The Magazine of Lancer Nation | Spring 2024

WORCESTER STATE

Spring Magazine Preview—We're Online!

Inspiration on Ice

Nick Penucci '23 is building his athletic career and inspiring the next generation as a youth hockey coach.

Story by Paul Davey '24. Photo by Matt Wright '10

Here's a sneak peek at some of this issue's great Lancer Nation stories—only available online at ***worcester.edu/magazine***

Grad students transformed by visit to Kenya

Education Department graduate students journeyed to Kenya last summer for a transformative experience filled with cultural connections, profound reflections, and, of course, lions, zebras, and giraffes.

University honors five distinguished alumni

Enjoy video highlights of the 2023 Distinguished Alumni Awards celebrating **Maryanne Hammond '69, M.Ed. '72, M.Ed. '77; David Cawley '74; Renah Razzaq '02, M.Ed. '09, Ph.D., Celia Johnston Blue '00;** and **George Annan '21.**

Scan the **QR code** or visit ***worcester.edu/magazine*** to read more.

2024 Spring Magazine Preview

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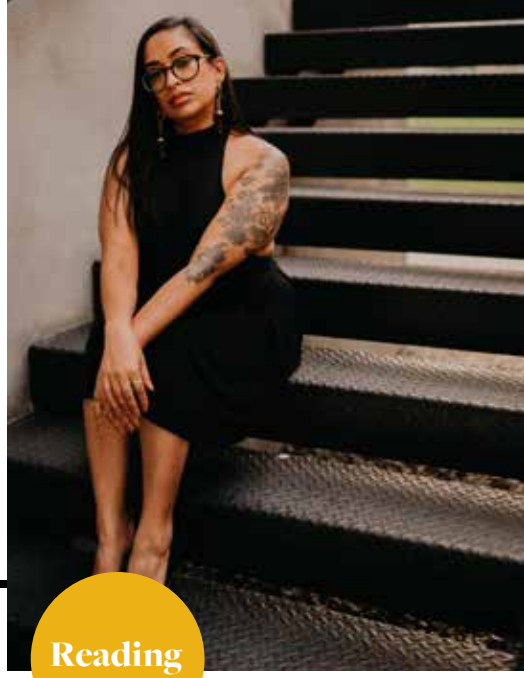

Reading

False Offering by Professor Rita Mookerjee

Dr. Rita Mookerjee talks "white space," Eastern and Western religions, and *Sailor Moon* in a conversation about her first full-length book of poetry, *False Offering*.

Telescope collection on loan to Worcester State opens up the universe for students and faculty

» Worcester State students can now reach for the stars thanks to a recent long-term loan of modern and antique telescopes that promise to offer a stellar opportunity for learning and research.

Story and photos by Nancy Sheehan

Worcester State physicist collaborates with scientists in Nepal to tackle air pollution

Professor Nabin Malakar traveled to his native Nepal on a Fulbright grant last fall and is working with local scientists to improve air pollution.

Scan the **QR code** or visit ***worcester.edu/magazine*** to read more.

Athletics

Women athletes shine

From ice hockey and field hockey titles to new school records in track and field, **women's athletics** at Worcester State is enjoying a spectacular run of success on and off the field.

Story by Mallory Dupuis '26

Building career relationships one internship at a time

Alumnus **Patrick Sweeney '20, M.S. '21**, and Worcester business McLaren & Associates are helping accounting students get a head start on their careers.

Students learn about human rights by reading censored, restricted, and banned books

Book bannings are happening in libraries and schools across the country. A new course by **Professor MaryLynn Saul** encourages students to examine human rights issues by reading a selection of banned books.

Story by Rebecca Cross

In Memoriam

Worcester State alumni and community members who passed between April 1, 2023 and February 1, 2024

5 Questions for Brittany Rheault '07, Chief Operating Officer of United Fray

» "Making fun possible is the best," says the former student-athlete. "What I love most about my career is that no day is the same. Social sports give people the opportunity to make friends, build community while doing something they love."

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY

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2024 Spring Calendar

Saturday, May 11

10 a.m. Dedication of the Capt. Ross A. Reynolds '17 memorial fountain

11 a.m. Classes of 1964 and 1969 Reunion Luncheon

Friday, May 17

10:30 a.m. Cheers to 65 Years Champagne Toast for Class of 1959

11:30 a.m. Golden Graduate Luncheon

11:30 a.m. Class of 1974 50th Reunion

5:30 p.m. Psychology Alumni Reunion Reception

6 p.m. Party on the Eve

Saturday, May 18

3 p.m. 50th Reunion Celebration at Polar Park

Monday, June 3

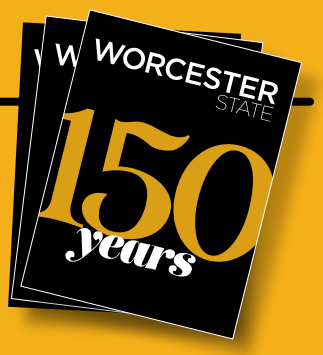
9 a.m.-4 p.m. Worcester State Foundation Golf Tournament, Wachusett Country Club and Kettle Brook Golf Club

Thursday, June 13

6-8 p.m. Young Alumni President's Circle, Courthouse Brew Co.

Coming in Fall 2024

Worcester State University celebrates its 150th Anniversary with a special commemorative issue of ***Worcester State Magazine***. Be sure to update your mailing address to receive the anniversary magazineby visiting ***alumni.worcester.edu/updateinformation***.



Scan the **QR code** or visit **alumni.worcester.edu/events** for more details and to register for spring events.