

## Fitchburg State University Today

Monday, Sept. 9, 2019 - Volume 10, Issue 1

### 125 years of changing lives

Throughout the year, the university will be celebrating its 125th anniversary with events and exhibits that look back at our legacy of innovation and our evolution into the comprehensive institution we have become.

The celebration kicks into gear with **tomorrow's** Rock the Block party on Highland Avenue and the main quadrangle. At **4:30 p.m.**, all are invited to gather on the quad for a birthday bash and campus family photo.



Other upcoming events include our observance of [Constitution Day](#) at **3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 17** in the main lounge at Hammond Hall, where we will look back at the landmark free speech case *Antonelli v. Hammond* with the student journalists who took on the administration.

An augmented reality tour of the campus' oldest buildings launches this fall, and some of the students and faculty who helped put it together will describe the interdisciplinary experience at **2 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 25** at Ellis White Lecture Hall.

And our [Community Read](#) of Art Spiegelman's acclaimed graphic novel *Maus* kicks off with a panel discussion at **3:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 26** at Ellis White Lecture Hall.

#### [125th Anniversary Events](#)

### Major gift will create Global Ambassadors program

One of the largest endowed gifts ever received by Fitchburg State University will create the Global Ambassadors Scholarship Program, opening doors for students to travel abroad for experiential learning opportunities.

Through the leadership of Anna M. Clementi and the Clementi Family Charitable Trust, \$1 million has been raised to support the new scholarship program.

"I have witnessed firsthand the transformative power of travel for our university students," Clementi said. "These young people return with a greater sense of purpose, direction



President Lapidus and Anna M. Clementi shake hands after signing the memorandum of agreement establishing the Global Ambassadors Scholarship Program.

and confidence."

[Learn more](#)

## School days

As part of this year's welcome back events, President Lapidus and Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Alberto J.F. Cardelle announced the reorganization of [academic divisions into schools](#). The university is now composed of the **School of Arts and Sciences**; the **School of Business and Technology**; the **School of Education**; and the **School of Health and Natural Sciences**.

"The creation of the schools signify the creation of clusters of academic activity held together by associated disciplinary goals, whether they be in the liberal arts, the sciences or the professional programs," Cardelle said. "They are a space for faculty and students to come together to find synergy and leverage that synergy into an outcome that is greater than the sum of their individual parts. This small step signifies the institution's slow but steady path to becoming a university, it will harness the collective wisdom of the academe here at Fitchburg State not only for the betterment of our students but for that of our community."

The university also launches its new undergraduate majors in [environmental public health](#) and [educational studies](#) this fall, each the first of its kind at any public institution in Massachusetts, as well as a new [MBA in healthcare management](#).

## Santiago discusses strategic planning

As part of faculty development day last week, Commissioner of Higher Education Carlos Santiago visited campus to lay the groundwork for the university's upcoming strategic planning process.

Santiago highlighted the need for all campuses in the system to promote success for historically under-represented populations. Last year the Board of Higher Education made equity the top statewide policy and performance priority for the system.

The strategic planning process is expected to last the entire academic year.



## Police program graduation ceremony this Friday

The second recruit officer class of our groundbreaking [police program](#) will graduate at **3:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 13** in Weston Auditorium. The celebration is open to the campus community and general public.

The recruits completed a 17-week police academy this summer, with comprehensive physical training and tactical skills. The university program prepares future officers with bachelor's and master's degrees plus certification to work in municipal police departments across Massachusetts.



This summer, the *Sentinel & Enterprise* published a [series of articles](#) about the academy.

## Web site town halls planned

The Marketing and Integrated Communications team is working with a professional consultant to rebuild the university web site. After months of advance work, an early design will be shared with members of the campus for review and feedback.

The "town hall" meetings will be held at **10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 26** in Kent Recital Hall in the Conlon Fine Arts Building. For those unable to make either of those times, there will be additional opportunities to be heard at **10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 2** in Percival Hall, room 108.

The new site will launch in 2020.

## #HackFitchburg event set for Sept. 23

Faculty, students and staff are encouraged to participate when the ideaLab at 717 Main St. hosts its second #HackFitchburg event from **6 to 8:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 23**, bringing community stakeholders together for a fun-filled brainstorming activity. The event will focus on how to create strong student-community connections in Fitchburg.



"These events bring people together and make conversations about community development engaging through active brainstorming," said Joshua Croke, a consultant working with Fitchburg State at the ideaLab. "It also provides opportunities for residents to be directly involved in sharing their ideas for their neighborhoods and the communities of which they are a part."

[Learn more](#)

## ideaLab recognized for renovation

The Fitchburg State ideaLab on Main Street was recognized this summer by *American School & University magazine* for excellence in interior renovation. The collaborative space at 717 Main St. was renovated as part of the university's ongoing transformation of the long-dormant downtown theater block.

The ideaLab includes state-of-the-art studio space where students in Fitchburg State's [game design](#) program complete their capstone semesters.

Since the ideaLab and game studio's opening in 2018, the site has been host to numerous community and economic development meetings, as well as visits by state and federal dignitaries. The first cohort of students to complete their game design capstones in the theater block graduated in May.



## Student spotlight: Summer research projects make impact

This summer, 22 Fitchburg State students worked under the auspices of faculty from a variety of disciplines on practical research projects concerning the public health of the Fitchburg community and the environmental health of the Nashua River watershed.

The project was funded in part by the Lloyd G. Balfour Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee, Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts, Avantor Sciences Foundation, and Fitchburg State University.



The students were paid for their work and supervised by faculty members from the departments of Biology & Chemistry, Business Administration, Communications Media, Earth and Geographic Sciences, Exercise and Sports Science, and Nursing.

[Learn more](#)

## GCE hosts webinars this month

The Division of Graduate and Continuing Education is presenting two free webinars this month.

- Fitchburg State's LPN to Bachelor of Science in Nursing program will be discussed at a free [webinar](#) at **1 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 12**. The bridge program is designed to transition the licensed practical nurse (LPN) to the role of a baccalaureate-prepared registered nurse (RN). The webinar will discuss curriculum, admissions and application requirements, and more. Webinar attendees will also have their admission application fee waived.
- The online Master of Science in Nursing (Forensic) degree program, designed for registered nurses who wish to pursue advanced leadership positions in the community and the healthcare system, will be the topic of a [webinar](#) at **1 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 25**. Graduates are prepared to contribute to the development of nursing science, to the improvement of healthcare, and to pursue doctoral study.



## CenterStage and cultural events

Fitchburg State welcomes the professional Ensemble Origo for "Le Nozze in Baviera," a concert of 16th century music commissioned for a royal wedding. The free concert will be presented at **2:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 15** at Kent Recital Hall in the Conlon Fine Arts Building, 367 North St.



The ensemble will perform Orlando di Lasso's music for the 1568 wedding of Wilhelm V of Bavaria and Renate of Lorraine. The performance is sponsored by the Humanities Department, the Center for Italian Culture and CenterStage.

[Learn more](#)

## Forge Theater Lab presents new play

The Forge Theater Lab at Fitchburg State University is kicking off its second season with a production of "On Our Terms," a new play written by Fitchburg State alumna Mary Darling.

The play is running through Saturday, Sept. 14 in the Wallace Theater for the Performing Arts in the McKay Complex, 67 Rindge Road.

In this absurd, provocative comedy, two people negotiate a one-year relationship contract before their first date, to ensure that all of their expectations are met.

[Learn more](#)



The cast of "On Our Terms" includes, left to right, front row: Kevin Boudreau '15 and Rebecca Joseph '20; back row: Rachael Miles '19, James Estes '18, and Natalie Scott '19  
Photograph by Brittany Messuri '18

## Faculty Notes

**Ben Railton** (English Studies) had an essay published on CNN.com about the 500-year battle over "who is American," inspired by President Trump's clashes with four freshman Democratic congresswomen. The piece places the story in a larger historical context.

[Read more](#)

---

Join Our Mailing List

---

Fitchburg State University | 978-665-3000 | fitchburgstate.edu

STAY CONNECTED:

