



ANNA MARIA COLLEGE

PARENT & FAMILY NEWSLETTER / August 2025



Email: families@annamaria.edu | Call: 508.849.3388 | Visit: annamaria.edu/families

We are excited to share the 2025-26 year with you and your students! Our family newsletter has information about upcoming events, important dates, and topics of interest for college families. We hope that you enjoy this issue - please reach out if you have any questions or comments.

WELCOME PRESIDENT RYAN

**Student-centered, Enrollment-focused,
Values-driven: Dr. Sean J. Ryan is
Anna Maria College's 12th President**

President Sean J. Ryan brings a transformative vision rooted in Anna Maria's values and an unwavering commitment to student success. Drawing inspiration from the Sisters of Saint Anne's enduring legacy, he champions a mission-driven approach that places students at the absolute center of everything the college does.



[Read more about President Ryan here!](#)

WELCOME NEW AND RETURNING STUDENTS

We are already welcoming Fall student athletes to campus and look forward to seeing all other AMCATS soon!

All resident students have received move-in details by email. Please reach out to **Residence Life** with any housing questions.

- **Last Chance Orientation resident students :**

August 21, 9 am - 11:30 am

- **New resident students:** August 22, 8 am - 12 pm
- **New commuter students:** August 22, 12 pm
- **Returning resident students:** August 23 & 24, 9 am - 5 pm

Families of new students, please note!

If your student has not yet attended an Orientation session, they must attend Last Chance Orientation on Thursday, August 21.



*Photo:
New students
enjoying our
iconic gazebo
during
Orientation!*

Register Here



Student ID reminder

All students on campus need an **Anna Maria College Photo ID**. New students who have completed the ID form will receive their ID upon arrival. Returning students should bring their current student ID with them or request a replacement at the Student Life Office.

Welcome Weekend August 22-24



Our staff have planned a weekend full of educational and fun events to start the year off right! Welcome Weekend events are open to all resident and commuter students.

Highlights will include:

- Community service projects
- Trip to Apex Entertainment
- Bonfire & S'mores
- Choose Your Own Adventure
- and Campus Fest!

In addition, here are some Fall events students can look forward to:

- Casino Night
- Weekly Intramural Sports
- Commuter Events.

There are plenty of activities planned throughout the year. Encourage your student to check out the weekly "What's Happening" email sent to students!



A Message from our Dean of Students, Drew Melendez

Parents and Families,

Welcome to the start of another exciting academic year at Anna Maria College! I'm Drew Melendez, the Dean of Students, and I am excited to be able to support you and your student through their college journey. During the summer orientation sessions, you may have heard me say that your students are their own best advocates—and you're a close second! I am excited to partner with you all to help your student find the best possible experience here at Anna Maria College. Whether your student is starting off as a brand new as a member of the Class of 2029, or kicking off the start of their last year as a member of the Class of 2026, there's a lot of great programs, events, games, and more to fill up the time and create some fun memories here on campus this year!

Through it all, please know that the Student Affairs is always here to help. Whether it's helping with all things housing through the Office of Residence Life, helping a student to get involved through Student Activities, making sure that your student receives the support they need through Health & Counseling Services, and much more, we're excited to be there for your AMCAT. If you need anything this year, don't be afraid to pick up the phone or send me an email—you can reach me either way—and I am excited to help, and to see all that this year has in store!

Reach me at 508-849-3305 or at dmelendez@annamaria.edu.

UPCOMING EVENTS



All families, friends, and alumni are invited to join us at Fall Fest, September 26-27, 2025! Events will include:

- Volleyball, Men's Soccer, and Football
- Family Bingo & Family Fun Zone
- 5K Run/Walk
- Beer Garden
- Food Trucks & more!

[Click here for the Fall Fest schedule!](#)

Mark your calendars!

Men's soccer will be taking on the College of Holy Cross (Division I) on Tuesday, September 9th!

Catch the action at the Linda Johnson Smith Soccer Stadium in Worcester, MA or tune in on **ESPN+**!



RECENT NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Did You Know?

- Class of 2025 reports 95.2% employment rate
- New AI for Business major announced



What did you do this summer?

Our AMCATS Men's Ice Hockey goalie won silver with Team Canada in the 2025 ISBHF U23 Ball Hockey World Championships!

[Read more here](#)

- **Fundraising milestone achieved**

Click on each link to learn more!

More Campus News...

Renovations are underway in the Science Building, new equipment is being installed in the Nursing Lab, and E-Sports is moving to a new space!

DINING SERVICES

ANNA MARIA COLLEGE

Would you like to add to your student's meal plan?

Purchase additional meals or flex cash with the link below.

20 meals = \$170
40 meals = \$320
Flex cash - any amount up to \$150

Your student's account will be billed for the amount you choose.

[Meal Plan Enhancements Form](#)

- **New** residential meal plan option: 15 meals per week + 50 meal swipes per semester (additional \$350).
- Resident students may make changes to their meal plan before **September 2nd** by contacting the Residence Life Office at reslife@annamaria.edu.
- Commuters and residents may **add flex cash or meal swipes** to a meal plan at any time with the Meal Plan Enhancements Form.
- **Click here for more Dining Services information!**

STAFF INTRODUCTIONS

Meet our new Director of Student Activities

Akyanna Smith

Akyanna is a Worcester native who has a broad career in program and event management, learning and development, and leadership development in both higher education and corporate consulting. She obtained her Master's degree in Education from the University of South Florida and her Bachelor's in Arts degree in Counseling Psychology from Emmanuel College.

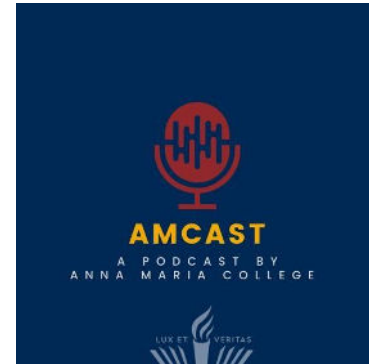
At her past institutions, Akyanna has been responsible for creating leadership training for student leaders, expanding on-campus co-curricular experiences for commuter students, and encouraging new student groups to be



formed.

Akyanna is excited to get to know the students here at Anna Maria to support the learning they do inside of the classroom with experiences outside of the classroom that will help them thrive beyond graduation. Go AMCATS!

Our new Director of Student Activities, Akyanna Smith, joins this AMCAST episode to discuss their vision for student life, upcoming programs, and opportunities for campus involvement. Learn what's in store for student activities and how you can be part of the exciting changes ahead.



Click here for the AMCAST with Akyanna Smith!



Hi there,

I'm so excited to start my second year at AMC! I love connecting with students as they navigate living on campus. When I'm not working, you'll find me reading, baking, playing ukulele, or hiking with my husband and two vizslas.

Contact me at hventresco@annamaria.edu or (508) 849-3310

Please read on to meet our wonderful Resident Directors!

Director of Residence Life and Student Conduct, Heather Ventresco



Area Coordinator for First Year Experience, Kieon Samuel

☐ Hey there! I'm Kieon, the new Area Coordinator for First Year Experience. I majored in Business Management and



Residence Director for St. Anne Hall, JP Roberts

Greetings and salutations, My name is Jp Roberts, and I am very excited to be coming to the Anna Maria

Criminal Justice, with a side hustle in Communications (aka my minor☺).

□ During my time at Dean, I wore a lot of hats Resident Assistant, Peer Mentor, and a member of two club executive boards. Safe to say, I stayed busy and loved every minute of it!

□ Outside of school and work, I'm all about anime, leveling up in Fortnite, hitting the weights, writing stories that live rent-free in my head, and playing my electric guitar.

□□I'm deeply passionate about advocacy and creating inclusive spaces for all, especially for the LGBTQIA+ community, Trans rights, POC rights, Women's rights, and Mental Health & Wellbeing.

Contact me at ksamuel@annamaria.edu



Graduate Residence Director for Madonna Hall, Betty Santos

I'm so excited to be stepping into the role of Graduate Assistant Resident Director this year! I was an RA here at Anna Maria for the past three years, and I just graduated with my B.S. in Health Science. Now I'm working on my Master's in Mental Health Counseling, and probably a lifelong degree in being busy.

When I'm not on campus, I work in customer service and behavioral health, and when I *do* find some free time, you'll probably catch me knitting or watching a TV series. I also have a sister at AMC who I love so much and a very spoiled Maltipoo named Luke.

My favorite restaurant is LongHorn Steakhouse because—and don't judge—I like my steak well done. Like... thoroughly. Burnt with love.

One of the best parts of being an RA was the tight-knit team (pun intended) and making adorable door tags for residents. I can't wait to bring that same energy into this new role and get to know everyone this year!

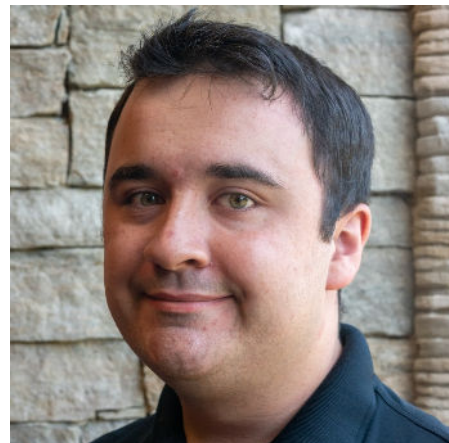
Contact me at bsantos@annamaria.edu

community as the new Residence Director of St. Anne Hall.

I am coming in with a background in Business Management and am completing my Master's in Human Resources Management. I have been working in Residence Life for a few years now and am excited to engage with you throughout the year.

See you all very soon!

Contact me at jproberts@annamaria.edu



Graduate Residence Director for South, Alumni, & Coghlin Halls, Mason Arseneau

Hello everyone!

My name is Mason, and I am one of your Residence Directors! I'm working on a master's in counseling psychology, so working with people is something I enjoy and take seriously.

During my undergrad at Keene State, I was vice president of the Student Activities Council, working to make campus a fun place. I hope to bring my knowledge here to Anna Maria!

Contact me at marseaneau@annamaria.edu

IMPORTANT DATES & RESOURCES



- August 25: Classes begin
- August 25 - September 2: Course registration & Add/Drop
- September 2: Last day to change meal plan
- November 26-30: Thanksgiving Recess
- December 12: Last day of finals

Did you know we have an ATM in the Campus Center?

Students may open a free account (and avoid the surcharge) by scanning the QR code at the ATM or visiting this link.



Open an account here

Encouraging Healthy Habits

Would you like some tips on how to help your student practice healthy habits while in college? The Student Affairs Office will be offering online information sessions for parents and families throughout the year. Topics planned include:

- How to make the most of campus resources
- Supporting your student during finals
- Helping students managing their finances



More details coming soon!

Please reach out to families@annamaria.edu with any questions.

BE IN-THE-KNOW WITH THE LINKS BELOW:

Office of Student Activities Instagram

Academic Calendar

Athletic Schedule

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