



LANDMARK  
COLLEGE

# COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2023  
CLICK FAMILY SPORTS CENTER,  
LANDMARK COLLEGE

10:00 a.m.

Putney, Vermont

# Commencement

Saturday, December 16, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

**Academic Procession** Joshua Moyle, *Mace Bearer*  
Jarad Weeks, *Bagpipes*,  
Trustees, Faculty, Staff, and Graduates

**Invocation** Michael Luciani,  
*Vice President for Student Affairs*

**Welcome** Dr. Peter Eden, *President*

**Musical Interlude** The Landmark College Ensemble & Chorus

**Presentation of Awards**  
Community Service Award Michael Luciani  
Academic Deans' Award Dr. Karrie Kalich,  
*Vice President for Academic Affairs*  
Undergraduate Student Research Award Dr. Adam Lalor,  
*Vice President for Neurodiversity Research and Innovation*  
Charles Drake Award Dr. Peter Eden  
President's Award Dr. Peter Eden

**Conferring of Degrees** Dr. Peter Eden  
Dr. Karrie Kalich

**Class Gift Presentation** Fall Class of 2023

**Alumni Welcome** Tricia Stanley, *Director of Alumni Relations*

**Alma Mater** The Landmark College Ensemble,  
Chorus, & Community

**Closing Remarks** Ana Maria Mellado, *Trustee*

**Recessional** Landmark College Ensemble

**Landmark College Ensemble:** Sarah Matkins, flute; Frank Klucken, violin; Pamela Sheffler, violin; Zach Winga, alto saxophone; Val Proskauer Valerio, tenor saxophone; Ted Wirt, clarinet; Kevin Keith, baritone horn; Adam Piekarsky, synthesizer; Stephen Glover, piano; Greg Despines, percussion

**The Landmark College Chorus:** Lua Amanat, Alyssa Cialdea, Sabrina Cohn, Gregory Despines, Ari Ferber, Elena Gertsek, Meredith Hoover, Maximus Jarl, Kieran Jennings, Charlotte Jones, Ren Klein, Sage Labbe, Adam Lee, Richard Little, Devin McHale, Val Proskauer Valerio, Ian Rottman, Awandeh Sallah, Quill Seilhan, Macy Scheldberg, Sam Spinney, Liam Smith, Katherine Magee

*Please join us in the Dining Hall for a reception in honor of the graduates.*

## 2023 Fall Graduates

### Associate of Arts

#### General Studies

Eliana Ashkinaze  
David Boddy  
Kevin Hoffman  
Miller Howrey  
Aidan Kipp  
Brianna Rivera  
Felicia Rivera  
Molly Talbot

#### Liberal Studies

Kieran Jennings  
Jean-Paul Jouët\*  
Eric Larson\*  
Michael McBee  
Ian McCrory  
Hannah Swift\*  
Myles Trachtenberg  
Charles Upchurch  
Olivia Venkus\*  
Jonah Wright  
Marion Yager  
Gabe Zakaraia-Cavanagh

#### Business Studies

Jennie Curtis

### Bachelor of Science

*Each baccalaureate student was required to complete a capstone project of their choosing.*

#### Computer Science

Derek Hidalgo: "Spaceship Trio: An arcade style 2D game"

Ryan Pacheco: "Tricia De La Random: A Computerized Tricia Game"

Zachary Mankowitz<sup>o</sup>: "Mino-Card Dungeon Escape: A Text-Based Adventure Game"

Ellie Simon: "EasyWrite: A long short convolution network for detecting handwritten letters"

#### Life Science

Domnica Horst-Loy\*: "Educational Tools for Teaching Inflammation"

Sophia Jajodia: "Synthesis of Sulfa Drugs: Adaptations for a Cure Project"

- <sup>o</sup> Golden Key Honor Society
- \* Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society
- <sup>^</sup> Communication
- <sup>Ω</sup> Psychology
- <sup>μ</sup> Humanities
- <sup>€</sup> Environmental Science
- <sup>▣</sup> Education
- <sup>∞</sup> Computer Science

- ◆ AIE-STEMPLOS scholars are a group of students at Landmark College that receive scholarship funds from the NSF and participate in cohort activities related to identifying and participating in internship activities. Students are in the A.S. or B.S. Life Science or Computer Science programs.

## 2023 Fall Graduates

### Bachelor of Arts

*Each baccalaureate student was required to complete a capstone project of their choosing.*

#### Liberal Studies

Alexander Bair: *"An Online Sexual Harassment Training for Landmark Student Employees"*

David Danon: *"Minoritized Mural-Making: A Guide to Art Made by (sometimes) Invisible Vermonters"*

Benjamin Heath: *"Mindful Adventures: Exploring Outdoor Education and Mindfulness"*

Maximus Jarl: *"A Proposal to Create a Landmark College DEI Mini-Grant Program"*

Owen Karr: *"Climate Change Communication Through Expository Documentary Films"*

Nicholas Payne: *"Gaming, Gender, and Inclusivity"*

Cameron Witt: *"That One Class: A Comic Strip"*

#### Communication & Entrepreneurial Leadership

Ziad Almuzaini: *"Landmark College in Abu Dhabi"*

Dylan Basora-Kennelly: *"Leaf Peepers and Their Effect on Business"*

Ethan Glover: *"Artists of Putney"*

#### Psychology

Eric Guditz: *"Social Psychology Insight on Social Media and Mental Health"*

Genevieve Hanna: *"Animal-Assisted Support for Young Adults with Autism"*

Spencer Morgan: *"Using Theory of Mind to Increase Diversity Among NFL Head Coaches"*

Elvis Mullen: *"Attachment Theory-Based Perinatal Workshop for Separation Anxiety"*

Michael Poulin: *"Using Social Identity Theory to Counter the Effects of Stereotype Threat in Female Athletes"*

Leo Premru: *"A Cultural-Historical Approach to Personality and Hellenistic Astrology"*

Nicolas Sinaiko: *"Universal Design Practices for Digital and Visual Media in the Classroom"*

David Stephen Soltero: *"A Biopsychosocial Approach to HR Practices and Accommodations for ADHD"*

#### Integrated Arts

Liam Miller: *"Trajectories of Healing"*

## 2023 Fall Graduates

### Post-Baccalaureate

#### Certificate in Learning Differences and Neurodiversity

Amy Breton  
Sandra Burner  
Colleen Calcagni  
Michaela Cavicchio  
Amanda Champany  
Julie Clarke  
Michelle Deal  
Danielle Gillespie  
Michelle Glennon  
Mary Kate Hall  
Derek Harrison  
Jill Hinckley  
Cynthia House  
Julia Kelahan  
Cindy Lazard-Hunt  
Aimee Look  
Christin Monroe  
Naomi Radio  
Ruth Shields  
Meghan Simoni  
Kelly Smith  
Putnam Smith  
Jessica Tourtellotte-Palumbo  
Erin Upchurch

## About the Awards

**THE COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD** is given to the student or students who have unselfishly given of themselves to the activities of the Landmark College community.

**THE ACADEMIC DEANS' AWARD** is given to the student or students who have best demonstrated the qualities that define academic successes at Landmark College. These qualities include hard work, seriousness toward learning, intellectual development, and measurable achievement such as grades.

**UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD** is presented to one, or more, graduating student each semester at commencement. Eligibility is based on active engagement in a research project under the supervision of a faculty and/or staff member for at least one semester or intersession term. Engagement in research includes, but is not limited to, research undertaken as part of an internship, the LCIRT Research Mentorship Program, and College- or grant-funded systematic investigations.

**THE CHARLES DRAKE AWARD** is awarded to a student or students whose personal qualities inspire the Landmark College community. This student is not a quitter, but is one who lives in the tradition of Dr. Charles Drake, whose lifetime of vision and courage helped to found the College. This is a student who gives 100 percent, who goes the extra mile, and who perseveres in the pursuit of his or her goals. This student helps the rest of us realize that we have more resources to draw upon than we think, and helps us keep going when we feel discouraged.

**THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD** is given to the student who has best exemplified the principles we believe in here at Landmark College. This student is talented and energetic, meets difficulties head-on, works hard and is dedicated to their studies. This student also finds time to contribute to the well-being of other persons and to the life of the Landmark College community as a whole.

## COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

December, 2023

### Ziad Almuzaini

Ziad, from your very first semester at Landmark you demonstrated focus, academic integrity, and independence. This made my job as your academic advisor easy! I have enjoyed seeing you grow here at Landmark, academically and socially. I especially appreciate that you've brought your experiences as an international student to your class content—this is a benefit to all of us. You've always had clear goals and plans for your future, including setting up an internship back home in Kuwait a few summers ago. Congratulations on your graduation, and best wishes for success in the future.

**Jessica Lindoerfer**

### Eliana Ashkinaze

*"It took me quite a long time to develop a voice, and now that I have it, I am not going to be silent." – Madeleine Albright*

Eliana, this day marks not only the triumph of achieving your associate degree, but also a new beginning in your academic career. More than this, the past year will be remembered for the personal growth you achieved as you stepped into your potential and found your voice. As you move forward with your bachelor's degree, I have no doubt that the full power of your intellect will be heard and understood by all those you seek to influence.

**Margie Salvante**

### Alexander Bair

I have gotten to know you well across several psychology courses and for two years as your baseball coach. During this time, I have witnessed your tremendous growth as a student and, more importantly, a person. Despite your quiet nature, your rare combination of confidence, passion, and care has had a noticeable impact on the lives of those around you. It's been a pleasure watching you learn to harness these qualities as you've progressed towards your goal of graduating from LC.

**Tim Beck**

## Dylan Basora-Kennelly

Your journey at Landmark was truly remarkable to be a witness to. Despite facing substantial challenges that might have deterred others, you not only embraced every opportunity Landmark had to offer, but you also overcame hurdles that could make anyone question the path ahead. Nonetheless, you found ways to persevere, remaining dedicated to pursuing your education and staying committed to your journey despite the obstacles. As you step into the world beyond these familiar grounds, your resilience, kindness, and dedication will continue to shine brightly, illuminating the path toward a brighter future. Always remember that you can do anything you put your mind to. Congratulations, Dylan, and may the future hold boundless opportunities for you to continue making a meaningful difference.

**Nicole Pacenka**

## David Boddy

*“Success is almost totally dependent upon drive and persistence. The extra energy required to make another effort or try another approach is the secret of winning.” – Denis Waitley*

David, when I think about your time at Landmark College, the word tenacity comes to mind. No doubt there were challenges and setbacks, but here you are with your associate degree in hand, ready to embark on the next leg of your learning journey. Each of us has our own brand of brilliance, but it is how we use it that makes the difference. Your best qualities of loyalty, compassion, and commitment to your goals will be the lights that guide you in crafting the future that you dream of.

**Margie Salvante**

## Jennie Curtis

Your time here at Landmark has been marked with growth and self-understanding. You have high expectations of the work you deliver, and you push yourself to achieve your goals. You have discovered strengths that have allowed you to overcome challenges with determination and never-ending persistence. What has impressed me the most is how you seek connections between yourself and course content, in which you develop your unique understanding of the world. You have grown incredibly at Landmark, and I wish you the best in your future academic and career pursuits. Congratulations, Jennie—you did it!

**Jeanette Landin**

## David Danon

David, one of my favorite classes (and one in which I enjoyed having you as a student) is Civic Engagement. A goal of this course is to get students off campus and into the broader Putney community. Perhaps you should have been a teaching assistant for me since you are the student that I’m most likely to encounter “around town”—either on one of your long walks or at a community event. Even your capstone project focused on the Vermont community that you’ve encountered since coming to Landmark. I hope that you continue this engagement, taking your ideas and experience to the communities where you find yourself in the future.

**Peg Alden**

## Ethan Glover

Ethan, I have come to know you since our first business class together in 2018. You have tremendous perseverance and self-awareness that sets you apart from other people. I admire how you have grown in self-confidence and matured into a young adult who is ready to enter the professional world. Witnessing your growth and the self-efficacy accompanying it has been a privilege. Congratulations on your Bachelor of Arts in Communication and Entrepreneurial Leadership—well done!

**Jeanette Landin**

## Julian Gooding-Williams

Julian, I am pleased to write this graduation tribute for you and even more pleased to have been your academic advisor for the past two years. Besides being a very strong student, you have such vast knowledge about so many different topics, many of which you are very passionate about. Whether it is discussing the value of baseball cards, baseball players, or animals, I’ve learned so much from you and I will miss our spirited conversations. Congratulations on all the contributions you’ve made to Landmark College, including playing on the soccer, basketball, and baseball teams as well as your work in the CDI, especially in ROTO and Rise Up. I will leave it here with a quote from one of the greats, Babe Ruth: “Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game.”

**Eve Khan**

## Eric Guditz

We first met at an Open House when you were making the rounds with your family. You spoke knowledgeably and gently about college and your interest in psychology. Whatever backstory brought you to Landmark College, I could tell you knew a lot about psych. “Okay,” I thought, “better bring my A-game to keep up with him.” What I didn’t realize at the time was how hard you worked to create that knowledge base. Your apparent ease with psychology belied a labor-intensive learning process with many ups and downs. You stuck with it. You did the work. Determination and grit are among the gifts you have given this community, and I am honored to acknowledge your achievement in psychology.

**Solvegi Shmulsky**

## Genevieve Hanna

What a pleasure it is to celebrate Genevieve’s accomplishments as she receives her B.A. in Psychology from Landmark College today. I first met Genevieve during the summer of 2021 when she was a thoughtful and engaged student in my Positive Psychology course. Genevieve impresses me as a determined and empathetic young woman. She researched *Animal-Assisted Support for Young Adults with Autism* for her senior seminar project. On campus she has been active as a Resident Assistant in both the summer high school program and during the academic year, and she currently serves as a Campus Ambassador. Congratulations Genevieve, and very best wishes to you today and always.

**Linda Kerr**

## Ben Heath

What can I say, Ben? It has been such a privilege to have you as an advisee and student over the time that you’ve been at Landmark. I’m pretty sure that seeing your name on their class roster elicits a “YES!” from any professor because you can be counted on to bring insight and integrity to every setting. I hope that you take advantage of your minor in education and continue your work as an educator, Ben. You have so much to offer, and our educational systems desperately needs teachers (particularly men) like you. It’s sad for me that I won’t be seeing you around campus, but I take solace in knowing that we can now shift from the professor-student role to being friends and educational colleagues. Keep in touch.

**Peg Alden**

## Derek Hidalgo

It was an honor to be asked to write a tribute for Derek. Derek is a conscientious student who is attentive in class and takes his work and deadlines seriously. As importantly, he is a kind, upbeat, and respectful person, who has enthusiasm for all aspects of class: the relationships he has with me and his peers, the content that is presented and the projects that are assigned. I have never heard Derek complain either about a course’s structure/content, nor the requirements of an assignment; if he does not understand assignment requirements, often a single conversation will help him grasp what is expected. Derek works exceptionally well with peers on group projects; he is both able to contribute his own design and coding ideas, as well as to happily go along with other’s suggestions. He naturally has negotiation and collaboration skills that take some software professionals many years to learn. After he graduates, he will be long remembered and greatly missed (though I do hope he stays in touch).

**Karina Assiter**

## Kevin Hoffman

I’ve admired your talent for nurturing a vibrant and uplifting atmosphere among your social circle. Your infectious positivity and authentic zest for life are truly exceptional and serve as a source of inspiration for everyone around you. Your commitment to your passions is truly motivating, and I wish you all the success in your future endeavors. Keep shining as the incredible person you are.

**Isaac Alam**

## Domnica Horst-Loy

Domnica shows unusual aptitude for the challenging study of histology: the ability to make sense of cells and tissues under the microscope, or, as I like to think of it, the ability to “find the masterpieces in the miniature.” Thus, Dom, I offer my best life advice to you in histological terms. First, the object of your attention must be prepared well for detailed examination. Second, be sure to use the correct lenses to find what you are looking for; perspective is important! Finally, remember that you may need to look through many different fields of view before the masterpieces become evident! I look forward to hearing about your future microscope adventures!

**Kimberly D. Coleman**

## Miller Howry

It is rare that I meet someone who can say with confidence exactly what they are most passionate about in life. When you first shared with me that you wanted to be a professional chef, I could feel your excitement. While there were many times during our psychology classes together when you seemed excited about ideas, I could tell this was different. I have no doubt that this passion will fuel a successful future both inside and out of the kitchen.

**Tim Beck**

## Sophia Jajodia

I wonder what the reaction would be of Sophia's past self (when she first started chemistry) about the decision to do a chemistry-based capstone? It is amazing to see how much Sophia has grown both in confidence and her knowledge of chemistry. Her confidence was reflected in her leadership role in the 2023 Landmark College National Chemistry week YouTube video, where she demonstrated pH experiments with milk of magnesia. She has demonstrated versatility and solid safety practices, even when working with more dangerous chemical reactions. It has been my pleasure to work with Sophia in the classroom, in the lab and as an intern. I want to wish her the best of luck in her pursuit of a radiology degree at Regis College!

**Christin Monroe**

## Max Jarl

When I first met you, I remember how reluctant you were to speak up during class discussions. What became clear over time was how deeply you understood the material. As your self-confidence grew, so did your willingness to talk with other students and to branch out of your comfort zone. You have grown into a strong and well-rounded scholar, and working with you has been a privilege. Congratulations, Max—you did it!

**Jeanette Landin**

## Kieran Jennings

Kieran, congratulations on your most recent accomplishment, earning your A.A. degree from Landmark College. But of course, this is simply a logical “next step” in your academic trajectory, from the time several years ago when you entered the school, thoughtfully independent and self-aware, to the college graduate you are now, prepared to pursue your B.A. in Liberal Studies. In the time I have known you, through three history classes and a study abroad session in Berlin, I have seen you hone your thoughtfulness into meaningful intellectual curiosity and your self-awareness and independence into a concern for issues of social justice. H.L. Mencken wrote, “the most dangerous [person]... is the [person] who is able to think things out...” So, Kieran, keep thinking things out, opening people's eyes, and shaking things up!

**Brian Cohen**

## Jean-Paul Jouët

Congratulations, Jean-Paul! Today you are graduating with your Associate of Arts in Liberal Studies, toward which you have worked with quiet purpose, prioritizing your course work while also developing and maintaining a supportive social life amongst your peers. You have taken the lead in our weekly advising sessions, keeping me up to date on your progress in each class, while also maintaining an active openness to suggestions for academic strategies and use of beneficial campus resources. Thank you for sharing with me your finely detailed drawings completed as artistic course work as well as for personal satisfaction. Well done all around! Best wishes for safe travels and your next steps in your education.

**Jeremy Holch**

## Owen Karr

Owen, I've had the pleasure of having you in multiple classes over multiple semesters. I consider myself fortunate to have witnessed your curiosity, work ethic, and commitment culminate in your capstone project. By creating a way to analyze communication about our climate crisis, you tackled a complex, useful, and very important project. The questions that you asked were big ones, but you did not let the scale of the issue deter you. It's this stick-to-it-ness that will serve you (and all of us) well in the years ahead. Thank you for being willing to tackle the big questions.

**Peg Alden**

## Kipper (Aidan) Kipp

Congratulations, Kipper! You have worked steadily, with great commitment to your course work, and have very much earned this degree. You have demonstrated, semester by semester, your ability to prioritize your academic pursuits while also developing meaningful social relationships with your peers. Your involvement with and dedication to WLMC, beginning with your first radio show and followed by continued advancement as a member of the leadership team, are outstanding examples of what Landmark students are able to achieve. You are on a solid path to earning your next degree!

**Jeremy Holch**

## Skye Landau

I first met Skye at the front desk of the Drake Center, where they worked steadfastly as a peer leader in their time at Landmark College. They shared their love for ballroom dancing, Hillel, and The Sims, a game that we could have spent hours discussing if there wasn't any other work to do. I was struck by the graciousness with which they engaged both their peers and our professional staff. With this great equanimity, they bridged a gap between student workers and professional staff, offering guidance for their fellow students and making their maturity and fearlessness clear to all who entered the Drake Center. Skye and I have now found each other on two different college campuses, where they've shared their accomplishments, inquiries, and deep engagement with their hobbies and academics with me. Congratulations, Skye! I cannot wait to hear about the ways you continue to extend your graciousness, fearlessness, and passion into the world!

**Nellie Prior**

## Char (Eric) Larson

Char, it was my pleasure to first work with you in a Civil Rights and Social Movements class last year and then work side by side with you in a study abroad class in Berlin this past summer. You are gifted with a ceaseless energy, creativity, and intellectual curiosity, and your penchant for making connections and stamping class assignments as your "own" really stand out for me. Your natural ability to think historically and critically allowed you to complete some of the most original, creative, and insightful written pieces I have had the chance to read. Char, you are truly a world traveler and global thinker, blessed with tremendous kindness and empathy. I look forward to seeing how you continue to positively change your world for the better. Congratulations!!

**Brian Cohen**

## Zachary Mankowitz

As my inaugural advisee, your patience and dedication were invaluable as we navigated the complexities of upper-division advising together. Your consistent excellence across various courses reflects your unwavering commitment and enthusiasm for learning. You demonstrated readiness to thrive in the ever-evolving landscape of computer science, evident through your coursework achievements, research assistantship, independent learning, and boldly tackling a new language for your capstone project. Your journey exemplifies resilience, adaptability, and an insatiable thirst for knowledge, traits that will undoubtedly position you to achieve remarkable success in the computer industry. Best wishes for your future endeavors!

**P. Kevin Keith**

## Ian McCrory

Learning and growing is what college is all about. Ian has done just that, leaving a mark behind upon his graduation. His mark has made an impact on all students, no matter color or gender. Congratulations on graduating and making an impact to help others.

**Marc Thurman**



## Liam Miller

You did it! Liam, your perseverance and relentless diligence in the face of challenges is truly awe-inspiring. You are the essence of what it means to be resilient! You have consistently harnessed your humor and your notable compassion and kindness to make things easier for all who have been lucky enough to know and interact with you during your time at Landmark. I know these attributes will continue to help you grow toward who and what you want to be. It has been an honor and joy to work with you.

**Christie Herbert**

## Spencer Morgan

Have you ever met someone that makes you excited to know them right from the very beginning? Well, this is how Spencer makes most people feel upon meeting him. Spencer's warmth and strong commitment to his community will continue beyond the grounds of LC. Spencer has used every opportunity during his time here. Whether he was working as a resident assistant, campus ambassador, or in various work study jobs, Spencer continued to show compassion and commitment to those around him. Nichole Nietzsche said, "As a kind and diligent worker, he consistently demonstrated a strong work ethic and dedication to excellence. His commitment to Landmark was not only evident in his academic achievements, but also in the genuine care he has extended to his peers and coworkers." Solvegi Shmulsky added, "Spencer makes everyone's day a little better." Spencer has become rather famous for bringing people together while performing karaoke. During an Accepted Student Day, he sang "Empire State of Mind" by Jay-Z and while the performance itself was great, the way he brought people together and made it a celebration is something I will never forget. So, I leave you with this, Spencer, from Jay-Z: "... Came here for school, graduated to the high life...got you feelin' like a champion". Continue being a champion and thanks for letting us be a part of it. Congratulations!

**Sydney Ruff**

## Ryan Pacheco

I first met you, Ryan, when you visited Landmark before the semester started and spent the day with Max Lyttle getting to know your way around campus. I remember asking you at the end of the day how it went and you said, "I don't know, I'm not sure". A short time later you started your first semester at Landmark. Over the years you made an effort to try new things, to move outside your comfort zone, usually a bit reluctant, but always giving it your best. After several years of fire drills, the pandemic, and snow days, I noticed a change in you. You started to say, "This is what I want, and this is the type of person I want to be," much more often. You grew into yourself, discovered what worked for you and what did not, and had the courage to make it happen. I admire your integrity, honesty, humor, and—of course—your love for Guddu.

**Andy Donahue and Guddu**

## Nicholas Payne

Nick, it has been such a pleasure to work with you during your time here at Landmark. Although I will always remember our adventure canvassing in Brattleboro for The Poor People's Campaign for our Civic Engagement class, working with you on your capstone has been particularly enjoyable. You came into that process last spring with no idea of where you wanted to go with your capstone, but you remained open to considering ideas and approaches that at first felt very foreign to you. It was wonderful to watch you taking on focus group interviews and applying what you learned to draft a journal article for an academic journal. I hope that you are leaving Landmark with confidence in your academic ability and potential. You deserve it. (P.S. Let me know when you start that master's program.)

**Peg Alden**

## Leo Premru

Renaissance man. Skater, ceramicist, photographer, songwriter, guitarist, writer, orator, influencer, advocate, bird whisperer.... I could go on, but, Leo, you definitely qualify. It has been a long time since I first typed out a comment to you in your first semester suggesting that if you'd find a way to put your phone down, you'd make a powerful leader. You took me to task on that statement and have made your mark in many corners of this campus, contributing to our diversity centers, residential life program, and in multiple academic departments as you cross disciplines to feed your voracious curiosity and creative drive. I have dearly appreciated bearing witness as you spread your wings and strengthen your voice. It has been a pleasure and an honor to have you occasionally roost in my office or classroom just for the vibe. It has been a privilege to be a part of this phase of your journey. We can do hard things. You will do great things. Onward!

**Rebecca Whittaker Matte**

## Ellie Simon

Reflecting on our initial meeting in 2018, when you took Computer Science 1 while still a student at the Greenwood School, your growth has been truly inspiring. Initially hesitant to seek help, you've transformed into a self-driven, tenacious learner, advocating not just for yourself but for others as well. Your resilience and determination have shaped you into a confident individual, well-prepared to embrace the challenges of a full-time role in the computer industry. As you make this exciting transition, may your newfound skills, passion, and dedication pave the way for you to achieve remarkable success in your professional pursuits. Best of luck as you embark on this next chapter of your journey!

**P. Kevin Keith**

## David Stephen Soltero

What can you say about David Stephen Soltero? Stephen is a force of nature that keeps you on your toes. I knew that working with him might be a challenge but did not realize he would be challenging me to be a better supervisor and a better coworker. I am truly a better person from getting to know Stephen as an employee and as a person. I know that wherever life takes Stephen, he will exceed with gusto!

**Cindy Brown**

## Hannah Swift

What a treat to have had Hannah Swift as a student in two classes over the last year. In re-reading some of her work, I am struck by the remarkable presence of Hannah as a thinker on the page, wrestling with new ideas and confusions, asking insightful questions, arriving at well-informed conclusions. Even as she worries that she lacks skill and confidence as a writer, her writing is honest and clear and articulate. Even as she fears that she might expose too much of herself in her writing, her writing reveals the voice of a thoughtful and intelligent and perceptive mind. It has been a delight to read Hannah's thinking on topics as varied as the genre of healthy cooking blogs and conflicting critical opinions of the character of Mrs. Bennet in *Pride and Prejudice*; spending time with her thinking has enhanced my own. Thank you, Hannah, and congratulations.

**Sara Glennon**

## Molly Talbot

Molly, I remember our first advising meeting: it was on Teams, and I was helping you pick out your classes for the fall semester. You were questioning your ability to be away from your parents for months, to take a college-level math class, to live with a roommate, and to be away from Nico! You were doubting yourself. I wish I had a crystal ball at that meeting to show you all the great and hard things you've accomplished since you've been at Landmark. You began as a non-credit STEP student, and now you're a resident assistant in LC's high school and college programs, a campus ambassador, a mentor to the Transition at College Program. And you're graduating with a rock-solid GPA and at least three acceptance letters to colleges to continue with your bachelor's degree in education. Please stay in touch, Molly, and let me know all the wonderful things you continue to do. If you find yourself in NYC, I will meet you at Ippudo for some Ramen!

**Eve Khan**

## Myles Trachtenberg

*"Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished." - Lao Tzu*

Ben, throughout your time at Landmark, it has been an honor to support you as you worked through all the internal and external challenges to get yourself to this point. We've used analogies of marathons and climbing mountains. Today, as you walk that graduation stage, you can know that you did it. You crossed the finish line and summited the mountain. You completed college and accomplished the goal that you set out to achieve. No matter what comes next, you will manage it in your own time, in your own way, with humor, ingenuity, and determination.

**Heather Stinson**

## Olivia Venkus

Olivia, you have been a strong, quiet, positive presence at Landmark College. You excelled whenever given the opportunity to write and reflect about our relationships with nature and animals. Remember our field trip to the beaver pond where you observed Dew, the beaver, up close? When our class was at Harmony Horsemanship, Southern Vermont Therapeutic Riding Center, the Atowi Center, or Putney Mountain, your reflections showed insightful description and perceptive literary style. You are a writer and a scholar. We wish you the very best on your graduation.

**Lee Crocker**

## Cameron Witt

It has been a pleasure watching you grow as a student over the past years. As both your faculty advisor and as your instructor, I've seen you develop the confidence and skills you needed to succeed as a student and bring you to graduation. I'm confident these skills will continue to serve you well as you move beyond Landmark College. Best wishes for all you do!

**Dan Miller**

## Gabe Zakaraia-Cavanagh

*"My mind's my kingdom." - Francis Quarles*

When Gabe first arrived at Landmark his intellect and thoughtfulness were evident. I later learned he has a curious and practical mind and a kind nature which holds a deep sense of integrity. Gabe has an admirable ability to remain true to himself while being open to advice and implementing ideas from others. Every semester, professors remark on his apt insights and positive presence during class discussions, and one observes that Gabe is a poet at heart. Gabe, take some moments alone and with loved ones to fully enjoy what you have accomplished. Congratulations!

**Nevada Bromley**



# Landmark College Alma Mater

As you gaze upon lush green hills  
And inhale the crisp morning air;  
Or enjoy the colors of the changing leaves,  
Or of white and glist'ning snow;  
You will find Landmark College  
In such beauty to behold,  
True to you, Landmark College,  
The home of Blue and Gold!



[www.landmark.edu](http://www.landmark.edu)