

66 THE WORLD IS WAITING FOR YOU,

and to be honest,
the world needs all
the new ideas, energy,
and optimism that all
of you possess. Deep
inside of you is a special
talent just waiting to be
discovered and the only
way you'll find it is by
challenging yourself.

—Excerpted from Christopher Maloney's commencement address (see page 16)







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On the cover: Anna Latino '13 took the photo while studying abroad in 2012. More of her photos can be seen in the study abroad package of stories on pages 7-15.

At left: The ceiling of the Divinity School of the Bodleian Library at Oxford University, during a Fitchburg State trip to England this spring led by Professor Kisha Tracy (who also took the photo).

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

ears ago, when I was an undergraduate at this institution, students did not have the opportunity to pursue their education in a foreign land. Travel abroad was out of reach for most of us.

Today, however, those of us privileged to work in higher education know that our students must graduate equipped to participate in a global society. In this issue of Contact, we look at our growing study abroad program, which gives dozens of students every year the opportunity to broaden their horizons and experience new cultures. This foundation prepares them for lives and careers that may take them across the planet—as happened with alumnus John Honeycutt '91, who has traveled the globe with Discovery Communications, and about whom you will read later in this issue.

In the pages that follow we also invite you to catch up with additional accomplishments of our illustrious alumni while learning more about the events of the past year on campus.

The transformation of the campus continues. The renovation of the Condike Science Building is complete, its interior now a seamless match with the state of the art science center that opened last fall. Our students and faculty now have more than 100,000 square feet of top-flight instructional, laboratory and office space. The completion of work has also restored the campus quad, which you can glimpse on the back cover of this magazine. We will welcome the campus community to an open house later this year.

Hammond Hall, itself reconfigured in recent years to include the glass tower that now welcomes visitors to campus, is home to another phase of large-scale renovations. The focus has turned to the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library, where the first two floors will be completely remodeled by January. A new archive and research room is open now, and the collective project will mean more—and better—space for students to conduct research and study.

In Conlon Hall, the graphic arts suite will be renovated by the end of summer, and a new elevator is being built inside Percival Hall to create better access to one of our earliest buildings. A new and better entryway to Aubuchon Hall is being constructed, improving access from North and Pearl streets and further beautifying the entrance to the campus core.

In closing, as many of you are aware, the 2014-15 academic year will be my last as president of this great university. I have been moved by the outpouring of warm wishes since I made this announcement in late May, and it is certainly gratifying to reflect on the collective accomplishments of our administration, faculty, staff and students. However, our work is not done, and I look forward to the year ahead.

Sincerely,

Robert V. antonucci

Robert V. Antonucci



THE END OF AN ERA

ays after the undergraduate commencement ceremony this May, President Antonucci announced to the campus community that the coming academic year would be his last at Fitchburg State.

"It was a difficult decision for Jeanne and I, given our devotion to the university from which we both graduated and our deep and abiding ties to the regional community we have known our entire lives," President Antonucci said in a letter to the campus.

"MORE THAN ANYTHING, IT IS OUR CONNECTION TO ALL OF YOU, AND THE COUNTLESS OTHERS WHO HAVE COME AND GONE SINCE I BEGAN MY PRESIDENCY, THAT MAKES THIS DECISION ESPECIALLY PERSONAL."

President Antonucci's remarkable tenure includes the transformation of the campus, from the construction of the first new academic building to be erected in decades to the reinvention of much of the campus core into state of the art quarters for teaching, learning and gathering. He has led the effort to forge stronger ties with the city of Fitchburg and overseen the connection of the campus to the downtown corridor. And he was a leader in the effort to rename the former state colleges as state universities, successfully making the case that the new name better reflected the scope of offerings at the institution.

"Together we have accomplished much—more than I could have dreamed," he said. "We have faced challenges and overcome them. We have recognized opportunity and seized it. We have made a strong and vibrant university ever so

much more prominent. Most importantly, we have worked together as colleagues and friends to improve the lives of our students. I extend my sincere thanks to all who have joined me in the pursuit of that fundamental goal."

The announcement triggers a national search for Fitchburg State University's 11th president. A committee will be formed this fall to begin the process of reviewing candidates for the position with an eye toward making a selection by January 2015.

Another search will also begin this fall for a new vice president for academic affairs, in response to the recent departure of Executive Vice President/Provost Robin E. Bowen. The position is being held on an interim basis by Paul I. Weizer, who had most recently been associate vice president of academic affairs.

The vice presidential search will begin after the presidential search, so that the next president may select this critical member of the executive committee. The complement of administrative leaders is expected to be in place early in the spring semester of 2015.

"Fitchburg State deserves the best in a leader, and I am making this announcement now to afford the trustees the opportunity to conduct a thorough and comprehensive search that will yield the strongest of candidates," President Antonucci told the campus. "All who are involved in higher education are keenly aware that the coming years may well be marked by a level of turbulence, and our next president must be prepared to not just stay the course, but to build on the strengths of this vital university: innovative academic programs, superior instructional space and strong ties to the region."

"This is not the time for farewells," he continued. "I assure you that over the next year I will be as fully engaged as ever. There is much to be done, and I will continue to work with all of you until my last day as president."



RED SOX NATION COMES TO CAMPUS

Hundreds of Red Sox fans packed the Athletics and Recreation Center for an afternoon in March to catch a glimpse of the 2013 World Series trophy. The visit was part of an effort by the Red Sox to share the 2013 World Series trophy with fans throughout New England, the U.S., and the globe, and was also part of the city's 250th birthday celebration.

The World Series trophy is the only championship trophy of the four major sports in the United States that is not named after a particular person (contrasting with the National Hockey League's Stanley Cup, the National Football League's Vince Lombardi Trophy, and the National Basketball Association's Larry O'Brien Trophy).

Hail to the Chief — Introducing Karen J. Leary

President Antonucci announced the appointment of Karen J. Leary as the new chief of the university Campus Police force this spring.

Leary, who has served as deputy chief of police and deputy director of public safety at Simmons College since July 2011, was selected after a lengthy search by a committee that included representatives from the university and the Fitchburg Police Department. Leary is the department's first female chief.

"Karen Leary brings a rich and varied experience in public safety and emergency preparedness to this role and I am confident she will be a vital and productive contribution to the team at Fitchburg State," President Antonucci said. "She understands the evolving role of campus police in university life and is ideally suited to bring our department to the next level."

Leary said she saw a lot of potential in the collaborative environment fostered by President Antonucci at the campus.

"I thought this would really be an amazing organization to work with," Leary said shortly after beginning her tenure here in April. She said she looks forward to serving as a mentor to the next generation of law enforcement, from her own department as well as forging ties with students. "You can do anything you want to do. You just have to have the right mindset and go for it. Don't let anything stop you."

Prior to working at Simmons, Leary spent nine years at Massachusetts General Hospital, during which time she was an investigative supervisor and later senior manager of investigations. She worked for nearly two years as an investigator with the state Office of the Attorney General in Boston. Her professional experience also includes teaching at the high school and college level.

Leary succeeds James Hamel, who retired in December after 40 years with the campus police force. The department has since



Chief Leary

been managed by Lt. Benjamin McDonald, who took over as acting chief following the death of Lt. Michael Marcil.



SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN VISITS

U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren visited the Fitchburg State campus in March to discuss college affordability and the need to invest in education. The senator spoke at a panel discussion in Holmes Dining Commons featuring students, faculty and administrators as well as local elected leaders. Students also discussed the importance of investment in public higher education at the state level.

Safety Takes Center Stage at FAVE Conference

Creating safer communities was the goal of a day-long educational forum that brought together national and community experts to address issues of dating violence, domestic violence and sexual assault. The keynote speaker of the forum, which was sponsored by the university's Fitchburg Anti-Violence Education (FAVE) program, was actress and educator Lisa

Regina, founder and director of A Write to Heal, Inc. She told the packed house at Kent Recital Hall about the life-changing abuse she suffered at the hands of her then-fiancé, a celebrity actor. She talked about how she persevered and now tells her story to make a difference in people's lives across the U.S.

FAVE represents an ongoing institutional commitment to creating a safer, healthier community. The forum included workshops on domestic violence in same-sex relationships, cultural definitions of masculinity, and healthy relationships. So far, more than 2,700 Fitchburg State students, faculty and staff have gone through training to become proactive bystanders on campus.

Commuters Count



The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (DOT) this spring recognized Fitchburg State for its commitment to creating green options for commuting students.

Coordinator of Commuter Affairs and Leadership Rebecca Lindley accepted the 2014

MassDOT Outreach Coordinator Melissa Santley, left, with Fitchburg State Coordinator of Commuter Affairs and Leadership Rebecca Lindley.

Pacesetter Award for Excellence in Commuter Options (ECO), which was presented in recognition of exemplary contributions toward creating a more sustainable Massachusetts.

The DOT presents the ECO Awards to celebrate employers and their efforts to reduce congestion and greenhouse gas emissions by encouraging employees to use green transportation options. Such employers make a difference by encouraging employees to travel to work by public transit, bicycling, walking or through the promo-

tion of carpools and vanpools. This year's ceremony was held at Fenway Park.

Nearly half of Fitchburg State's student population commutes to campus each day and its Commuter Affairs program helps students identify carpooling opportunities, provides peer mentoring and sponsors daytime programming that contributes to commuting students' sense of connection with the campus community.

The office presents a "Commuter Appreciation Week" each spring with additional programming. This year's program, held in late March, kicked off with a commuter-targeted breakfast with President Antonucci, who was a commuter student during his undergraduate days at Fitchburg State.

No More Funny Stuff at Fitchburg Art Museum

The absurdist artwork and off-kilter sensibility of Fitchburg State Professor Jeffrey "Jeffu" Warmouth was on display this spring when the Fitchburg Art Museum (FAM) presented the mid-career retrospective "Jeffu Warmouth: No More Funny Stuff."

The exhibit also marked the culmination of a pilot collaboration between Fitchburg State and the museum, in which Communications Media students helped conceive, design and promote the show.

"The Jeffu Warmouth exhibition is the first major step toward developing an integral relationship between the Fitchburg Art Museum and Fitchburg State University," said FAM Director Nicholas Capasso. "Our mutual desire is to have FAM become the de facto art museum for Fitchburg State, so that we can both better serve the audience, the students, and the community."

Warmouth has been a member of the Fitchburg State faculty since 1997. He teaches interactive media in the Communications Media department and helped design the university's new game design major.

"No More Funny Stuff" was a mid-career retrospective featuring the puns, parody,

and absurdist humor of a beloved New England contemporary artist. Whether riffing on fast-food courts, Spaghetti Western cinema, or concepts of monotony and ennui in our tech and media-savvy society, Warmouth's photographs, videos, and installations wittily demonstrate the transformative nature of the mundane in our everyday lives.

The exhibition was made possible through a pilot collaboration between the Fitchburg Art Museum and Fitchburg State University during the 2013-14 academic year. The exhibition was organized by Associate Curator Mary M. Tinti with major contributions by Professor Rob Carr's document design students at Fitchburg State.

For Professor Jeffrey Warmouth, art is pun and parody.



Photograph by Charles Sternaimolo '10

Minton Shines in Boston

Sarah Minton '14 represented Fitchburg State with pride this spring when the state Department of Higher Education spotlighted top students from across Massachusetts at the fourth annual "29 Who Shine" student-recognition ceremony held at the Grand Staircase of the Massachusetts Statehouse.

Minton, a Quincy native, graduated this May with a B.S. in nursing.

Minton was an engaged and passionate student leader since the earliest days of her career at Fitchburg State. Since the spring of her first year, Minton has been president of the class of 2014, and has used her leadership position and authority to make a difference on campus and in the wider community. She started the Fitchburg Anti-Violence Education Club, building on the university's own efforts to combat issues

of dating violence and sexual assault, and organized an ongoing campaign to make Fitchburg State a smoke-free campus. Minton's advocacy has gone beyond the classroom, as a leader on several Alternative Spring Break journeys to build houses for Habitat for Humanity and advocating for support of public higher education at the Statehouse. A future nurse, Minton has been the student representative to the university's Nursing Curriculum Committee since the fall of 2013. Last fall, Minton expanded upon her clinical rotations as a diabetic educator and school nurse to create a day-long health fair for underserved populations in the city of Gardner. This work, which incorporated the talents of her fellow student nurses, demonstrates Minton's embodiment of Fitchburg State's values of community engagement and public service.



Sarah Minton, left, with President Antonucci and Professor Allison Shields, at the 29 Who Shine ceremony.

Talking TEDx



Professor Kate Jewell, left, introduced TEDx speaker Jonathan Hobbs.

Variations on the theme of perseverance were explored by a variety of speakers from on- and off-campus in March when the university held its first TEDx Talk. The theme was inspired by Fitchburg State's official motto, perseverantia.

TED is a nonprofit organization devoted to "Ideas Worth Spreading." Started as a conference in California 30 years ago, TED has grown to support those worldchanging ideas with many initiatives. At a TED conference, the world's leading thinkers and doers are asked to give the talk of their lives in 18 minutes or less. On TED.com, talks from TED conferences are shared with the world for free as TED Talks videos. A new TED Talk is posted every weekday. Through the Open Translation Project, TED Talks are subtitled by volunteers worldwide into more than 90 languages. Through distribution networks, TED Talks are shared on TV, radio, Netflix and many websites.

The TEDx initiative grants free licenses to people around the world to organize TED-style events in their communities with TED Talks and live speakers. More than 5,000

TEDx events have been held, and selected talks from these events are also turned into TED Talks videos.

Presenters at the Fitchburg State talk included faculty member Laura Garofoli, who discussed the emergence of food allergies and their impact, as well as faculty member Ben Lieberman, who talked about the banality of saying "never again" to genocide, and what a real effort to prevent such atrocity would look like. Students also took part, including history major Jonathan Hobbs, who talked about rebuilding his life in the aftermath of a spinal cord injury in 1998. Student Nicole Lucia talked about the welfare and cultural visibility of same-sex relationships in young people, and the importance of positive portrayals in the media. Staff member Coelynn McIninch talked about how the human mind creates form out of nothingness.

Videos of the entire TEDx talk can be found on YouTube.



a Worldly education

BY CILLEA HOUGHTON '15

It's not every day that one is given the opportunity to travel to the country of their choice at a relatively affordable price. For students at Fitchburg State, that luxury can be found right on campus through the university's International Education program.

A WORLDLY EDUCATION

very year, Fitchburg State students have the chance to travel to various countries around the world such as Italy, Ireland, or Costa Rica by enrolling in a full-time semester or going on a faculty-led program. In each case, the classes offered fulfill either a general education course or degree requirement.

Over the past few years, study abroad at Fitchburg State has become increasingly popular. With 60 students going overseas in the last academic year, Director of International Education *Papa Sarr* is hoping that number will increase by creating more of these faculty-led programs. He also says that no matter what situation a student is in, the Office of International Education can adapt a program to meet their individual needs.

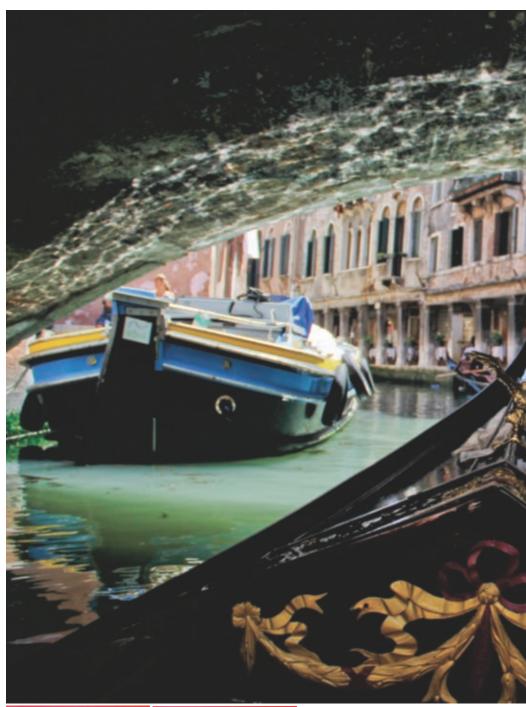
"Study abroad is easier than people think," Sarr said. "My advice to anyone is to come and we'll find a solution for you."

Study Abroad Advisor *Tracey Betts*Sarefield said the office strives to create opportunities that accommodate the university's academic requirements while facilitating the experience of living in another country.

"We're satisfying general education classes that totally immerse them in the culture," she said.

While Fitchburg State offers yearly trips to specific locations, it is also possible to travel to any location a student wishes to visit, as long as it is safe to travel there. The university can customize a program through different partners that are able to send students where they would like to go. The Office of International Education helps identify partner institutions where students may study, looking at such factors as faculty, curriculum and the individual student's background.

"Everything we do is based on being friendly to the student's budget," Sarefield said. "We try to customize everything to our students and utilize every resource we have."







A Venetian gondola glides underneath one of the many bridges. (Photo by Anna Latino '13)

Papa Sarr

Tracey Sarefield

A WORLDLY EDUCATION



Students can use their financial aid and scholarships toward study abroad, and there are supplemental programs designed to assist international opportunities. The Center for Italian Culture at Fitchburg State, for example, awards scholarships annually to students who seek to study

in Italy, as well as supporting faculty members in seeking to establish partner programs overseas. The CIC also supports students in related on-campus projects. And this spring, the university granted passport scholarships to several students whose photos and paperwork were

processed on-campus by a visiting team from the federal building downtown.

"Any student that (went abroad) said it was a transformative experience for them. You find yourself being challenged in ways you never thought you would be challenged," Sarr said. Through these new and diverse experiences, students gain a host of valuable skills like strategic thinking, independence, and cross-cultural competency, among others, that will serve them well after they return home.

It is through adaptation of these skills that students evolve their own perspectives and expand their horizons during their time abroad, an experience that Sarefield said leaves a lasting impact.

"It shows students exactly what they're capable of," Sarefield said. "You really are stronger and more confident. That confidence gives you the opportunity to gain leadership skills."

While all travelers develop a specialized skill set, Sarr noted that each experience is unique to the individual. "Every study abroad student will come back with a customized way of seeing things; we all take in information differently," he said. "The experience is dictated by the country."

In addition to growing as individuals, Sarefield and Sarr also believe that studying abroad provides students with an edge that makes them more competitive in the job market.

"Study abroad has become increasingly important as we have become a global society," said Sarr. "It makes our students aware of the world around them and allows them to be able to work in it as well. Employers want someone who has a better understanding of the world market."

"The world is a big place and we are all connected no matter what we do," added Sarefield. "Being abroad changes everything for students."

My Country of Dreams

by Cillea Houghton '15

When I entered college, I didn't give so much as a passing thought to studying abroad. I was far too frightened by the idea of flying and living in a foreign country for an extended period of time. When I discovered that Fitchburg State offered a summer program in Italy, the one place in the world I wanted to visit the most, I came up with a variety of fears and excuses in my head as to why I shouldn't go. However, the only reason I needed to make my decision was that I really wanted to take advantage of this opportunity.

Spending a month in Italy was far and away the greatest experience of my life. In a short amount of time, we did so much more than I ever thought imaginable. Over the course of a month, we were introduced to nearly every aspect of the Italian culture from visiting different parts of the country, to discovering how they make their food. To live in a city as small as Verona, as opposed to a tourist-heavy area, provided me with an authentic look

at what the culture is really like. While there are many aspects of the Italian culture I admire, what I value the most is their passion for life. Walking down the street, I rarely saw people looking down at their phone, sucked into their technology. I witnessed first-hand how warm and welcoming the Italian people are and how they understand that life is something to be valued. Seeing shops close as early as 7 p.m. every night and watching the city nearly go quiet on Sundays made me realize that there is a significant difference between working hard and working your life away.

Before I studied abroad, I was a very shy and quiet person. It takes a lot to pull me out of my comfort zone, and I knew that an experience such as this would open my eyes to the vast world around me. I am sincere in saying that this experience has changed me for the better. I am now more confident and outgoing than I was before and have made it my mission to push

"I AM SINCERE IN SAYING THAT THIS EXPERIENCE HAS CHANGED ME FOR THE BETTER."

myself in circumstances where I feel scared or uncomfortable, for it is in times like that where we grow the most.

I am so incredibly thankful for this experience and have an entirely different perspective on life because of it. From hiking a mountain for the first time, to making my way to the top of a church overlooking the city of Florence, I was exposed to so many new elements of life through this trip. I learned that fear is a debilitating emotion in our lives and had I let my initial worries dictate my decision to study abroad, I would not be the same person I am today. Thanks in large part to Fitchburg State, I was able to travel to the country of my dreams, meet some inspiring people, and have the experience of a lifetime.



Cillea Houghton in Verona, Italy.

Living History

Nick Wilson '15

Nick Wilson has always entertained dreams of being a history teacher, and figures a good way to learn about it is to live it. So he's spending six months this year in the Czech Republic, studying its language, history and environment.



Nick Wilson in Prague, Czech Republic.

"Travel is something I plan to do because there's no better way to learn than to go there, see it, and interpret it for yourself. I hope that by the time I'm 30 I will have lived on each continent." Europe is the second continent he's seen (after North America). "So, only five more."

The Shirley native is majoring in middle school education and history. He is paying for his study abroad through part-time teaching jobs and working as a mechanic while overseas. It's been a life-changing experience.

"I always knew I wanted to travel, and now I'm addicted," he said. "I'd never been on a plane, lived in a city or spoke another language before, so getting those big first times out of the way was a great feeling. My goals in life are to learn and become

a teacher, so this is a small step for me. It's like a little taste of the pie, but now I know I need to go every place I can and accomplish my goals."

Wilson, who will graduate in 2015, had a romantic idea of what study abroad would look like, and made it happen.

"I always wanted to get off the plane with nothing but my bags and no idea what to do," he said. "I had a job within a couple weeks (of arriving in the Czech Republic) and had made great local friends, and it was the best choice for me. I really wanted to experience it from the perspective of an immigrant, not only a student. I'm most proud of that first month, because being able to establish myself as a self-sustaining person in a city where I can't speak the native language made me proud."

Making Global Friends

Sarah Marshall '14

For Sarah Marshall, a trip overseas as an undergraduate student was many milestones in one.

"I had been a commuter, and I really wanted that experience" of living on her own, she recalled. That wish was granted, along with countless other new experiences.

Marshall lived in a dormitory in London shared by American and other international students. That diversity enhanced her academic experience, she noted, describing the opportunity to study a course on the history of Islam with Muslim students.

"It has had the biggest impact on my life thus far," she said. "It wasn't just getting to know people from London, it was getting to know people from all over the world. The conversations that I had with the

people that I met, those experiences will stay with me."

Marshall, who was raised in Lunenburg, visited 13 international cities during her time abroad, including Amsterdam, Edinburgh, Rome, Barcelona and Paris.

"I became completely fascinated with communication and language," she said.

The semester abroad inspired her to change majors from special education to interdisciplinary studies. She plans to pursue a master's degree in speech pathology and will continue studying Arabic.

"My whole family is educators," Marshall said, "but going away made me realize I can do something different."



Sarah Marshall in Paris, France.

Following Hemingway

Timothy Michalak '14

Timothy Michalak in Toledo, Spain.



"I SEE A WORLD WHICH IS FULL OF PEOPLE WHOM I DON'T KNOW, AND I ACTIVELY CHOOSE TO SPEND MY LIFE TRYING TO MEET THEM."

Timothy Michalak attributes his interest in studying abroad in Spain to two simple factors: people and curiosity.

"My entire experience in Spain revolved around people," he said. "Not places, buildings, or language. I have always been fascinated by people, and always strive to meet new people and understand them as wholly as I can. Because of this, the inspiration to study abroad came quite naturally. I see a world which is full of people whom I don't know, and I actively choose to spend my life trying to meet them."

A history major with a concentration in secondary education, Michalak was also attracted to the author Ernest Hemingway and his exploits in Spain.

"I had been taking Spanish throughout high school and college, so I knew that whatever country I chose would have to be a Spanish-speaking country," he recalled. "I also happen to love reading Hemingway, and I remember reading *The Sun Also Rises* and reading about his experiences in Spain and wanting to experience that for myself. I also knew he loved bullfighting, the culture there, and that Spain was a major influence for a lot of his writing. I figured something there was special. And finally, I chose Seville because I did not want a large city, but rather as authentic a city as possible. Seville, I would soon learn, is in many ways a hub of Spanish culture. When I took all those things into account, and then spoke with my wonderful study abroad advisor, Tracey Sarefield, I knew that Seville, Spain was where I'd be spending four months of my life."

Michalak, a native of Feeding Hills, took four courses while studying overseas, helping him hone his Spanish-speaking skills (which were further burnished by conversing with his host family) while broadening his horizons as a citizen of the world.

"I learned more about the global community in which I live," he said. "Before I went, I couldn't conceptualize the fact that other people lived so far from me. They existed in my mind as characters you read about in the news, rather than living,

breathing, human beings. By living and traveling abroad, I began to understand that I am part of a larger human experience. Also, it has sparked within me the desire to travel to other places, both nationally and internationally."

Michalak also visited London, Paris and Krakow during his three and a half months in Europe, but thinks too many students who travel abroad wrongly focus on amassing a checklist of countries through which they've passed. To him, that misses the point of studying abroad.

"This opportunity meant learning more about other people, other societies, and other places," he said. "It meant confronting challenges, and seeking the limits of my abilities and pushing them further. It meant removing preconceived notions about people and places, and choosing to understand from the perspective of others, rather than from my own."

Michalak plans to graduate in December.

Shahein Kiaresh in Istanbul, Turkey.

Global Citizen

Shahein Kiaresh '13

Shahein Kiaresh's semester in Verona, Italy, wasn't his first trip overseas, but it cemented his love of learning new cultures and meeting new people. The history major, a native of Springfield, balanced a full course load of Asian history, economics, math and Italian language and history during his stay in Italy.

"I've always loved to travel the world," he said. "Although I had been to Italy many times, the northern part of Italy was a new place for me to learn about."

Kiaresh said he was fortunate to have some scholarship money to help make the trip affordable, and was glad he'd made the investment.

"It really allowed me to become more aware of the different cultures that are present in the world," he said. "Many people think that because we live in America we see and learn about a lot of the countries in the world, but in fact, it's the exact opposite. While living in Verona, I was able to meet students from countries throughout the world,

and got to learn about their cultures and traditions. I feel that this is what really helped me to decide to become an ESL (English as a second language) teacher, and teach English abroad."

Kiaresh said he will be forever grateful for the opportunity to study abroad.

"I have made many friends from around the world with whom I still talk and visit today," he said. "Most importantly, this experience allowed me to see life from another perspective. I feel that my experience abroad has helped shape me in a more positive way as I have become much more open minded. I will never forget all the things I have learned abroad and I will always live through them with the wonderful memories I have of my experience. I recommend that all students take the chance and study abroad as it will only benefit them, not only for their future, but for their entire lives as well."

"THIS EXPERIENCE ALLOWED ME TO SEE LIFE FROM ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE."



Down Under

David Farland '14

The opportunity to study abroad inspired David Farland to look for someplace to explore some of his personal passions and the unique opportunity to surf for credit.

"I'm very outdoorsy," he recalled. "I like the sun. I like nice weather. I just thought Australia was a nice fit."

And then some. The semester the electronics engineering student spent in Queensland, Australia, was nothing less than a life-changing experience.

Farland, a native of Burlington, lived in an international dormitory in his time Down Under, sharing quarters with students from Switzerland, Sweden, Korea, Japan and the U.S.

"It was an awesome mix," he said.

His coursework included environmental science and conservation, but it was an "outdoor pursuits" class that really impressed him. "Best class ever," he said with a laugh,

"IT CHANGED HOW I VIEW OUR COUNTRY."

remembering his time spent surfing, canoeing and kayaking while earning legitimate college credit. He also went skydiving and bungee-jumping while overseas.

As fun as those experiences were, however, it was finding a place in a global community that meant the most to him. An Australian friend invited him and several other international students to his home for a meal.

"It felt like something that wouldn't happen here," he said, describing the hospitality and the experience of seeing how other countries view the U.S. and its culture. "It changed how I view our country."

It also changed how he saw himself. When Farland returned to the U.S., he found he was a more engaged member of the campus community, and a more social person in general.

"Now I love meeting people," said Farland, who graduated in May. "I didn't realize how much I'd changed."



David Farland and some new friends in Australia.

Fitchburg State students visited Stonehenge

Treading in Historical Footsteps

The experience of traveling abroad is eye-opening and educational, and that was certainly the case when 10 Fitchburg State students spent their spring break in England.

Professor Kisha Tracy (English Studies) launched a new course this past spring on medieval England, and a centerpiece of the class was spending 10 days in the country they were studying.

The voyage took the students to London, then to Oxford to visit the famous, 700-year-old Bodleian Library. They visited Warwick Castle, home of the world's largest trebuchet, and Stratford-Upon-Avon, home of William Shakespeare. They visited Canterbury and saw key sites related to Geoffrey Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, and made a visit to Stonehenge.



Students shared tales of their travels with diverse audiences afterward, including a group of Fitchburg High School students who visited campus to learn about the

honors program. The university students also took their show on the road, making a well-received presentation at the Fitchburg Historical Society downtown.

Beyond the Fringe

Fitchburg State's storied theater program has resounded on the global stage. Since 2000, the university has taken part every three years in the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland. The trip typically involves more than two dozen students (with the high point being more than 30 students when

the university's production of The Laramie Project was exported).

The week-long trip involves students performing alongside theater companies from around the world.

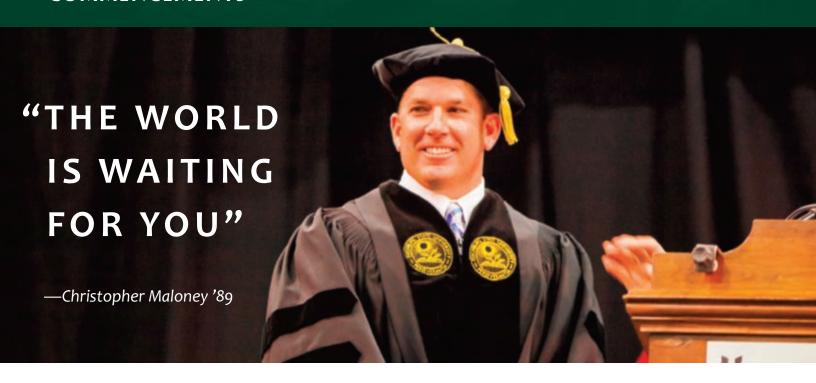
Theater students at the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland.

"The students work hard promoting the show we bring, and attend performances and befriend actors and directors from everywhere," said Professor Richard McElvain, who has accompanied students on each voyage. "Many maintain these connections long after we return. Some of them lead to productions at Fitchburg State."

One such production was an adaptation of Franz Kafka's "Metamorphosis," which was performed by the student-run Falcon Players with great success.

The voyage typically concludes with a decompressing on the west coast of Scotland including hiking in the highlands and visits to the Inner Hebrides.

The theater program will be collecting donations at its upcoming productions for a return trip to Edinburgh scheduled for 2015.



or Christopher Maloney '89, Fitchburg State was the place he formed lifelong friendships and mounted a career in public safety that has exceeded his wildest dreams.

In a well-received and humor-filled commencement address in May, Maloney told nearly 600 newly-minted graduates (and thousands of their family and friends) about his path from undergraduate student to chief U.S. probation officer for the District of Massachusetts.

"For years you have received advice from your family, friends, teachers, and coaches and now on your last official day of school, the university has seen fit to bring in a federal probation officer to give you one last word of advice," he said. "Let's hope that's just a coincidence."

Maloney grew up in Dedham and attended Catholic Memorial High School. Upon arriving at Fitchburg State in 1984, he said, his main goals were making the football team and meeting girls.

"Now you have to understand that I had just spent four years at an all-boys Catholic high school, so you can see how past experiences certainly shaped my future goals," he said. "I was very excited that

summer Fitchburg State had launched a Division 3 football program. For the next four years I had the unique opportunity of being the starting running back on a team that won one game in four years; so it's no surprise that I ended up in public service and not the NFL."

Still, Maloney found some of his closest friendships among the football team.

"The legendary football coach Mike Ditka once said, 'You're never a loser until you quit trying.' That couldn't have been more true of those early teams, and as time has passed I have learned that Coach Ditka's words really hold true for all that we do in life."

By the time he was a junior, Maloney realized he needed a plan to follow graduation.

"I would like to take credit for having the insight to realize I needed a plan, but credit goes to my parents who would continuously ask me, 'Chris, just what is your plan after college?' Does that sound familiar?" he asked the graduates. "Your first challenge as you leave this university is to develop your own plan. Don't procrastinate and don't put it off till tomorrow. The world is waiting for you, and to be honest, the world needs all the

new ideas, energy, and optimism that all of you possess. Deep inside of you is a special talent just waiting to be discovered and the only way you'll find it is by challenging yourself. It's through challenging ourselves that we find out who we really are and I know you'll be pleasantly surprised."

Maloney's advisor, Professor Augustine Aryee, suggested he visit people with careers he found interesting as a means of developing his own plan. He ended up shadowing an uncle who was a state probation officer in Boston.

"I HAD NEVER SEEN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM THAT CLOSE UP, AND I WAS INSTANTLY ATTRACTED"

"Fortunately for me, and my parents, I had never seen the criminal justice system that close up, and I was instantly attracted," he said. "Being a probation officer seemed to balance the public safety responsibilities of a law enforcement officer with the high purpose of helping people turn their lives around. I knew going forward this was a field of work I wanted to pursue; but then reality set in."

"YOUR FIRST CHALLENGE AS YOU LEAVE THIS UNIVERSITY IS TO DEVELOP YOUR OWN PLAN. DON'T PROCRASTINATE AND DON'T PUT IT OFF TILL TOMORROW. THE WORLD IS WAITING FOR YOU, AND TO BE HONEST, THE WORLD NEEDS ALL THE NEW IDEAS, ENERGY, AND OPTIMISM THAT ALL OF YOU POSSESS. DEEP INSIDE OF YOU IS A SPECIAL TALENT JUST WAITING TO BE DISCOVERED AND THE ONLY WAY YOU'LL FIND IT IS BY CHALLENGING YOURSELF. IT'S THROUGH CHALLENGING OURSELVES THAT WE FIND OUT WHO WE REALLY ARE AND I KNOW YOU'LL BE PLEASANTLY SURPRISED."

While he had solid educational credentialshe was pursuing an undergraduate degree in sociology-Maloney knew he needed to amass some professional experience if he was to proceed with this career track. As a college senior he got a weekend job as an adolescent substance abuse counselor.

"The pay was low and it was tough to leave Slattery's every weekend, but I knew if I wanted to pursue my goal of being a probation officer I needed to start gaining experience," he said. "That part-time job turned into a full-time job after graduation, and for the next year two years I worked with drug-addicted teenagers."

The experience was invaluable, and his journey had begun. Maloney looked for jobs in Massachusetts but a statewide hiring freeze limited his opportunities.

"I reached out to two of my college roommates who had moved to Palm Beach County, Florida, to pursue their dreams and asked for a little help," he recalled. "Like only college roommates would do, they looked into probation officer positions, sent me the applications, and within months I was hired in Palm Beach County, Florida, and reunited with my college roommates. It was 174 Highland Avenue all over again."

That experience, along with contacts made through professional networks, led to opportunities in the federal system. In May 1992, Maloney was back in Massachusetts, working as a U.S. probation officer out of Boston.

"For the next five years I worked hard conducting investigations and supervising some of Boston's most notorious felons, all the while thinking about the next step in my career," he said. "And by the way, those old college roommates from Florida, they chased their dreams back to Boston and once again the guys from 174 Highland Avenue were living together. It must be a Fitchburg State thing."

His relocation for work had given him the confidence to step outside his comfort zone, and soon Maloney was working in Washington, D.C. That led to cross-country travel learning about the federal probation system, where he amassed the knowledge and confidence to seek a chief's slot. He was appointed chief probation officer for the District of New Jersey in 2004, and while in the Garden State he married and began a family.

In 2011, Maloney returned to Massachusetts to assume his current post. "Up until my appointment as chief, my life for the most part was defined as being a federal probation officer," he said. "After years of focusing on my career, coming home helped me realize life was only just beginning for me. Sure, I enjoy the title of chief and who wouldn't; it sounds important to my kids, and you get to be involved in turning people's lives around. But nowhere does it compare to the title of husband, dad, brother, or friend. After 25 years pursuing my professional dreams I have learned that striking a healthy balance between home and work is the true key to success."

Maloney encouraged the graduates to make time for their own friends and family.

"No doubt you'll make mistakes and occasionally fall down, as we all do, but the people here today are the ones who believe in you and will be there to help get you back on track," he said. "Your time at Fitchburg State University has prepared you for much more than a career—it has prepared you to live life to its fullest."

118th Commencement Exercises

A mercilessly damp spring may have forced the 118th Commencement Exercises Undergraduate Spring Ceremony indoors this May, but the weather could not diminish the pride and accomplishment of Fitchburg State's latest class of graduates.

Christopher Maloney '89, the chief U.S. Probation Officer for the District of Massachusetts, delivered a warm and well-received commencement address (see sidebar). His selection continued a recent tradition of welcoming back accomplished alumni to serve as commencement speakers.

Senior class President Sarah Minton, who graduated with a degree in nursing, presented a top 10 list of things the class had learned at Fitchburg State, including the importance of calling home. "Humans are the only species that allow their offspring to come home after they have left," she said, before addressing the assembled parents in the crowd. "So thank you for that, we really appreciate it."

She also presented the class members with special souvenirs.

"As each of you walk across the stage to receive your diploma and alumni pin, you

will be handed a gold key from the class of 2014," Minton said. "We, as graduates, are very similar to these keys. The key has no set destination and immeasurable potential. It can be fit for any type of lock and has the ability to open a great number of doors. We have paths but no set destination, and although that may be frightening, it is also one of the most vibrant times in our lives. Lastly, the keys are a reminder of our home. Let this keepsake remind you of all the friends that became family, memories that you will cherish for a lifetime and a school that you can always call home."

Distinguished Alumnus

The morning began with the Alumni Breakfast, where Fitchburg High School Principal Jeremy Roche '95 was the featured speaker in observance of his being presented the Distinguished Alumnus Award. Roche has been at Fitchburg High since 2011, where he has transformed the school culture by embracing high standards and broad expectations for all students. During his tenure the school has seen a reduction in dropout rates and improved academic performance.

President Antonucci introduced Roche at the breakfast, calling the principal's arrival at Fitchburg High one of the best things that's happened to the city. "You are a star in my eyes," he said.

"I'm very honored, humbled and proud," Roche told the alumni gathered at the Holmes Dining Commons.

He recalled arriving at Fitchburg State as a transfer student from Cape Cod Community College in 1992, and how people remarked that he was "just" going to Fitchburg State.

"For whatever reason, 'just' happened to precede 'Fitchburg State College,'" as the

school was then known, Roche said. "For some reason, Fitchburg State was 'less than,' or something not to be proud of. The perception of Fitchburg State at that time was that it was a backup school. That is complete and utter nonsense."

Roche recalled professors who challenged him to do better work in the classroom, and to broaden his horizons by studying abroad in Costa Rica. He graduated with a solid educational foundation that has translated into a rewarding career.

As for the idea that his degree was "less than" his peers, Roche was clear. "My

"I REALLY FOUND MY
POTENTIAL HERE," ROCHE
SAID. "IT AFFORDED ME THAT
OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN
ABOUT WHAT I WANTED TO
DO, AND ABOUT MYSELF."

Fitchburg State degree has never been an issue for me, and I stand before you as

someone who has their dream job," he said. "We're Falcons for life."

He embellished one of President Antonucci's signature catchphrases as he concluded his remarks.

"Fitchburg State is the number one university in Massachusetts," he said. "I'm humbled to be a small part of it."



Fitchburg High School Principal Jeremy Roche '95.

Faculty Awards



Professor Sean Goodlett, center, was given the Mara Award from Alumni Association President Gina Cuccovia-Simoneau, left, and President Antonucci.

The undergraduate ceremony also included the presentation of two major faculty honors: The Dr. Vincent J. Mara Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Faculty Award for Research and Scholarship.

Dr. Sean C. Goodlett, chairman of the Economics, History and Political Science Department and a member of the Fitchburg State faculty since 2001, was presented the Mara Award.

"Dr. Goodlett is described by former students as an educator who clearly understands his students, and the teaching methods needed to engage them," President Antonucci said in presenting the award. "He holds students to high standards but is always approachable. Dr. Goodlett's efforts have had a positive impact on teaching across this campus by taking a leadership role in promoting such concepts as technology in the classroom. He has also been a champion of public higher education, representing his colleagues with distinction as their staunch advocate."

Dr. Benjamin Railton, a member of the English Studies faculty since 2005, was given the research award. He has written several acclaimed books exploring American Studies and American literature.



Professor Ben Railton, center, with Vice President Robin E. Bowen and President Antonucci.

"Critics have applauded his insightful, fresh, and finely researched work, that allows us to look at our own history and consider how it reflects on our present," President Antonucci said. "Dr. Railton's research and scholarship have made valuable contributions to his field of study, and it has benefited his own students, who are inspired through his teaching to find new ways to look at the American experience."



Student Award

The Undergraduate Commencement ceremony also included the presentation of the Robert V. and Jeanne S. Antonucci Leadership Award to graduating senior Joseph P. Flanagan.

"Joseph, you have given enough of your time and talent to improve the lives of your fellow students and, by extension, this campus," President Antonucci said. "As an orientation leader and mentor, you have helped our new students adapt to the challenges and responsibilities of university life."

Flanagan was also recognized for his work with the university's Leadership Society, where he helped his peers develop communication and teamwork skills that will help them in their careers and lives.

"You have also demonstrated your leadership skills in our campus center, where you have worked as a building manager," President Antonucci said. "Again, your talents here reflect upon the larger university community, as Hammond Hall is the living room of the campus, and the place where thousands of visitors will form their enduring impressions of this institution. It is because of talented, dedicated and responsible individuals like you that this beautiful symbol of our campus is entirely managed by students."

Flanagan served as president of the largest club on campus, the dance club.

"YOU HAVE LED BY EXAMPLE,
PERFORMING WITH SKILL AND
BOOSTING THE PROFILE OF
AN ALREADY SIGNIFICANT
CAMPUS ORGANIZATION."

President Antonucci told the honoree. "You graduate with honors today and with your degree, we are excited to see where your talent, intellect and hard work will take you next."



Joseph Flanagan, center, received his award from President and Mrs. Antonucci.



Graduate Commencement

The Graduate Commencement ceremony on May 15 included the presentation of the Contributions to the Graduate Program Award to Dr. Anne M. Howard (pictured below), a member of the Education faculty since 1992.



"Her tenure here has been marked by an unwavering commitment to helping individuals with severe special needs thrive, both in school, and in life," President Antonucci said. "As a member of our faculty and later as a program chair and director, Dr. Howard has played a major role in guiding our special education programs. She has also taken on challenging assignments in our education program's accreditation process, leading to successful outcomes."

Howard was named chair of the Education Department Undergraduate Curriculum Committee in 2008 and served in that position for two years. She is currently codirector for the Behavior Analyst Certificate program, a post she assumed in 2010. Howard has been a member of the departmental Graduate Curriculum Committee throughout her tenure at Fitchburg State.

In 2013, Howard was recognized for her outstanding contributions to the Education Unit National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) process for compiling the NCATE reports for the undergraduate program in severe special education as well as its counterpart at the graduate level.

Also recognized at the Graduate Commencement ceremony was Weymouth High School teacher Nathan Rand, who received the Graduate Student Leadership Award. In presenting the recognition, President Antonucci cited Rand's embodying the values of civic engagement, from studying in Germany to serving in the Peace Corps before embarking on a career in education.

"His students at Weymouth High have benefited from their teacher's experience in the global classroom," President Antonucci said. "Nathan's passion for teaching has

taken him to summer programs in China and Mongolia, and he shares that drive with his students, who have benefited from his global perspective. As an advisor and mentor, Nathan has helped students raise money for worthy causes at home and abroad, empowering the next generation of leaders to know that they can make a difference."

The philosophy has resulted in greater civic engagement among students, as well as improved academic performance while fostering a renewed sense of volunteerism in the broader community, President Antonucci said.

"We are honored to salute the spirit and dedication that is making a difference across generations."



Nathan Rand, center, with Trustee Chairman Carol Vittorioso and President Antonucci.

Winter Commencement

Chief DeMoura, second from left, with President Antonucci, Trustee Chairman Carol Vittorioso and Professor David Weiss.



The university's winter commencement ceremony was held in December. The evening featured the awarding of undergraduate and graduate degrees, as well as the presentation of the President's Medal to retiring Fitchburg Police Chief Robert A. DeMoura.

"Since your arrival in 2008, you have distinguished yourself as a leader not only in public safety but in community service," President Antonucci told the honoree. "You have transformed the Fitchburg Police Department into a forwardlooking organization, building bridges between community organizations and neighborhoods. You have collaborated with outside police agencies in an effort to work smarter, in spite of ongoing budgetary challenges. Your efforts have helped lead to an overall decline in crime in this city."

DeMoura was also recognized for his role in working with university leaders on the Next Generation Leadership Summit for Public Safety Professionals, which for four years (and counting) has helped cultivate communication and management skills.

Hard work, networking pay off



or Ben DeTour '13, college was about taking full advantage of each and every opportunity. The Fitchburg State senior was just wrapping up his final semester of an internship at the National Geographic Television Channel in Washington, D.C. last spring when he had the chance to meet an alumnus whom he had been hoping to connect with for months. The two hit it off and a short time later, DeTour, originally from Belchertown, had a full-time job.

The two Fitchburg State grads are now working side by side at the National Geographic Channel.

"I shook hands with him on my last day and thought this was my moment," DeTour said. "I'm not going to get it again. I told him that this was my dream job and I'd love to work for him. He took the chance."

The alumnus was John Cosenze, a 1982 graduate, who this past fall won an Emmy Award from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences as the supervising producer of "Space Dive" for the National Geographic Channel.

Cosenze said the two worked two floors from each other the entire semester De-Tour was working at National Geographic Television but they didn't meet until two days before DeTour's internship was over.

"We got to talking for an hour and I got a good feeling from him," Cosenze said. "The fact that he was from Fitchburg State gave him a whole lot of points. I could tell he got some valuable training and most importantly, he was just a good kid."

About two months later, a production coordinator left and Cosenze immediately thought of DeTour.

DeTour started in October 2013. In the entry level role, DeTour helps producers with editing, re-narration, coordinating license agreements, obtaining rights to footage, confirming rates for vendors, and issuing payment to vendors.

"You could say there is some serious gray area with my job title," DeTour said. "I do a lot more than a typical production coordinator would do because our department is one of the busiest at NGC."

DeTour also said that Cosenze and his other boss have started giving him his own shows to work on. Those shows, called, "repacks" are old shows that aired years ago but are being revamped with new graphics, content and narration to appeal to new audiences.

"I've already had about one dozen shows hit the air with new graphics and loads of edits that I've made so, you could say they are supporting my dream and grooming me to become a young producer for National Geographic Channel," DeTour said. "They know what I want to do and have been nothing but supportive in helping me reach those goals. There's not a doubt in my mind that, under their help and guidance, I'll become a producer someday (hopefully soon)."

DeTour credits his Fitchburg State connection with Cosenze, and the education he received at the university, for the opportunity to pursue his dream.

As a student in the university's communications program, DeTour was required to take a semester-long internship in his field. Not only did the experience lead to meeting Cosenze, but DeTour said he learned real-world experience that can't be found in a classroom.

He choose the National Geographic Television internship over the Discovery Channel and Animal Planet.

"It was a heck of an experience," he said. "They taught me all about the industry and I got to put to use the skills I learned in school, finally. The most fascinating point was making the connections between what I learned in school and what I was doing in the real world."

DeTour said he was able to take advantage of the opportunity because he was fully prepared after 3 ½ years at Fitchburg State.

"I was so happy I paid attention in college because the education was just phenomenal," DeTour said. "I felt like I was on top of it."

But college life didn't start out very smoothly for DeTour. He said he wasn't a great student in high school and barely managed to get into Fitchburg State. The school only accepted him after he pleaded his case with the admissions office on a weekly basis. He said school officials recognized his passion for film, and for the university, and agreed to give him a chance.

"There was something about Fitchburg when I first went on a tour," he said. "I fell in love with the campus, the teachers and the whole place."

After struggling his freshman year, he got his act together the next year. He excelled with the small class sizes and personal interaction with his professors, and got involved in campus giving tours. He went on to work in the residence halls and serve as president of the honor society.

And now he's working at his dream job.

"I'm over the moon and excited to work for National Geographic," he said. "The fact that I'm here right now is fantastic and I'm working my tail off to get to where I want to be ultimately. I have a lot of people who put their names on the line for me."

OUT OF THIS **WORLD**

John Cosenze '82 wins an Emmy for space documentary

BY JENNIFER LEFFERTS

hen veteran producer **John** Cosenze started working on "Space Dive," he thought he had something special. As it turns out, the 1982 graduate of Fitchburg State University was right.

Cosenze won an Emmy Award in the fall of 2013 from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences as the supervising producer of "Space Dive," for the National Geographic Channel. The documentary is about Felix Baumgartner's 2012 skydive from the edge of space, which was the culmination of more than five years of work on the project. Cosenze accepted the award in New York City on behalf of his team, which won in the category of Outstanding Science and Technology Programming.

"At the time, we thought it was something special," Cosenze said. "It has visuals that no other show had. It had drama, it had excitement, it had science and technology, and our frailty as humans. There were some really great shows in the category but I thought "Space Dive" was unique enough to separate itself."

"Space Dive" is a two-hour, behind-thescenes look into everything that made the jump possible. Cosenze said a big part of the documentary is Baumgartner's issues with the pressure suit he had to wear in space. Baumgartner was used to jumping off buildings and structures with his parachute on, with the wind in his face.

"Here he had to learn how to parachute all over again in a pressure suit that limited his mobility and gave him anxiety as he went further and further into the testing," Cosenze said.

There were several starts and stops in the project, some associated with the weather and others when Baumgartner actually left the show because the suit was too difficult to wear, Cosenze said.

In the end, it all came together for something special, he said.

"As we got closer and closer to the finish, you could tell there was something special about it, especially as we started putting in footage of the actual jump," Cosenze said. "I could tell it was definitely something that was more special than what I had worked on up until that point."

Cosenze said no one else associated with the show was able to attend the awards ceremony, so he went on his own. When the show's name was called, it was a feeling he won't forget.

"You see people walking up there, and I can tell you, it was probably the most nerve-wracking 50 yards I had to walk," he said. "What was even worse, was to give an acceptance speech in front of all these people you admire. It was a blast and an honor for me to accept for the channel."

Cosenze, a native of Shirley, now lives in Ijamsville, Md.

After graduating from Fitchburg State in 1982, Cosenze looked around the New England area for work but couldn't find much. On a whim, he called Vox-Cam, a post-production and equipment rental facility in the Washington, D.C. area where he had interned during his junior year in college and asked if they needed any help.

"I've been down here ever since," Cosenze said.

Cosenze said the semester intern experience, especially for television is extremely important. "I learned a lot and went back for my senior year and was able to bring a perspective a lot of people didn't have," he said.

While the Emmy has been a highlight of his career, Cosenze has many other projects under his belt. As a supervising producer,



he organizes all the pieces of media that have to go into a program. He arranges for a shoot, records the voice over for talent, and tweaks the script.

"It's the nuts and bolts of any particular program you're working on," he said. "The part I like the best is the creative part and interpreting what the executive producer wants or envisions."

He's worked at National Geographic Channel since 2009. He has previously worked at the Discovery Channel and a small production company, all focused on television projects.

Samuel Tobin (Communications Media)

saw his book Portable Play in Everyday Life published by Palgrave Pivot. Despite the fact that the Nintendo DS is one of the most popular game systems of all time, theorists have largely ignored it. In the book, Tobin argues that the reason for this is the DS is literally and figuratively beneath notice, not just by game scholars but its own players as well. Indeed, it is the very "everydayness" of the Nintendo DS and of mobile gaming in general that is invisible yet filled with critical potential. Portable Play in Everyday Life explores how this device fits into players' homes, commutes

and lives. Drawing on discourse analysis and ethnographic methods, Tobin looks at the contexts, constraints and desires that animates and complicates mobile play. This is a significant shift away from examining the fantastic spaces inside of games to looking instead at the real world and lives in which play happens and why sometimes the "good enough" is just right.

Tara Mariolis (Nursing), Carol McKew (Nursing) and Kelly Morgan (Communications Media) presented a poster at the St. Anselm Nursing Educator Conference entitled, "Actors Redefine Mental Health

Simulation." The poster highlighted the benefits of a yearlong collaboration between the Department of Nursing and the Department of Communications Media utilizing actors as patients in simulations of complex health-related scenarios with nursing students providing care in the nursing clinical skills laboratory. The use of actors was made possible through a Fitchburg State Special Projects grant.

María Mercedes Jaramillo (Humanities), as the President of the Colombianist Association, hosted the XVIII Conference of the Association at Regis College last summer.



Steven Edwards (English Studies) was awarded \$10,000 from the Massachusetts Cultural Council as one of its 2014 creative writing fellows. Edwards has been an assistant professor at Fitchburg State since 2011. The award-winning author's books include the memoir *Breaking into the Backcountry* (University of Nebraska Press, 2010), which tells the story of

his time as the caretaker of a 92-acre homestead along the Rogue National Wild and Scenic River in southwestern Oregon. His writing can be found in recent issues of Orion, Electric Literature, AGNI Online, Terrain.org, and The Good Men Project.

Edwards will be writing a series of essays about the experience of raising his young son, who has speech and language delays believed to be related to gastrointestinal issues.

"Writing about it has been so important to me," Edwards said, describing the challenges created when his son went years without sleeping through the night as various specialists sought to determine the cause. "As a parent, this has been very difficult. For me as a writer, this has been an opportunity to investigate the range of emotions this puts you through. It changes the way you look at the world."

Edwards teaches fiction and non-fiction writing and will teach a course in environmental writing this fall.

He said he was humbled by the fellowship from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and noted the award will go toward "the babysitter fund" as he works on his writing project.



Susan Rosa '93 (Education) was recognized with the Joel D. Miller Award in June at the annual retired educators luncheon, held at Hammond Hall.

The Miller Award was established in 1955 in honor of the state senator and member of the Board of Education, who is considered one of the three founders of the State

Normal School in Fitchburg (which was later known, of course, as Fitchburg State). Miller Hall is also named after him. The award is given to an educator who has demonstrated originality in their profession, given unselfish devotion to the profession and exerted an influence for good among their students.

Rosa has worked in the field for 32 years, including 15 years spent as an elementary and secondary education classroom teacher in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and, briefly, the United Kingdom. She has been a full-time faculty member at Fitchburg State—teaching in the early childhood, elementary and middle school programs—since 2006.

The Miller Award is traditionally given to teachers focusing on elementary and secondary education, but Rosa's work with students at the McKay Arts Academy—located on the Fitchburg State campus—warranted recognition. She created a math mentors' program to support at-risk third and fourth graders in 2009, a program that is still being implemented with Rosa's support. She also developed an eight-hour, content-driven workshop for early childhood teacher candidates preparing for their Massachusetts licensure exam.

The Association of Colombianists is the largest interdisciplinary academic body dedicated to the study of Colombia. A total of 118 scholars attended the conference. Two prominent scholars from Colombia –a historian and a dramatist-were invited to address the Conference on the subject of "Women in Colombia." The Colombianists came from universities in the United States, Colombia, Canada, Mexico, Spain, Belgium, Italy, and Switzerland. There were 35 different sessions, including panels, workshops, film series, and a play, "Dar a luz," with the stellar performance of Nicolas Buenaventura, one of Colombia's

best-known actors and storytellers. Also, Jaramillo presented: "Hotel de vagabundos: un mundo en descomposición" at the 2013 Congress of Latin American Studies Association (LASA), Washington, D.C.; and "Diálogo sobre la experiencia árabe en Colombia, comentarios sobre Meira Delmar, Luis Fayad, Raúl Gómez Jattín, Jorge García Usta y Fernando Cruz Kronfly" at the conference.

John Paul (Economics, History & Political Science) delivered a lecture entitled "M.K. Gandhi (1869-1948): The Nonviolent Trailblazer" last fall as part of "Mass Humanities Teachers' Institute: Nonviolent Movements in the Modern World," a 10-part series held at Clark University in Worcester.

Robin Dinda (Humanities) had his Organ Concerto No. 1, for organ and string orchestra, broadcast nationally on American Public Media's Pipedreams program. The broadcast may be heard at http://pipedreams.publicradio.org/listings/2014/1401/. Also on that site are two interviews with Dinda, about the evolution of his organ concerto and his life as a composer, and about the future for organs and organists.

Michael Greenwood (Business Administration) presented his work on the sources of entrepreneurial burnout and how to restart the start-up at the National Small Business Week event at the Microsoft NERD Center in Cambridge. He also made presentations on successful entrepreneurship to small business operators at the North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce, including leading a panel talk on what it takes to start and run one's own business.

Eric Budd (Economics, History and Political Science) served as the external reviewer for the Political Science Department at Salem State's program review. He also served as a panelist for the United Way of Central Massachusetts Youth Ventures reviewing proposals from high school students. One of the proposals was to create a Model UN team at Ayer-Shirley High School.

Michael Hoberman (English Studies) was awarded a Tikvah Institute in Jewish Thought Summer Fellowship for summer 2014 in New York City. He also had an article accepted for publication in the journal American Jewish History, which will appear in the publication's fall 2014 edition.



Katherine Jewell (Economics, History and Political Science) The Boston Marathon bombing in April 2013 was a moment we will never forget, and for faculty member Katherine Jewell (Economics, History and Political Science), it was personal.

Jewell, pushing her 3-year-old son in a stroller, was close enough to the second explosion to feel the blast and smell the smoke. In the tumultuous days that followed, Jewell turned to her training as a

historian in an attempt to make sense of the experience, chronicling the details, locations and conversations that erupted from the chaos.

That grew into a "crowd-sourced" oral history project, where Jewell collected other experiences from that fateful day. Mapping the Boston Marathon 2013, visible online at crowdsourcedhistory.wordpress.com, was the fruit of that inspiration. In the months since its launch, the project is now part of the Our Marathon digital archive at Northeastern University.

The map is a place where anyone who experienced the Boston marathon bombing on April 15, 2013 can record their story. The database and map that the project seeks to build is not limited to those who were injured, or were otherwise near the blast site. Rather, it seeks to establish a collective narrative and sense of how the events spiraled out from the blast sites.

"This project brings together multiple voices and experiences to create a crowdsourced collective history of the events of April 15, 2013," said Jewell. The data recorded will be publicly available and searchable for present and future research. "Together, these stories will not only record the experiences of Bostonians and their friends and family across the country and the world, but will also serve as a place of connection and reflection."

The project has also inspired a classroom activity in which Jewell's students analyzed raw historical artifacts to create narratives and question the reliability of sources.

For more information, visit crowdsourcedhistory.wordpress.com.



"THE FACILITY WAS JUST GORGEOUS, SO I LOOKED INTO WHAT PROGRAMS THE SCHOOL HAD TO OFFER," KIBLER RECALLED. HE VISITED FITCHBURG STATE THREE OR FOUR MORE TIMES IN THE ENSUING MONTHS. "EACH TIME, IT FELT MORE LIKE HOME."

hris Kibler's first glimpse of Fitchburg State came on the track, and in a way he's never looked back. He first competed at Elliot Field as a high school student from Bath, Maine.

"The facility was just gorgeous, so I looked into what programs the school had to offer," Kibler recalled. He visited Fitchburg State three or four more times in the ensuing months. "Each time, it felt more like home."

Kibler certainly was at home on the track, amassing several records, which continued even after he graduated with a degree in Exercise and Sports Science in 2012. He returned to competition as a graduate student, finishing his athletic career this spring. Earlier this year Kibler was named the Paul K. Waring '38 Male Athlete of the Year at the annual athletics awards banquet.

Kibler now holds the school record in the mile (4:07.29), 5,000 meter (14:44.01), 1,500 meter (3:56.30), 3,000 meter (8:28.97), distance medley relay (10:26.19) outdoor 4x800 meter (7:53.82) and indoor 4x800 meter (7:56.76). He also holds the

Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MACAC) record in the 5,000 meter and 10,000 meter events, and was MASCAC champion twice each in the 5,000 meter and 10,000 meter, as well as in the 1,500 meter, 3,000 meter and mile. He was named MASCAC's runner of the week 24 times. He was the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) runner of the week twice and four times was named All-ECAC and All New England.

This year alone, Kibler ran the seventh-fastest mile in the NCAA Division 3 competition, as well as being named the ECAC Mile Champion, qualifying in the mile for the NCAA National Championship and being named as an All-American by placing sixth at the NCAA's.

Kibler—who said he's now in the best shape of his life—looks back on his sophomore year (2010) as a turning point in his athletic career. "That was my first real breakout season," he said, recalling a MASCAC championship. "Nobody really thought that would happen. That helped our team win our first outdoor championship in about 20 years."

It takes a great deal of mental and physical effort to succeed at that level, Kibler said.

"One of the reasons I've been so successful is I've been self-motivated," noting runners in particular need to cultivate that sense of dedication.

He said Coach Jim Jellison has been an important figure in his development. "He'll just believe in you more than anyone else, more than you'll even believe in yourself," Kibler said. "Without that mindset being driven home, I'd never have run the times I did."

He also cites Exercise and Sports Science Professor Tim Hilliard as a key contributor, helping Kibler develop his technical resources.

Kibler's finished his collegiate eligibility, and needs just three more courses to complete to earn his Master's of Business Administration. He'll continue his work as an assistant coach at Fitchburg State, and dreams of one day working as a head coach at an NCAA institution.

"The bottom line is, I don't think I'll ever leave collegiate sports."



"I ALSO PLAYED SOFTBALL AGAINST FITCHBURG STATE AND WITNESSED AN INCREDIBLE TEAM ATMOSPHERE AND I VERY MUCH WANTED TO BE A PART OF THAT."

erry Alcott of Groton also completed her distinguished Falcon career this spring, but not before setting a number of records as a member of the women's softball team.

Alcott originally enrolled at Westfield State, but transferred to Fitchburg State two years into her career.

"A lot of factors influenced my decision to transfer, among them was the school's amazing special education program," Alcott said. "I also played softball against Fitchburg State and witnessed an incredible team atmosphere and I very much wanted to be a part of that."

Athletics have been a major part of Alcott's life since elementary school, and by the time she reached high school was conditioned to balance academics and sports.

"For me, it was always a matter of strong time management skills," she said. "If I had an extra 20 minutes before practice or a game, I was doing homework. There were many late nights and early mornings, but I don't think I would have been as successful in academics if I didn't have my other commitments that forced me to manage my time so meticulously."

At Fitchburg State, Alcott ranks second all-time with a career earned run average of 1.97, and ranks sixth in wins (19) and fourth

in strikeouts (281). This past year alone she led the team in several categories, from ERA (1.62), innings pitched (104), appearances (20), strikeouts (147) and complete games. For her efforts, she was named (along with sophomore Marissa Gemma) to the MASCAC All-Conference Second Team.

Alcott looks back fondly at her final year representing the Falcons.

"The moment that sticks out most to me for many reasons is Senior Day, which took place on April 24 against Nichols College," she said. It was on that date she broke the school record for strikeouts in a single game, with 15. "I could not have asked for a better way to end my time at Donna Withington Field."

Being named the Paul K. Waring '38 Female Athlete of the Year at this year's athletics banquet was also a notable achievement. "There are so many talented and dedicated student athletes at Fitchburg State that I look up to, and who are deserving of this award," she said. "I am so honored to have been recognized by the university for my commitment to athletics."

Alcott credits a wide support network of family and coaches for playing instrumental roles in her success.

"The support I received from my family is a huge aspect of my athletic career," she said. "My parents spent hours driving me

to tournaments, cooking late night dinners after long practices, celebrating with me after huge wins, and comforting me after huge losses. I truly owe them the world for everything they've done.

"All of the coaches that I've had the pleasure of playing for have helped me develop as a softball player as well as an individual," Alcott continued. "The coaches that I've played for at Fitchburg will always hold a special place in my heart. My two years on this team were two of the best years of my softball career and the coaches were a huge part of that. Their enthusiasm for the sport and desire to make their players better is unmatched by most. Finally, I am so grateful for my teammates, past and present. Softball has given me the opportunity to meet hardworking and talented young women who started out as teammates, but ended up as family. Years from now, I'm sure I'll forget scores, plays, and errors, but I will always have irreplaceable friendships."

Alcott is now applying for several jobs in area schools, armed with licenses in special education and elementary education.

"There is a lot of unknown that comes with graduating from college," she said, "but it's very exciting and I can't wait to see what doors open for me."

FALCONS ROUNDUP

Baseball—The Falcons claimed the fifth seed in the MASCAC baseball tournament and seventh seed in the ECAC tournament. The team concluded the season with an overall record of 22-18, going 5-8 in MASCAC. Still, the team logged their second most wins—24—in a single season (after their 2004 performance).

Freshman Steven Drury led the conference in batting average (.438), slugging percentage (.742), on base percentage (.531) and triples (9), while also ranking second in doubles (15) and runs (35, third in hits (56) and tied for sixth in RBIs (27) en-route to being named MASCAC Co-Rookie of the Year as well as earning a spot on the All-Conference First Team. He was named the university's male co-rookie of the year for his standout performance.

Drury was also named to the New England Intercollegiate Baseball Association (NEIBA) First Team as well as to the Worcester All-Area First Team and Worcester Area Rookie of the Year, while classmates Joe Lyons and Joe St. Hilaire and junior Ryan Magni were selected to the Worcester All-Area second team.

Football—Head Coach Pat Haverty was named both MASCAC and Worcester All-Area Coach of the Year, leading the Falcons to an overall record of 6-4 on the season (going 5-3 in MASCAC play). Freshman quarterback Garrett Dellechiaie tossed a Fitchburg State single season record 25 touchdown passes on 149 completions and 1,930 yards. For his efforts, Dellechiaie claimed MASCAC Offensive Rookie of the Years honors, while also being tabbed ECAC DIII North Offensive Rookie of the Year and Worcester All-Area Co-Freshman of the Year. The university dubbed him the male co-rookie of the year.

Men's Soccer—The team finished the season with an overall record of 6-8-5 and a 1-2-4 clip in the MASCAC en route to securing the sixth seed in the MASCAC post-season tournament. Junior goalkeeper Aidan Hanratty was crowned the NCAA Division III statistical champion in save percentage, leading the nation among all Division III schools with a .910 save percentage, while guiding the Falcons to a DIII record tying four 0-0 double overtime draws in a single season. For his efforts,

Hanratty was selected to the MASCAC Men's Soccer All-Conference Second Team, while freshman Steven Martinez joined Hanratty on the All-Conference Second Team. Senior Colin Shea earned MASCAC All-Conference First Team honors.

Women's Basketball—Senior Amy Fahey concluded her career, ranking first all-time with 1,644 points, field goals made (613) and free throws made (417), while ranking fourth in rebounds (757) and blocks (86) and tenth in steals with 173. She was named to the MASCAC Women's Basketball All-Conference First Team, while junior Laura Cote was selected to the MASCAC All-Conference Second Team. The team wrapped up the season with a record of 13-12, 6-6 MASCAC.

Softball—The Falcons wrapped up the season with an overall record of 14-17 and a 6-8 mark within the conference, while earning the sixth seed in the MASCAC Softball post-season tournament.



MET & MARRIED

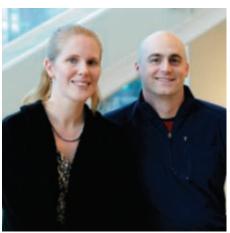
Danny J. Sabbagh '07 and Jessie Krause '08 began dating while attending Fitchburg State University. Sabbagh was the captain of the basketball team and Krause was captain of the softball team. They are now engaged to be married. Sabbagh has been a deputy sheriff and corrections officer at the Middlesex Sheriff's Office since 2008.

Meaghan P. Kelly '09 and Alexander M. Teixeira '10 married July 20, 2013. Kelly teaches eighth grade special-needs students in Lawrence. Teixeira teaches high-level skill courses in outdoor adventure education and leadership for two New Hampshire universities. The couple lives in Portsmouth, N.H.

Jessica L. (Outerson) Szivos '10 and Kiel Szivos '09 married on October 26, 2013, in a ceremony officiated by Fitchburg State University President Robert Antonucci.



At the 20th Anniversary Sigma Pi reunion on December 7, 2013, we learned of quite a few "met and married" couples. James M. McCabe '95 and Penny L. (Eaton) McCabe '96, Paul J. Harris '96, '11 and Beverly M. (Horsch) Harris '98 (not pictured), Catherine J. (Cassidy) Hanssen '98 and Eric P. Hanssen, Sigma Pi brother who attended Fitchburg State but later transferred (not pictured), Brett M. Collins '00 and Christine E. (Johnson) Collins '04, Mateusz M. Bryszkowski '04 and Stephanie A. (DeHetre) Bryszkowski '07, Rusty A. Lescarbeau '06 and Coreen (Vey) Lescarbeau '08, and Timothy Callahan '08 and Kelly C. (Latina) Callahan '07.



Brett M. Collins '00 and Christine E. (Johnson) Collins '04.



Rusty A. Lescarbeau '06 and Coreen (Vey) Lescarbeau '08.



Mateusz M. Bryszkowski '04 and Stephanie A. (DeHetre) Bryszkowski '07.

SAVE THE DATE



Family Weekend

Friday, Oct. 17 to Sunday, Oct. 19

Gold Key Ceremony

Saturday, Oct. 18

Featuring the induction of the Class of 1964 For more information, call the Alumni Office at 978-665-4555.

Class of 1965 50th Reunion

The class will hold its reunion in the fall of 2015. Keep up to date by joining the Class of 1965's Facebook page at:

http://tinyurl.com/npz32kn



BRIGADIER GENERAL FREDERICK A. HENRY '84

rigadier General Frederick A. Henry's long and storied military career has taken him across the U.S. and Europe, but he's never forgotten the lessons he learned as an undergraduate at Fitchburg State.

He grew up in an inner city environment in Cambridge, where by his own admission he wasn't a strong student.

"I constantly went off the reservation," Gen. Henry recalled. "I would always go on another path."

As a teen, Gen. Henry was a part of the Upward Bound program, where he was encouraged to try attending Fitchburg State; if the experience didn't work out, he was told, he could consider joining the Navy.

Fitchburg State would prove a transformative experience.

"When I came through here I said, 'I think I can make it here," he recalled. "Fitchburg did something for me. I was able to demonstrate my potential."

While in college, Gen. Henry became involved with numerous student activities and was able to prove himself as a leader.

It was also Gen. Henry's presence in Fitchburg that led to another life-changing event. One day as he was on his way to the local grocery store to apply for a summer job, he saw a poster promoting ROTC. Henry was faced with the option of bagging groceries for the summer or joining ROTC; he chose the latter, and the experience instilled new and vital skills in the college student. "It began to foster leadership tactics within me that I never knew existed," he said.

After five years, Gen. Henry graduated from Fitchburg State and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Chemical Corps. It was at this stage that Gen. Henry learned numerous valuable life lessons. A higherranking officer told him he would only achieve a certain rank, along with giving him a negative remark on his efficiency report.

"I'm going to give you this report to make you work harder," Gen. Henry was told. It was this statement that resonated with the young captain and inspired him to work hard and strive for more. "I had to learn if I was going to demonstrate my abilities. The only way I had to overcome what he told me was to work hard and have a good attitude."

With a positive mindset and rigorous work ethic now in place, Gen. Henry ultimately surpassed that officer's rank. He credits his time at Fitchburg State for

IN ADDITION TO SINCERE PRIDE FOR HIS FORMER UNIVERSITY AND EMPHASIZING THE VALUE OF A STRONG WORK ETHIC, GEN. HENRY ALSO SHARED SOME WISE WORDS WITH THE STUDENTS. "IT'S YOUR ATTITUDE IN LIFE, NOT NECESSARILY YOUR APTITUDE, THAT WILL DETERMINE YOUR ALTITUDE," HE SAID. "ATTITUDE SHAPES YOUR CHARACTER AND HOW PEOPLE SEE YOU AS A PERSON."

his ever-climbing experience in the military and for setting him on the right path in life. "Because of what I found here at Fitchburg, it gave me purpose, it gave me foundations, it gave me a work ethic," said the General.

"WHAT I LEARNED AS A GENERAL I LEARNED AS A CAPTAIN: WHAT I LEARNED AS A CAPTAIN I CAN ATTRIBUTE TO FITCHBURG. I DON'T THINK I WOULD'VE GOTTEN THERE HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR MY **EXPERIENCE AT FITCHBURG."**

His military career has included working in the Joint Operations Center in support of NATO operations in Bosnia-Herzegovnia

and serving as operations officer at bases in Germany. After attending the Joint Forces Staff College in 2001, Gen. Henry served as a mission commander in support of the Chemical Weapons Convention Treaty on-site inspection verification program. On November 18, 2011, he was promoted to brigadier general. Following his assignment as deputy commanding general at the U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command, he was assigned to the Defense Information Systems Agency, Fort Meade, Md., where he currently serves as the Agency Chief of Staff.

In addition to sincere pride for his former university and emphasizing the value of a strong work ethic, Gen. Henry also shared some wise words with the students. "It's your attitude in life, not necessarily your aptitude, that will determine your altitude," he said. "Attitude shapes your character and how people see you as a person."

He also expressed how important it is for young people to not let others suppress their abilities. "Don't let anyone define who you are and what your potential is going to be," he advised.

Gen. Henry was welcomed back to campus last fall where he was presented the Alumni Achievement Award. He also took time to meet with current students to recount his own journey and the lessons it taught him.

"I WILL ALWAYS BE ABLE TO CHERISH WHAT I LEARNED AT FITCHBURG." SAID GEN. HENRY. "IT WAS THE BEST DECISION I **EVER COULD HAVE MADE."**

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19405

Leo Gittzus '4o, a WWII veteran, received six service medals which were finally delivered to him on April 17, 2013, by Congressman John Tierney. The medals were delivered to Gittzus at the Woodbriar Nursing home in Wilmington, sixty-nine years after his ship, the USS Lindsey, was hit by Kamikaze pilots on April 12, 1945.

1950s

Leo Miller '59, of Saint
James City, Fla., has coached
basketball for 54 years; 44 of
those years at Nauset Regional
High School on Cape Cod,
seven years as an Assistant
Coach at Florida Gulf Coast
Dunk City University, and the
last three years as an Assistant
Coach at Bishop Verot High
School in Fort Myers, Fla.



The Class of 1963 celebrated their 50th reunion on June 22, 2013 and September 28, 2013. Pictured here are classmates on the steps of Thompson Hall. Class reunion chairs, Dalton 'Bud' and Jane Smart and Armen and Pauline 'Polly' Harootian, organized both events and led the charge to start a Class of 1963 scholarship for nursing and education majors. Since the get-together in June, they have nearly reached their goal for an endowed scholarship. For more information about class reunions, contact the Alumni Office at (978) 665-4555 or alumni@fitchburgstate.edu.

1960s

Emile S. Johnson, Jr. '61, retired Leominster High School baseball coach, was the first inductee into the Leominster Blue Devils Baseball Hall of Fame in September 2013 for his three state championship teams (1986, 1988 and 1996). Johnson, also a member of the Massachusetts Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame and the Fitchburg State Athletic Hall of Fame, led the Blue Devils to 725 victories during his illustrious career.

Denny R. Nolan '66, of Northampton, has owned Denny Nolan Real Estate Inc. for 30 years, but he is most proud of his 34-year career in teaching/administration. Denny holds a Bachelor of Science degree in secondary education from Fitchburg State University.

Robert L. Ringuette '66 is a retired educator having served as director of guidance at Canton High School in Canton.

James D. Hunter '69, relocated from the East Coast to California, from where he sends greetings to his Fenwick brothers.

Robert A. Salvatelli '69 is serving in his seventh term as a member of the Leominster City Council. He is the retired associate director of Massachusetts Academy of Math and Science at WPI and former principal of the Johnny Appleseed School where he served for 26 years. He served in the National Guard for five years, 26th Aviation Division. He is married to Linda Salvatelli and has four children and eight grandchildren.

19705

Ronald F. Cormier '71, '74 was elected for his ninth year as councilor at large in Gardner. He previously served as Ward 3 councilor for 16 years. He is a retired school administrator who also serves as a trustee of the Levi Heywood Memorial Library and as chairman of the Gardner Redevelopment Authority.

Philip P. Palmieri '71, a real estate developer and former juvenile probation officer, was elected to serve his seventh two-year term as District 2 city councilor in Worcester.

Robert P. Catalini '71 was hired this year by Mashpee High School as the new varsity girls' basketball coach.

Rev. Lucille Blood '73 of Amesbury competed in the International Triathlon Union (ITU) World Championship in London, U.K., in September 2013. Last year she competed in the U.S. Sprint Triathlon Championship and placed 22nd in the 60-64 age group. The top 18 qualifiers in the U.S. Championships in each age bracket get an invitation to be part of Team USA at the World Championships the following year. Placing 22nd made her eligible to become an alternate. Two months before the event she was called to join Team USA to compete in the World Championship. Blood competed in the Sprint Distance World Championships at Hyde Park in the 60-64 age bracket. The triathlon itself consisted of a one-half-mile swim followed by 12.4-mile bike race and a 5K run. She is the former minister of the

Union Congregational Church of Amesbury and is currently a full-time special education teacher at Timberlane Regional Middle School in Plaistow, N.H.

While at Fitchburg State, Blood played field hockey, volleyball, basketball and tennis, where she became part of the first generation of women to benefit from Title IX.

Wayne D. Andrews '74, president of Morehead State University in Kentucky, was appointed in September 2013 to serve as the state representative for Kentucky for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU). He will serve through 2014.

Dr. Andrews was appointed by Gov. Ernie Fletcher and then reappointed by Gov. Steve Beshear as one of Kentucky's five representatives on the Southern Regional Education Board. He has served as president of the Ohio Valley Conference.

He is a graduate of Fitchburg State University where he earned a B.S. degree in 1974 and of West Virginia University where he received a master's in 1976 and a doctorate in 1977.

Kenneth J. Pearson '74 was awarded the 2013 Massachusetts Audubon Conservation Teacher of the Year for High School. He is currently teaching Biology, Aquatic Ecology and Environmental Science at the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School in Fitchburg.

Andrea D. (Dodge) Ackerman

'75 currently serves as professor of nursing and chair of the School of Nursing at Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, N.Y.

Susan E. (Russell) Cogliano '76 has retired after having taught in Stoughton for 35 years.

Joseph C. Frank '77, of Tewksbury, welcomed his second grandson on January 16, 2014.

Jeffrey A. Bean '78 was elected councilor at-large in Fitchburg, after serving as ward councilor, School Committee member and mayor from 1988-98. He is the managing director of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Dianna L. (Poole) Peterson '79 retired from teaching during the 2013-2014 school year. During her professional career she worked in a variety of positions within the field of special education, including special education teacher, secondary coordinator of special needs, assistant director of special education and director of pupil services. In retirement, she is teaching special education classes at the graduate level as well as supervising graduate students who are obtaining licensure and/or other certifications.

Peter J. Strazdas '79, associate vice president of facilities management at Western Michigan University, was recently elected as presidentelect of APPA—Leadership in Educational Facilities, a leading industry association of facilities professionals at educational institutions.



Mark J. Coughlan '77 and fellow Mohawks reunited December 2, 2013 at the Chateau restaurant in Norwood to celebrate their annual Mohawk Alumni Christmas Pasta Festival. The fraternity alumni, spanning from the 1960s through the 1980s, have held an annual holiday reunion for more than 25 years. Front row (kneeling, from left): Dave N. Proulx '88, Sean R. McCann '87, Steven P. Finer '73, Michael E. Kenney '73, Robert P. Vecchione '77, Mark Rice, John S. Harrington '74. Second row (kneeling L-R): Dave Coughlan, Dick Sharkey, Steven J. Bartell '85, Stephen J. Keating '73, Michael M. Flaherty '74, Gregory N. Cross '80, John D. Sodano '75. Back row (standing, from left): Lawrence J. Capuano '83, Mark A. Ross '80, Paul J. White '79, Charles Cabral '83, Jeffrey H. Nutting '81, Henry 'Bud' McInerney '78, James M. Geary '78, John A. Churcher '87, Stephen R. Dewar '78, Gregg R. Malone '78, Steve Finneron '69, Richard Wolf, Joseph Kraemer '75, and Mark J. Coughlan '77.

Strazdas, who lives in Portage, Mich., has been involved with APPA for two decades. He currently serves as the secretary-treasurer for the organization, and will succeed to the position of APPA president in August 2015.

Susan (Lynch) Viccaro '79 has become superintendent of the Newburyport Public Schools. Prior to this appointment, she served as superintendent in regional School District 13 in Connecticut for nine years.

1980s

Leslie J. (Perry) Brennan '80 has been promoted to the role of special programs supervisor at SeniorCare Inc., where she will oversee programs that assist the clients of SeniorCare. This regional elder and disability service agency has offices in Hamilton, Ipswich, Topsfield, Wenham, and Beverly.

Robert A. Hall '80 retired
November 30, 2013, as
executive director of the
American Association of
Hip and Knee Surgeons
in Rosemont, Ill., due to
pulmonary fibrosis. He is on
the lung transplant waiting list.
Hall published three books in
2013, Eddie Grabowski's Gift:
A Marine Christmas Story, The
Old Jarhead's Journal: Random
Thoughts on Life, Liberty and
Leadership and Advice for
Boys: From an Old Marine.

All are available on Amazon with the proceeds going to charity. Hall earned a M.Ed. from Fitchburg State attending nights while serving in the Massachusetts Senate.

David Clark '82 was elected to an at-large seat on the Fitchburg City Council after serving four terms as a ward representative to the council and six years on the School Committee. He was born and raised in Fitchburg and lives with his wife Sherry and three daughters. He works as an AV media support specialist at Fitchburg State University.

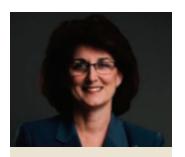
Peter H. Reynolds '83, Bostonarea author/illustrator's "storybook for all ages" The Dot, has inspired International Dot Day. International Dot Day, started by a teacher in

lowa, takes place on the book's "birthday" in September and has grown into a grassroots international movement inspiring the young and old to embrace the power of personal creativity to change the world. Last year over a million children and adults around the globe celebrated International Dot Day including participants in all 50 U.S. states, on all seven continents, in 75 countries, and even on the International Space Station.

Brian R. Tata '83, of Leominster, has been a library director since 2002. After earning his B.S. degree in business administration, he continued his studies at Fitchburg State University earning a master's degree in business management in 1991. He then earned an MLIS from the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee in 2002. He is certified by the Massachusetts **Board of Library Commissioners** as a certified public librarian, and also by the Massachusetts DESE as a Librarian and Business teacher.

Scott J. Graves, Esq. '86 was re-elected councilor at large in Gardner. He has been a city councilor since 2005. Graves received his law degree from Suffolk University Law School, his B.S. degree from Fitchburg State University, and M.S. in pharmacology from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy.

Karen A. Sheldon '87 was named president of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce in Georgetown, Texas, starting January 2014.



Dianne T. Shugrue '81 was named president and chief executive officer of Glens Falls Hospital in New York in June 2013.

Mark C. Kasperson '88 has been hired as a new partner to the Connecticut office of Classic Metal Roofs, LLC, to focus on architects, contractors and homeowners in the residential roofing market.

James "Jay" P. Capers '89 recently won third place in the Environmental Single category of the National Press Photographer's Association's Best of Photojournalism contest. Capers won for his photo of the Northern Lights dancing off a tepee in Yellowknife, the capital city and largest community of the Northwest Territories in Canada. He has been a photojournalism instructor at Randolph Community College in Asheboro, N.C., since March 2011.



Robert "Biff" Quinn '81 and fellow Fenwicks reunited May 31, 2014 to celebrate the fraternity's Founder's Day. The Fenwicks, class years spanning from 1969 through 1993, have held an annual holiday reunion in Fitchburg for the last 5 years. This year was their first time back on campus. The Fenwicks are pictured in front of Thompson Hall, their old hang out.

19905

Nancy Forsberg '92 is the principal at the American School for the Deaf in West Hartford, Conn.; it's the oldest school for deaf people in the U. S. and the birthplace of American Sign Language.

Eileen H. (Haydock) Merullo '92, a lifelong resident of Revere, was named the Revere Journal's 2013 Woman of the Year for her work to memorialize the numerous women from Revere who served in non-combat support roles in World War II. Her fundraising efforts secured a spot on the city's American Legion lawn for an official memorial. Merullo served as a physical therapist at Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington, D.C. during the war. She received a master's degree in educational technology from Fitchburg State University in 1992 and taught science and computer in the Revere school system for 26 years.

Andrea C. Wallace '92 has been the artistic director of the Anderson Ranch Arts Center's photography and digital media program for the last five years. While Wallace leads several weeks of summer workshops at the ranch, last fall she exhibited a series of images of her own called Toward Amnesia, which comes from a 1996 novel of the same name by Sarah Van Arsdale. The basis of Wallace's work is intensely personal; about loss and grief. Eight of the images were featured in Documentation, a recent three-artist exhibition at the Galleries of Contemporary Art in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Cathleen (Sheehan) Daggett

'94 was promoted to comptroller at Fitchburg State University where she worked for 14 years in various roles within the university's Department of Financial Services, most recently as director for financial reporting and analysis.

Gail P. (Millett) Feckley '96 was elected to the Leominster City Council in November and sworn in on January 6, 2014.

Maria A. LaVita '96 is a sergeant on the Revere Police Department and is also a member of the Massachusetts Bar Association.

Karen G. McCauliffe '96 was awarded her PsyD (doctor of psychology) from California Southern University at the end of 2013. Since 1996, she has worked as a family counselor in the Broward County School District. Karen received her master's in counseling and child



Dave Shilale '91, Tim Blanchard '94, Mark Buron '92, Shawn Flaherty, Dave Hughes '95 and Kirk Fitzsimmons have teamed up for the last 9 years to ride in the Pan Mass Challenge, a 192-mile bike ride to raise money for cancer research. Their team, The Genesee Vols, has raised nearly \$500,000 for the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. They ride in memory of those loved ones lost and in hopes of beating cancer once and for all.

protection certificate in 1996 from Fitchburg State. She lives in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

Richard N. Harding '97, of Cambridge, was re-elected to the Cambridge Public Schools school committee this past October.

Shannon (Sontag) Sylvia '97 left her reality television career in 2011 to found Shancakes. a cake shop and bakery in Leominster. On March 17, 2014 she re-opened a new, 1,200-square-foot facility that now offers cake decorating lessons, birthday parties, and



Ann Marie (Braga) Collins '92, Denise (Elliott) Clemente '92, Lauren Bralley, Maryellen (Gill) Leach '93, roommates from their days at Fitchburg State University, recently gathered at the Tirrell Room in Quincy for a croquet tournament that raised \$19,000 for Childhood Epilepsy. Collins made the hats for the team, aptly named "Team FSC."

Lawrence E. Yard, Jr.
'98, of Acworth, Ga.,
represented Fitchburg
State University at the
inauguration of the 11th
president of Morehouse
College in Atlanta, Dr.
John Silvanus Wilson,
Jr., on Feb. 14. Yard is
pictured at the left of
Dr. Wilson and his wife,
Dr. Carol Wilson.



If you would like to serve as a representative of Fitchburg State at installation ceremonies in your area, contact the Alumni Office at (978) 665-3025. expanded retail items, to name a few. The operation employs four and ships all over the U.S. (www.shancakes.com)

Carol A. Heidendrich '99 earned her doctorate in educational leadership from Northeastern University in September 2013. Her dissertation focus was "Student Technology Use for Powerful Learning." Heidi Voedisch '99
has been employed at
Disability Evaluations
Services Commonwealth
Medicine at the University
of Massachusetts Medical
Center for 13 years. She
earned her master of public
administration degree from

Clark University in May.



GROWING A GLOBAL NETWORK

John Honeycutt '91

John Honeycutt always loved making television. As a student at Medford High School, he was active in the school's cable access TV studio, and figured he may be able to transfer the experience into a job someday.

"That's what led me to Fitchburg State," he recalled. "I didn't know it was going to take me down this road."

That road led to Discovery Communications, the world's number one pay-TV programmer, where this summer he will begin his duties as the company's chief technology officer. In the newly created position, Honeycutt will lead Discovery's consolidated IT, media technology, production and operations functions globally. He will be charged with developing a long-term technology roadmap to enable Discovery's growing pay-TV, digital terrestrial, free-to-air and online services.

The new post is the latest in a career that has taken Honeycutt across the country and then the world, navigating a rapidly evolving industry that has advanced from video tape to high-definition digital files.

As a recent college graduate, Honeycutt found his way to Houston, Texas, where he found a role working for a technical distribution outfit that later formed the backbone of Fox Sports Net. The work took him back and forth from Texas to Los Angeles, Calif.

"That's where things exploded, careerwise," he said. "I was thrown in the deep end of the pool and was working with some of the giants of television."

Honeycutt was designing network systems with FOX, FX, National Geographic and the Speed Channel, on projects including the Super Bowl, the World Series and the Daytona 500. In layman's terms, Honeycutt describes himself as "a corporate go fix things, go start things guy."

By 2003, he was recruited by Discovery Communications, tasked with designing and building a new transmission center.

2000S

Derek J. Swenson '02 was promoted to the position of assistant superintendent of the Bridgewater-Raynham School District. Prior to this appointment he served as the Director of Curriculum and Grants. Swenson earned his B.S. degree from Plymouth State College, N.H., and his master's in educational leadership and management from Fitchburg State.

Tara D. (Piccini) Manzello, '03, '07 came within 0.4 miles of completing the Boston Marathon in April 2013. In the summer of 2013, Tara walked 60 miles in the Susan G. Komen 3-day walk.

Jennifer L. Flanagan '04,

Massachusetts State Senator, was honored at the Leominster High School Alumni Recognition Dinner on March 1 in Leominster.

Jason N. Fredette '04, '13 was hired as Byam Elementary School's new principal in his hometown of Chelmsford. Fredette attended Stonehill College, where he graduated in 1998 with a bachelor's degree in early childhood education and a minor in psychology. From 2000 through 2006, Fredette was a kindergarten teacher at Wilmington Public Schools. He earned his master's degree in

special education at Fitchburg State University in 2004 and a certificate of advanced graduate studies in 2013. He became assistant principal at Wilmington's Shawsheen Elementary from 2009 through 2013 before returning to Chelmsford.

Brian P. Gill '04 completed his master's degree in public administration from Anna Maria College in May 2012. He is a lieutenant with the Ayer Police Department.

James M. Bunnell '05, '11 was named the athletic director at North Middlesex Regional High School.

Aaron Cadieux '05 completed a feature-length documentary on the Bridgewater Triangle, a 200-square-mile region in Southeastern Massachusetts with a long history of reported paranormal activity. After three years in production, The Bridgewater Triangle documentary premiered at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth on October 20, 2013.

Jill A. Peterson 'o6 was appointed as principal of the Hardwick Elementary School in Gilbertville. Peterson returned to the Quabbin School District after a year serving as an administrator at the Hollis

"I had just started a family, and I was thinking it would be good to get back to the east coast," he said. "It was putting me in a place where I was able to operate in a fairly independent way, where I could build and design something that would be transformative for the company."

The project was a success, and soon Honeycutt had gained global responsibility for Discovery's production and signal distribution. The big move came in 2010 when he was offered a chance to relocate to London and to take up a post as Discovery Networks International's Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. Honeycutt led the operational structure of Discovery's growing international business operations across more than 220 countries and territories. In this role, he served as the key point person for corporate support services for the division, working closely with the company's international programming, advertising and affiliate sales teams to help develop business strategy, share critical information and develop best practices.

In 2013, he led the expansion of Discovery's international operations through the acquisition of SBS Nordics—now SBS

Discovery Media, a top-three portfolio of television brands across Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland, and the largest transaction in Discovery's history. He also played an integral role in the company's original investment—and recently expanded controlling interest—in one of the world's top sports platforms, Eurosport International.

"It's been an incredible journey," Honeycutt said. "I've learned an inordinate amount and I've been places that, as a kid, I never thought I'd see."

His new role, starting this summer, will finally bring him back to the U.S.

Honeycutt said the foundation for his successful career was his education, even if his training was not from as well-known an institution as some of his colleagues.

"Fitchburg State gave me the confidence to seize these opportunities," he said. "I found I was just as capable as anyone else. The name on the piece of paper is one thing; how you apply it is something else. The capabilities are what you make of them."

He recalls faculty members like Lee DeNike as a major influence. "The friendliness of the environment the school provided is something I've always remembered," he said.

Honeycutt said that while the business and technology has changed dramatically during his career, the fundamental principles he learned as an undergraduate still apply.

"You should have strong underpinnings," he said. "If you can have foundational knowledge, it provides you with a whole series of possibilities. It opens doors."

Honeycutt's advice to new graduates is to be open to those possibilities.

"Take chances. Take opportunities when they're put in front of you," he said, recalling how he had to overcome some nervousness of his own when he was getting his career started. "It was scary stuff, but I knew that opportunity was being put in front of me. People don't ask twice in business. When it's put there, grab it. Grab it with both hands."

Primary School in Hollis, N.H. While there, she held the responsibilities of assistant principal, special education coordinator and preschool coordinator. Previously, she was the assistant principal at the Ruggles Lane Elementary School in Barre and was Quabbin's Title I (grant) director. Prior to joining the Quabbin faculty, she worked in a North Middlesex Regional School District elementary school, teaching grades one, three and five. She also was a Title 1 reading teacher for students in grades kindergarten through three. Peterson earned her master's in education in administration and special education from Fitchburg State University and her bachelor of science in early childhood education from Framingham State University. She is continuing



Brittany S. Durgin '08 was named one of 2013's 40 of Under Forty by the Worcester Business Journal. Durgin is the editor in chief at Worcester Magazine. In just five years, she has served as staff photographer, online editor, and editor in chief. She received awards for both her photography and reporting. She completed her first marathon May 2013 in the Lake District, England.

post-graduate work through the Merrimack Educational Collaborative.

Daryl E. Blaney '08 is a fourthyear medical student at University of Massachusetts Medical School, an affiliate of the same hospital where he was successfully treated for childhood leukemia when he was just three years old.

Daryl shared his story with supporters at the Kickoff Breakfast for the UMass Medicine Cancer Walk on July 24, 2013. He told them how UMass Medical was his number one choice because he wanted to go to the place that he credits with saving his life.

Patrick M. Gerry '08 was elected councilor at large in Gardner. He is a small business owner and has served four years on City Council and four years on the School Committee.

Matthew L. Jatkola '08 is the lead vocalist and contributes guitar sounds for The Bynars, a band he formed in 2008 with a former Fitchburg State classmate. The Bynars make both synth and pop rock. Their sound influences include Daft Punk and, Jatkola said, lyrically they are influenced by The Beatles, Carole King and



TEACHING THE TEACHERS

Tammi Chandler '03, '06

Teaching middle school was a career change for Tammi Chandler, who began her professional career in the private sector, training adults in California. But the prospect of working with younger students also appealed to her.

After visiting friends in Fitchburg she planted roots—including starting a family—in the city and eventually at Fitchburg State, where she was impressed by the strong connection between the university and the Fitchburg Public Schools. Soon she was teaching at the middle school level.

"It was so much more fulfilling," she said. "I wanted to work with at-risk children."

After nine years as a math teacher—mostly working with seventh-graders—Chandler was approached about taking on duties as a math coach for the Longsjo Middle School's teaching staff. She resisted at first, fearful that she would miss the rewarding individual relationships she had fostered with her students. Those fears proved unfounded, however, as she now spends time with every student in the school.

As a coach, Chandler works with individual teachers to support areas of practice, sometimes co-teaching in the classroom. She helps analyze data that drives professional development tactics as well.

Chandler was recognized for her efforts last fall, when Fitchburg State selected

Jackson Browne. The band recently played at the North by Northeast festival in Toronto and has toured in Louisville, Chicago, Toronto, Montreal and Richmond. The Bynars also put out high-quality music videos, one of which has won them first prize for best short film at the Solid Sound Film Festival in New York, More about the band's music, videos, and performance schedule can be found on TheBynars.com.

Michael P. Kushmerek '08,

'13 has assumed the role of director of annual giving at Fitchburg State University. He has worked at the university since 2008, most recently as assistant director of alumni relations. In addition to his B.S. degree in history and political science, he earned a master's degree in history from Fitchburg State in 2013. In the fall, Kushmerek was elected



Fitchburg State alumni reunited the evening of July 20, 2013 to enjoy a Boston harbor cruise. Front row, from left: Danielle Dombrowski '08, Nicole Mercado '07, Amie (Roemer) Levasseur '07, Samantha Bridgman '07, Jean Levasseur '07, Wesley Beattie '06, Leslie (Roemer) Boudreau '07, Ryan Boudreau '07. Back row, from left: Brian Bond, Sid Datta, Meagan Macaro '07, Timothy Vernon '06, Emily Torres '05, Will Samatis.

to represent Ward 4 on the Fitchburg City Council.

Michael D. Miner '08, Harvard University teaching fellow,

"THESE ARE THE GREAT TEACHERS WHO YEARS. EVEN DECADES LATER STUDENTS CAN RECALL AS MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR LIVES."

her among eight of the Commonwealth's outstanding K-12 educators who had graduated from the system's teacher preparation programs.

"Tammi Chandler is exemplary of the extraordinary teachers that Fitchburg State and the entire State University system are graduating each and every year," President Antonucci said. "These are the great teachers who are adept at helping all students learn and who care deeply about the education and wellbeing of their students. These are the great teachers who years, even decades later students can recall as making a difference in their lives."

Chandler was saluted for her leadership skills and commitment to the profession that have been instrumental in increasing student achievement at Longsjo. She is known as a teacher of resilience and a turnaround teacher who embraces the teaching of challenging students. For her, student success is her greatest reward.

Chandler, while flattered by the recognition, noted she works daily with many teachers who are just as deserving of accolades. She lives in Fitchburg with her husband, Michael, and their sons, Austin and Ethan.

The Massachusetts State Universities continue to educate more than one-third of all public educators in Massachusetts.

presented "Solving the Iranian Riddle: Diplomatic and Security Challenges for American Foreign Policy" to an audience of students and faculty on November 4, 2013, at Fitchburg State University. The presentation was sponsored by the Fitchburg State University Center for Conflict and International Studies.

Melissa Siciliano '08 earned her doctor of pharmacy degree from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Boston. On April 15, she was invited back to the Fitchburg State campus to speak with students about her transition from Fitchburg to the Pharm.D program at MCPHS and her journey to becoming a clinical research pharmacist at Boston Children's Hospital where she is currently on staff.

Daniel C. Daly '09 is designing scenery for Dark Sisters, an opera by Nico Muhly, which is the "emerging artists" production of Pittsburgh Opera's 75th anniversary season in Penn.

Patrick S. Johnson '09 was appointed vice principal of Cameron Middle School in Framingham. Prior to his promotion, Johnson served four years at Walsh Middle School in Framingham, was a technology teacher at Maynard High School for one year and a technology teacher at Maynard Middle School for 13 years. He earned a bachelor's degree from Johnson and Wales, a master's degree from Northeastern, and a certificate of advanced graduate studies from Fitchburg State.

Thomas P. Chalifour '09,

of Beverly was director of photography on the horror/ comedy short film called "The Creed," which premiered in Salem last October. The short film (22 minutes) was a new venture for Chalifour, who lives in Brooklyn, N.Y. For the last five years, he has worked as a camera operator on TV reality shows and documentaries. including HGTV's "What Not To Wear" and "Cousins Undercover." The film was shot in Fitchburg and other Massachusetts locations.



Tiffany M. Begin '10 is engaged to Dwight G. Stearns '10 and they plan to be married in October 2014.

Daniel J. Marcum '10, of Pelham, N.H., co-wrote "Outside the Wire," a play about the life-changing impact of war on returning soldiers and their families. It was presented to a national audience at the 2013 Capital Fringe Festival in Washington, D.C. Other alumni involved were John W. Crory '07, '11 of Townsend who was producer and public relations

coordinator; Jessica L. Killam '13 of Plaistow, N.H., who was stage manager; and cast members Jessie Notaro of Clinton, Justin P. Nelson '13 of Fitchburg, Jordan R. McCormack '11 of Fitchburg, Benjamin B. Hassey '11 of Falmouth and Tyler Welsh of West Wareham, and Thomas E. Karner '14 of Hopkinton.

Kim M. Pho '10 was awarded, at the University of Connecticut Higher Education & Student Affairs program annual meeting, the Richard D. Blackburn New Professional Award, given to an individual who demonstrates the potential for excellence in the field of college union and student activities. Pho was recognized for making an immediate and profound impact on students at her institution, enhancing the services provided by her department to help build community on campus. Pho graduated from Fitchburg State in 2010, earned a degree from the University of Connecticut in 2012 and has worked at Notre Dame University since then.

named the new head coach of the Bison baseball team at Nichols College in Dudley. Puccio spent the prior three seasons at Wheaton College and was a key member of the coaching staff that guided the team to three NCAA Tournament appearances - including the College World Series National Championship game in 2012. Puccio began his collegiate coaching career in 2008 at Dean College, where he was the top assistant coach and recruiting coordinator for two years. He returned to his alma mater, Fitchburg State, in 2010 and spent one year as an assistant coach and camp coordinator with the Falcons before he moved on to work as an assistant coach at Southeastern Iowa Community College in 2011. Puccio is currently the hitting coach and camp director for the Hyannis Harbor Hawks of the Cape Cod Baseball League. He received his associate of arts in education from Dean College in 2007 and his bachelor of science in interdisciplinary studies from Fitchburg

Nicholas R. Puccio '10 was



Christine S. Brigham '08 has joined the law firm of Gelinas and Ward, LLP, in Leominster. Brigham earned a B.S. in political science from Fitchburg State University, graduating summa cum laude. She holds a juris doctorate from the Massachusetts School of Law,

graduating magna cum laude in May 2013. She was also named a Sullivan Scholar, awarded to the Massachusetts School of Law student with the highest grade point average.



HELPING HANDS

Jennifer Kurtinitis '04

If serving others is regarded as a rewarding career, then Jennifer Kurtinitis has the most fulfilling of all. Kurtinitis, a 2004 graduate, is the manager of the Online Disaster Training System for the American Red Cross National Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Kurtinitis originally started as a volunteer for the Red Cross and then began working as a member of the staff responsible for organizing local disaster teams. In total, disaster teams respond to more than 20,000 disasters a year, the most common being single family fires.

"It's our volunteers going out there to help people 24/7, 365 days a year," Kurtinitis said when she returned to campus this spring as the International and Conflict Studies keynote speaker. "We prevent and alleviate the pain of others."

In 2011, Kurtinitis helped provide tornado disaster relief in the South—the Red Cross's largest disaster operation since Hurricane Katrina. "People live through that and we come in and help them recover from that and move on," she said.



Christopher McKillop '08, Lauren McDonald '10 and **Timothy Graham '11,** organized the 5th annual Fitchburg State University Alumni Pub Tour on June 7, 2014. The event was attended by more than 150 alumni and friends of the university, raising more than \$1,500 for student scholarship support.

State in 2010. He is currently working towards a master's degree in sports management at American Public University.

Jillian P. Burdick '11 became the Field Coordinator at Health Care and Rehabilitation Services in Springfield, Vt., in October 2013, supervising providers who have clients living in their homes. Prior to this, Burdick worked as a case manager for the organization.

Jordan R. Cannava '11 will graduate from the police academy on August 5 and will begin working for the Medford Police Department.

Mark R. Riolo '11 has been appointed center director of Grafton Job Corps. He holds a graduate degree in educational leadership from Fitchburg State University and is a licensed public school administrator within the state of Massachusetts.

Senior Airman Jean Marc Tchazou '11 became a United States citizen July 4, 2013. Born in Douala, Cameroon, Tchazou is a finance specialist with the 439th Airlift Wing. He fled Cameroon in 2007 due to political instability. Tchazou came to America with a bachelor's degree in finance from Douala University and graduated from Fitchburg State University with a master's degree in accounting.

Alyssa A. Cali '12 has been accepted to the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine program at the University of New England in Biddeford, Maine.

Decio D. Matos '12 of Fall River married Stacey A. Tabicas on July 13, 2013. Decio graduated from Bridgewater State University in 2007 and received a master's degree from Fitchburg State University in 2012. He is a mathematics teacher.

Samantha Glaze-Corcoran '13 was appointed to the Fitchburg Conservation Commission on December 3, 2013.

Amy E. Bracket '13 has recently had her capstone paper published in Nursing and Health, published by Horizon Research Publishing.

Joseph E. Caveney '13 was honored on September 16, 2013, by the Fitchburg State ice hockey team, with a personalized photo hanging in the lobby of the Wallace Civic Center.

Richard L. Greene '13 is enrolled in Bentley University's dual degree professional MBA program.

Emma F. (Svoboda) Liebowitz '13 was hired as principal of Sanderson Academy in Ashfield, where she once taught.

The Red Cross works in conjunction with other local services and organizations to ensure that every need of the disaster cycle is met. She also revealed that due to serious damages, many local businesses don't reopen after a disaster, another element of disaster relief the Red Cross provides. "It makes them feel like they can do something to help move themselves forward," said Kurtinitis.

While learning to prepare for a natural disaster is not explicitly taught at Fitchburg State, Kurtinitis feels that she gained skills here that are useful in her career. "I got to do a lot of different things. I did everything I could that helped me feel more wellrounded," Kurtinitis said of her college experience, which included involvement with the dance club, track team, and an internship abroad. "I translated those skills into my work with the Red Cross."

Though rebuilding communities after a natural disaster is a daunting task, Kurtinitis has gained a sense of pride from her work with the Red Cross. "Participating in disaster response is the supreme gratification," she said. "It's very rewarding to be in the field and know that you've made a difference in someone's life."

ALUMNI NEWS



WRESTLING WITH VIRAL FAME

James Abreau '08

It's a simple video, just a medium close-up shot from a camera mounted near the dash-board of a car. But this electrifyingly boastful—"brief and ferocious," in the words of its creator— three-minute video from the self-proclaimed "One Man Thrill Ride," en route to the Fitchburg State alumni baseball game last fall, had a huge impact.

The Thrill Ride is one of the alter egos for James Abreau, who graduated from Fitchburg State in 2008 with a degree in political science. As a student, Abreau—a Mansfield native—was a standout on the university's Moot Court team and a fierce competitor on the baseball field.

The scholar-athlete—who played football, hockey and basketball in his youth before graduating to weight training—also nurtured an abiding and enduring love for professional wrestling, with its oversized characterizations and latent sense of humor.

ALUMNI EVENTS



Alumni with the current Falcons team pose at Elliott Field at the Alumni Men's Soccer Game on August 24, 2013. This year's event will be held on August 23, 2014.



Alumnae after the Alumnae Field Hockey Game on September 15, 2013.



Alumnae at the Alumnae Softball Game on October 19, 2013.



Alumnae with the current Falcons team after the Alumnae Lacrosse Game on October 5, 2013.

The wrestler adopted the simpler moniker of Jimmy Preston, aka The One Man Thrill Ride. And it was the Thrill Ride that captivated online audiences after one memorable autumn morning.

"I HIT .400 IN MY SLEEP AND I EAT FASTBALLS FOR **BREAKFAST!**"

"I am in the parking lot right now, hammering a bacon, egg and chee - hold the chee - in preparation to go deep, with four hits, and put on a laser show the likes of which you have never witnessed in your entire

life," Abreau states, before warning the current starting pitcher that, "I hit .400 in my sleep and I eat fastballs for breakfast!"

But a transcript does not do justice to the delivery.

The video quickly went viral, generating hits from Boston sports radio and websites and garnering much attention for Abreau. As of late spring the video had nearly 400,000 views on YouTube.

Abreau insists the video was all in good fun and he was gracious in his praise for the team on the numerous TV and radio

appearances that followed the video's explosion. He's been working to parlay the online notoriety into greater visibility as a pro wrestler, a field he entered at age 18 and returned to after finishing his college degree. He's had matches with famous wrestlers like Jake "The Snake" Roberts, Tito Santana, Matt Hardy, Vader and The Godfather and is currently working with independent promoters Big Time Wrestling and Northeast Wrestling, among others.

Abreau spends his days as a medical software sales representative for an industry-leading company in the Boston area.



Alumni pose with the current Falcons team before the Jimmy Sheehan Alumni Cross-Country Invitational on September 6, 2013.



Alumni with the current Falcons pose at Riccards Field at the Alumni Men's Baseball Game on September 29, 2013.



Visions 2014 included a panel discussion featuring Communications Media alumni, from left: Nicole Nunes '10, project manager at Gate 3 Design; Jocelyn Willis '10, of the Museum of Russian Icons; Michael Bavaro '83, owner and filmmaker at Digital Freeway; and Dan Cutrona '02, of Dan Cutrona Photography.

ALUMNI NEWS — IN MEMORIAM

Marguerite (O'Gara) Cook, '29, of Somerset, on November 14, 2013.

Minnie S. (Perlstein) Press '35, of South Windsor, Conn., on July 22, 2013.

Doris (Wiley) Fardy '38, of Concord, on February 24, 2014.

Irene M. (Moskos) Passios '45, '56,

of Hingham, on April 15, 2014. Irene graduated from Fitchburg State Teachers College and first taught in Jamestown, R.I. During these war years she met fellow Fitchburg Alumnus Thomas C. Passios, a Bronze Star veteran of World War II, and they raised five children. Irene was a classroom teacher in the training school of Fitchburg State College. Later having received her master's degree, she became a professor in the school of education. She was part of a team who wrote an innovative program for the training of early childhood teachers. She also taught courses at Boston College. Her passion in education was the arts and the tenets of Maria Montessori; she inspired many a teacher to incorporate these ideas in their teaching. When Irene left the profession as Professor Emeritus, she had been teacher and mentor to hundreds of future teachers, some of whom kept in touch throughout her lifetime.

John W. Feeley '42, of Worcester, on November 2, 2013.

Robert J. Gaudet '48, of Fitchburg, on May 12, 2013.

Bettina M. Asselta '50, of Leominster, on November 12, 2013.

William Chase '50, of Leominster, on January 21, 2014.

Thomas E. Convery '50, '53, of Medford, on May 4, 2013.

James R. MacInnes '51, of Peterborough, N.H. on June 13, 2013.

Edward P. Regan '52, of Chico, Calif., on February 11, 2014. Alden H. J. Sector '52, of Sewickley, Penn., on May 6, 2013.

Marion E. Hugo '54, of Fitchburg, on July 22, 2012.

Richard J. Bishop '56, '62,

of Lunenburg, on June 14, 2013. Bishop received the Joel D. Miller Outstanding Educator Award from Fitchburg State in 1977.

James F. Fitzpatrick '56, of Millbury, on September 21, 2013. He leaves his wife, Judith A. (Spang) Fitzpatrick '58.

Gail (Canegallo) McDowell '57, of Springfield, on August 26, 2013.

Edna L. (Lavezzo) Rebello '57, of Sharon, on August 15, 2013.

Agnes M. (Beauvais) Shepard '59, of Richland Center, Wis., on June 10, 2013.

Frank S. Lucente '60, of Tolland, Conn., on March 15, 2012.

Roberta A. (Fraser) Belk '62, of Amherst, on October 9, 2013.

Barbara J. (Hannula) Landry '62, of Westminster, on November 12, 2013.

David Barry O'Donnell '62, of Shrewsbury, on November 12, 2013.

Thomas D. Stanley '62,

of The Villages, Fla., on June 11, 2013. Tom Stanley is survived by his wife of 53 years, Gerry (Bolduc) Stanley '59, '72.

Carolyn C. (Cygan) Anuszczyk '63, of South Dartmouth, on August 15, 2013.

John P. Catalini '63, of Ashby, on May 23, 2014.

Elwin Swicker '63, of Slingerlands, N.Y., on April 23, 2014.

Charlotte C. (Berry) Kennan '64, of Petersham, on April 7, 2013.

Bernard DiNatale '66,

of Dunstable, on December 31, 2013. He leaves his wife Carolyn E. (Gagne) DiNatale '65.

Richard Kullman '68, of Lunenburg, on May 31, 2013.

Marie (Forgue) Gavin '71, of Holyoke, on February 27, 2013.

Edith M. Griggs '71, of Westminster, on December 19, 2012.

Cheryl A. (Gagne) Harvey '71, of Leominster, on June 14, 2013.

Anne C. Lemmo '71, of Leominster, on December 20, 2013.

Margaret (Hatstat) Mazierski '71, '80, of Leominster, on March 25, 2011.

Gary W. Sherman '71, of New Bedford, on July 21, 2013.

Mary M. (Moore) Creed '72, of Leominster, on March 2, 2014.

Cathy A. (Calvi) Robuccio '73, of East Templeton, on October 9, 2013.

Glenda (Soule) Homoliski '74, of Townsend, on April 16, 2013.

William H. Hubbard '76, of Townsend, on July 26, 2013.

Donnarae (Gragen) Stinglen '78, of Fitchburg, on October 26, 2013.

Joseph A. McDonald '79, of Taunton, on October 23, 2013.

Mary A. (Pappadopoulos) Daiopulos '80, of Reading, on December 18, 2013.

Thomas J. O'Connell '80, of Las Vegas, Nev., on July 1, 2013.

Cynthia L. (Ayer) LeBlanc '81, of Leominster, on February 17, 2013.

Michael A. Mountzuris '81, of Leominster, on April 26, 2014.

Sylvia I. Bockstein '82, of Holden, on September 2, 2013.

Cheryl A. (Crawley) Carchidi '82, of Leominster, on February 23, 2013.

ALUMNI NEWS — IN MEMORIAM

Linda A. (Besnia) Turcotte '82, of Leominster, on April 20, 2013.

Mark S. Baldani '83,

of Ballston Spa, N.Y., on January 25, 2014. Mark still holds the university record for the 440 Hurdles in track and field.

David M. Parmeter '83, of Maynard, on September 29, 2013.

Mark J. Wedge '84, of Brockton, on October 27, 2013.

Althea R. (Moore) Cynewski '86, of Amesbury, on January 26, 2013.

Friends of the University

Augusto B. Costa '88, '89, of Rochester, on September 26, 2013.

James E. Lane '89,

of Lunenburg, on September 29, 2013.

Carol A. Swaine '89,

of Leominster, on September 28, 2013.

Daniel R. Adiletto '92,

of Franklin, on June 7, 2013.

Thomas Crank, Sr. '94,

of Fitchburg, on March 12, 2013.

Roxanne (Jones) Zaharchuk '94,

of Westminster, on October 11, 2013.

Sister Mary A. Dooley, of Chicopee, on November 14, 2013. She was awarded Honorary Doctorates from American International College, Assumption College, Fitchburg State University and College of Our Lady of the Elms.

William A. Theriault '95,

of Fairhaven, on September 20, 2013.

Arnold A. Gugarty '00,

of Worcester, on December 24, 2013.

Christopher M. Guilfoil '02,

of Lunenburg, on December 22, 2013.

Jacqueline J. Contaxes '11,

of Fitchburg, on December 4, 2013.

Christopher L. Asmar '13,

of Leominster, on July 30, 2013.

Dr. Everett Arthur Garvin, former professor of psychology and chair of the department, of Groton, on July 15, 2013.





SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT MATTERS

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO GIVE BACK TO FITCHBURG STATE LATER IN LIFE, IN ORDER TO HELP THE NEXT GENERATION OF STUDENTS. ADAM HOEG, WHO BENEFITED FROM A WIDE AND SUPPORTIVE NETWORK OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS DURING HIS OWN LIFE, FOUND AN EXTENSION OF THAT ON THE FITCHBURG STATE CAMPUS. THE IRVING SCHOLARSHIP IS JUST ANOTHER EXAMPLE. HE SAID. AND ONE HE LOOKS FORWARD TO EMULATING.

Adam Hoeg, pictured at right, with President Antonucci, Karen and Don Irving.

cholarship support is making a difference in the lives of thousands of Fitchburg State students every year. Here are two of their stories.

Donald R. Irving '72, '79 and Karen A. Irving '90 "Pay It Forward" Scholarship

Adam Hoeg has overcome childhood trauma and a difficult academic journey on the way to his college degree, but he found his calling when he enrolled at Fitchburg State University and hopes to pass on that favor through a career in higher education.

His own journey was made possible through the Donald R. Irving '72, '79 and Karen A. Irving '90 "Pay It Forward" scholarship, launched in 2012. The scholarship fund awards at least four \$5,000 scholarships annually.

Hoeg was raised in Bridgewater and struggled in high school. Enrolling at another college, Hoeg was able to earn decent grades but wanted to earn a fouryear degree.

"In Fitchburg, it just clicked," he said. "It was perfect."

His fascination with the campus made him an expert on university trivia, and friends suggested he put that knowledge to work as a tour guide. Hoeg followed their advice, and soon was working for Admissions and even training other guides. He also worked at the Athletics and Recreation Center, balancing his studies and his employment needs.

Hoeg proved ready for the challenge, graduating with honors this May with a degree in interdisciplinary studies. To get there, however, he needed financial assistance, so he applied for the "Pay it Forward" scholarship and was surprised by the generosity of the \$5,000 award.

"I was blown away," he said. "It really changed my whole outlook for the year. I'm the first in my family to even attempt a four-year school, to say nothing of graduate school. The scholarship helped out dramatically."

Mapping his future course, Hoeg wanted to pursue a master's degree in higher education administration.

Scholarship recipients are encouraged to give back to Fitchburg State later in life, in order to help the next generation of students. Hoeg, who benefited from a wide and supportive network of family and friends during his own life, found an extension of that on the Fitchburg State campus. The Irving Scholarship is just another example, he said, and one he looks forward to emulating.

"I want to work with students like myself, who four years ago couldn't have imagined where I'd be," Hoeg said. "If I can do it, anyone can. I'd like to be the one who helps them get there."

Irving, president of Data Guide Cable Corp. in Gardner, is also a member of the university's Board of Trustees. Hoeg contacted the Irvings after receiving his scholarship, and was delighted to get to know them.

"The family couldn't be more genuine," Hoeg said.

Hoeg enrolls this fall at Kent State University in Ohio, where he will pursue a master's in higher education administration.

"WITHOUT THIS SCHOLARSHIP, I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO AFFORD GRADUATE SCHOOL. NOW, I CAN PURSUE MY DREAM OF BEING A LEADER IN THE HUMAN RESOURCES INDUSTRY AND BUILD PROGRAMS THAT WILL REALLY BENEFIT THE EMPLOYEES. I'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE."

Sterilite Scholars

In 2011, a million-dollar gift from Sterilite allowed Fitchburg State to launch the Sterilite Scholars Program. In order to be considered for this scholarship, selected recipients must have a 3.0 GPA and demonstrate financial need. They must also submit an essay explaining why they are a good candidate for the scholarship. If accepted, they are provided personalized support and a \$5,000 scholarship, renewable annually.

For the 2013-2014 academic year, there were three graduating seniors who had been awarded the scholarship. Shannon Briggle was among them, and recalls learning about her scholarship award.

"I was having a really bad day at work," she said. "Nothing was going right. I called my mom to tell her about it and she told me that she had some great news—I had been chosen as one of the Sterilite scholarship recipients. That meant the world to me."

The Sterilite Scholars program includes \$5,000 in financial assistance as well as educational opportunities outside the classroom.

"They brought in speakers to teach us about interviewing techniques, networking, how to build our resume, budgeting, credit cards, 401k plans and more," Briggle said. "Basically, we learned how to prepare for the job market and for life in general after graduation. It was great."

Briggle is now planning to pursue a master's degree in leadership with a concentration in human resources at Northeastern University.

"Without this scholarship, I wouldn't have been able to afford graduate school. Now, I can pursue my dream of being a leader in the human resources industry and build programs that will really benefit the employees. I'll be able to make a difference."

For more information about the Sterilite Scholars Program, please contact Fitchburg State Enrollment Management at 978-665-3145.

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