her native Vietnam.

Amy says she chose Worcester State because she wanted to work closely with her professors, something that might not happen at larger schools. Once she was here, “I took one psychology class and I fell in love.”

This spring, Amy is working as a research assistant in clinical psychology and co-authored a poster “Repetitive Negative Thinking and Nonjudging Mediate Stress Appraisal—Mental Distress Relationships,” which was presented at the 2018 Celebration of Scholarship and Creativity. The poster will also be submitted to the Association for Psychological Science Annual Conference in May 2019.

She also presented a poster on spatial alignment in math and science textbooks as part of an independent study in cognitive psychology. For her honors thesis next year, Amy is developing a study related to eating disorders in European-American and international Vietnamese college students.

Outside of the classroom, Amy works for Chartwells, WSU’s food service provider. She is also a member of the Psi Chi International Honor Society in Psychology.



“Writing creatively is my calling.”

—Michael Schroth

Class of 2019

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

Michael Schroth '19 has a dream of becoming a full-time author, but he also recognizes there are other uses for his writing talent.

“Writing creatively is my calling, but I consider myself a professional writer as well,” says the English major with a writing concentration and minors in business administration, computer science, and Spanish. He currently works as a writing consultant in the Worcester State Writing Center, as well as a crew trainer at a McDonald’s near his hometown of Pepperell, Mass.

In addition to writing, Michael also loves technology, and he plans to build his own computer in the next few years. He enjoys playing video games with his friends, reading, and cheering for the Bruins and Patriots. Fitness and nutrition are also important parts of his life, and he writes a fitness column in the student news blog *The New Worcester Spy* called “Whey to Go!,” a pun on a popular post-workout supplement.

Michael traveled to Spain in 2017 as part of a 10-day trip led by Assistant Professor Antonio Guijarro-Donadios from the World Languages Department. Michael was particularly awed by the Alhambra, a palace and fortress complex located in Granada in Andalusia.

“I’m not a prolific traveler, but I loved experiencing a different culture,” he says.

Michael is a member of the WSU Honors Program and Phi Eta Sigma national honor society.

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

—Kristen Rando, Class of 2018



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

Kristen Rando '18, a communication and sociology double major, is pursuing her dream of writing contemporary young adult fiction. She will enter graduate school this fall to earn her M.F.A. through Emerson College's Popular Fiction and Publishing Program. Kristen also won the Sheehan Academic Achievement Award as a junior.

Kristen earned enough credits to graduate early in December 2017 and is temporarily working as a teacher's aide in her hometown of Milford, Mass., as she prepares to enter graduate school. In addition, she helps a friend of the family by doing the books for the Westboro, Mass., VFW, a job she has held for several years.

For her senior capstone project, Kristen created a blog examining political satire in late-night comedy, which she says has become the home of “the voice of the resistance.” She reviewed many of the key players in late-night comedy—who are overwhelmingly white and male—and discussed the importance of diversity in today's political satire.

She also published a paper, “The Bachelor/ette: Selling Hegemonic Ideals Through the Disney Fairy Tale,” in Global Critical Media Literacy Project, making the case that the popular television franchise erroneously implies “that predominantly white, heterosexual, good-looking people who abide by traditional gender roles will find love.”

Kristen says her academic work in sociology has given her a better understanding of people and society.



Academic Achievement Awards Criteria

University 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.

Paul 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 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.



Special Academic Awards

Liberal Studies

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

Women's Studies

Women's Studies Concentration Award—This award is given to a graduating senior concentrating in women's studies with the top record of achievement in courses and co-curricular program activities.

Library

Library Research Award—This award is given to the student who has completed the most exceptional research project of the year enabled by the use of library resources, as determined by a committee from the Worcester State University Library.

Academic Major 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 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.

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.

The Tyler Stratton '12 and Jessica Tea '12 Academic Achievement Award—Given to a current (or former) Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) student. The current (or former) VITA student shall have a part- (or full-) time job while maintaining a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Second preference shall be given to Sigma Beta Delta students with a concentration in accounting and/or finance.

Edward G. Shamgochian Memorial Academic Award—Given to an outstanding student in the Business Administration Department who has been active in the VITA program at WSU.

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 communication student with an average GPA of 3.0 or higher who has demonstrated a commitment to professional excellence and dedication within the communication 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, 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.

Philosophy

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

The Daniel C. Shartin Emerging Philosopher Award—This award is made to a student who has taken multiple philosophy courses and most exemplifies the spirit of the philosophical endeavor in all its logical rigor and creativity, as selected by the Philosophy Department faculty.

Psychology

The Beth Axelson Award in Psychology—This award, which is given to the highest-ranking graduating senior majoring in psychology, was endowed by former Worcester State University 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. Du Bois 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—This award, in memory of elder student Julia Mack, is given to an elder undergraduate majoring in urban studies who has fostered a dynamic intergenerational climate on campus, developed the ability to see the world and its challenges through a multi-generational lens, and shown the capacity 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.

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 service.

The Ann Marie Shea Award for Excellence in Theatre—This award honors a student who has demonstrated consistent 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 one who has contributed to the often rigorous needs of 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

The Dr. Anthony W. Thurston Academic Achievement Award—This award is given to the highest-ranking senior in biology and is named in memory of Dr. Thurston, who had a distinguished, 20-year career as a biology professor at Worcester State. This award was established in 2017 by a generous gift from the George. F. & Sybil H. Fuller Foundation.

Dr. Marlin B. Kreider Award—This award is given in memory of Marlin 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—This award, made possible by a gift from biology professor Maureen Shamgochian '80, Ph.D., and her late husband, Edward, 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.

Biotechnology

Lincoln C. Donohue Award—This award is given to an outstanding student in the biotechnology program who shows promise, dedication, and academic success. It is named in memory of Lincoln C. Donohue '98, who graduated with highest honors in biotechnology and went on to work at Genzyme Corp. before his sudden passing at the age of 24 in 1999. The award was established by his parents, Kevin and Susan.

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 late 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.

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 Sr., a WSU alumnus and educator who served in the Massachusetts State House for 28 years. It recognizes an undergraduate student who will be entering the WSU graduate program in speech-language pathology and will focus on 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 anonymous donors, 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 good academic achievement, professionalism, and 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 high achievement among his or her peers and the professional qualities required of an educator.

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. The Bisk Mathematics Teaching Award honors his 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. It 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.

Occupational Therapy

I. Robert and Aviva Frelander Academic Major Award—This award, given to the highest-ranking senior in the Occupational Therapy Department, honors the late I. Robert Frelander and his wife, Aviva.



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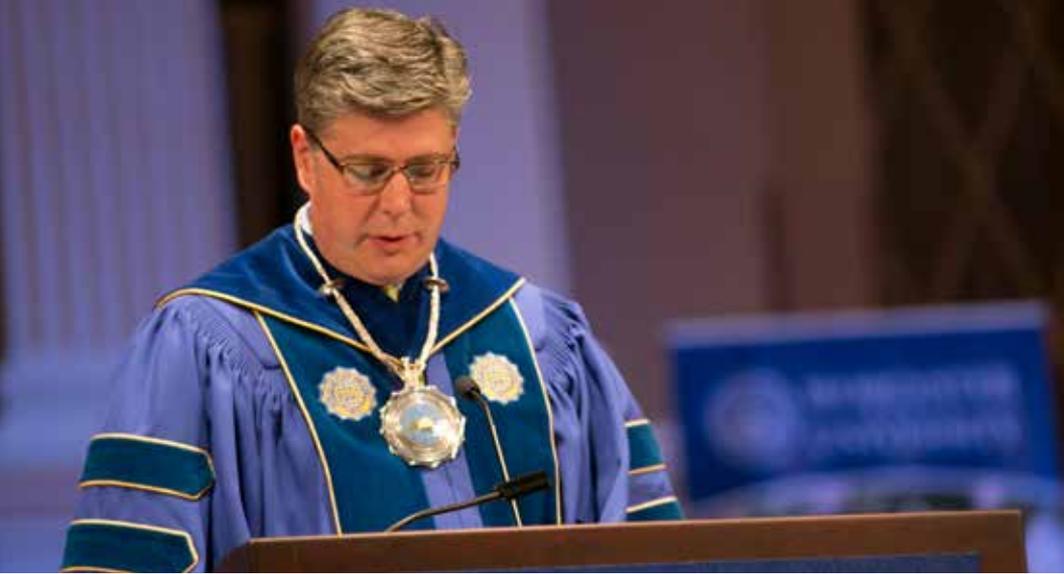
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Academic Attire

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.



Academic Achievement Award Recipients 2017



Thank You

The Provost's Office thanks the many employees, as well as all Academic Ceremonies Committee members, who help make this program and the event special and meaningful for our students.



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



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