
Fitchburg State University Today



President Lapidus to retire at end of academic year

President Lapidus announced to the campus last week that he will retire at the end of the 2023-24 academic year.

President Lapidus, who joined Fitchburg State in July 2015, is the university's 11th leader. His tenure has included the creation of new academic programs including the expansion of online offerings,

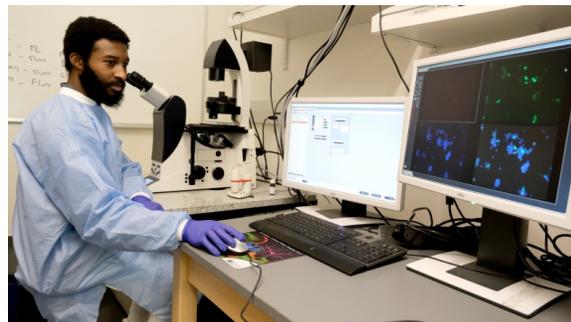
deepening ties between the campus and its host community, and guiding the university through the challenges of the global pandemic.

A comprehensive national search will begin soon to find his successor.

[Learn more](#)

Grant will support life sciences

A grant worth nearly \$750,000 from the [Massachusetts Life Sciences Center](#) (MLSC) is enhancing the biology and chemistry laboratories at Fitchburg State, creating new research and learning opportunities for students and faculty members.



The grant program invests capital dollars in high-potential economic development projects that expand employment opportunities, enable research and development, stimulate training and workforce development, promote manufacturing and commercialization and accelerate innovation throughout Massachusetts.

Fitchburg State's award will support the purchase of equipment and supplies to train students in preparation for entry into the life sciences workforce and will be installed in the Antonucci Science Complex.

[Learn more](#)

Speakers Series continues today at 12:30

The university's Speakers Series will continue today at 12:30 p.m. with a talk by Professor Thomas Schilling (Psychological Science) entitled "The Opioid Crisis in Worcester



Check out latest stories in digital magazine

Visit the updated digital [magazine](#) site to catch up on new articles and slideshows. Among the articles in this latest issue are features about [Tristan Taylor '17](#) and his downtown business venture, a discussion with [Rose Cardarelli '81](#) about her upcoming book on the climate migration crisis, and

scenes from the recent industrial arts [reunion](#) where the legacy of Professor Walter Harrod '40 was celebrated.

Our digital platform, launched in the summer, also includes popular alumni magazine features like [class notes](#) and in [memoriam notices](#).

Veterans storytelling event this Wednesday

In honor of Veterans Day 2023, the English Studies Department, in collaboration with its flagship literary journal *Route 2*, wants to hear from military veterans and their families about the sacrifice behind the service.

The Veterans Day storytelling event will take place at **3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 8** in the Falcon Hub in Hammond Hall. This event is an opportunity for the greater Fitchburg community to come together to make space for stories that veterans are too often asked to carry in silence. Stories may be submitted [online](#) and should be no more than five minutes in length. Submissions are due by the end of the day **today**.



CIC's Nuovo Mondo series continues

The Center for Italian Culture's [Nuovo Mondo](#) series, exploring a century of migrations to and from Italy, continues this week with a screening of Martin Scorsese's acclaimed documentary film "Italianamerican" (1974) at **5:30 p.m. Thursday** in Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall.

The documentary features the award-winning filmmaker's parents,

Catherine and Charles Scorsese, who reflect on their experiences as the children of Italian immigrants to New York City.

The *Nuovo Mondo* series continues later this month with a screening of Spike Lee's "Do the Right Thing" (1989) at **5:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 30**.

[Learn more](#)

Faculty panel talk on Nov. 14 will explore Israel-Gaza crisis

Member of the faculty will look at the historical factors that have led to what has been called the Second October War in Israel and Gaza, while exploring how the crisis fits into other contexts. The discussion will take place at **3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 14** in Ellis White Lecture Hall.

Professor **Joshua Spero** will moderate the panel discussion, which will also include **R. Brad Bannon** (Humanities), **Eric Budd** (Economics, History and Political Science), **Michael Hoberman** (English Studies), **Benjamin Lieberman** (Economics, History and Political Science) and **Wafa Unus** (English Studies).



ECHOES OF THE PAST, HOPES FOR THE FUTURE

Join members of the Fitchburg State faculty for a look at the historical factors that led to what has been called the Second October War in Israel and Gaza, while exploring how the crisis fits into other contexts.

Professor **Joshua Spero** will moderate this discussion, with a panel that includes:

- **R. Brad Bannon**, Humanities
- **Eric Budd**, Economics, History, & Political Science
- **Michael Hoberman**, English Studies
- **Benjamin Lieberman**, Economics, History, & Political Science
- **Wafa Unus**, English Studies

**Tuesday
November 14
3:30 PM**

ELLIS WHITE LECTURE HALL



Moot Court tournament returns this month

The campus will host the Eastern Regional tournament of the American Moot Court Association national competition on **Friday, Nov. 17** and **Saturday, Nov. 18**.

The competition pits teams of students arguing the merits of a hypothetical court case. This year's [case](#) will have students argue questions about access to contraception and the intersection of law and religious belief.

Fifty teams of students representing 17 colleges and universities will gather for the regional tournament this month, including five students from Fitchburg State.

Winners of the regional tournament will advance to the national competition in January.

Open forums scheduled for Nov. 28

President Lapidus invites faculty, librarians, staff and administrators to gather for open forums at **10 a.m.** and **3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 28** in Kent Recital Hall.

The sessions will include updates about university operations, with opportunities for members to ask questions.

Keep up with campus happenings on the Burg Blog

Follow the [Burg Blog](#) for timely updates of campus life.

Among the recent articles and slideshows, see scenes from the campus celebration of [Diwali](#), sponsored by the Office of International Education and the Fitchburg Indian Student Association; the annual [Golden Pumpkin competition](#) (where the School of Graduate, Online and Continuing Education took top honors); the music [faculty recital](#) in Weston Auditorium; the second [Open House](#) of the semester on Oct. 28; the Center for Diversity and Inclusiveness' [ice cream social](#); and a [career exploration](#) fair in Hammond Hall.



A poster for a concert titled "A Symphonic Christmas Carol". The poster features a dark background with gold and white text. At the top, it says "The North Worcester County Symphony Orchestra in partnership with Fitchburg State University present". The title "A Symphonic Christmas Carol" is written in a large, elegant, gold script font. Below the title, it says "The music of Christmas Past, Present, and Future". The dates "DECEMBER 8 & 9" and time "7:30 P.M." are listed. The venue is "WESTON AUDITORIUM 353 NORTH STREET". The poster also lists the featured performers: "Fitchburg State University Concert Choir, Chamber Choir, and Concert Band", "The Nashoba Valley Chorale", "The Westford Chorus", "Greater Gardner Community Choir", and "Perfect Alibi". At the bottom, it says "FOR TICKETS VISIT WWW.NWCSORCHESTRA.ORG".

CenterStage and Cultural Events

This December, Fitchburg State's instrumental and vocal groups will join the North Worcester County Symphony Orchestra and other regional ensembles for A Symphonic Christmas Carol. The concert, featuring 350 musicians, will be performed at 7:30 p.m. **Friday, Dec. 8 and Saturday, Dec. 9** at Weston Auditorium.

The orchestra will perform with Fitchburg State's Concert Choir, Chamber Choir and Concert Band, and the concert will also include the Nashoba Valley Chorus, the Westford Chorus, the Greater Gardner Community Choir, and Perfect Alibi.

Tickets are free for Fitchburg State staff and students, and may be requested online by contacting info@nwcsorchestra.org. If you're looking to buy tickets for non-university guests, tickets are \$15 to \$30 and may be ordered online. To reserve your complimentary university ticket alongside paying guests, please contact

info@nwcsorchestra.org and indicate the number and pricing tier you wish to purchase:

- VIP Seating: \$30
- Senior Seating: \$20
- Student (non-Fitchburg State) Seating: \$15
- Adult Seating: \$25

Learn more about Fitchburg State's offerings at fitchburgstate.edu/music.

Concert Band and Community Orchestra Perform on Nov. 16

Fitchburg State University's Concert Band and Community Orchestra will perform their fall concert, "We Are One Sound," at 7:30 p.m. **Thursday, Nov. 16** in Weston Auditorium. Admission is free and open to the public.

The Concert Band will be featuring music by LGBTQ composers. This is the culminating semester concert for the Fitchburg State Concert Band and Community Orchestra ensembles.

"We are excited to present a concert of music by LGBTQ composers of the 20th and 21st centuries, including Aaron Copland, Randall Standridge, Omar Thomas, Julie Giroux and

Rossano Gallante,” said **Assistant Professor Amy McGlothlin**, the conductor of the Concert Band.

While admission is free, the university will be collecting donations of non-perishable microwavable meals to stock the Falcon Bazaar, the campus food and necessities pantry.

In the Hammond Hall Art Gallery: Faculty Show

The annual [Faculty Show](#) will be on display in the Hammond Hall Art Gallery through Dec. 15, featuring work by faculty members **Sarah Bromberg, Petri Flint, Jason Flynn, Robert Harris, Jon Krasner, Hanna Melnyczuk, Sally Moore, Andrea Olmstead, Jessica Robey, Britt Snyder, Donald Tarallo, and Jeff Warmouth**. The film screening will include work by faculty members **Rachelle Dermer, Robert Harris and Kevin McCarthy**.

[Learn more](#)

Faculty Notes

Professor Eric Budd (Economics, History and Political Science) attended the annual meeting of the Northeastern Political Science Association in Boston on Nov. 2-4, where he presented a paper entitled "Memory in the Post-Conflict State," was the chair and discussant for a panel on "Violence in the Global South," and chaired a panel on "Populism and Polarization."

Professor Michael Greenwood (Business Administration) recently conducted a [leadership training](#) program for the Boys and Girls Club of Fitchburg and Leominster. Club CEO Elizabeth Coveney reached out to Greenwood hoping to have her leadership coalesce around a single vision, and said the program was a success. "I have a very strong bias for action, now I want to go 'do,'" she said. "We have a big responsibility taking care of kids, so I want my team to be great."

Assistant Professor Jared Vanasse (Earth and Geographic Sciences) is co-author of a paper published recently in the American Physical Society's Physical Review C (Vol. 108, No.4). The article, "Cold neutron-deuteron capture and Wigner-SU(4) symmetry" may be viewed [online](#).

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Fitchburg State University | 160 Pearl Street, Fitchburg, MA 01420

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