



124TH ANNUAL
COMMENCEMENT

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2020

School of Business and Technology

VIRTUAL SPRING CEREMONY

Celebrating our May 2020 Graduates



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to Fitchburg State University and the 124th annual spring commencement ceremony of the Class of 2020. This year due to the global pandemic and for safety reasons, we are celebrating student accomplishments virtually along with friends and family wherever they may be. The ceremony is delayed from the spring, because we held out hope that an in-person event eventually would be possible. Even though the event is now virtual, I know the hard work and sacrifices made to get to this day were very real. This is your day to shine!

As graduates you embody our university motto, *perseverantia*—perseverance. Commencement may signal a temporary end of your academic career, as you begin new chapters and meet new life challenges, but today I encourage you to take a moment and savor not only your accomplishment, but also the memories of all your time at Fitchburg State.

The graduates have not reached this milestone on their own. Let us also recognize the spouses, parents, family members, friends and loved ones who have provided the support and encouragement that made the graduates' success possible. If you are one of these participants today, I hope these exceptional students are inspiring a great deal of joy and family pride.

Graduates, your diploma represents your completion of a course of study, as well as a commitment to pursuing life and career goals. Your story is just beginning and we are honored that Fitchburg State provided you the path to this achievement.

In the years to come, I hope you will remain actively engaged with the university and help to shape the direction for future generations to come. As alumni, you are now part of our extended family worldwide. In times of crisis and times of triumph, we will find a way to be together, to be stronger despite any physical distances. Fitchburg State will always be your home.

Richard S. Lapidus
President

124TH ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT

Virtual Spring Ceremony

Fitchburg State University Chamber Choir

“America the Beautiful”

This song was composed by the Canadian-American Black composer
R. Nathaniel Dett in 1918, during the midst of another pandemic.

Words by Katherine Lee Bates (1893); Conducted by Dr. Jonathan Harvey

Welcome to Convene the Ceremony

Dr. Alberto J.F. Cardelle

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Commencement Remarks

Dr. Richard S. Lapidus

Undergraduate Valedictorian

Mr. Stanley L. Choruzek, B.S. in Computer Science

Graduate Student Leadership Award

Mr. Paul A. Thibodeau, M.S. in Counseling

Dr. Robert V. and Jeanne S. Antonucci

Student Leadership Award

Ms. Victoria L. Weisenhorn, B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies

Congratulations and Well Wishes

Students, faculty, staff and alumni

Congratulations from the Board of Trustees

Ms. C. Deborah Phillips, Chair

Message from the Deans

Dr. Keith Williamson

Dean of the School of Business and Technology

Dr. Becky Copper-Glenz

Dean of the School of Graduate, Online and Continuing Education

Congratulations and Well Wishes

Department and Program Chairs

Acknowledgement of Degree Recipients

Congratulations and Welcome to the Alumni Family

Mr. James Walsh, Class of 1975

124TH ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT

Virtual Spring Ceremony

Fitchburg State University Board of Trustees as of May 2020

Mr. Donald R. Irving, Chairman
Ms. C. Deborah Phillips, Vice Chairman
Ms. Lynn M. Barrieau, Clerk
Ms. Crystal N. Aneke, Student Trustee
Ms. Anna Maria Clementi
Ms. Delfi L. Nieto
Mr. Frank M. O'Donnell
Ms. Carolyn E. Crowley Stimpson
Ms. Martha Nicholson
Mr. David C. Tiernan

2020 Honors Theses / Performances

Alyssa Ann Anderson, *Tax Cuts for the Rich: An Analysis of Trickle Down Economics*
Sean P. Carney, *Inclusive Pedagogy*
Olivia Rose Dolitka, *The Over and Under-Identification of ELL Students in Special Education*
Heather Amy Ferguson, *The Importance of Representation of Diversity in Secondary English Classrooms*
John Weston Gifford, Jr., *Audio Identities*
Aidan B. King, *Writing A Pilot Script*
Jonathan Gregory Medlin, *Playing by Ear*
Abigail Kathryn Robinson, *Justice and Fairness Through the Lens of Jury Selection*
Rachel Louise Sazonick, *Make Accounting Ethics Great (Again?)*
Kelly P. Wilhide, *Preventing Sudden Cardiac Death in Athletes*

GRADUATE DEGREES

Master of Business Administration

Moyo Oyimeh Abu-Williams
SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

Geoffrey D. Allen
LYNDEBOROUGH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Jameela Jassim Al-Muhenadi
QALALI, BAHRAIN

Frank Alvarado
BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA

Shane Leo Anable
NORTHBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS

Omar Arango
WAYNE, NEW JERSEY

Daniela Ferraz Simoes Araujo
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Vianca E. Ayala
CLINTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Shannon Naughton Barry
WHATELY, MASSACHUSETTS

Robert D. Bergeron Jr.
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

Erin Leslie Billmeyer
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Tyler J. Blanchette
JAMAICA PLAIN, MASSACHUSETTS

Phedelia Boakye
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Jacklyn Salvini Bolte
NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

Vanessa Carol Boudreau
WINCHENDON, MASSACHUSETTS

Jeffrey Bousquet
PASCOAG, RHODE ISLAND

Rachel Elena Bousquet
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Charity Ann Semaj Brown
SOUTH HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

Sashamarle L. Brown
DORCHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Ricardo Sanchez Cabrini
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Alexi Idreos Caffelle
ASHLAND, MASSACHUSETTS

Sandra L. Canevari
LANTANA, FLORIDA

Stephanie Grace Cartwright
DENHAM SPRINGS, LOUISIANA

Aaryn Chandler
FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA

Jose Winjing Chang
CORTE MADERA, CALIFORNIA

Vikki Theresa Chartrand
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Vikram Chopra
SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

Maria M. Cordon
WOBURN, MASSACHUSETTS

Shantell Victoria Cox
EAST NORTHPORT, NEW YORK

Kathleen Lois Craigen
WESTMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Ashley H. Crank
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Xiomara Crawford
JUNCTION CITY, KANSAS

Laura Piechowski Croteau
LANCASTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Alejandro Cuellar
CENTENNIAL, COLORADO

Angelica Panchihak Cyrus
NORTH WALES, PENNSYLVANIA

Kristal E. Dalbec
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Natalie Meehan DeLile
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

Amanda Delossantos
BRIDGEWATER, MASSACHUSETTS

Amber L. Deschenes
HUBBARDSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Molly Kathryn Donnelly
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Sinead A. Downing
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Brandon J. Durham
TOWNSEND, MASSACHUSETTS

Michelle Anne Eichinger
STEVENSVILLE, MARYLAND

Christopher Michael England
RAYNHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Ismael Espino
SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Ken Wayne Estep
WEST HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA

Jenna Fabrizio
NORTH ANDOVER, MASSACHUSETTS

Kara S. Farrell
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Kaitlin Rose Ferguson
PAXTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Terri Anne Ferrazzani
NORTH READING, MASSACHUSETTS

Adam Clark Fischer
CHESAPEAKE, VIRGINIA

Jean Marie Fisher
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Jeffery A. Flowers
JOPLIN, MISSOURI

Victoria Flynn
MARLBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS

Jason M. Fogarty
GERMANTOWN, MARYLAND

Matthew Joseph Fonte
MIDDLETOWN, NEW JERSEY

Nicole M. Fortes-Williams
NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Venessa Ann Francois
TOWNSEND, MASSACHUSETTS

Christopher J. Gaeta
LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS

Kaitlyn E. Goguen
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Gabriel Eduardo González
SALISBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Karla Karina Gonzalez
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Denis Gotonoaga
NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Colin Raymond Grover
CINCINNATI, OHIO

Francisco Javier Guerrero
LAKE ELSINORE, CALIFORNIA

Benjamin Jonathan Guilfoil
NORTHBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Alexandru Gurduiala
CLINTON, MARYLAND

Evanthia P. Hadjiyerou
LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS

Kerry Lynn Hafford
LEWISTON, MAINE

Angeli Hajali
SOUTH HAMILTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Allison R. Hamel
BALDWINVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

John Edward Harrold
DEVENS, MASSACHUSETTS

Jessica K. Hawrylcw
BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Sydney Marie Hayes
AMSTON, CONNECTICUT

Sharon A. Healey
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Declan Heaslip
DEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Lia B. Heflin
HAGERSTOWN, INDIANA

John P. Helgesen
LUGOFF, SOUTH CAROLINA

Vanessa Cristina Herrera
TAMPA, FLORIDA

Christopher Hines
EAST SANDWICH, MASSACHUSETTS

*** Summa cum laude—3.8 or higher

** Magna cum laude—3.5 or higher

* Cum laude—3.2 or higher

❖ Double major

◆ Commonwealth Scholar / Honors Program

Matthew Robert Hoch
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

Timothy J. Hodge
HIGH POINT, NORTH CAROLINA

James Leonard Holloway
WINTERSET, IOWA

Vahé Hovakimian
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA

Ryan Matthew Howard
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Patrick Hubley
MILLBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

William J. Irwin
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

Pallavi Jain
LEXINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Andrew Paul Jeselson
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Bahram Johari
FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Shaleisa Ladawn Johnson
TAUNTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Brittney Nicole Jones
OLIVE BRANCH, MISSISSIPPI

Shamara Marie Jones
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Stephen Matthew Kearney
LONGMEADOW, MASSACHUSETTS

Bobby Keene
ALEXANDRIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE

John Kellard
MIDDLETON, MASSACHUSETTS

Lauren Nicole Kogo
HILLSBORO, OREGON

Tyler Michael Kohlmann
ELIZABETHTOWN, KENTUCKY

Michael Alan Krupa-Gagnon
WEST SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Gloria Mataka Kunje
QUAKER HILL, CONNECTICUT

Carissa Scottfenton Kushmerek
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Magdalena Ewa Lam
RESTON, VIRGINIA

Lindsay Marie Lay
BALLWIN, MISSOURI

Eugene G. Lee
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Alexandra Marie Levesque
ABINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Joshua Todd Lewis
YARMOUTH PORT, MASSACHUSETTS

Donata Elizabeth Lipps
CINCINNATI, OHIO

Ryan David Lloyd
OGDEN, UTAH

Nicole Joan Lonardo
HOLDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Daniel Francis Loughrey
HADDON TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY

Eric D. Luongo
ASHLAND, MASSACHUSETTS

Kaleigh Ann Maio
NEW BRAINTREE, MASSACHUSETTS

Muhammad Haroon Malak
WHARTON, NEW JERSEY

Linda Ann Manning
EAST LONGMEADOW, MASSACHUSETTS

Patrick Lee Mansell
MAYFIELD HEIGHTS, OHIO

Michelle Elizabeth Marsich
FAYETTEVILLE, WEST VIRGINIA

Doreen Sabwa Martinson
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Raven Elyse Maxim
YUMA, ARIZONA

Keith P. McCarthy
WEST TOWNSEND, MASSACHUSETTS

Alyssa Anne McFarland
MELROSE, MASSACHUSETTS

James Robert McGuire
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

McKenna McMorro
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

Katherine Leigh Meehan
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Melissa L. Michaelides
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Tiara Miles
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Jeffrey Mompremier-Cruz
TEWKSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Kelsey Bayley Moore
LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

Brian F. Moriarty
FEEDING HILLS, MASSACHUSETTS

Amanda-Leigh Mundell
JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

Paulo Roberto Pires Murta
ROSLINDALE, MASSACHUSETTS

Andrew Nelson
RICHMOND HILL, GEORGIA

Nikki Lee Nickerson
WINCHENDON, MASSACHUSETTS

Sydney Ocran
CHARLTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Morgan Paige Odum
CLINTON, NORTH CAROLINA

Joshua Pedrozo
AKRON, OHIO

Aditya Pellore
FRANKLIN, MASSACHUSETTS

Dayanand Dyal Persaud
BROAD BROOK, CONNECTICUT

Matthew J. Philbin
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Juliette Marie Pinto
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Samantha K. Prescott
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Jefflyn Naa Kwarley Quartey
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Vesmita Ragland
TAUNTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Johanna Paola Reagan
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Camila P. Remaley
OWINGS MILLS, MARYLAND

Craig D. Renaud
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Joshua Sigmunds Reynolds
MARIETTA, GEORGIA

Kathryn Ruth Richards
BROOKLYN, CONNECTICUT

Nathan Scott Richards
BROOKLYN, CONNECTICUT

Charles Joseph Robbins
ARCANUM, OHIO

Katie Elizabeth Roberts
CHICOPEE, MASSACHUSETTS

Ana K. Rodriguez
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Ciara Rodriguez
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Ariel L. Rolon
TARRYTOWN, NEW YORK

Daliza Rosario
LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS

Arjun Rumba
MALDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Weiss Russell
CHANTILLY, VIRGINIA

Graciela Maria Saldana
ELK GROVE, CALIFORNIA

Nicole Fernanda Salerno
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Nathaniel George Salter
OLD SAYBROOK, CONNECTICUT

Kristina H. Samar
GRAFTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Lena C. Sarunn
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Estier Sayegh
WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

John M. Schultz
PLYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Kirsy Ann Segarra
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS

Keri Frances Shugrue
UXBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Scott M. Siegel
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Joseph Tadeu Silva
COVENTRY, RHODE ISLAND

Kyle Soldano
LITCHFIELD, MAINE

★★★ Summa cum laude—3.8 or higher

★★ Magna cum laude—3.5 or higher

★ Cum laude—3.2 or higher

❖ Double major

◆ Commonwealth Scholar / Honors Program

Shannon A. Southard
JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY

Shashank Srivastava
NORTH BILLERICA, MASSACHUSETTS

Andrew C. St. Germain
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Jasmine N. Steele
FORT WORTH, TEXAS

Rachel Jo Steele
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

Brittney Marie Stewart
MARRERO, LOUISIANA

Jeremy R. Swanson
BEMUS POINT, NEW YORK

Patrick Szczesiul
ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT

Nathaniel Aaron Tarlow
CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Katherine L. Tejada
CHELSEA, MASSACHUSETTS

Srinivasa Rao Telu
CLEVELAND, OHIO

Manisha Thanneeru
FRANKLIN, MASSACHUSETTS

Sierra J. Thorne
MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Glenmae A. Tolentino
TRACY, CALIFORNIA

Penh Tor Tuliano
GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

Nicolas V. Trodella
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Daniel Robert Unkel
MALDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Joshua Verrengia
REVERE, MASSACHUSETTS

Ryan B. Wadsworth
WILLIAMSTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

Samantha J. Weinacht
BELLINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Scott Frederick Willi
MACOMB, MICHIGAN

Sonya Eileen Wooten
EAST ORANGE, NEW JERSEY

Robert Michael Wrona
OXFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Tony Arnulfo Wyman
SWAMPSCOTT, MASSACHUSETTS

Marsha Sheree Xyminies
PROVINCETOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

Kayla A. Yearout
IMPERIAL, MISSOURI

Magdalena Zorrilla
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Master of Education

OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION

Michael Clinton Carrier
BUZZARDS BAY, MASSACHUSETTS

Jennifer Marie James-Philbrick
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Dale Anthony Larocque
RINDGE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Jennifer A. Mailloux-Rochon
WESTMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Master of Science

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Vamsi Priya Boppana
ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA

Ragadeepthi Bysani
KURNOOL-AP, INDIA

Radhika Hegde
UDUPI KARNATAKA, INDIA

Rudolph J. Ketter
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Oleksandr Koblosh
MKOLAIV, UKRAINE

Divya Mallepally
HYDERBAD, INDIA

Divya Ninakanti
JAYASHANKAR BHUPALPA, INDIA

Mounika Pailla
TELANGANA, INDIA

Chaithra Peddur Narayanappa
KOLAR, INDIA

Jayapreethi Prakash
COIMBATORE, INDIA

Sana Saleem
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Rudrapriya Subudhi
ODISHA, INDIA

Niharika Thota
KAKINADA, INDIA

Rajeshwari Devi Vasanta
GUNTUR ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

Bachelor of Science

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Natalie N. Aguilar ★
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Alyssa Ann Anderson ♦★★★
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Natalie E. Arsenault ★
ASHBURNHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Kristina Marie Baker
ASHBY, MASSACHUSETTS

Alexander Kenneth Batutis ★★
ATHOL, MASSACHUSETTS

Workama S. Becho
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Nicholas V. Benincasa
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Zachary Steven Buckland ★
BILLERICA, MASSACHUSETTS

Arnold Lee Caddell Jr.
WEBSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Catherine Camacho
CLINTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Micah David Cernoia
CLINTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Connor William Clinkscale
WINCHENDON, MASSACHUSETTS

Michael J. Costello ★
BELLINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Melissa K. Cunningham-Aubuchon ★
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Eilin Estela Diaz
METHUEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Carolyn Rose Emberley ★
MARLBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS

Dominique Rose Finlay ★
PLYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Cody Roy Flynn
WEBSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Thomas C. Flynn
WEBSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Vanessa Catherine Foote ★★
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Elizabeth J. Forni
AMESBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Alexandra M. Foster ★★
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Gabriella R. Foster ★
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Marcantonio Frushell
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

Rosirys Collado Garcia ★
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Sterlin Corey Garvin
BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS

★★★ Summa cum laude—3.8 or higher

★★ Magna cum laude—3.5 or higher

★ Cum laude—3.2 or higher

❖ Double major

◆ Commonwealth Scholar / Honors Program

Paige Ann Giordano **
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Andrew Christopher Gourgue
RANDOLPH, MASSACHUSETTS

Damari Joyce Grossi
MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Alvaro Arnoldo Gudiel Jr.
LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS

Amanda Mala Hem *
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Crystal Hoffman *
ATHOL, MASSACHUSETTS

Samantha Rose Ide *
WESTMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Austin Lee Kearney
❖ *Economics*
WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Matilda Kola ***
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Lianne M. Learnard **
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Abby Rose LeBlanc *
SWAMPSCOTT, MASSACHUSETTS

Emily Jean Lescinskas
BRIDGEWATER, MASSACHUSETTS

Katelyn Marie Lingus **
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Joshua R. Macomber
BERKLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

Ibrahima Male
PAWTUCKET, RHODE ISLAND

Paulina Martinez *
LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS

Ga Massicotte
CLINTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Lucas Patrick McDonald *
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Evan M. Meleedy
LAKEVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

Joshua S. Miller
TOWNSEND, MASSACHUSETTS

Kobi A. Namsaly
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Sophia Marie Napoli
LITTLETON, MASSACHUSETTS

Jacqueline E. Nideur *
HOLDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Meagan Colleen Peavey
HYDE PARK, MASSACHUSETTS

Brittany Ann Peralta ***
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Daniel Joseph Peters **
ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Wilkerson Will Pierre
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Samuel Alexander Richards
WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Kyleen Roman *
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Jamie Marie Rosenfeld **
OGDENSBURG, NEW JERSEY

Ashley Nicole Roy *
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Rachel Louise Sazonick ♦ **
ATHOL, MASSACHUSETTS

Roderick L. Squier III *
THORNDIKE, MASSACHUSETTS

Allayne L. Swaby
MATTAPAN, MASSACHUSETTS

Nicole Renée Thomas
ROSEBURG, OREGON

Nicholas Northington Tracy
GREENTOWN, INDIANA

Nicholas Jordan Treshnell
GREENWOOD, ARKANSAS

Johanna Viteri **
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Jacquelyn M. Vokey *
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Brian K. Walter
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Tyler J. Warila *
SHIRLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

Jessica Danielle Watson **
TOWNSEND, MASSACHUSETTS

Haven Keith Wichelns **
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Amina N. Zekeria *
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Dean Eric Zerby **
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Nathan C. Alsdorf *
PRINCETON, MASSACHUSETTS

Kyle T. Beliveau
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Matthew David Boucher ***
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Stanley Louis Choruzek Jr. ***
LANCASTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Daniel P. Considine *
TOWNSEND, MASSACHUSETTS

Jonathan P. Day **
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Ryan Donald Dean ***
MARLBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS

Jason J. Dwyer
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Michael Edward Harris **
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Derick J. Jacques-Simon
BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Ryan Timothy Kerr
HOPEDALE, MASSACHUSETTS

Nicholas Lambert
WESTMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Daniel Nsiah Nkansah
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Nicholas David Souders **
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Ehan Conner Viles-Lyles
WESTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Andre M. Wisseh
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Benjamin David Boudreau **
CLINTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Angel D. Caba
LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS

Paul J. Fears III
ROCKPORT, MASSACHUSETTS

Jacob Patrick Janssens
ASHBURNHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Gregory John Lambert
WESTMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Di Lin *
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Ryan Jay Rapoza
NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Cameron Austin Truehart ***
ORANGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Aaron L. Verner
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY

Samuel J. Arcikowski
OAKHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Ryan J. Bednarek
TEWKSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Gharett James Broderick
BROOKLINE, MASSACHUSETTS

Greyson Alexander DePina *
BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Kelvin R. Foe
LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS

Cory Tou Jhong Lo
GLASTONBURY, CONNECTICUT

Joshua L. Lorrain
VERGENNES, VERMONT

Brandon L. Lovely
SPENCER, MASSACHUSETTS

Christian Michael Lucchesi
TEWKSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Larissa Leandra Sousa Luis *
BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Luke Anthony Maglio
IPSWICH, MASSACHUSETTS

Stephen J. Nagle *
LANCASTER, MASSACHUSETTS

*** Summa cum laude—3.8 or higher

** Magna cum laude—3.5 or higher

* Cum laude—3.2 or higher

❖ Double major

♦ Commonwealth Scholar / Honors Program

Stevan J. Pina ★
BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Jason Gino Pinto
MILFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Danielle C. Samarjian
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Joshua T. Suboyu ★★
BRADLEY BEACH, NEW JERSEY

OCCUPATIONAL/VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Darlene V. Azadnia ★★
FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS

Daniel Patrick Kelley Burns ★★★
BALDWINVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

Dianne M. Doucette ★★★
PEABODY, MASSACHUSETTS

Colleen Elizabeth Langin ★★★
UXBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Michele Marie Maltais ★★
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

★★★ Summa cum laude—3.8 or higher

★★ Magna cum laude—3.5 or higher

★ Cum laude—3.2 or higher

❖ Double major

◆ Commonwealth Scholar / Honors Program



VALEDICTORIAN OF THE CLASS OF 2020

Stanley L. Choruzek

Stanley L. Choruzek is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran who enlisted as soon as he was old enough in order to join the War on Terror. When an injury during training kept him from being deployed, he turned his attention to being a full-time father while earning a college degree. He began studying liberal

arts and appreciated the foundation of critical thinking it fostered.

The Worcester native graduated from Mount Wachusett Community College in 2017 and then attended Fitchburg State. In addition to his studies, he worked on campus for Information Technology. He also appreciated the diversity of students he met on campus, including fellow veterans.

Looking ahead, Choruzek sees parallels in the computer networks he helped support and the human networks that sustain all of us.

Choruzek hopes to transfer his new degree into a career in cybersecurity. His drive to serve and protect his fellow citizens has led him to the virtual front lines, where hackers try to interfere with social networks or elections.



GRADUATE STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD

Paul A. Thibodeau

Paul A. Thibodeau has faced many challenges in his life but still considers himself blessed. After years of drug and alcohol addiction, Thibodeau got sober 25 years ago and is committed to helping others overcome their own challenges.

After completing his undergraduate degree in human services from Fitchburg State in 2015, Thibodeau continued his studies at the graduate level in the hopes of building a career in counseling. Those plans were interrupted after a horrific car crash in 2017 that shattered his femur and left him with a traumatic brain injury.

Despite those challenges, Thibodeau considers himself lucky. He believes he has survived so that he can help others overcome their own adversities.

In nominating Thibodeau for the graduate award, faculty members saluted his resilience and his commitment to continuing his studies, despite the challenges created by the accident – including delaying his graduation by a full year.

Thibodeau now works as a counselor for the Montachusett Opportunity Council and looks forward to getting his own license to practice.



ROBERT V. & JEANNE S. ANTONUCCI STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD

Victoria L. Weisenhorn 2020 Recipient

This award recognizes outstanding leadership, strong academic performance and overall contributions to Fitchburg State University by one student.

PAST RECIPIENTS

| | |
|------|--------------------|
| 2019 | Hailey R. O'Brien |
| 2018 | Seferine A. Baez |
| 2017 | Jairo M. Hernandez |
| 2016 | Megan E. Pierce |
| 2015 | Nathan A. Gregoire |
| 2014 | Joseph Flanagan |
| 2013 | Matthew Costello |
| 2012 | Julie A. Fontana |

2019 FACULTY EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Dr. Vincent J. Mara Award for Excellence in Teaching

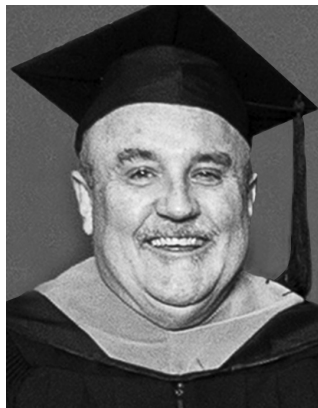


Dr. Randy P. Howe

Dr. Howe, Professor of Communications Media, received the Vincent J. Mara Excellence in Teaching Award, established in 1989 to honor former university President Mara (1976-1995). Howe is a previous department chair and

a “double falcon,” having earned both his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees from Fitchburg State before acquiring his EdD. He has taught graphic design, interface design, communication theory, educational leadership, and professional communications programs here for the last 21 years, and most recently led a unique inaugural marketing course onsite at the 2018 Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland to help promote our students’ global theater performances.

Contributions to the Graduate Program Award



Mr. Joseph E. McAloon (awarded posthumously)

Professor “Joe” McAloon, who died suddenly in April 2019, is the recipient of the Contributions to the Graduate Program Award. He retired in 2018 after 35 years at Fitchburg State teaching business, advising students and

evolving curriculum. He stayed on after his official retirement to teach part-time in the online MBA program and continue as its department chair, a position he held since 2008. Professor McAloon was committed to fostering students’ intellectual, creative, scholarly and professional growth. An eponymous full scholarship for the online MBA program was created this fall in his honor.

Faculty Award for Research and Scholarship



Dr. Kisha G. Tracy

Dr. Tracy, Associate Professor of English Studies, is the recipient of the Faculty Research and Scholarship Award. Tracy's research often examines why the Middle Ages are significant and makes important connections between the present and the past,

particularly focusing on helping students explore these ideas. She is a published book author (*Memory and Confession in Middle English Literature*, Springer International Publishing AG, 2017), a co-founder of the online community The Lone Medievalist and a leader and global lecturer on cultural heritage and medieval disability studies.

Faculty Award for Service



Dr. Eric N. Budd

Dr. Budd, the Faculty Service Award recipient, is a Professor in the Economics, History and Political Science Department and a previous department chair. A PhD graduate of the University of Chicago, he has taught international politics here for 25

years. His service projects include helping found and direct multiple campus organizations, including Model U.N., the FSU Speaker Series and the Center for Conflict Studies. He also volunteers in his community and looks forward to leading one of our student study abroad programs this spring in Ireland. With this Service Award, Budd is the only professor to have earned three of the four faculty awards.

Dr. Vincent J. Mara Excellence in Teaching Award

PAST RECIPIENTS

| | |
|------|---------------------------|
| 2018 | Elizabeth (Beth) R. Walsh |
| 2017 | Kelly C. Morgan |
| 2016 | Meledath Govindan |
| 2015 | Benjamin A. Railton |
| 2014 | Sean C. Goodlett |
| 2013 | Joshua B. Spero |
| 2012 | George F. Bohrer |
| 2011 | Howard H. Thomas |
| 2010 | Jane A. Fiske |
| 2009 | Christine Cosgrove |
| 2008 | Peter Laytin |
| 2007 | John J. Paul |
| 2006 | Eric N. Budd |
| 2005 | Gerald M. Higdon |
| 2004 | Louis J. Zivic |
| 2003 | Barbara S. Cammuso |
| 2002 | Thomas Battinelli |
| 2001 | Maria M. Jaramillo |
| 2000 | Andrea J. Wallen |
| 1999 | Edmund B. Thomas |
| 1998 | Lee N. Cunningham |
| 1997 | Robert F. Champlin |
| 1996 | Colin E. Bourn |
| 1995 | Pasquale E. Micciche |
| 1994 | Rosemarie S. Giovino |
| 1993 | Helen O'Flaherty |
| 1992 | Caroline A. Murphy |
| 1991 | Donald J. Schmidt |

Faculty Award for Service

PAST RECIPIENTS

| | |
|------|---------------------|
| 2018 | Megan M. Krell |
| 2017 | Elizabeth S. Gordon |

Contributions to the Graduate Program Award

PAST RECIPIENTS

| | |
|------|----------------------|
| 2018 | John M. Hancock |
| 2017 | Chola Chisunka |
| 2016 | Nancy L. Murray |
| 2015 | Harry Semerjian |
| 2014 | Anne M. Howard |
| 2013 | Richard J. Spencer |
| 2012 | Elaine E. Francis |
| 2011 | Michele M. Zide |
| 2010 | Rosemarie S. Giovino |

Faculty Award for Research and Scholarship

PAST RECIPIENTS

| | |
|------|-------------------------|
| 2018 | Katherine R. Jewell |
| 2017 | Teresa Fava Thomas |
| 2016 | Eric N. Budd |
| 2015 | Jeffrey E. Warmouth |
| 2014 | Benjamin A. Railton |
| 2013 | Michael B. Hoberman |
| 2012 | Susan R. Williams |
| 2011 | Joshua B. Spero |
| 2010 | Jannette M. McMenemy |
| 2009 | Susan M. Wadsworth |
| 2008 | Maria M. Jaramillo |
| 2007 | Christopher K. Cratsley |
| 2006 | Robert J. Wellman |
| 2005 | Benjamin D. Lieberman |
| 2004 | Paul I. Weizer |
| 2003 | Robin D. Dinda |
| 2002 | Cynthia Crosson |
| 2001 | Nan Wiegersma |
| 2000 | Howard H. Thomas |

UNIVERSITY SYMBOLS

The university's colors are white, gold and green. White and gold were formally adopted in June 1900, and green was added in 1979. They signify wisdom, inspiration, purity and perfection. The school motto, also adopted in 1900, is Perseverantia. This Latin word was freely translated to mean "achievements brought about by quiet will."



The university flower, the saxifrage, exemplifies the motto. The saxifrage, a small white flower with a golden center, was often found growing through cracks of rocks in early spring. Tiny as the flower is, it appeared to be so strong it could break rocks, through its gentle perseverance, its ability to overcome difficulties in its growth from seed to fruition, from lower to higher, from darkness to light.

These triumphs parallel each individual's growth through education.

In 1900, the saxifrage was adopted as the original college seal. Its white flower petals were surrounded by a golden wreath of saxifrage leaves.

The seal has evolved along with the institution, most recently in 2010 with the attainment of university status. The saxifrage and the motto remain prominent in the design, though they are depicted with a clean, elegant, contemporary look. The current academic logo incorporates a multitude of visual symbols: a shield, a book, an abstract set of wings, and, finally, a subtle "F" in the negative space.

PRESIDENTIAL COLLAR

At formal academic occasions, the president of Fitchburg State University also wears the Presidential Collar. The links in the collar are engraved with the names of Fitchburg State's eleven presidents and years of service. The Presidential Medal, which incorporates the university seal, is suspended from the collar.

Principals / Presidents

| | |
|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 2015–Present | Richard S. Lapidus |
| 2003–2015 | Robert V. Antonucci |
| 2002–2003 | Michael T. Rivard (Interim) |
| 1995–2002 | Michael P. Riccards |
| 1975–1995 | Vincent J. Mara |
| 1963–1975 | James J. Hammond |
| 1953–1963 | Ralph F. Weston |
| 1950–1953 | Ellis F. White |
| 1945–1950 | William J. Sanders |
| 1927–1945 | Charles M. Herlihy |
| 1920–1927 | William J. Parkinson |
| 1895–1920 | John G. Thompson |

REGALIA

The origins of academic dress lie uncertainly in 13th century England, when Edward III granted a charter to the University of Oxford. A close connection between the university and the church (the chancellor was the bishop's representative) may explain why illustrations depict the members of Oxford wearing gowns resembling clerical cassocks—closed in front and reaching the ground all around. Like the more lavishly trimmed ecclesiastical vestments, costume for advanced degrees was more elaborate.

A more practical reason than religious concurrence may have also prompted the adoption of long gowns. The buildings frequented by medieval scholars were cold and often damp, and so robes (particularly with hoods to protect tonsured heads) may have been worn more for warmth than fashion. The distinctive gown nevertheless set the student apart from his fellow citizens. As late as the Civil War, students at American universities wore caps and gowns daily while in residence. Whatever the origin, academic regalia grew in diversity and splendor, with scholars displaying distinctive costumes for different occasions and achievements. The result was a bewildering variety of designs.

An intercollegiate commission met at Columbia University in 1894 to establish a standard academic costume code, and over the years it has been revised by an official committee of the American Council on Education. The committee's prescriptions, while regulating, still allow for great pageantry at formal academic events.

From the cap, gown and hood it is possible to distinguish the institution from which the wearer was graduated, the field of learning in which the degree was earned, and the level of the degree—bachelor, master, or doctoral.

The distinguishing feature of the black mortarboard cap, standard at most colleges and universities in the United States, is the color of the tassel—black for the holder of a bachelor's or master's degree, gold for a doctor's degree or the governing officers

of educational institutions. A few institutions have soft velvet tams instead.

The gown is normally black, and the gown's cut and trim indicate the level of the degree held. The bachelor's has long, pointed sleeves, while the master's has oblong sleeves, open at the wrist, with the front part cut in an arc. The doctor's sleeves are bell-shaped, with three bars of velvet, and the gown is trimmed with velvet down the front as well.

The hood tells the most about the wearer. The length of the hood and width of the binding vary according to degree. The hood is lined with the official colors of the college (Fitchburg State University's colors are white, gold, and green). The color of the hood's binding indicates the area of study in which the degree was granted.

ARTS & SCIENCES

- Communications Media – White
- Criminal Justice – White
- Economics – Copper
- English Studies – White
- Game Design – White
- History – White
- Human Services – White
- Interdisciplinary Studies – White
- Political Science – Light Gold
- Sociology – White

BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

- Business Administration – Drab
- Computer Information Systems – Golden Yellow
- Computer Science – Golden Yellow
- Industrial Technology – Golden Yellow
- Occupational/Vocational Education – Light Blue
- Technology Education – Light Blue

EDUCATION

- Education – Light Blue

HEALTH & NATURAL SCIENCES

- Biology – Golden Yellow
- Chemistry – Golden Yellow
- Earth Systems Science – Golden Yellow
- Exercise & Sports Science – Golden Yellow
- Geographic Science & Technology – Golden Yellow
- Mathematics – Golden Yellow
- Nursing – Apricot
- Psychological Science – Golden Yellow

HISTORY

Established in 1894 by an act of the Massachusetts Legislature, the State Normal School in Fitchburg opened in temporary quarters in the old high school building on Academy Street. Principal John G. Thompson, aided by a teaching staff of three, implemented a two-year teacher training program

for women that had forty-six participants. In December 1896, the school expanded into a new building, known as Thompson Hall, and set up the State Schools of Observation and Practice in city buildings on Day Street and Highland Avenue.

In the next decade the school was a trendsetter for programs in Education. The Edgerly School opened, originally as an eighth-grade model and practice school, and then in 1910, it became one of the first junior high schools in the United States. The following year the school initiated the first practical arts teacher training course in the country for men.

In 1930, the State Normal School was authorized to offer a bachelor's degree in practical arts, and in 1932, when it became the State Teachers College at Fitchburg, four-year degrees were offered in all areas of education.

Under the auspices of the State Division of University Extension, summer courses were first offered in 1915, marking the beginning of the college's commitment to Continuing Education programs. In 1935, the college was also authorized to establish graduate programs and in 1954 the first evening courses were offered.

In 1960, the college changed its name and expanded its mission. The State College at Fitchburg diversified its programs to include degrees in disciplines other than education. In 1965, its name was officially changed to Fitchburg State College, which today offers forty-nine undergraduate degree programs in eighteen academic departments, twenty Masters Degree programs, five Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study programs, and seven Graduate Certificate programs. Enrollment is up to 3,100 full-time and 4,000 part-time students, which include 1,100 matriculated graduate students. The campus has expanded from a single structure on High Street to thirty-two buildings on ninety acres, becoming the educational center for the Montachusett region. The college proudly offers traditional and nontraditional programs to serve the educational needs of its students as undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education students.

On July 28, 2010, Gov. Deval L. Patrick signed legislation establishing a State University system in Massachusetts, and the institution's current name—Fitchburg State University—was enacted.

