



ANNA MARIA COLLEGE

PARENT & FAMILY NEWSLETTER / November 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.

NOTES FROM DEAN DREW



As we approach the end of the semester, our students are working hard to get to the finish line. They're starting those final projects, continuing to study hard for upcoming exams, and making more Fall memories with their friends at events! It's hard to think that we are less than two weeks away from Thanksgiving Break, and then students will come back for the stretch through Finals Week. Your support and encouragement during this time can make a tremendous difference—checking in with your student with a text or phone call, a supportive message can help them get to the end!

As we approach an exciting but stressful time of year, I want to remind you and our students of the campus resources we have available to support them. We have Student Academic Support Services continuing to offer content tutoring, academic coaching and more for help to navigate classes, and Health & Counseling Services to ensure students stay healthy and supported through the rest of the semester. We still have events and opportunities for students to engage with our community through upcoming athletic games, our upcoming Student Affairs Thanksgiving Dinner on November 19, our Tree Lighting and President's Christmas Dinner on December 3, and much more!

If there's anything that I can do to help support you and your student, know that

you can always reach out to me at 508-849-3305 and dmelendez@annamaria.edu.

As we head into the holiday seasons, I'm excited to see the continued community support and cheer here at Anna Maria College!

UPCOMING EVENTS



Our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner



Ecumenical Service,
Tree Lighting, and
President's Christmas Dinner

Women's Basketball Fundraising Gala

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE AMC WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

FUNDRAISING GALA

NOVEMBER 22 | 6:00 - 11:00PM
TATNUCK COUNTRY CLUB, WORCESTER

LIVE MUSIC BY ROSS
GREGOR ADAM & SEVEN
STRING SWING DUO

TICKETS - \$75

*CAN BE PURCHASED
WITH THE QR CODE
OR LINK BELOW

LIVE AUCTIONED ITEMS BY:
HAROLD PRESSLEY, CHRIS
LINGSTROM, DR. J, DAVID
ORTIZ, TOM BRADY, AND
MORE...



https://annamaria.formstack.com/forms/womens_basketball_gala

Click here to email Coach
Paulhus for more info!



ANNA MARIA
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



The Anna Maria Women's Basketball team is raising funds to support an exciting opportunity to travel and compete in a prestigious tournament in Puerto Rico. Just four years ago, we struggled with only 4 wins in the season and ranked 11th out of 13 teams in our conference. Since then, through relentless hard work, dedication, and a strong belief in our vision, the program has made a remarkable turnaround—finishing last season with 15 wins and climbing to 6th place in a now 15-team conference, with the most wins in 26 years. This tournament trip represents more than just competition; it's a milestone in our journey of growth and excellence. We will be having a Fundraising Gala on November 22nd to fund this trip.

We are currently seeking sponsorships at various levels in support of our Fundraising Gala.

- A contribution of **\$1,500** will sponsor the auction and includes two tickets to the Gala.
- A contribution of **\$2,000** will sponsor the music and includes two tickets to the Gala.
- A contribution of **\$3,000** will sponsor the open bar and includes two tickets to the Gala.

Your generosity will help ensure the success of this special event and directly support our ongoing efforts.

We would be delighted to recognize your support at the Gala and celebrate your contribution to this meaningful occasion. In addition to sponsorships, we are also seeking donations for our raffle table, items for our live auction, or business sponsorships in our program — available for **\$200** (business card display) or **\$500** (full-page sponsorship).

Any questions please contact:
Head Coach - Melissa Paulhus

mpaulhus@annamaria.edu | 774-289-9049

https://annamaria.formstack.com/forms/womens_basketball_gala



RECENT EVENTS



The Fall Career Fair was held on Wednesday, October 22. Mac the AMCAT and more than 200 students visited the 75+ employers that tabled at the largest career fair we've held at AMC.

The fair welcomed back valued partners such as Advocates, Boston Mutual Life Insurance Company, Devereux, the Office of Congressman Jim McGovern, Polar Beverages, Seven Hills, the WooSox, and Country Bank. Worcester PD, Fire, and the Worcester County Sheriff were among several public safety departments in attendance. Additionally, several AMC alumni were on hand representing their current employers.



Hear more about Career Services here!

The Spring Career Fair will be held on April 8, 2026!

Wellness Day was held on Tuesday, October 28. In addition to a day off from classes, students appreciated the array of Wellness Day activities offered. Events began with a late-night breakfast Monday night that served over 170 students. The day featured wellness screenings, a climbing wall, cross stitch de-stressers, and laughing yoga.

Other highlights included a nature walk and the Writing Center Mysteries. Students used their investigative research skills to solve the murder of Cary Underwood, a fictional vineyard owner who loved country music. Willow (as Krypto the Super Dog) and Prof. Dowd. Krypto led 10 students on a very hilly hike on the campus trails. See photos below!





Wellness Day Photos:

Students receiving "selfie" portraits, conquering the rock climbing wall, creating charcuterie boards, and solving a Writing Center mystery; Professor Dowd and Willow (a.k.a. Krypto); relaxing with therapy dogs.

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS



Athletics to launch competitive Dance and Cheer teams for 2026-27 Academic Year

The Dance Team will be a highly visible group, performing at a variety of campus events, athletic rallies, and community events. In addition to supporting the AMCATS, the team plans to compete in regional and national dance competitions, showcasing a wide range of styles including jazz, hip-hop, and pom. The competitive Cheer program will focus on recruiting student-athletes proficient in stunting, tumbling, and jumps, with routines designed for regional and national competitions. The new team will also support Anna Maria's existing sports programs by continuing to promote school spirit at campus events and

games.

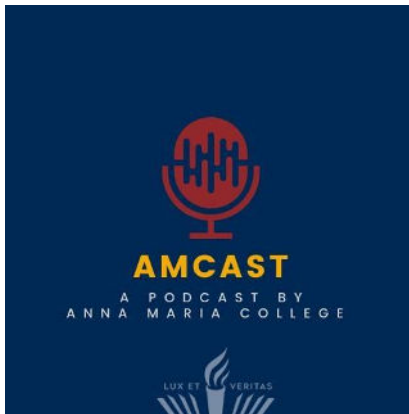


Life in the First Year Lane: Field Hockey, Fire Science, and Finding Community at Anna Maria College

Life in the First Year Lane is a series documenting the experiences of first-year students at Anna Maria College as they begin their college journeys. Dean of Students Drew Melendez sat down with Fire Science major and AMCAT Field Hockey and Ice Hockey student athlete Alyse Mutti '29 and Field Hockey Head Coach Chris Pothier to talk about their Fall 2025 semester as they both kick-off their first year at Anna Maria College.

[Read more here!](#)

A Junior's Student Athlete Experience as Team Captain, Psych Major & Intern



In a recent AMCAST episode, we interviewed Psychology junior and Women's Basketball Captain Arianna Gonzalez. Off the court, Arianna is interning as a guidance counselor at her high school alma mater, South High in Worcester. She talks about her experience at Anna Maria, her work as psychology major, and offers a preview of the upcoming season. Let's hear it for #2, Arianna Gonzalez.

[Listen to the AMCAST here!](#)

RESIDENCE LIFE NOTES

Important Thanksgiving Break Information!

Residence Halls will close on Tuesday, November 25, 2025 at 5 p.m. and will re-open on Sunday, November 30, 2025 at 10 a.m.

We recognize that there will be a small handful of students that are seeking to request to remain on campus for part of or all of the Thanksgiving Break due to travel or other commitments. **Any student requesting to stay on-campus over the Thanksgiving Break must submit a Break Housing Request by Friday, November 21, 2025, with a full explanation of their need to stay.** You can find the form here: <https://annamaria.formstack.com/forms/breakhousingform> You will be notified within several days of submitting your request if you are approved to stay on-campus.

Please be aware that Dining Services will not be available over the break.

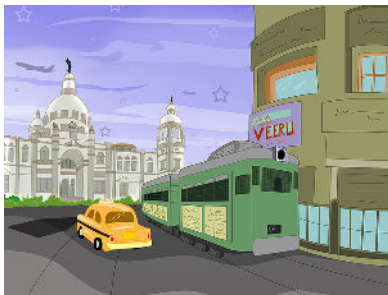
- Dining Hall closes after lunch (2:00 pm) on Tuesday, November, 25, 2025.
- The Hub will be open until 5:00 pm on Tuesday, November, 25, 2025.
- The Hub reopens at 4:30 pm on Sunday, November 30, 2025.
- There are no meals from breakfast on Wednesday, November 26 until dinner on Sunday, November 30.

If you have any questions as we prepare for Thanksgiving Break, please do not hesitate to **reach out here!**

Planning Ahead for Winter Break?

Residence halls will close on December 12 at 5:00 pm and re-open for returning students on January 10 & 11. Students will receive dining and shuttle schedules by email in the coming weeks.

Airport Shuttle



The airport shuttle will be driving to Boston Logan Airport on Tuesday, November 25, 2025 at 8 a.m.

We will also have a shuttle driving from Boston Logan Airport to campus on Sunday, November 30, 2025 at 7 p.m.

Students received the Airport Transfer Request form by email - forms must be submitted by November 19, 2025 at 5 p.m. to ride the shuttle.

IMPORTANT DATES & RESOURCES



Fall 2025 Final Exams Schedule

- November 26-30: Thanksgiving Recess
- December 8-12: Final exams
- December 13 - January 11: Winter Break
- January 12: Spring classes begin
- February 28 - March 8: Spring Recess
- April 2-6: Easter Recess
- April 28 - May 4: Final exams



THE PANTRY

IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE?

The Pantry provides food & hygiene products for students

<http://tinyurl.com/AMCpantry>



Scan here to fill out a request form



LOOKING TO HELP?

Scan here to visit The Pantry Wish List on Amazon



Donations may also be dropped off at the Student Life Office or the Campus Ministry Lounge

The Pantry is a resource open to all Anna Maria students in need.

Hear more about The Pantry here!



THE STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER

Our Student Academic Support Services (S.A.S.S.) are available to all students, including:

- Accommodations Center
- Academic Coaching
- Student Success Center
- The Writing Center.

Hear more about academic resources here!

COMMENCEMENT 2026

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SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026

ANNA MARIA COLLEGE CAMPUS
PAXTON MA



#AMCATS2026

ANNA MARIA COLLEGE

WWW.ANNAMARIA.EDU/COMMENCEMENT

Commencement website

If your student is graduating this year, Commencement will be here before you know it! Eligible students will receive an Intent to Graduate form from the Registrar in the coming weeks.

Graduating students will receive detailed information in December by AMCATS email about:

- Tickets for guests
- Cap & Gown ordering
- Commencement Weekend
- Receiving their diploma

Families are encouraged to check the Commencement website for updates!

BE IN-THE-KNOW WITH THE LINKS BELOW:

Office of Student Activities Instagram

Academic Calendar

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