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## Fitchburg State University Today

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### University again earns Military Friendly designation

Fitchburg State has earned the 2024-2025 Military Friendly School designation.

The rankings measure institutions' ability to meet thresholds for retention, graduation, job placement, repayment, persistence, and loan default rates for all students, and specifically for student [veterans](#).

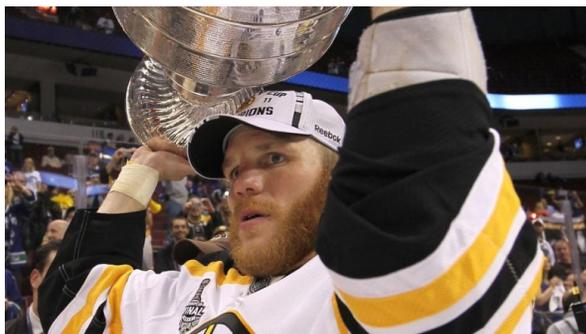
[Read more](#)



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### Presidential finalists to be named

The Board of Trustees will meet at 8:15 a.m. Tuesday in Presidents' Hall, during which they are expected to adopt the [Presidential Search Committee](#)'s recommendations to invite finalists for on-campus interviews. Information on the finalists, and the full schedules for their on-site visits, will be shared with the campus community and will be posted on the university [website](#).



### Former Bruin Shawn Thornton to speak April 8

Shawn Thornton, the former Boston Bruin who played on two Stanley Cup-winning National Hockey League teams, will speak about his life during an appearance at Weston Auditorium at 7 p.m. **Monday, April 8.**

Thornton, currently a senior vice president with the Florida Panthers, will present "Fighting My Way to the Top" at the talk, which is free and open to the public.

[Learn more](#)

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### Speakers Series concludes today at 12:30

The university's Speakers Series continues with **Assistant Professor**

Patricia Kio (Engineering Technology), who will present "Circular Immersive Parametric Design" at 12:30 p.m. today via [Google meet](#). A recording of the talk will be shared afterwards.

This will be the final talk of this year's Speakers Series.



## Biotechnology research to be highlighted at panel talk April 10

The campus will host a ribbon-cutting for the biotechnology research lab at 2 p.m. **Wednesday, April 10** in the Antonucci Science Complex.

The event will celebrate the university's undergraduate biotechnology research and the state's vibrant workforce. The program

will include the ribbon-cutting for the lab, funded by the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center.

The program will also include a panel discussion on life sciences at 3:15 p.m., followed by a networking event for undergraduate students at 4 p.m.

## Reminder: CIC's *Nuovo Mondo* series continues this week

The Center for Italian Culture's [Nuovo Mondo](#) series, exploring the phenomenon of immigration from and to Italy, continues this spring with Italian-made films that examine recent immigration into Italy.

The events continue at 5:30 p.m. **Tuesday** in Ellis White Lecture Hall with a screening of *Maka* (2023), Geneviève Makaping's life in Italy and perilous migration journey. Following the screening of *Maka*, **Associate Professor Kevin McCarthy** (Communications Media) will facilitate a virtual question and answer session with the film's writer, Simone Brioni.

The programs continue with [Scambio](#). A Dinner with Fred Plotkin at 5:30 p.m. **Friday, April 12** in the Hammond main lounge.



Plotkin, co-author of *Rick Steves' Italy for Food Lovers*, will discuss the *scambio*, or exchange of food, between Italy and America and back. Come taste how American corn made its way into Italian polenta and how a popular sandwich on the streets of Palermo turned into a classic of New Orleans. Savor enduring mealtime customs and wine pairings

as you learn about the cross-cultural influences of food. Tickets may be [purchased online](#).

The *Nuovo Mondo* series will also present an online workshop at **6 p.m. Tuesday, April 16** on how to apply for Italian citizenship as an Italian-American. The custom webinar program, hosted by genealogists and members of the Vermont Italian Cultural Association, Lisa DeNatale (President), Mark D'Ambrosi, and Jerry Carbone, is free and open to the public.

Attendees are asked to [register](#) in advance by clicking the registration link on the *Nuovo Mondo* [website](#).

[Learn more](#)

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## Reminder: Drag Show tickets on sale now

The Gay Straight Alliance will present its 17th annual benefit drag show at **7 p.m. Thursday**, an event designed to entertain, enlighten, and share a great cultural experience with the community.

The "Dancing Queens" drag show will be held at the Athletics and Recreation Center, 130 North St.,

Fitchburg. Proceeds from the show will support the LGBTQ Student Scholarship at Fitchburg State. The program is labeled as New England's largest and oldest drag show. [Tickets](#) are available now.

[Learn more](#)

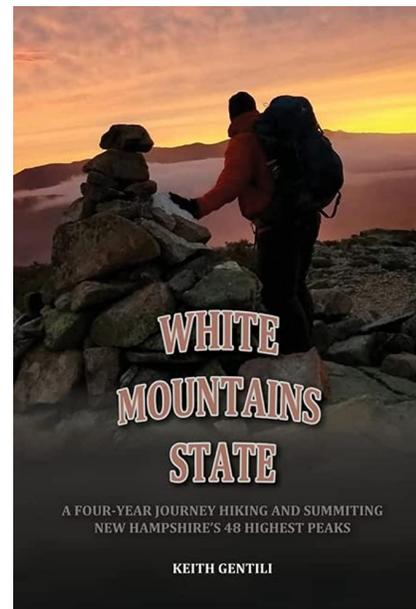
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## Community Read concludes with storytelling event on April 11

The [Community Read](#) of Fitchburg State alumnus Keith Gentili's *White Mountains State* will conclude with a storytelling event at **3:30 p.m. Thursday, April 11** in the Falcon Hub in Hammond Hall. Admission is free and open to the public.

"Fitchburg Speaks; Stories About What Made Us Who We Are" will showcase the stories of students, faculty, staff and local community members. This event encourages heartfelt, humorous, and honest tellings of the complex and rich lives led by our neighbors, students and colleagues. Join us as we discover who we are as a community. Refreshments will be available.

Also, [voting](#) is now open for the 2024-25 Community Read book. The digital ballot will close at the end of the day **Tuesday, April 9**.



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**Undergrad Research  
Conference and Honors  
Convocation return April 18**



The Undergraduate Research Conference and Honors Convocation will be held **Thursday, April 18**. Day classes are canceled so all members of the campus community may take part in the events.

## Fitchburg celebrates Earth Day April 21

Join InTown Fitchburg and NewVue Communities as Fitchburg celebrates Earth Day 2024 at Riverfront Park off Boulder Drive from 12 to 3 p.m. **Sunday, April 21**. The event is family friendly, free and open to the community. There will be live music, food, plant and clothing swaps, art and fitness activities as well as local vendors on hand.

Learn more at [intownfitchburg.com/events](https://intownfitchburg.com/events).



## Students inducted into mathematics honor society

The Massachusetts Eta Chapter of Pi Mu Epsilon National Honorary Mathematics Society recently held its 2024 induction ceremony.

Pictured, from left, are new inductees Kyle Boudreau, Michael Fedirko, Teddy Kingori, Abderrahmane Garchali, and Quintin Lemek.

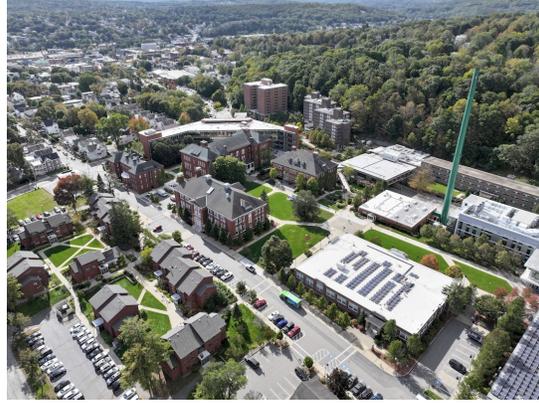
The Fitchburg State [chapter](#) was formed in fall 2007.

## Campus community input sought on university core values

The university's [Mission Review Committee](#) is seeking feedback from the campus community regarding Fitchburg State's core

values by taking a [brief survey](#).

Learn more about the mission review process [online](#).



## 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 [Future Falcon Day](#) on March 23; early education students [collecting samples](#) from the Nashua River; students in a course on [theatrical stage makeup](#); and alumnus [Keith Gentili](#) returning to campus for a talk as part of the Community Read of his memoir *White Mountains State*.

[Burg Blog](#)

## Cultural Events

Three one-act plays that point out the bizarre, delightful and surreal nature of life will be presented as the university's spring theater productions in April.

The performances, collectively known as "Absurdist Alert!" will be held in the Wallace Theater for the Performing Arts in the McKay Complex at 67 Rindge Road. Admission is free and open to the public.

- "The Zoo Story," written by Edward Albee and directed by **Jo Nazro**, is absurdist in mood and explores different themes of existentialism, isolation, loneliness, social disparity, and dehumanization in a materialistic American society.
- "A Game," written by Dennis E. Noble and directed by student **Allison Thompson**, is the story of three individuals who agree to participate in an experiment in which they are locked in a small room divided into three "equal" sections. As they descend to madness, they showcase how far people are willing to go to be better than those around them.
- "The Lesson," written by Eugene Ionesco and directed by **Cap Corduan**, satirizes totalitarianism in education, politics, language, psychology, and sexuality.

The performances will open with "The Zoo Story" at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 25. "A Game" and "The Lesson" will be performed at 7 p.m. Friday, April 26. "The Zoo Story" will be performed again at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 27, with "A Game" and "The Lesson" being performed that evening at 7 p.m. The performances conclude Sunday, April 28 with "A Game" and "The Lesson" at 2 p.m. and "The Zoo Story" at 7 p.m.

## Faculty Notes

Professor Katherine Rye Jewell (Economics, History and Political Science) was featured in an [article](#) published March 29 in The Boston Globe asking educators about the impact of AI in the classroom.

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