LAURELS

SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE SUCCESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

VOL. 13, ISSUE 2 FALL 2026



Gemma Bartha



Joseph J. Kele



Megan E. Frazier



Samuel A.E. Headley

PUBLICATIONS

Gemma Bartha, assistant professor of Biology, and **Joseph J. Kele**, EdD, assistant professor of Biology, co-authored "Enhancing student engagement with digital badges: A mock micro-credentialing approach" in the *Journal of College Science Teaching* in June 2026.

Minseok Cho, PhD, assistant professor of Sport Management, co-authored "AI-personalized sports experiences: The moderating role of fan identification" in the *International Journal of Sports Marketing and Sponsorship* in August 2026. In an earlier issue of that journal (April 2026), Cho co-authored "Strategic self-presentation and personal brand management of professional female athletes on Instagram."

Laurel R. Davis-Delano, PhD, professor of Sociology, co-authored "Inclusive elimination: How white Americans oppose Native nation sovereignty using 'Our Land' and 'Our Laws' narratives" in *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity* in 2026. Her co-author was Theresa Rocha Beardall from the University of Washington.

Laurel R. Davis-Delano, PhD, professor of Sociology; **Elizabeth M. Morgan**, PhD, professor of Psychology and associate vice president for Academic Affairs; and **Michael M. Gale**, PhD, associate professor of Psychology, co-authored "Liberal white Americans' endorsement of and grappling with harmful positive racial stereotypes" in *Ethnic and Racial Studies* in 2026. Their co-authors were Anna Kawennison Fetter from Duke University School of Medicine and Renee V. Galliher from Utah State University.

Melih Elcin, MD, assistant dean for Interprofessional Education in the School of Health Sciences, co-authored "Simulation-enhanced cognitive behavioral intervention for professional performance anxiety in nursing students: A pilot study" in the *Journal of Behavioral and Cognitive Therapy* in August 2026.

Adam E. Feit, PhD, assistant professor of Applied Exercise Science and program director, co-authored "An exploration of psychological skills and strategies in Division-I strength and conditioning" in the *International Journal of Strength and Conditioning*. His co-authors were **Elizabeth Mullin**, PhD, professor of Exercise Science and Sport Studies and assistant vice provost for Faculty Affairs; **Jasmin Hutchinson**, PhD, professor of Exercise Science; and **Brian Thompson**, PhD, faculty emeritus.

Megan E. Frazier, DPT, assistant professor of Physical Therapy, co-authored "Physical therapy management of children with developmental coordination disorder: A 2026 evidence-based clinical practice guideline from the American Physical Therapy Association Academy of Pediatric Physical Therapy" in *Pediatric Physical Therapy* in April 2026.

Chris Hakala, PhD, professor of Psychology and executive director of the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship, co-authored "Feel stuck in a teaching rut? Try 'booping'" in *Inside Higher Ed* in April 2026.

Samuel A.E. Headley, PhD, professor of Exercise Physiology, and **Elizabeth O'Neill**, DPE, professor of Exercise Science, contributed to the publication of "Academic preparation and internship expectations for clinical exercise physiologist: Focus on cardiopulmonary rehabilitation programs" in the *Journal of Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation and Prevention* in July 2026.



Jenny E. Krichevsky



Christopher Abdullah



Debra Burnett



Melih Elcin

Jasmin Hutchinson, PhD, professor of Exercise Science, co-authored "Strategies to improve the affective experience of exercise" in *The Handbook of Physical Activity and Cognitive Neuroscience* in June 2026. Her co-author was **Ross Leach**, a doctoral student in Sport and Exercise Psychology, Graduate Class of 2028.

Loni Kearney, DMSc, PA-C, associate professor of Physician Assistant Studies, authored "Renal colic in the ED: Consider POCUS first" in the *Journal of the American Academy of Physician Associates* in October 2026.

Jenny E. Krichevsky, PhD, assistant professor of Literature, Writing, and Journalism, wrote the chapter "The Soviet Vinyl Collection" in *Writing Artifacts* in 2026.

Micaela Lavoie, DMSc, PA-C, Physician Assistant Studies adjunct faculty, authored "What is causing this athlete's back pain" in the *Journal of the American Academy of Physician Associates* in October 2026.

Paul Thifault, PhD, professor of English, published as editor Volume 46.1 of the archival research journal *Resources for American Literary Study* in October 2026. **Maegan Boucher**, a double-major in English and History, Class of 2026, was his editorial assistant.

Lori Vaughn, professor of Occupational Therapy and doctoral capstone coordinator, co-authored "Introduction to Neurodiversity" (Chapter 1) in *Neurodiversity Affirming Occupational Therapy: Empowering Approaches to Fostering Neurodivergent Participation* in April 2026. Her co-author was **Christopher Edwards**, ODT'25.

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

Christopher Abdullah, PhD, assistant professor of Biology, co-authored "Investigating enzymatic activity and disease-linked mutations of non-lysosomal Beta-glucosylceramide 2 through in vitro and in vivo approaches in Drosophila Melanogaster" at the American Chemical Society Conference National Meeting in Atlanta, Ga., in May 2026. Also in March 2026, Abdullah co-presented "From bacterial defense to genome editing: Assessing student learning from a CRISPR case study" at the Society of the Advancement of Biology Education Research East Conference in Rochester, N.Y.

Debra Burnett, PhD, associate professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders and chair of the Department of Social Work, co-presented "Elevating excellence in AI for academic leaders: Save time, solve problems, surprise yourself" for the Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders Annual Conference in Denver, Colo., in April 2026.

Laurel R. Davis-Delano, PhD, professor of Sociology, co-presented a workshop titled "Sociology needs an infusion: Adding settler colonialism and contemporary Native peoples to the recipe" at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association in New York, N.Y., in August 2026. Her co-presenters were Melissa Horner-Patrone, the 2026-2028 Charles Eastman Fellow in Native American and Indigenous Studies at Dartmouth College (and doctoral student at the University of Missouri), and Kimberly R. Huyser from the University of British Columbia. At the same conference, Davis-Delano also co-presented the paper "Inclusive elimination: How white Americans oppose Native nation sovereignty using 'Our Land' and 'Our Laws' narratives" at the Indigenous Peoples and Native Nations Section. Her co-presenter was Theresa Rocha Beardall from the University of Washington.

Melih Elcin, MD, assistant dean for Interprofessional Education in the School of Health Sciences, co-presented (as a panelist) "Simulation in healthcare education and practice" at the Northeast Consortium for Interprofessional Education and Innovative Practice Conference, North Haven, Conn., in September 2026. Elcin also presented "Whose story is being simulated? Advancing inclusion in healthcare simulation" at the Simulation Operations (SimOps) Conference in Tampa, Fla., in July 2026. And in June 2026, Elcin presented online "The line between human simulation and AI" at the Artificial Intelligence and Simulation in Health Professions Education Congress in Trabzon, Turkiye.



Jasmin Hutchinson



Ariel Rodriguez



Lisa E. Watson



Anthony C. Hill

Christian L. Escalona, graduate fellow in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program (Graduate Class of 2027), presented "The body speaks: What the mind suppresses, the body expresses" at the RiseUp: From Healing to Thriving Conference at the MassMutual Center in Springfield, Mass., in October 2026.

Adam E. Feit, PhD, assistant professor of Applied Exercise Science and program director, presented "Bringing mental skills to the weight room: Practical strategies for integrating sport psychology into strength and conditioning sessions" at the Association of Applied Sport Psychology Conference in Minneapolis, Minn., in October 2026.

Mary Kate Feit, PhD, associate professor of Strength and Conditioning, presented "Beating burnout: Work-life balance in strength and conditioning: Making it all work as a coach, parent, and more" at the National Strength and Conditioning Association National Conference in New Orleans, La., in July 2026. At the same conference, Feit co-presented "Innovative teaching methods for developing an effective strength and conditioning internship curriculum."

Jasmin Hutchinson, PhD, professor of Exercise Science, presented "The feel-good factor: Optimizing perceptual and affective responses during exercise" at the International Society of Sport Psychology Conference in Hong Kong, China, in December 2025.

Assistant professors of Biology **Joseph J. Kele** (EdD), **Gemma Bartha**, **Brittany Velikaneyev** (PhD), and **Mindi Fried** (DC), along with **Kevin Courchesne**, assistant professor of Chemistry, co-presented "Launchpad to success: Building student readiness through preparatory courses" at the Association for Biology Laboratory Education Annual Conference in Boston in June 2026.

Matt Mills, EdD, assistant professor of Athletic Training, co-presented "Legal and ethical implications of technology in the clinic and the classroom" at the National Athletic Trainers' Association Clinical Symposia & AT Expo in Philadelphia, Pa., in June 2026.

Michelle E. Moosbrugger, PhD, professor of Physical Education and Health Education and department chair, co-presented "Task progressions: Small changes, big results" at the SHAPE Delaware Conference in Milford, Del., in September 2026. Her co-presenter was Paul Rukavina, professor at Adelphi University. At the same conference, Moosbrugger co-presented "Rethinking repetition: Dynamic physical education for all skill levels." Her co-presenters were Springfield College students **Abby Hemstrought**, Class of 2028 (Physical Education), and **Olivia Sevigny** '26, Graduate Class of 2028 (Athletic Leadership).

Ariel Rodríguez, PhD, associate professor of Recreation Industries and Therapeutic Recreation, presented "Recreation as a lens for global learning" at the virtual 2026 American Association of Colleges and Universities Conference on Global Learning in October 2026.

Amy Sereday, MS, Springfield College ombuds, served as a panelist for Columbia University School of Professional Studies' "Difficult Conversations: Understanding People, Power, and Perspectives," at the university in April 2026. The panel explored how power, identity, emotion, and differing perspectives shape difficult workplace conversations, with particular attention to conflict navigation, inclusive dialogue, and creating healthier organizational cultures. Sereday contributed perspectives from her work in organizational conflict, ombuds practice, and conflict capacity-building.

Lisa E. Watson, PhD, associate professor of Social Work, and **Anthony C. Hill**, EdD, professor of Social Work, co-presented "'All Eyes on Me': Building the resiliency and representation of BIPOC social workers within children's behavioral health" at the Children's Mental Health Matters Conference in Newton, Mass., in May 2026. At the same conference, **Gayle Crump-Swaby**, EdD, professor of Counseling and THRIVE mentor, co-presented "From barriers to belonging: Bridging the workforce gap through mentorship." Her co-presenter was **Kerby Samedi-Tropnas**, G'26, (THRIVE Scholar 2025-26).



Chris Hakala



Loni Kearney



Matt Mills



Pamela Sangeloty Higgins

Lisa E. Watson, PhD, associate professor of Social Work, co-presented "Culturally responsive mentoring of BIPOC students: 'I can just be my authentic self'" at the Council on Social Work Education's Annual Conference in Atlanta, Ga., in October 2026. Her co-presenters were **Gayle Crump-Swaby**, EdD, professor of Counseling and THRIVE mentor, and **Kerby Samedi-Tropnas**, G'26, (THRIVE Scholar 2025-26).

AWARDS

In November 2026, the **Office of Marketing staff** won the Best of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District I Award for Videos (Promotional Short) for its "One in a Million" Giving Day campaign. The staff created a five-week video series released weekly across social media and integrated into donor emails. The campaign targeted a broad, mission-driven audience of alumni, parents, faculty, staff, students, and community supporters with the strategic goal of raising $1 million in 24 hours to make Giving Day history and directly support the Humanics mission.

APPOINTMENTS AND COMMITTEES

Chris Hakala, PhD, professor of Psychology and executive director of the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship, was appointed in September 2026 to a three-year term as a Core Committee member on the board of directors for the Professional and Organizational Developers (POD Network). The Core Committee is the leadership committee for POD, the national organization of Teaching Centers. Serving on the committee is critical work in helping shape the landscape of educational development across the U.S. and internationally.

Loni Kearney, DMSc, PA-C, associate professor of Physician Assistant Studies, was appointed in August 2026 as chair of the Physician Assistant Clinical Knowledge Rating and Assessment Tool Exam Development Board for the Physician Assistant Education Association.

Matt Mills, EdD, assistant professor of Athletic Training, was elected president-elect of the Connecticut Athletic Trainers' Association for a two-year term, which began in May 2026.

Pamela Sangeloty Higgins, MS, MPH, professor of Health Science, was appointed by the UConn Health SBIRT Training Academy as a consultant on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control Overdose Data to Action in States CDC-RFA-CE-23-0002 (May 2026 to August 2029). The CT Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) Training Academy, located at UConn Health, is collaborating with the Connecticut Comprehensive Pain Center (CCPC) to provide training for health care providers to incorporate SBIRT services into their clinical practices.

GRANTS AND SPONSORED RESEARCH

Maggie Daingerfield, PT, DPT, NCS, assistant professor of Physical Therapy, and **Elizabeth O'Neill**, DPE, professor of Exercise Science and department chair, were awarded a $2,100 grant by the Massachusetts chapter of the American Parkinson's Disease Association in August 2026. This community grant for the STRIDE for Parkinson's Program funds a collaborative exercise class for community members with Parkinson's disease.

Mark D. McCarthy, PhD, associate professor of Literacy Education and chair of the Department of Education, announced that the Irene E. & George A. Davis Foundation awarded Springfield College a $56,225 grant in June 2026 in support of its early literacy preparation programs. The project will partner the College with HILL for Literacy, a leading Massachusetts literacy organization that collaborates closely with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and school districts across the state. Together, they will provide 10 professional learning sessions for the College's teacher candidates focused on curriculum literacy and the effective implementation of high-quality instructional materials.



Jennifer Dashiell-Shoffner



Amy Sereday



Allison Martel



James O'Brien

Jennifer Dashiell-Shoffner, PhD, associate professor of counseling and coordinator of the Rehabilitation, Disability Studies, and Counseling minor program, and **Allison Cumming-McCann**, PhD, professor and program director of Counseling and chair of the Department of Counseling, were awarded a $25,000 grant in May 2026 from the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School to develop and implement an experiential Respite Based Service-Learning (RBSL) course for Massachusetts colleges. The RBSL program connects families in need of qualified respite care providers with appropriately trained undergraduate students while offering undergraduate students meaningful, hands-on experience in disability services and community engagement.

ENDEAVORS

Laurel R. Davis-Delano, PhD, professor of Sociology, and Theresa Rocha Beardall from the University of Washington, discussed their article, "Inclusive elimination: How white Americans oppose Native nation sovereignty using 'Our Land' and 'Our Laws' narratives" (published in *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity* in 2026), on the Sage Sociology Podcast in October 2026.

Martin Dobrow, professor of Communications, was featured on the podcasts "So That Reminds Me" and "The Fabulous 413" in October 2026 discussing his book, *Original City, Original Sin: King, the Klan, and the Fight for Civil Rights in St. Augustine, Florida.*

Chris Hakala, PhD, professor of Psychology and executive director of the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship, discussed "Conversations About Teaching 'N Stuff" on the PsychSessions Podcast in August 2026.

Pamela Sangeloty Higgins, MS, MPH, professor of Health Science, worked with Vision Health International (VHI) in August 2026, along with a team of 14 other providers, to provide eye exams to more than 500 residents of the Blackfeet Nation Reservation in Browning, Mont., and to prescribe 400 new pairs of glasses to Native Americans. VHI is a private, nonprofit organization that provides free eye exams, surgeries, and eyeglasses in low-access communities, including U.S. reservations and urban safety-net settings, as well as through international partnerships.

Amy Sereday, MS, Springfield College ombuds, has earned the International Ombuds Association's (IOA) new Certified Organizational Ombuds designation. Sereday previously held the Certified Organizational Ombuds Practitioner (CO-OP®) credential and is among the early practitioners to transition to IOA's newly established certification.

Sherri VandenAkker, PhD, professor of English, had photographs accepted into the 2026 "Spring National" and "Autumn National" juried shows at the Cape Cod Art Center in Barnstable, Mass., where she is a juried fine arts photographer. Her image "Snowy Magic" was awarded Honorable Mention in the Center's "Shadow Play" national juried online exhibit. She also had photographs accepted into the Variations 2026 national juried show at the Marblehead Arts Association in Marblehead, Mass.; the 16th Annual Fine Art of Photography nationally juried show at the Plymouth Center for the Arts; and the 2026 "Celebrate Our Waters" national juried show in Orleans, Mass.

MEDIA APPEARANCES AND MENTIONS

Laurel R. Davis-Delano
Quoted in *Sunday Republican* article titled, "Owning up to 'warts of our history'"
10/11/265

Marty Dobrow
Author of *Original City, Original Sin: King, the Klan, and the Fight for Civil Rights in St. Augustine, Florida*
MassLive
10/12/26

Allison Martel and James O'Brien
Quoted in New England Public Media article titled, "Rethinking critical thinking in the age of AI"
06/3/26

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