

## SPECIAL EDITION: UMASS STUDENTS TO ADMIN - STOP FEEDING US TO THE WAR MACHINE -

Dear friend,

We offer this Special Edition of the *Alt-Hampshire Gazette* because we wish to highlight recent anti-genocide/anti-militarism activism by students at UMass Amherst. In this edition, you will find our editorial, an article about a student protest of the Spring 2026 Engineering Career Fair; a protest speech by UMass Student Government Assn. President Michael Borowski, a partial list of weapons-makers and U.S. military invited to the Career Fair; and a news brief about a judicial ruling in favor of a UMass student suspended for participation in a protest of a previous Career Fair.

The courage, determination, and thoughtful brilliance of UMass student activists brings to mind the words of UC Berkeley student Mario Savio during the 1964 Free Speech Movement: "There is a time when the operation of the machine becomes so odious, makes you so sick at heart, that you can't take part; you can't even passively take part, and you've got to put your bodies upon the gears and upon the wheels, upon the levers, upon all the apparatus, and you've got to make it stop. And you've got to indicate to the people who run it, to the people who own it, that unless you're free, the machine will be prevented from working at all!"

As community members, we stand with the extraordinary student activists of UMass.

River Valley for Palestine ~  
rivervalley4palestine@gmail.com  
althampshiregazette.com

### EDITORIAL TECHNOLOGY IS NOT NEUTRAL

The 2026 Spring jobs fair protest at UMass comes at a critical moment of conscience for those working in the U.S. war industry — the technical workers and military personnel without whom the U.S. military machine, like all technically dependent military machines globally, would simply fall apart.

This moment of conscience is exemplified in the reluctance of technicians of AI company Anthropic to allow their Claude AI model to be used by the Pentagon to spy on the entire American population and to control weapons that will kill people autonomously, without human intervention. Machines will kill a person based on information gleaned by Claude.

This is also a moment of conscience for workers within the U.S. war machine because we see the full might of the U.S. military off the coast of Iran being used to continue and complete the U.S./Israel genocide against the Palestinian people, our fellow human beings, as well as to pulverize the people of Iran.

This is a moment of conscience, too, because it is obvious that the massive militarization underway in the Western world, and the normalization of constant warfare, is accelerating climate disasters, as evidenced in the extremely long cold spell we are experiencing in the Northeast.

Continued on page 2...

## Five UMass Student Organizations Protest Jobs Fair — Raytheon is a No-Show

By Nick Mottern & Jennifer Scarlott

On Wednesday, February 25, 2026, about 60 UMass Amherst students participated in a protest organized by UMass Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) that shut down student registration for about 45 minutes of the first day of the Spring 2026 Engineering Career Fair. The students were protesting Raytheon (RTX), other weapons-makers, and the U.S. military (Army, Navy, and MA National Guard) at the jobs fair organized by UMass's Riccio College of Engineering. Other participating student organizations included UMass Dissenters, UMass Grad Workers for Palestine, the UMass Dissenters' S.T.E.M. Caucus, and Science for the People.

Scott Civjan, Riccio College Associate Dean for Undergraduate Affairs, said that students stopped coming to register for the jobs fair when they saw the protesters gather, shortly before 1 pm, at the head of the Campus Center escalator that descends to the auditorium housing the jobs fair. While the protest was held in the area by the escalators, the protesters did not move to block them. Civjan said that some prospective fair goers told him they would return when the protest ended.

The featured speaker at the protest, Chris Smalls, is an American labor organizer widely known for co-founding and leading the Amazon Labor Union (ALU) in Staten Island, NY (the first union of Amazon workers). The day of the protest, Smalls was completing his tenure as the annual Ellsberg Initiative for Peace and Democracy Activist-in-Residence at UMass.

Smalls told the protesters that he had just returned from Europe where unions had shut down 21 ports to stop shipments of weapons to Israel for use in the genocide against the Palestinian people.

Smalls recounted how, as a crew member with the Freedom Flotilla to Gaza, he had been beaten by his Israeli captors after they stopped the Flotilla last July, just short of Gaza. He was held in isolation for five days and "dropped off in the middle of the desert near Jordan" when he was released.

He called for maintaining support for Palestine: "Palestine is the point of resistance for the world."

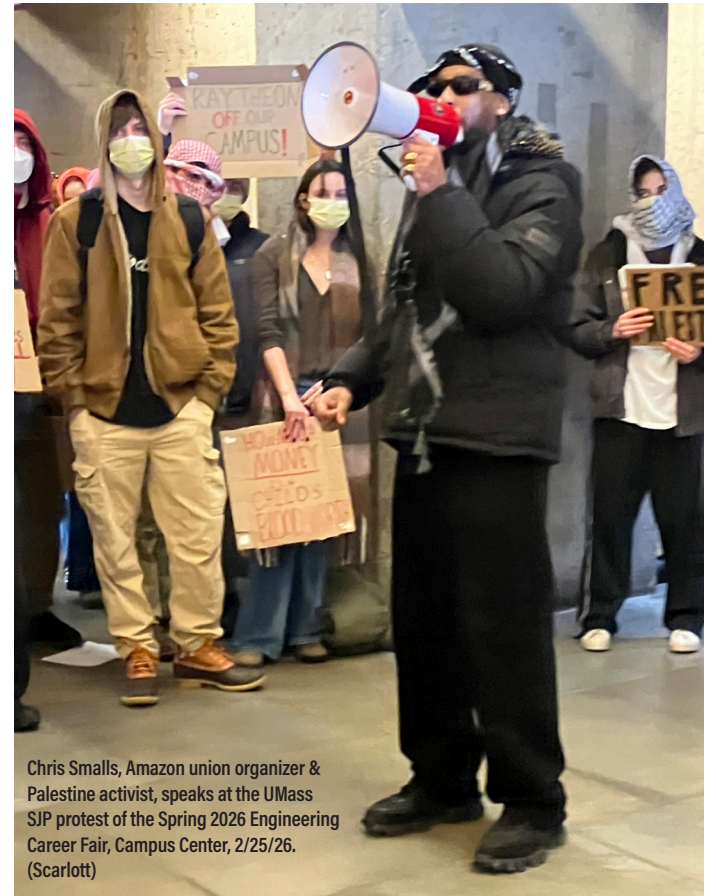
The chants "No justice, no peace" and "If we don't get it, shut it down" broke out, and Smalls told the crowd: "This is a revolution, and it starts with you."

At one point during the protest, an administrator urged the protesters to quiet down and move away from the escalator descending to the jobs fair. Protesters responded loudly, "Whose school? Our school." A number of other administrators stood at the edge of the protest, occasionally engaging with student organizers. One member of the administration filmed the entire event. As he did so, he told us, "We support our students."

Continued on page 2...



Students arrive at the Campus Center after marching from the Student Union. (Mottern)



### UMass Spring 2026 Engineering Career Fair Scheduled Participants (partial list)

#### WAR INDUSTRY EMPLOYERS (partial list):

General Dynamics Mission Systems and Electric Boat divisions  
RTX Raytheon (Signed up, did not attend)  
Leonardo DRS  
MIT Lincoln Laboratory  
Johnson Controls  
Roux Associates  
Hewlett Packard Enterprises  
Applied Materials  
Amphenol Communication Solutions

Tufts University Graduate Schools of Arts & Sciences and Engineering  
Dassault Systems  
Methuen Construction  
Nobis Group  
Eaton Corporation

**U. S. MILITARY (full list):**  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Massachusetts Army National Guard  
Naval Undersea Warfare Center  
Portsmouth Naval Shipyard



Associate Dean & Engineering Prof. Scott Civjan speaks with student organizers, Campus Center. (Scarlott)

# Engineering Career Fair Protest Speech – Student Union, 2/25/26

by Michael Borowski, President,  
UMass Student Government Assn.

Hello everyone,

My name is Michael Borowski. I'm the current Student Government Association President. I was elected by my peers to represent the wishes of this student body, which is why I stand here today, and say this.

For way too long at this school, we have been pushed around, dealt bad hands, and told that this is normal. That it's a necessary, unmovable evil that our school pumps money into and platforms companies that create weapons of war. That it's a fact of life that the President of the UMass System can be a loud and proud Zionist and face no real pushback from his direct constituency.

We are consistently told that having war profiteers scour our student body for talent is an acceptable evil. That it's in the name of giving students equal opportunities, and that, if we don't support this, we don't support students having a job. And to that I say, if our students can't find jobs at any company other than the ones who produce weapons of war, we aren't teaching them anywhere near well enough.

If this university is so strapped for cash and opportunities that it has to welcome these vile companies into the flagship research institution in the most educated state of the country, that is not an acceptable excuse, it is a condemnation of the systems that led us here in the first place.

In the Campus Center, inches away from the career fair, is a mural. It's two stories tall, and it's called "Justice, Diversity, and Opportunity." These are the morals for which



UMass Amherst Student Government Association President Michael Borowski addresses the Career Fair protest outside the Student Union. (Scarlott)

our campus should stand. This mural stands for what UMass presents itself to be, for what it can be. Yet instead, within eyesight of this mural that espouses the intrinsic moral values of this student body, companies that wholesale slaughter innocent civilians by the thousands scout for "talent."

For years upon years, students have vocalized their discontent with this, and voted consistently to kick war profiteers off our campus. Yet, they persist. The position of administration to platform these companies on our campus goes directly against the democratically expressed wishes of this student body. We are the stakeholders of this university, the people who keep it alive and functioning.

We have voiced our stance loud and clear, consistently, for years. We have followed the formal processes for situations like this, and we have been ignored for the sake of money, and greed, and connections to people we will never

meet, and I have a feeling look down on us with disdain. And as long as the formal channels and by-the-books methods continue to fail us, we will continue to disrupt, because that is the only way to make our voice heard on a campus that refuses to acknowledge it exists in the first place.

They call our protests a "disruption." In the most literal of senses, they're correct. But why then is it not a disruption to the moral center of this campus to give money, opportunities, and platforms to those who willingly slaughter people in Gaza, in Yemen, on our own southern border? How can we be expected to support an institution who takes our money, and gives it to those who see genocide as an opportunity for profit?

We have done our due diligence, they refuse to. The social contract is only upheld if both parties agree to it. We continue to give them our money, our time, our dedication day and night, and they return it with dwindling services, facilities that are literally falling apart, and a refusal to even listen to the blatant, explicit wishes of their students.

The most important thing is that we don't stop. They assume that because we cycle out ever four years, our movements will go with us. They're wrong. Some things are objectively true. Murder, is wrong. Genocide, is wrong. Aiding, abetting, and creating the weapons by which these are carried out, is wrong. You will never, ever see a student body that by-and-large supports the platforming of collaborators. It doesn't matter if it's me, or you, or the people after us, or the people after them, we will continue to fight not as many voices, but as one. Continue to show up, continue to be loud, continue to disrupt, because that's the only option we have left.

## UMass Students Protest Jobs Fair Continued...

We asked a woman representing Riccio College whether she was concerned about encouraging students to work for weapons-makers and the U.S. military-industrial complex. "I love engineering. There is good and bad in everything," she responded.

*"As Chris Smalls reminded us in a talk at UMass on February 25, we have a saying in the labor movement: An injury to one is an injury to all. There's no tag on that motto that says, 'except for Palestinians.' Unions are supposed to be a shield of the entire working class, no exceptions."*

– Cedric de Leon, Professor of Sociology and Labor Studies at UMass Amherst

At about 1:45 pm, the protesters stopped chanting and broke into small groups to plan individual canvassing conversations with students approaching the jobs fair. They handed out a detailed flyer titled: "How do I find a job outside the defense industry??" The reverse side of the flyer was titled: "Raytheon's Resume – War Profiteer, Murderer of Millions, Weapons Manufacturer – Before you submit your resume, check out theirs." A QR code provided a list of sources for the information about Raytheon, which included its collusion in genocide in Gaza, Saudi war crimes in Yemen, surveillance at the U.S.-Mexico border, mistreatment of workers, environmental destruction, ties to UMass, and more.

The protest began at about 12:30 pm outside the Student Union. It was opened by Will Chaney, a graduate student in economics who said he had been targeted by the university for alleged antisemitism in connection with his participation in an engineering jobs fair protest in 2024. According to Chaney, the university contended that during the protest, antisemitic chants had been used. This was not the case, Chaney said.



UMass staff surveil and film the peaceful student protest inside the Campus Center, employing tactics similar to those used by police. (Scarlott)

Michael Borowski, President of the UMass Student Government Association, spoke next, before the protesters marched to the Campus Center housing the Career Fair.

"For way too long at this school," Borowski said, "we have been pushed around, dealt bad hands, and told that this is normal. That it's a necessary, unmovable evil that our school pumps money into and platforms companies that create weapons for war. That it's a fact of life that the President of the UMass system can be a loud and proud Zionist and face no real pushback from his constituency." (Borowski's full remarks appear above.)

On the first day of the career fair, Raytheon representatives failed to appear, letting fair organizers know that they were deterred by winter weather. Despite reserving two tables for the second (final) day of the fair, Raytheon reps again failed to show. Members of UMass SJP gathered in the Campus Center near the job fair for a second day of canvassing fellow students approaching the fair. They interpreted Raytheon's failure to participate on either day of the fair as a victory.



A two-story, 2010 mural called "Justice, Diversity, and Opportunity" on a wall opposite the Campus Center auditorium hosting the Engineering Career Fair. Notably, the mural celebrates "peacebuilding," depicting famous U.S. activists of color (Statue of Liberty crown), and student protesters (lower left corner) bearing a trumpet and signs saying: "Education 4 R Future," "Justice Now," and "Stop the War!" In his protest speech, UMass student body president Michael Borowski mentioned the irony of the mural's messaging, which appears to be lost on UMass administrative leaders who systematically harass, repress, and persecute student activists.

## NEWS BRIEF

### Judge to UMass: Readmit wrongfully suspended student

On February 14, 2026, Hampshire County (MA) Superior Court Judge Jeffrey J. Trapani ordered UMass Amherst to immediately readmit Kiv de Montebello, ending Montebello's suspension for participating in a September 2025 protest against weapons-maker Raytheon at a campus jobs fair.

In November 2025, Montebello sued the university over his suspension. Judge Trapani's decision enables Montebello to resume his education pending the outcome of the suit, which argues that the suspension violated the third-year student's First Amendment right to free speech.

Urszula Masny-Latos, Executive Director of the National Lawyers Guild Mass Chapter said: "The court confirmed what we argued from the start: UMass cannot suspend a student for exercising his constitutional right to peaceful protest. Universities that silence dissent should take notice."

## EDITORIAL Continued...

This moment of conscience is what UMass student protesters are talking about. They are of a generation that has the courage to fight for its survival, to not sit as passive spectators to their own demise and that of their children. They understand that humanity has been marched to the brink of destruction of life on earth by technologists obedient to the Epstein class. The protesters are demanding that technologists stop enabling killing, recognizing that genocide for one is genocide for us all.

In "Death Machines: The Ethics of Violent Technologies," ethicist Elke Schwarz asks: "What are we doing?" It is a question being raised by the UMass job fair protesters and one that is not being answered responsibly by the UMass Amherst administration or its Riccio College of Engineering.

– Nick Mottern