



THE LYNN JOURNAL

Friday, May 17, 2024

HATS AND HEELS TEA



The North Shore Juneteenth Association held its 2024 Hats and Heels Tea event May 5 at the Hawthorne Hotel, Salem. Among the guests enjoying the North Shore Juneteenth Hats and Heels Tea are Vicky Rivera, Madelyn Lopez, Ligia Guerrero, Rosario Ubiera-Minaya, Ogor "Winnie" Okoye, Lisa Miller-Gillespie, Sarah Bullock, Terry Young, and Kay Rowe. See Pages 6 and 7 for more photos.

Greater Boston League will go to two divisions in basketball

By Cary Shuman

The Greater Boston League will split into two divisions in basketball for the 2024-25 season.

Lynn English Director of Athletics Dick Newton and Lynn Classical Director of Athletics Bill Devin said the league voted at its April meeting to go to a two-division format in boys and girls basketball.

In boys basketball, Lynn English and Lynn Classical will compete in a division with Everett and Malden.

Chelsea, Revere, Somerville, and Medford will compete in the other division.

In girls basketball, Lynn Classical will play in a division with Medford, Revere, and Malden. Lynn English will play in a division with Chelsea, Somerville, and Everett

English and Classical will play teams in their division twice and teams in the other division once, though there will be a second meeting between the Lynn schools.

"The two-division format in basketball is being done as a pilot program," said Devin. "If it is successful, we may expand it to other sports."

Please see GBL Page 3

Bridgewell hires O'Keefe to direct Family Support Center

Special to the Journal

Bridgewell, a nonprofit social and human services organization serving northeastern Massachusetts, has announced that Kirsten O'Keefe of Lynn has been promoted to director of the Bridgewell Family Support Center in Lynn.

"Kirsten brings valuable experience and enthusiasm to our strong team of Family Support Community Case Managers," said Jessica Almeida, Vice President of Day Habilitation and Community Engagement. "Both the families we serve and our staff will benefit from her leadership and knowledge."

O'Keefe has been working in human services for more than a decade and has extensive knowledge of community resources and navigating health care systems. She was most recently a direct support professional in



Kirsten O'Keefe.

Bridgewell's residential programs, working with individuals with developmental disabilities including autism. O'Keefe holds an associate's degree in criminal justice from North Shore Community College and a bachelor's degree in health care administra-

Please see O'KEEFE Page 2

My Brother's Table dining room reopens with upgraded facilities to meet growing community needs

Special to the Journal

My Brother's Table has announced the reopening of its renovated dining room, unveiling enhanced space that will serve the community's evolving needs. Since 1982, My Brother's Table has served over 7.8 million

meals, with an astounding half of these meals served since 2020, a testament to the burgeoning demand in Lynn.

The Table began renovations in January, and is set to debut the improved space later this month. During the renovation period, staff and volunteers used tempo-

rary trailers with walk-up takeout service to ensure meal service continued uninterrupted.

The new dining room reflects a thoughtful meeting of two distinct needs: the warmth and

Please see TABLE Page 5

Guzman elected to Essex National Heritage Commission

Special to the Journal

Community leader Michelle Guzman, founder and CEO of Lynn Walking Shoe Tours, has been elected to a three-year term on the Essex National Heritage Commission.

Guzman launched Lynn Walking Shoe tours in 2018. During her tours, Guzman visits landmarks throughout the city while providing biographical information about Lynn's historic resi-

dents notably abolitionist, writer, and statesman Frederick Douglass, religious leader and author Mary Baker Eddy, and inventor Lydia Pinkham.

"These Essex Heritage Commissioners serve as representatives of community organizations, educational institutions, and historic, cultural, and natural resources of the region. "Our local Commissioners represent a variety of institutions across the Heritage Area and serve an im-

portant role as ambassadors and advocates for this region," said CEO, Annie C. Harris. "Essex Heritage is grateful for the support of these new Commissioners as partners in promoting the unique assets of Essex County."

The Essex National Heritage Commission (Essex Heritage) is a non-profit that manages and provides numerous programs preserving and enhancing Essex County's historic, natural and cultural places.

For the latest news in Lynn that you need to know, go to lynnjournal.com

EDITORIAL

20 YEARS OF MARRIAGE EQUALITY IN MASSACHUSETTS

It was 20 years ago this week (on May 17, 2004, to be exact), that the first marriage licenses were issued by cities and towns across Massachusetts for same-sex couples.

The marriage licenses were precipitated by the decision by the state's Supreme Judicial Court in November in the Goodridge case, which declared that same sex couples were entitled to the same legal protections and rights as heterosexual couples.

It's hard to imagine, with 20/20 hindsight, that marriage equality ever was an issue. There is not -- and never has been -- a justification for not allowing two adults to marry the person of their choosing in order to enjoy the legal status and privileges that marriage conveys.

But back in 2004, in the immediate aftermath of the Goodridge decision, there were many members of our state legislature, both Democrats and Republicans, who were talking of holding a Constitutional Convention in order to amend the state constitution to allow same-sex couples to have only so-called civil unions, not full marriage.

Massachusetts was an outlier in 2004 and fortunately the effort to call for a Constitutional Convention failed. Soon thereafter, other states allowed same-sex marriages and then in 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in a 5-4 decision in the Obergefell v Hodges cases that all states must issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

However, public opinion was way ahead of the courts. Modern Family, the hit TV comedy show that started in 2007, included a gay couple among its characters. Today, polls consistently show that more than 70 percent of Americans across all party lines support same-sex marriage.

To be sure, there still is much to be done to assure equal protection of all rights for our fellow Americans of the LGTBQIA+ community. But it is worth noting the events of 20 years ago to acknowledge the momentous changes that have taken place in the course of one generation.

PLASTIC, PLASTIC EVERYWHERE

In the classic 1967 movie, the Graduate, Dustin Hoffman's character, Benjamin Braddock, a recent college graduate, is taken aside by a family friend at his graduation party, who says to him, "Ben, I just have one word of advice for you. Are you listening? 'Plastics'. There's a great future in plastics. Think about it. Will you think about it?"

"Yes sir," Benjamin replies meekly.

In 1967, plastics were nowhere near as ubiquitous as they are in 2024. But the advice given to Benjamin was prescient -- today, plastics, which are petroleum-based, are used for just about everything in our daily lives.

The problem is, plastics also are in everything, including our bodies. According to scientists, microplastics are flowing through every one of our organs and tissues, and the same is true for just about every animal on earth.

In addition, very little of the plastic that we generate is recyclable. We may think of ourselves as being virtuous when we dutifully recycle all of our plastic items every week, but a recent survey revealed that only about six percent of plastic items are recycled and that much of what is labeled as "recyclable" really is not recyclable at all. Those hard-plastic containers that hold our laundry detergent, for example, can be recycled only at a very few facilities across the country, which means that almost all of them end up in landfills, where they eventually disintegrate and make their way into the food chain and our water -- and into our bodies.

Almost 60 years after the Graduate, we are drowning -- literally -- in a sea of plastics, and with the demand for plastics ever-increasing, the problem is only going to get worse. It is estimated that by 2050, the demand for plastics will triple and the amount of plastic in the world's oceans actually will outweigh the fish.

Yes, as foretold in 1967, the future was indeed, "Plastics."

But that future -- today's present -- turned out to be a grim one.

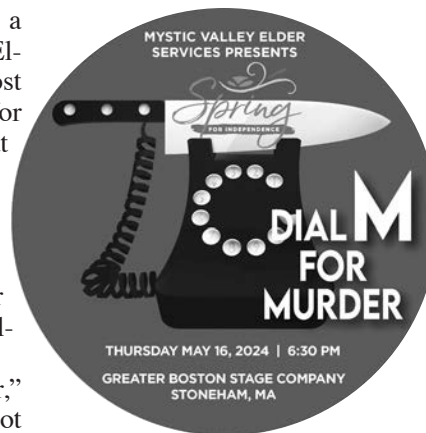
Fundraiser brings 'Dial M for Murder' to the stage

Classic mystery gets a modern twist

Thrills and chills, all for a great cause! Mystic Valley Elder Services (MVES) will host a performance of "Dial M for Murder" Thursday, May 16, at Greater Boston Stage Company, 395 Main St., Stoneham. The show is MVES' annual Spring for Independence fundraiser, benefitting older adults and people with disabilities in our community.

In "Dial M for Murder," Tony believes his wife Margot is having an affair, and he wants revenge. He plans out the perfect murder. Or is it? The audience follows twists and turns as the suspense builds -- will Tony succeed in his attempt and will he be caught?

"Dial M for Murder" may be best known as the 1954 Hitch-



cock film, but it started out as a successful stage play. Clever and fast-paced, the current show puts a modern spin on the original.

MVES invites theatergoers to a pre-show reception at 6 p.m. with complimentary cock-

tails and hors d'oeuvres. The show starts at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are available for \$80 each at www.mves.org/dial-m-for-murder. For more about the show, please contact MVES Development Department at 781-388-4802 or development@mves.or

Founded in 1975, MVES provides resources and care to older adults and people with disabilities. Services include Meals on Wheels, transportation, in-home assistance, health insurance counseling, caregiver supports, and more. The nonprofit serves Chelsea, Everett, Revere, Winthrop, and seven other communities north of Boston. For more information, call 781-324-7705 or visit www.mves.org.

O'Keefe / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tion from Southern New Hampshire University.

Bridgewell's Family Support Center (FSC) is a cultural and linguistic family support center on the North Shore that works with diverse, traditionally underserved populations. The program serves about 200 families annually.

Funded through the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), the FSC's purpose is to support families when they need it most, providing resources for people with autism and developmental disabilities, and assisting family members caring for a loved with a disability in attaining supports to positively impact their lives.

"Having worked in the Human Services field for many years now, I've gained extensive experience that I will apply in this new role," said O'Keefe. "I look forward to working with the case managers to assist and support each of the families we serve."

Working with other community partners, the FSC provides resources, information and individualized case management to people age three or older with developmental disabilities, including autism, and their families at all stages of the lifespan. It also offers workshops, trainings, parent networking, mentoring and support groups, among other services.

"My goal is to focus on further expanding our community

outreach and collaboration efforts, and to implement more enriching activities for the local community here at the already thriving Family Support Center," said O'Keefe.

Learn more about Bridgewell's Family Support Center services online at <https://bridgewell.org/disability-services/autism-services/family-support-center/>.

Bridgewell is a nonprofit social and human service organization dedicated to strengthening communities. Headquartered in Peabody, Mass., Bridgewell empowers people

with disabilities and other life challenges to live safe, self-directed and productive lives. Bridgewell delivers support through community housing, day programs, outpatient treatment, recovery services, education, and employment training. Bridgewell's staff of more than 1,400 professionals serves approximately 7,000 people and their families. Bridgewell is accredited by the Commission on the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) and fully licensed by the state. For more information visit www.bridgewell.org.

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Camp 21- Women's Tackle Football officially kicks off

Special to The Journal

Camp 21 – Women's Tackle Football in Boston, has launched its first football training camp for women and girls of all ages.

Rumunda "Moe" Holder, founder and CEO of Camp 21, joined University of New England assistant football coach Sue Lizotte and professional women's football players Chris Ellis-Hibbett, Heidi Epstein, and Chelsea High Director of Athletics and eight-time women's football Super Bowl champion Amanda Alpert as instructors at the inaugural camp session held May 4 at Healy Field in Roslindale.

"Women have been playing organized tackle football in the U.S. for more than four decades, yet football continues to be a male-dominated arena," said Rumunda Holder, Founder and CEO of Camp 21 - Women's Tackle Football. "Through this first-of-its-kind continuous football training camp for women, we're aiming to promote the evolution of Women's Tackle Football, encourage more women to embrace the sport and ultimately challenge the perceptions of a sport traditionally dominated by males."

Also assisting at the camp was former Division 1 college football player Kalonji Hall, a resident of East Boston who has coached the Showstoppers team in the Boston Women's Flag Football League.



Women's Tackle Football Camp 21 Director Rumunda Holder is hoping to start a girls tackle football program in the Boston public schools.

"I think this camp will provide an excellent opportunity for girls to learn the fundamentals of tackle football and move on to competitive play," said Hall, who is helping Holder coordinate the camp.

Holder said she would like to start a citywide girls tackle football program for students in the Boston public schools.



University of New England assistant football coach Sue Lizotte and professional women's tackle football players Chris Ellis-Hibbett, Rumunda Holder, Heidi Epstein, and Amanda Alpert are pictured at the first session of Camp 21 – Women's Tackle Football.



Women's Tackle Football Camp 21 Director Rumunda Holder tosses the football to Amy Martinez at the first session of the camp.

GBL / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In GBL football news, Everett High will play an independent schedule in the 2024 football season. The move was made after Everett went 7-1 overall (7-0 in the GBL) in its first eight games last season, but fell short of qualifying for the MIAA Di-

vision 1 playoffs due to the ratings points system. Everett will play non-league games against Mansfield, Xaverian, Taunton, BC High, and Brockton. Everett will also play GBL schools Lynn Classical, Medford, and Revere.

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SEAN STELLATO HOSTS NFL DRAFT WATCH PARTY

NFL player agent Sean Stellato hosted his annual NFL Draft Watch Party at the Ferncroft Country Club.

The many guests watched the first round of the NFL Draft on a large-screen television and enjoyed a buffet. There were also raffle drawings and a silent auction.



NFL Player Agent Sean Stellato, with his parents, Patrick Stellato and Gloria Stellato, and his brother, Mike Stellato, at the NFL Draft Party.



Chad McDonough, Tom DeVito Sr. (father of New York Giants quarterback Tommy DeVito), and Boston Content Creator Tommy Guarino.



Former St. Mary's High School football player James Buckley (left) and guests.



Sean Stellato and clients, from left, two-time Super Bowl champion Brandon King of the New England Patriots, Russell Dandy, Jordan Riggs, and Peewee Jarrett.



JJ Cruz, Anthony Pisani, and Victor Molle.

SEAN STELLATO HOSTS NFL DRAFT WATCH PARTY



Hall of Fame candlepin bowler Jim Barber and Jane Barber.

Sebastion Delasoudas, Brandon King, Sean Stellato, Russell Dandy, and Peewee Jarrett.



Sofia Falcon, Diego Reyes, Robert Pettit, Albie Alicea, and Olivia Yeomelakis.

Table / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

camaraderie of the pre-Covid in-house dining, and the convenience and efficiency of the pandemic-era takeout operations. The redesigned space caters to guests in a hurry, offering quick grab-and-go options, while offering welcoming space for those who wish to relax and converse while enjoying their meals.

“Our vision for the new dining room is rooted in honoring our founders’ vision of ‘serving all guests according to their needs,’ in an atmosphere of hospitality, warmth, and unconditional love,” said Dianne Kuzia Hills, Executive Director of My Brother’s Table.

The capital project was made possible by a generous \$250,000 grant from Mass General Brigham, with additional support from Eastern Bank, Institution For Savings Bank, Salem Five Bank, and the American Endowment Foundation.

“Access to healthy, nutritious food is critical for good health

outcomes,” said Elsie Taveras, MD, MPH, Chief Community Health & Health Equity Officer for Mass General Brigham. “Mass General Brigham is so proud to support the opening of My Brother’s Table’s new dining room and their mission to serve every guest with warmth and dignity.”

To celebrate this milestone, the Table is offering a series of events, including a Ribbon Cutting and an Open House. The community is invited to the Open House on Sunday, May 19, from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm, to tour the renovated space and learn about the Table’s ongoing work.

In June, My Brother’s Table will be holding a fundraiser at Mission on the Bay to raise the final funds required for the renovation. For more information about the Table and its reopening events, please visit www.mybrotherstable.org or call 781-595-3224.



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NORTH SHORE JUNETEENTH ASSOCIATION HOLDS HATS AND HEELS TEA



GAR Museum Curator Wendy Joseph, NSJA President Nicole McClain, and Poet Laureate Porsha Olayiwola.

The North Shore Juneteenth Association held its 2024 Hats and Heels Tea event May 5 at the Hawthorne Hotel, Salem.

Lynn Councilor-at-Large Nicole McClain, president and founder, welcomed the many guests, who were attired stylishly for the festive event.



Larnell Lane and Lynn Rams Youth Football and Cheer President Amy Robinson.



NSJA President Nicole McClain (right) welcomes Alexis Lane and Larnell Lane to the Hats and Heels Tea event Sunday, May 5 at the Hawthorne Hotel, Salem.



Kiauria Sosa, Reny Pascual, Carol Lavoie-Schuster, and Blessing Chukwu.



Wendy Joseph, Sen. Joan Lovely, Francellis Quinones, and Cynthia Nwachukwu.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

The Lynn Journal encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to Cary@lynnjournal.com

NORTH SHORE JUNETEENTH ASSOCIATION HOLDS HATS AND HEELS TEA



Carolina Trujillo, Adriana Paz, Michea McCaffrey, Alexis Lane, and Larnell Lane.



Representing the City of Lynn are Councilor-at-Large Nicole McClain and Ward 4 Councilor Natasha Megie-Maddrey.



Venessa Masterson and Monica Swaida.



Ogor "Winnie" Okoye and Blessing Chukwu.



Rose DiGregorio and Stephanie McKinney.



Ogor "Winnie" Okoye, Adriana Paz, Jireh Ishaazi, April Mosely, North Shore Juneteenth President Nicole McClain, April Anderson, Nayellie Estrella, and Wendy Joseph.



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LYNN SCHOOL COMMITTEE HONORS CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS OF THE ANNUAL ELEMENTARY BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

The School Committee recognized the championship teams of the Annual Elementary Basketball Tournament at their meeting on Thursday, April 25.



Boys Division 1 - Ford Falcons.



Girls Division 2 - Callahan Eagles.



Girls Division 3 - Aborn Owls.

LYNN SCHOOL COMMITTEE HONORS CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS OF THE ANNUAL ELEMENTARY BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT



One of the division championship teams in the Elementary School Basketball Tournament is honored by Mayor Jared Nicholson and School Committee members.

Boys Division 3 - Brickett Tigers.



Girls Division 1 - Ford Falcons.

Malden Catholic announces major campus expansion to support growing student population and enhance academic and athletic programs

Special to the Journal

Malden Catholic (MC) announced major expansion plans for its academic and athletic programs. By partnering with Timberline Construction and Scalora Consulting Group, MC broke ground on May 9, for a state-of-the-art academic and athletic facility located across the street from Malden Catholic at 50 Crystal Street. This expansion will introduce a 7th and 8th grade program, tentatively scheduled to open for students in September 2025, pending any unforeseen delays or adjustments. MC will accept 100 students in its 7th grade and 100 students in its 8th grade. This development aims to build upon the remarkable 40% growth in enrollment observed over the past five years and the success of MC's codivisional model. Next year's high school enrollment is anticipated to surpass 900 students.

President John Thornburg made the announcement during Malden Catholic's 18th Annual Gala Celebration on April 6th, unveiling the launch of the capital campaign, *Our Essential Future – A Campaign for Malden Catholic*.

"We are excited to announce the first major campus expansion since Malden Catholic relocated to Crystal Street more than 55 years ago—a milestone moment that will enhance the MC experience for our students, faculty/staff, and the community," stated Thornburg.

"In addition to expanding and modernizing our campus, we are advancing our mission by extending the Xaverian Brothers' educational experience to 7th and 8th grade students. This expansion will lay a strong foundation, facilitating the transition into MC's college-preparatory high school programs. When I accepted this position at Malden Catholic five years ago, I was excited about our growth potential due to our unique codivisional model and the Board's decision to invest in a 1.6-acre property across the street. This announcement marks the next major phase in realizing our vision to grow our remarkable school. As we embark on this next chapter in



Artist rendering of the state-of-the-art academic and athletic facility.

the MC story, we are grateful to our many supporters, including our dear friend, mentor, and generous benefactor, the late Joe O'Donnell '62, who served as Co-Chair of the campaign before his passing in January 2024."

The 70,000 square foot building will include cutting-edge classrooms and lab spaces, a spacious dining hall and modern office facilities to support administrative needs and student services. The athletic facility will include a 30,000 square-foot indoor turf field, a 6,000 square-foot basketball court, wellness center and weight room. The Biomedical Engineering lab will facilitate the addition of more biomedical classes within MC's Project Lead the Way Program. Dedicated classrooms for Entrepreneurship and Financial Literacy will also be added to expand the growth of MC's Business Program.

The capital campaign – *Our Essential Future – A Campaign for Malden Catholic* - has a goal of \$40 million, which will serve to fund construction at 50 Crystal Street and increase scholarship support for students. The campaign is off to a strong start with impressive support from the MC community.

The *Our Essential Future* Campaign recognizes the com-

bined 180 years of outstanding educational services and faith formation provided to students from Malden and surrounding communities by the School Sisters of Notre Dame and the Xaverian Brothers. It aims to ensure that future generations will have the opportunity for an exceptional Catholic high school experience at Malden Catholic.

Jim and Bev Donovan, longtime benefactors to the school, have provided a \$5 million lead gift to the Campaign. Jim, who served for over 20 years as a Trustee at MC, including the last 10 years as Board Chair, will now serve as Co-Chair of the Campaign. He has been instrumental in every major strategic initiative during his tenure and played a crucial role in formulating plans for the campus expansion.

In a statement, Jim Donovan expressed his hopes: "As non-graduates, Bev and I hope our lead gift inspires the many thousands of men and women privileged to hold an MC or Girls Catholic diploma. This gift honors my father's service to the school as a custodian in the 50s and 60s, where he mentored many students and was a beloved friend and confidant of many Xaverian Brothers. It also honors my sister Elaine's service as a School Sister of Notre Dame. We

strongly believe that the young men and women of Malden, Medford, Everett, Revere, and the surrounding communities served by MC deserve the best educational platform and athletic facilities, and that the campus expansion at 50 Crystal Street will be truly transformative for them. It is our hope that the entire MC community will join us in making this a reality."

For more information about 7th and 8th grade enrollment at 50 Crystal Street and additional details about *Our Essential Future – A Campaign for Malden Catholic*, please visit the campaign website at www.maldencatholic.org/give/campaign-launch.

Malden Catholic would like to thank the following individuals for their invaluable contributions to the success of *Our Essential Future – A Campaign for Malden Catholic*:

Malden Catholic Advancement Team: Sean Hurley '97, CFO/VP of Advancement, Robert McCarthy P'07, Senior Director of Advancement and Strategic Partnerships, Gregory Maynard, Director of Major Gifts, Strategic Initiatives and Planned Giving, Sarah Hamilton, Esq., P'22, Director of Annual Gifts and Operations

Honorary Campaign Chairs:

Dr. Eugene F. Fama '56 and Sallyann (Dimeco) GC'56 and Ted Legasey '63 and Tricia (McNamara) GC'63

Campaign Co-Chairs: Joseph J. O'Donnell '62 and James R. Donovan Hon'11

Board Chair: Mason S. Tengel '74

Malden Catholic President: John K. Thornburg

Campaign Steering Committee: Patricia McWade GC'65, Rosemary (Boland) Phalen GC'69, Richard L. Sumberg '64, Brian J. Walsh '84 P'16, '18, '20

Campaign Leadership Committee: Mark T. Cannon '73, Richard F. Connolly, Jr. '57, Alicia Cooney P'21, Paul T. Fitzgerald, Esq. '81, Joseph J. Keough '88, Daniel J. Lawler '84, Daniel Passacantilli '90, Mark J. Sullivan '83

Parent Leadership Committee: Stephen J. Byrne '95, P'24, '26, Benjamin Marino P'22, '24, Colleen McGlynn Moody P'24, Craig Spadafora '91, P'26, '27, Peter Van Dorpe P'27

Since 1932, Malden Catholic High School has shaped emerging leaders in our community, claiming a Nobel Laureate, a Senator, two ambassadors and countless community and business heads among its alumni. Annually, graduates attend some of the nation's most renowned universities including Harvard, Princeton, Dartmouth, University of Chicago, Georgetown, Cornell, Brown, Tufts, Carnegie Mellon, Duke, Notre Dame, Northeastern, Boston College and College of the Holy Cross. Foundational to student success is Malden Catholic's codivisional model which offers the best of both worlds, single-gender academics during the day and integrated social and extracurricular opportunities after school. Malden Catholic is known in the community for its rigorous academics, SFX Scholars Program and award-winning STEM program. Malden Catholic curricula is designed to improve individual growth mindset, leadership principles and success outcomes along with integrating the Xaverian values of trust, humility, compassion, simplicity and zeal. <https://www.maldencatholic.org>.

NSCC faculty member honored with the Dale P. Parnell Faculty Distinction Recognition

Dr. Nicki Buscemi, a professor of English at North Shore Community College (NSCC), has been selected as one of only 36 faculty chosen nationwide, and the only honoree from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, for the 2024 Dale P. Parnell Faculty Distinction Recognition. The AACC Faculty Distinction Recognition, named in honor of former AACC President and CEO Dale P. Parnell, was established to recognize individuals making a difference in the classroom.



Dr. Nicki Buscemi.

Dr. Buscemi was honored, along with the other awardees, at the recent American Association of Community Colleges' (AACC) annual convention, held in Louisville, KY.

In an excerpt from Dr. Buscemi's nomination letter, submitted by Dr. Christian Bednar, Interim Assistant Provost at NSCC, Buscemi was lauded "as the consummate champion of access, equity and the liberal arts. Her teaching is exemplary; her college service, exceptional; and her dedication to students, unparalleled."

Now a Lynn resident, originally from the Midwest, Buscemi and her husband moved to Lynn in 2006, fell in love with the city and decided to stay to raise their children, who have gone through Lynn public schools. She joined NSCC in 2012 as an assistant professor in the English department, rising to become a full professor.

"I taught at various 4-year schools during and after earning my Ph.D. in English, but once I began teaching at NSCC, my students soon became my favorites! The vibrancy and wealth of experiences they brought to the classroom were unmatched, and the privilege of teaching them and being part of their journeys

recognition for work that I'm both proud of and love to do."

Buscemi earned a B.A. from Illinois Wesleyan University where she majored in English and minored in dance and philosophy; an M.A. in English from the University of Illinois at Chicago; and a Ph.D. in English from the University of Iowa. As part of her college service, she has served as a volunteer academic advisor in NSCC's Student Support and Advising Center in addition to serving on the Arts in April Committee, the Forum Steering Committee, the Governance Restructure Committee and as the chair on NSCC's Student Development Committee. For fun and having minored in dance, Buscemi has helped to choreograph several NSCC productions, including most recently the Spring 2023 play, a sci-fi parody called Fight Girl Battle World!

in and outside of the classroom pushed me to become a better instructor and to consider a host of factors that contribute to student success," said Buscemi. "Over the years, I've come to see teaching at a community college as my calling. Being named a Dale P. Parnell Distinguished Faculty honoree by the AACC has validated that belief. I feel deeply honored to have received this

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NORTH SHORE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HONOR SCHOLARS RECOGNITION DINNER

The North Shore Chamber of Commerce held its Honor Scholars Recognition Dinner at the DoubleTree Inn, Danvers. The top five percent of seniors academically in each graduating class from 35 high schools on the North Shore were honored at the dinner.



St. Mary's High School Senior Class Advisor Mike Jalbert (left) and Associate Head of School David Angeramo (right) with the St. Mary's High School honorees, from left, Nicole Hanlon (Valedictorian) Kaya Jackson, Kyle Kwiatek, Makenzie Petillo, Colby Kelly (Salutatorian), Nadia Del Sonno, Svetlana Parisi, and Daniela DiCostanzo. Not pictured: Giana Ribeiro and Nayeli Orellana.



Lynn Classical Principal Amy Dunn (left) and the Lynn Classical seniors who were honored at the North Shore Honor Scholars Recognition Dinner, including Wandelin Aquino Jr., Tyler Bobbitt, Rachel Dana, Jihane El Gaurroudi, Kiana Hong, Ashley Lazo, Brandon Lor, Andy Ly, Dominik Mazariegos, Katy Mendez Zacarias, Isabella Pha, Jayden Polonsky, Michael Raithel, Javier Rivera-Sauceda, Christofer Romero, and Sandra Tang.



Lynn Tech Principal Fred Gallo (right) is pictured with the Tech honorees, including Ryan Aguilar, Fernanda Aguirre Gonzalez, Matthew Charleau, Alans Cordova Debora, Esteban Cubides Ramirez, Triet Doan, Fernanda Lopez, Jolett Majano Licon, Astrid Marroquin Chavez, Myriam-Victoria Meloncourt, Oluwademilade Okusaya, Hector Perez Gonzalez, and Tin Fi Sopal. The photo of the Lynn English High School honorees at the dinner will appear in the next edition of the Lynn Journal.



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