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Barbara Wilson '80 has made a career out of helping people learn to read, opening up worlds of opportunity for generations.

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Fitchburg State is one of 44 institutions in the country collaborating on an ambitious, multi-year project to re-imagine the first year of college. It may just change higher education forever.

A CERTIFIED SUCCESS

Fitchburg State's groundbreaking police certification program is only a year old but is already making a mark.

A NEW URBAN VISION
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It has been an eventful time for this institution and for me, personally, as I look back on the first full academic year of my presidency. As my family and I have acclimated to our new community, the importance of Fitchburg State to this city and region — and its more than 40,000 alumni — has grown clearer.

Fitchburg State is a precious educational resource. We chart our forward course ever mindful of our duty to prepare students to be well-rounded citizens, armed with critical thinking skills and ready to pursue rewarding careers. Our state needs them more than ever.

One such proud alumna is Barbara Wilson, a 1980 Fitchburg State graduate who co-founded a thriving company that is revolutionizing literacy education. Barbara returned to campus this spring to deliver an inspiring commencement address, and you will read about her journey in the pages ahead.

We continue to explore new programs that will serve our students and our region. As you will read, this includes our first-in-the-nation criminal justice police concentration, whose graduates will complete two degrees in five years, along with full certification to serve in any municipal police department in Massachusetts. We believe the program can serve as a national model.

Closer to home, Fitchburg State embraces its host city through the reinvigorated Crocker Center for Civic Engagement. This year, as outlined in this issue, we've had students working with community organizations on the planned renaissance of the neighborhoods north of Main Street, helping to collect and analyze data so that policy-makers can direct their resources with maximum efficacy.

Student success is at the center of what we do, and the university was one of only 44 nationwide selected to be part of an effort to reimagine the first year of the college experience. Its goal is nothing less than revolutionizing how incoming students are prepared for higher education. The work our campus community is undertaking in this effort is also chronicled in this issue.

Now having experienced this campus for a full year, I appreciate how it will always be home for our thousands of alumni. There will be a wonderful opportunity to renew your ties in October, when the university hosts a homecoming weekend in conjunction with the formal ceremony marking my inauguration. I hope you will be part of the celebration, where we will pay tribute to our collective accomplishments as we look to Fitchburg State's bright future.

Richard S. Lapidus

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CARDELLE REPORTS FOR DUTY



Alberto and Rachel Cardelle

Alberto J.F. Cardelle, formerly the dean of the College of Health Sciences at East Stroudsburg University in Pennsylvania, reported to campus this summer as Fitchburg State's new provost and vice president for academic affairs.

"Dr. Cardelle's knowledge, experience and temperament

will be an asset to Fitchburg State as we move forward with the implementation of our long-term strategy, vision and goals," President Lapidus said. "He was selected from an impressive pool of candidates, and I am confident that his academic background, leadership skills, and collaborative spirit will help us build on our many strengths even as we seek innovative solutions to the challenges that lie ahead."

Cardelle earned a bachelor of science in biology and Latin American studies from Tulane University in 1986. He received a master's degree in public health/health services from Boston University, and completed his doctorate in international studies with a concentration in comparative health policy at the University of Miami.

"I am delighted by the opportunity to join the team at Fitchburg State," Cardelle said. "In my discussions with the search committee and my time on campus, I was impressed by the strong feeling of community and enthusiasm for the institution's future. I look forward to being part of Fitchburg State's continued evolution."

Cardelle was hired by East Stroudsburg University in 1999 as assistant professor of public health. He was promoted to associate professor in 2004 and full professor in 2009. Since 2013, he was dean of East Stroudsburg's College of Health Sciences, where he was responsible for developing new academic programs and implementing the college's strategic plan.

He is the co-founder and co-director of the university's Institute for Public Health Research and Innovation, which brings together researchers from regional academic centers, medical centers and the pharmaceutical industry to carry out applied research.

The institute is externally funded through grants and contracts currently totaling \$1.5 million.

Cardelle has also been active in community work, including serving on the board of directors of the Hispanic Center of the Lehigh Valley and the Monroe County Economic Development Workforce Development Group and Monroe County Mental Health Taskforce.

Cardelle is married to Rachel Frick Cardelle, an associate dean at Northampton Community College in Pennsylvania, and they both have been active in community work including serving on the board of directors of human service agencies, educational agencies and health care organizations. The couple has three daughters, Marianela, Catalina and Josephine.

PIERCE SHINES AT STATEHOUSE



Megan E. Pierce, who graduated in May with a degree in interdisciplinary studies, represented Fitchburg State in Boston when the state Department of Higher Education saluted 29 Who Shine, honoring a graduating senior from each of the state's 29 campuses of

public higher education.

Pierce was a standout member of the Fitchburg State community since her arrival on campus in 2012. As a first-year student, Pierce quickly involved herself in student government, serving for four years including service as class president, treasurer, student trustee and ultimately president of the student body.

In her interdisciplinary studies with a focus on political science, Pierce endeavored to bring the lessons of the classroom into practice. On campus that translated into service on the university's student leadership initiatives and as an orientation leader for incoming students. She also volunteered her time and energy with the Alternative Spring Break program working for Habitat for Humanity.

Beyond the campus, Pierce applied her skills with internships in the state's Executive Office of Education and U.S. Sen. Edward Markey's office. In her final semester on campus, she interned in the office of Fitchburg Mayor Stephen L. DiNatale, again helping to bridge the university and its host city.

Pierce was hired this spring to work as legislative aide for state Rep. Stephan Hay (D-Fitchburg). She plans to continue her studies in public policy at a later date, including the pursuit of a doctorate.

NEW DEAN OF EDUCATION HIRED

Dr. Bruno G. Hicks, most recently the chair of teacher education and professor of education and



environmental studies at the University of Maine at Fort Kent, was hired this spring as Fitchburg State's next dean of education. Hicks, who has more than 30 years' experience as a faculty member and administrator, joined the Fitchburg State

community this summer.

The appointment comes after a national search for the post, which had most recently been held by Annette Sullivan, who will return to the faculty this fall.

"Fitchburg State was founded to train the next generation of educators, and the program is still a cornerstone of the university," President Lapidus said. "I am pleased to welcome Dr. Hicks to our team to move this vital program to the next level."

"I am pleased to serve a campus with such a long distinguished reputation in teacher education as Fitchburg State University," Hicks said. "As a recipient of a Massachusetts public education, having grown up in Colrain and graduating from Mohawk Trail Regional High School in 1976, I am excited about working with Fitchburg State faculty to prepare future teachers for Massachusetts and to provide quality valued-added education to teachers who are working to improve their classrooms through graduate studies."

Hicks spent 14 years as division chair of the

Education Division at the University of Maine at Fort Kent, reporting directly to the vice president of academic affairs. He chaired its faculty assembly from 2010 to 2012 and has served as a member of the president's cabinet since 2007. He also led the task force that developed a first-year experience at the university that included creation of program outcomes and incorporating service learning opportunities.

Hicks completed his doctor of education in science education at the University of Maine at Orono in 1995. He completed a Master of Science degree in environmental education from Lesley College Graduate School in 1983, and received two Bachelor of Science degrees – in biology and environmental studies – at the University of Maine at Fort Kent.

ARTICULATION AGREEMENT CREATES A LEGAL ADVANTAGE



Fitchburg State and the Massachusetts School of Law at Andover entered into an articulation agreement this spring that will enable students to complete their bachelor's and law degrees in six years, saving a year in time and tuition costs.

The pact is one of several that Fitchburg State has negotiated with post-baccalaureate institutions in an effort to provide cost-effective paths to students' academic and career goals.

Participating students will complete their first three years of study at Fitchburg State, and pending admission to the Massachusetts School of Law, will be able to complete their bachelor's and juris doctor degrees after their three additional years of study.

"This agreement creates opportunities for students to put their careers on a fast track," President Lapidus said. "Graduates of this program will save a year in time and expense and in possession of valuable credentials."

"As a graduate of the Massachusetts state college system, I know the value of an accessible, high quality education," MSLAW Dean Michael L. Coyne said. "As educators concerned about the future of society and the legal profession, it is vital that we continue to provide pathways for students from all backgrounds to enter the legal profession and contribute to their communities."

LECTURE PUTS TRUMP LEGACY IN HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Faculty member Katherine Jewell (Economics, History and Political Science) explored the historical origins of an unconventional candidacy during her "Explaining Trump" lecture this spring in the Randall Lecture Hall at the Antonucci Science Complex. The event drew a large crowd of community members as well as students, faculty and staff.

Jewell said Trump's message of American excellence resonated with a populace weary of a struggling economy. He was able to connect with voters who felt they were being taken advantage of by an elite that was working against them.

"My argument is that the politics of left and right do little to explain Trump," she said. "Trump reflects an ongoing political resurgence of alienation."

Jewell added that Trump's media savvy was also a major factor in his success during the turbulent early months of the Republican nomination fight.

PANEL TALK EXPLORES "WAR ON TERROR"

A so-called "war on terror" that has lasted 15 years was discussed during a panel talk that featured multiple perspectives on the legacy of 9/11. Graduate student and veteran Ross Caputi—who finished a Master of Arts degree in English Studies in May—described the propagandist elements of the war and its echoes of previous American conflicts.

Faculty members Eric Budd and Teresa Thomas

(Economics, History and Political Science) and Heather Urbanski (English Studies) also shared their perspectives. The talk was moderated by faculty member Benjamin Railton (Economics, History and Political Science).

FALCONS PUT PINK ON THE RINK TO FIGHT BREAST CANCER

The ice at the Wallace Civic Center was dyed pink – as were the players' uniforms – when the Fitchburg State Falcons took on Westfield State back in February. The game was a win for the Falcons and a win for cancer research, as proceeds from the night – more than \$10,000 – was raised for the Cup Crusaders/Susan G. Komen 3-Day. Team members presented Cup Crusaders co-captains Kathy DiRusso and Tara Manzello a check for \$10,173, representing receipts from the festivities that raised dollars as well as awareness.



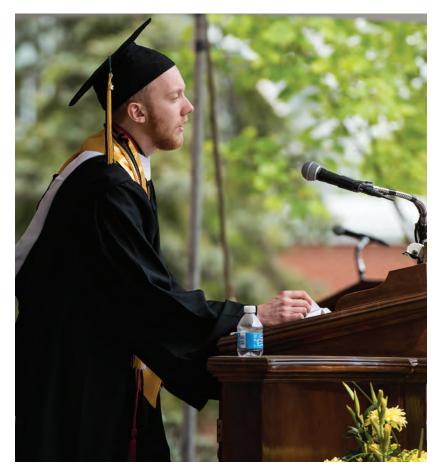


Scenes from the 120th spring ceremonies



The university held its 120th commencement exercises, spring ceremonies in May. At the graduate commencement ceremony, Professor Nancy Murray (Education) was given the Contributions to the Graduate Program Award. Also, Graduate Student Leadership Award winner Ross Caputi delivered a powerful speech about the responsibilities of engaged citizenship and the importance of questioning authority.

The undergraduate commencement ceremony featured a keynote address by Barbara Wilson '80, co-president of Wilson Language Training (see cover story, page 8). The President's Medal was awarded to Mount Wachusett Community College President Daniel M. Asquino, who is retiring this winter as the longest-serving president in the state's public higher education system. The Vincent J. Mara Award for Excellence in Teaching was presented to Professor Meledath Govindan (Biology/Chemistry), while the Faculty Award for Research and Scholarship was presented to Professor Eric Budd (Economics, History and Political Science).



Valedictorian Matthew Walsh



The President's Medal was awarded to Mount Wachusett Community College President Daniel M. Asquino.



The Faculty Award for Research and Scholarship was presented to political science Professor Eric Budd, center.



President Lapidus and Professor Nancy Murray









Graduate student speaker Ross Caputi



The Vincent J. Mara Award for Excellence in Teaching was presented to Professor Meledath Govindan, center.





THE GIFT OF READING Barbara Wilson '80 inspires love for learning

Barbara Wilson has made a career out of helping children and adults learn to read, opening up worlds of opportunity for generations.

n a warm afternoon in May, Barbara Wilson chatted with well-wishers, former professors and old friends who were congratulating her on the speech she had just delivered at her alma mater's undergraduate commencement ceremony.

Just a few feet away, newlyminted graduate Jena Grover cautiously approached, still in her cap and gown. As a kindergarten student, Grover had been identified as having dyslexia. The parochial school she attended did not have a formal program that could help her,



so three days a week she was up at 5 a.m. to get extra help, and finished her day with after-school tutoring. Before finding teachers who had been trained in the reading system Wilson developed, Grover said, she sighed with relief at getting Cs, and even considered herself lucky to get higher than a D in classes that relied heavily on reading and writing.

But that all changed when she found teachers who had gone through Wilson's training. Without their work, she said, she would never have completed high school or dared dream of attending college. As graduation day approached, she – along with her mother and grandmother – were awed at the prospect of seeing Wilson in person. And after the ceremony she got to speak with her directly.

"Because of what you did," Grover told Wilson, "I graduated with honors today." Grover returns to campus this fall to start on her master's degree.

Wilson offered Grover a hug and thanked her for introducing herself before reminding her, "You're here because of what you did."

ALL CHILDREN CAN SUCCEED

Barbara Wilson has education in her blood. Her mother, the late Janet O'Connor, was one of the first leaders of Head Start in Worcester, a federal program for preschool children from low-income families. A core belief in Head Start is that all children can succeed, and it's a philosophy that Wilson has embraced throughout her career.

She grew up in Leicester, one of six sisters. Her mother ran a kindergarten program out of the family home, meaning Wilson enjoyed years of early childhood education even before enrolling in school. You could say she got a head start on teaching, running her first educational program at age 12 as a summer school of sorts for the kids in her neighborhood. "I collected all the 5-year-olds," she said. "I knew how to do a lot of activities for little ones." Art projects and hikes through the woods were particularly popular.

These experiences, combined with seeing her mother travel to the White House in 1970 to serve as a delegate to a federal conference on children, fostered a love of education and its possibilities. "It certainly made a big impression on me," she said. "She was an incredible educator." (Wilson's own journey came full circle decades later when she was invited to the White House to discuss educational policy for middle and high school students. "My mom was so excited," she said. "It was a nice feeling to know I was contributing to the dialogue.")

When she was a student at Holy

Name High School in Worcester, Wilson knew education – with a particular focus on special education – was a career path she wanted to pursue.

She credits Sister Carol Proietti with turning her attention to Fitchburg State. "I wanted to stay within the state, but I didn't want to live at home," Wilson said. Fitchburg was far enough from home to accomplish both objectives.

And it turned out to be a fortunate choice. Wilson found a special education program that was ahead of its time, embodying principles of teaching and learning that resonated with her experiences and philosophy. "Any and all teachers need to have compassion, and all students have a capacity to learn," she said. "Believe in your students' potential, and help find a way of fostering that potential."

These lessons were embedded in the program's curriculum, including the semester-long intensive known as Fusion, in which students worked in small teams, spending their mornings in class and their afternoons collaborating.

"It was phenomenal, and I believe unique," she said. "It was very much clinical practice, small groups, project-based. It was ahead of its time."

Central to the success of the program was the on-campus laboratory known as the McKay Campus School (now referred to as the McKay Arts Academy). "After four years of easy access to a school environment, you come out much more prepared and more

comfortable," Wilson said. She graduated from Fitchburg State in 1980.

The Fusion experience was helpful in Wilson's post-collegiate job. She was what was then called a "generic consultant," working with districts on special education referrals in grades K-12. The role required her to make assessments, run team meetings and write referral reports, tasks for which she was well prepared from her collegiate training.

A NEW APPROACH TO READING

Wilson quickly realized the signature issue that led students to be referred for special education services was reading. When an announcement came across her desk about training in reading instruction being offered at Massachusetts General Hospital's Language Disorders Unit. it was a watershed moment. Wilson took an unpaid, year-long leave of absence to study the Orton-Gillingham method to teach reading to individuals with dyslexia. Orton-Gillingham is a flexible system to teach the details of word formation rather than learning to read through a whole-word approach. Wilson was intrigued, consuming the teachings by day and making a few dollars tutoring in the afternoons.

After finishing her immersion in Orton-Gillingham, Wilson found a part-time job at Mass. General working with adults with dyslexia. "They had failed. People had tried to teach them for years, and they had given up on themselves," she said.

Her new approach, however, was a way to success. "They could see there was a way to read. Each one of them could learn to read if you taught them how to learn. That's what inspired my passion to work with schools."

As she was having her breakthrough with adults, Wilson's tutoring business was growing. With her new husband, Ed, the operation blossomed into the Wilson Learning Center, a private center for students with reading disabilities. Ed Wilson was working in inventory management and took care of the business side of the operation, while Barbara focused on the programming.

"I absolutely loved it," Wilson said. "I believe my preparation at Fitchburg, combined with what I learned about Orton-Gillingham, is what helped me break down that system and create a program based on its principles. That was so much a part of what I learned at Fitchburg."

That program was the Wilson Reading System, which teaches students the structure of words in a systematic and cumulative manner, letting them learn written English and better grapple with the irregularities of the language.

The success of the Wilson
Learning Center had school districts
calling for assistance, and Wilson
responded with an in-depth model
of professional learning. No mere
workshop, the training was a
year-long (or multi-year) program
to support and guide teachers.
Demand for the training expanded

and Wilson found her focus shifting to professional learning for educators. Wilson Language Training was incorporated in 1993, working collaboratively with school districts to implement achievable and sustainable plans for teacher and student success.

Wilson Language Training programs now include Fundations, a reading instructional program for K-3 general education classrooms, and Wilson Just Words, for grades 4-12 and adults. The programs found a voracious audience across the country and are now in all 50 states, and the company has trained 25,000 teachers in districts of all sizes – including New York City, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. The company, now with 200 employees, has affiliations with several universities, including Fitchburg State.

Wilson sees the work continuing. More than half the students in American public schools live in poverty, she said, and bolstering their reading skills will be fundamental to breaking that cycle. "As much as we've done, you feel like you've just scratched the surface," she said. "There's always a need. We've come a long way in understanding what the research tells us, but research to practice is what needs to be followed. With teacher preparation programs now addressing it, that will be different."

During a recent return to the Fitchburg State campus, Wilson got to see some of that teacher preparation work in practice. Wilson met with several graduating "Realities are created through thinking first – and then seeing that thought as possible with emotional energy attached to give it power.

As you go forward today, please remember that you are the greatest influence of your own environment.

Think deeply about this no matter where you work."

—from Barbara Wilson's commencement address

seniors as well as their supervising teachers to share memories as well as perspective. She was gratified to see some of the most powerful educational experiences from her own schooling being replicated, with university students embedded in classrooms and working in close collaboration to reflect on their practice. She also heard thanks from teachers who described the reading program's profound impact on student learning.

Wilson said she was grateful to be back on campus and at McKay, which has supported generations of educators. "You can feel it when you walk in the school," she said. "The learning environment and the positive energy is in the air."

FIRST AND FOREMOST

The goal:
to improve retention,
persistence and
graduation rates,
as well as the entire
operational system
surrounding a student's
first two semesters in
higher education.



Jonathan Guzman:
"I'm learning and understanding what's already out there."

itchburg State is one of 44 institutions in the country collaborating on an ambitious, multi-year project to re-imagine the first year of college. It may just change higher education forever.

A student's first year of college is a life-changing experience. The educational, recreational and social opportunities abound. It's also, sadly, where many college ambitions fall apart. A new effort is looking to help institutions across the country change the way first-year arrivals are taught the art of being college students.

The American Association of State Colleges and Universities is leading the national charge, with support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and USA Funds. Fitchburg State was selected to participate in the project, one of only two institutions in Massachusetts and just 44 nationwide.

The goal of RFY – for Re-Imagining the First Year of College – is to improve retention, persistence and graduation rates, as well as the entire operational system surrounding a student's first two semesters in higher education. AASCU is asking its campus partners to commit to making substantive, intentional and targeted changes through its reforms. The RFY initiative should have an impact on student success from the moment

institutions have contact with potential students.

At Fitchburg State, a planning team including representation from students, faculty and administration has been taking a hard look at what the university currently does to help students transition to college life, as well as what could be improved upon.

Jonathan Guzman, who will be a junior this fall, brings a student perspective to the planning team, as well as serving as an ambassador of the group's efforts to his peers.

"I'm happy I'm there," said Guzman, who has found the experience illuminating. He helped the planning team do surveys about support services already available on campus. "Students sometimes do not take advantage of what is offered for them," Guzman said. "It's there for them, but they don't use it. They don't know about it."

Yet the goal of the RFY effort isn't merely to spotlight what services already exist. "It's supposed to be creating things we've never done before," said Director of Assessment Christopher Cratsley, another member of the RFY team.

Fitchburg State has invested in many strategies to help students adapt to college and succeed. These data-driven efforts include the Student Success Collaborative, which analyzes the past decade of student performance in order to provide predictive analytics related

to courses and student attributes. The effort creates reports that help departments assess key trends and insights in student performance that in turn identify opportunities to direct resources or initiatives to keep students on track.

Assistant Vice President for Institutional Research and Planning Pamela McCafferty, also part of the university's RFY team, said the program can also help identify resources based on specific hurdles students are facing, as well as track how fully the university's resources are being used by those students.

Another tool already in use on campus is DegreeWorks, an online auditing software that lets students and advisers review and monitor academic progress leading to graduation. Students can better track their own success or explore alternate paths based on the courses they've taken and the coming semester's course offerings.

RFY is the next step in this effort. "We're still going to be advising, we're still going to be teaching courses to freshmen," Cratsley said. "But we're going to reimagine them so they help a first-year student. We'll be looking at how to do these things more strategically."

"One of the initiatives we'll be looking to put into action is proactive advising and intrusive advising," said Interim Dean of the Library and Academic Support Centers Sean Goodlett, another member of the RFY team. "We need to interact with students before a crisis occurs."

"It is our responsibility to

provide our students as they enroll in the university with the means to become successful, collegelevel students," said Professor Kisha Tracy, who is also part of the RFY team. "By thinking through their entire first year and creating an interconnected, scaffolded experience, our students will be able to overcome the challenges of starting a college career."

"Through the work on this project, we are developing a better understanding of the issues that prevent struggling students from persisting at Fitchburg State," said Professor Joseph Moser, another member of the university's RFY team. "To enable them to continue their studies and thrive here, we are honing strategies to enhance students' academic experiences and remove barriers between students and staff and faculty."

The team anticipates some new measures for first-year students will be ready to launch this fall, along with an enhanced peer advising program. This will be augmented by supplemental instruction and academic coaching.

"The goal of this is to change the way we reach out to students from their first day to the end of 30 credits," Goodlett said. "It's a comprehensive approach."

Guzman, who plans to pursue a career in veterinary medicine or education, has already found the experience fulfilling. "I'm not just giving my input," he said. "I'm learning and understanding what's already out there."



A CERTIFIED SUCCESS Five-year program charts new course

itchburg State's groundbreaking police certification program is only a year old but is already making a mark.

Last year Fitchburg State launched a new program in criminal justice for which graduates will, in five years, complete bachelor's and master's degrees, along with full certification to serve in any municipal police force in the state. Developed in close collaboration with the state's Municipal Police Training Committee, the university anticipated keen interest in the program.

That turned out to be an understatement. After just one year, the new concentration has helped make criminal justice the largest program for incoming first-year students and put Fitchburg State on track to buck statewide enrollment trends by increasing the number of students in its incoming freshman class.

"We're combining training and education in order to properly prepare police officers for the challenges of the 21st century," said Professor Marcel Beausoleil, who directs the concentration. "We're trying to produce police officers who are critical thinkers who can identify problems and solve problems in their communities."

Today's police officers need experience in human services and multicultural issues as well as learning the cornerstones of constitutional law, correctional theory and criminology, Beausoleil said.

Municipal Police Training
Committee Executive Director
Daniel Zivkovich said the program is
the first of its kind in the nation. "I
have been very impressed with the
time and effort Fitchburg State's staff
have invested in making sure this
program produces not only quality
graduates, but also quality police
officers," he said.

The first cohort of students is still moving through the five-year program, with several rising seniors about to complete their undergraduate studies. Coursework will continue in the summer after they graduate, followed by an intensive year-long master's program that will include training in the same practical skills (such as firearms, defensive tactics and emergency vehicle operations) that is offered in the other MPTC academies.

Students in the police concentration distinguish themselves by the uniform shirts they wear. They are considered members of the police academy from the day their studies begin and are subject to special disciplinary conditions as a

result of their status.

Claritza Taylor of Westminster starts her senior year this fall. She had already enrolled in criminal justice when the police certification concentration was announced. "It was an opportunity I couldn't pass up," she said. "It will be really awesome on my resumé. Having this under my belt will definitely help me in any field in criminal justice."

Taylor is interested in becoming a detective, with criminal investigation her favorite course to date.

Patrick Healy of Chelmsford, also starting his senior year this fall, said the police concentration is a tremendous opportunity for his



peers who already know they want a career in the field. The normal path for such certification would be two years of graduate school, followed by getting hired by a police department and sponsored for attendance at the police academy. Graduates of this concentration, by contrast, will be "street-ready" the day they finish school.

"It saves you a lot of time and money," Healy said. "How much better can you get? Most of us are going to be 23 years old and we're going to have all these credentials. We're getting so much more than you get at the regular academy."

Jake Guerra of Rindge, N.H. said he has appreciated the sense of commitment among his cohort of criminal justice students. He admires the professionalism, morality and ethics of the discipline, all in the service of a career that will help members of his community.

"You can make a big impact on a lot of people if you do it right," said Guerra, who will be a senior this fall.

Alexis Rodriguez of Springfield dreams of being a police officer in her community after finishing her studies. "I've been really engaged in my classes and I feel like they're preparing me for what's to come in my future career," she said. "Overall, being a part of the program has been extremely rewarding. I take pride in wearing my police concentration uniform. Being a part of something bigger has really helped me stay focused and on track both inside and outside of the classroom."



A NEW URBAN VISION Helping the city revitalize its core



"The Crocker Center's commitment to the long term study of North of Main will make a huge difference over time, and gives the partners in ReImagine North of Main the intellectual grounding to bring positive, dramatic change to this neighborhood,"

—Marc Dohan, Executive Director, NewVue Communities

Left: Architectural design student Daniel Fitzpatrick '16 envisioned a new multi-story restaurant and performance space along Pearl Street. itchburg State students and faculty are playing an active role in a multi-agency effort to improve the quality of life in our host community.

A coalition of agencies is working to revitalize a key section of Fitchburg with the ReImagine North of Main project, and Fitchburg State is playing a key role. Through the university's Douglas and Isabelle Crocker Center for Civic Engagement, students and faculty are helping reinvigorate the diverse and densely populated neighborhoods north of Main Street.

Leaders of the ReImagine group include representatives from City Hall, the university, the Fitchburg Public Schools, NewVue Communities and the Montachusett Opportunity Council. They share a dedication to improving the quality of life in the neighborhood, focusing on public safety, economic development and entrepreneurship, education, housing, health and community engagement. The end result of the effort will be a reimagined North of Main neighborhood where people want to live, work, play and invest.

Professor David Weiss, the director of the Crocker Center, said this long-term, ongoing project serves the center's mission and objectives by directly involving students in civic learning, community-based research and internships, and by further working toward the greater good of community revitalization and economic development in our North of Main neighborhood.

"Having academic experts and students, in tandem with housing officials and other community leaders, develop standardized procedures for assessing residential housing and other neighborhood resources, will allow future students, leaders and officials to implement the same assessment process throughout the course of the next several years, thereby observing trends and challenges in this and other Fitchburg neighborhoods," Weiss said.

The student contributions to the program involved labor-intensive data collection and number crunching, using old-fashioned shoe leather and the latest mapping technology to help policymakers get a better sense of the conditions on the ground in the North of Main project area.

Students Kayla Kress and Samuel Gallagher completed semester-long, paid internships for the project with Professor Jane Huang from the Earth and Geographic Sciences Department. Poring over maps of the project area, Kress and Gallagher applied layers of data such as crime statistics and property vacancy information. The time-intensive geographic information system work also included updating the maps themselves, clarifying the actual locations of buildings within property lines for the most accurate, large-scale picture of the neighborhood imaginable.

Kress, a senior, said she was intrigued by finding correlations between interconnected systems such as crime statistics and property vacancies. Collating the diverse information into cohesive maps also demonstrated the

importance of consulting multiple sources of data for any complex project like this, she said.

"It's nice to use real-world data and apply it to a project like this," said Gallagher, who starts his sophomore year this fall.

Huang was impressed by her students' performance, but not surprised. "I handpicked them for this," she said. "They've been very devoted and doing a great job."

Professor Keith Chenot's students in upper level architectural design courses were also recruited into the effort. Using a survey developed in consultation with the city and Huang's students, they were dispatched into the project area to take photographs and record observations about the conditions of buildings and surrounding infrastructure. Chenot added a few questions of his own to give the students an opportunity to test their skills analyzing architectural styles.

"Reading a building or a sequence of buildings, you can tell a lot about a neighborhood," Chenot said.

One of the students on the project was Daniel Fitzpatrick, who graduated in May with a degree in industrial technology. Fitzpatrick said it was illuminating to take such a detailed look at the neighborhood and chronicle its challenges, including what he said appeared to be a preponderance of absentee landlords with little concern about the conditions of their properties.

The information gleaned from the surveys was combined with the GIS information prepared by Huang's students.

The next step for Chenot's class was a more creative one. The students were invited to prepare their own designs for possible alternate uses for sites within the North of Main footprint. Their designs had to be ecologically friendly and take into account the

needs of the existing population. The results included lavish designs for coffee houses and performance spaces, as well as recreation centers and daycare facilities, among others.

He encouraged his students to think about the opportunities and challenges of "planning in place," and to consider how their design choices can inform the greater good. "Look at the total picture," Chenot said. "Buildings last a long time."

Fitzpatrick considered several possible new uses for property along Pearl Street between Myrtle and Highland avenues, ultimately designing a café and entertainment venue. "This project was by far my most detailed and best computer model I have ever made," he said. "It gave me insight of what I can do just by putting in some time and effort trying to make everything perfect." His computerized renderings of the would-be edifice include exterior views as well as interior designs of furnished spaces, down to lighting fixtures and floor tiles.

Fitzpatrick's design was unveiled with his peers' at an end-of-semester showcase that was attended by Fitchburg Director of Housing and Development Liz Murphy.

"The work the students were able to complete will help the city's Problem Property Task Force better target blight elimination and neighborhood revitalizations in the coming months and year," Murphy said. "Improving the neighborhood and addressing problem properties is also one of the goals the ReImagine North of Main partnership has undertaken



Fitchburg State students Kayla Kress, left, and Sam Gallagher, right, worked with Professor Jane Huang to develop detailed maps of the project area.



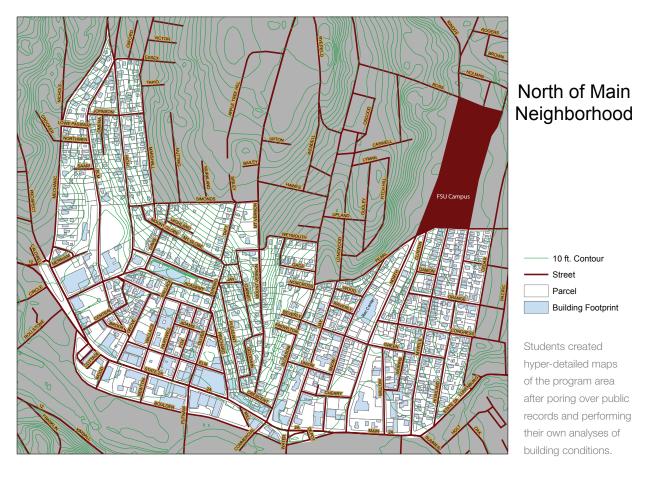
to improve the overall quality of life for residents in this area. The data collected by Fitchburg State and the Crocker Center will be an asset to those combined efforts."

"It's been great that the Crocker Center has agreed to join the efforts to ReImagine North of Main," said Marc Dohan, executive director of NewVue Communities. He called the combined efforts of the students' visiting, cataloguing and photographing hundreds of properties "a huge win" for the project, while the students working on the GIS component of the project helped identify "hot spots" deserving of attention.

"The Crocker Center's

commitment to the long term study of North of Main will make a huge difference over time, and gives the partners in ReImagine North of Main the intellectual grounding to bring positive, dramatic change to this neighborhood," Dohan continued.

University officials are hopeful the collaboration will serve as a model for future Crocker Center projects, providing civic learning opportunities for students as well as supporting initiatives in its host community. With the semester complete, Huang and Chenot will assess the project and develop standards to guide future research.



FINDING SUCCESS-BRENDAN CUTLER '16

By Kyle Prudhomme '17
Brendan Cutler '16 found
his place in the classroom and
in between the white lines of
the baseball field after making a
decision to transfer colleges.

After graduating from nearby Clinton High School in 2011, where he was a successful three-sport athlete, Cutler took a chance to walk-on the Endicott College Division III baseball team as a freshman.

"I went to pursue my college career in baseball and I was unfortunately cut in the fall season of 2011," said Cutler. But his story wouldn't end there.

After hearing from his former American Legion coach Kevin Barnaby, who had become the head coach of the Fitchburg State baseball team, Cutler decided to give a collegiate athletic career another shot. He transferred to Fitchburg State in 2012.

"I felt from the second I came here I was welcomed on the team and was able to connect not only with the baseball team, but with all the sports teams here at Fitchburg State," he said.

In that first year with the Falcons he boasted a .308 batting average with a team-leading .462 slugging percentage to go along with two home runs and eight RBI.

"It was like riding a bike just getting back into it again," said Cutler, on playing competitive baseball again at Fitchburg State. In his 2014 season he played in a career-high 38 games for the Falcons, batting .300 in 110 plate appearances.

"I was at a time where I wanted to play sports and doing so really helped me find out who I am today," Cutler said. "It's helped me along the past four years."

Cutler's move to Fitchburg State was personally rewarding and paid dividends for the entire team. In 2016, the Falcons had their best year since 2005, going 18-20 overall with a 10-4 mark in the always competitive MASCAC conference. The team was seeded third in the playoffs.

Cutler went on to have his best year in the green and gold slashing .333/.417/.444 at the plate and accounting for 43 of the team's runs. He also smacked career-high 42 hits, with 14 doubles and 17 stolen bases in 22 chances for the Falcons. Those accomplishments were worthy enough to earn him a spot

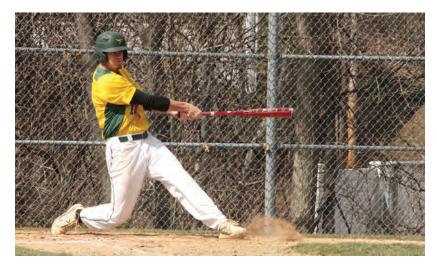
ATHLETICS

on the All-MASCAC First-Team.

"It's a great feeling to set the footprint of the program after one season with Barnaby, he's an unbelievable person," Cutler said.

Cutler said he was grateful for the rekindled athletic career in Division III, as well as the opportunity to earn a quality education at an affordable price. Cutler graduated this spring with a degree in business administration. "It's a good education, and the things we do in the business program here are tremendous," he said. "We have professors who really help push you in the right direction.

"Fitchburg State really helped me grow as an individual," Cutler continued. "I was able to meet a lot of good people, I was able to be an athlete again, and I feel as if everything I did has set me up for this next step in life. I absolutely loved it here and I wouldn't change a thing."



FIGHTING BACK-TORI CYRUS '16

By Kevin Fitzmaurice '17 Two-sport scholar-athlete Tori Cyrus '16 knows the importance of never giving up. Overcoming adversities both physical and emotional, Cyrus proved her mettle throughout four years of competitive play in softball and basketball, including stints as captain of both teams.

Cyrus was recruited to play basketball at Fitchburg State four years ago, but soon decided to pursue softball as well. "It was the best decision I ever made," she said. Her start with the softball team coincided with the arrival of Coach Merry MacDonald. That year, the Falcons placed third in the MASCAC tournament, the first time the squad had ever made the playoffs. "This," Cyrus said, "is what Fitchburg State softball has to be every single year."

That quest was interrupted in Cyrus' junior year of basketball, when she tore her ACL, MCL and meniscus in her right knee. Moments after the injury she looked to her coach and wanted to be let up to continue playing, and she was heartbroken at the end of her playing season.

Cyrus was determined not to let the injury derail her softball career. After surgery in February 2015 she was told her recovery would last a year, but she was determined to get back on the field sooner. "I told myself I will not miss any bit of softball next season," she said. "I will fight back." But her return to campus the following month was

brief, as she learned the devastating news that her cousin, Brendan, who had lived with her family his entire life, had died of a heroin overdose.

Cyrus found herself mired in depression and considered leaving school altogether to spend more time with her family. Her grandmother turned her around by telling her, "Brendan would be extremely disappointed in you."

"I always pushed myself to be better for my teammates, and to represent myself and represent Fitchburg State and Coach Mac," Cyrus recalled. "At one point I realized I needed to stop feeling sorry for myself and needed to pick it up. Someone else always has it worse out there. If I didn't have Coach Mac in my life, or Fitchburg State, I wouldn't have made it."

The summer before her senior year included physical therapy four times a week and a vow to her teammates she'd be playing again. "An athlete is not just on the field or on the court," she said. "An athlete is in your heart, and you need to love it and you need to have that drive."

It was a rough season for the team, but Cyrus made it back to the court for the final five games of the season, playing with full intensity as Coach Mac and her softball teammates cheered from the stands.

When softball season came around, Cyrus gave it her all. "Softball is the only thing that makes me forget about some things back home," she said. Cyrus finished the season with a team-high batting

average of .370, including 37 hits, three homeruns and 16 RBI.

At this spring's athletic awards banquet, Cyrus was recognized with the Kruczek Award in recognition of overcoming adversity. "Tori is that dedicated and refuses to give up when she sets her mind to something," the coach said. "I have never been more proud of her."

Cyrus has one more year of softball eligibility and returns to campus for graduate school this fall.

"Fitchburg State is a family, and it is important that you have a strong family behind you to push you to become a good athlete," Cyrus said. "I knew I had a family here. I have a family at home and I have a family at Fitchburg State."



BASEBALL

The Fitchburg State baseball team captured the third seed in the MASCAC baseball tournament this past season with an overall record of 18-20, finishing 10-4 within conference play.

Senior first baseman Brendan Cutler led the Falcons offense, ranking second on the team with a .333 batting average to go along with 42 hits, eight doubles, 21 runs batted in, 22 runs scored and 17 stolen bases. For his efforts, he was named to both the MASCAC Baseball All-Conference First Team as well the All-Worcester Area First-Team, while first year head coach Kevin Barnaby earned MASCAC Coach of the Year honors. Senior Javier Lozada was also solid, earning MASCAC All-Conference second team honors after collecting 19 hits with one double, one home run, six RBI, eight steals and 11 runs scored as well as going 4-2 on the mound with an ERA of 4.03 and 39 K's in 51.1 innings of work.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

The Green and Gold collected the top seed in the MASCAC men's basketball post-season tournament as well as claiming its first MASCAC men's basketball tournament championship since 2013, later notching the program's first ever NCAA DIII Tournament victory in an 84-81 triumph over Plattsburgh State, finishing the season with a record of 19-10 and a 9-3 mark with conference play.

Junior guard Jaleel Bell led the Falcons offense, averaging 17.2 points per contest and shooting 45.2



percent from the field in 25 games. He also recorded 136 rebounds, eight blocks, 49 assists and 60 steals to garner MASCAC Men's Basketball Player of the Year honors as well as MASCAC All-Conference First Team Honors. Senior Kwame Lee was also strong, averaging 12.3 points per game as well as 159 caroms, 36 assists, 37 blocks and 33 steals. For his efforts, Lee was named to the MASCAC Men's Basketball All-Conference Second Team, where classmate Givaughn Jones joined him after posting 307 points, 165 rebounds, 57 assists, 60 steals and nine blocks. Head coach Titus Manderson also collected MASCAC Men's Basketball Coach of the Year honors after guiding the team to regular season and post-season titles.

MEN'S INDOOR TRACK

Sophomore Ben Sattiewhite qualified for the national championship meet in the high jump with a mark of 2.09 meters with a first place finish at the fourth annual UMass Boston Indoor Track and Field Open. He placed 12th overall at the 2015-16 NCAA DIII Men's Indoor Track & Field Championships in the high jump with a mark of 1.98 meters at the Charles Benson Bear '39 Recreation and Athletic Center Field House on the campus of Grinnell College.

MEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK

The men's outdoor track team was also represented NCAA Division III National Championships as freshman Cam Stalters qualified for the National Championship Meet in the javelin with a mark of 60.00 meters with a first place toss at the 2016 Eric Loeschner Memorial Invite, hosted by Fitchburg State. For his efforts, Stalters was named the university's Male Rookie of the Year. 2016 Outdoor Track & Field NCAA DIII Championship Qualifier in the javelin. At the 2016 NCAA DIII Outdoor Track & Field Championships, Cam placed 20th overall with toss of 54.40 meters.

SOFTBALL

The Fitchburg State softball team concluded the 2016 campaign with an overall record of 19-18 and a 7-7 clip within conference play and secured the fourth seed in the 2016 MASCAC Softball post-season tournament.

Freshman Kaylee Sylvestre led the way for the Falcons pitching staff, posting an ERA of 3.07 with 90 strikeouts and a record of 8-7 in 111.2 innings of work as well as hitting .266 with three doubles, three runs batted in, nine runs scored and one stolen base. She was tabbed MASCAC Softball Rookie of the Year, while junior Galen Kerr and sophomore Katie Gildea were selected to the MASCAC Softball All-Conference Second Team.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

The green and gold wrapped up the 2016 season with a record of 14-5 and a 6-1 mark in the conference to capture a share of the MASCAC Women's Lacrosse regular season title for the first time in the program's history. With the 14 wins, the Falcons tied its school record for most wins in a season, while capturing the third seed in the MASCAC Women's Lacrosse post-season tournament, appearing in its seventh consecutive MASCAC/NEWLA semifinal contest.

Junior Ali Laferriere helped lead the Falcons offense, posting a team-best 77 points on 54 goals and 23 helpers as well as 29 ground balls, 28 draw controls and nine caused turnovers. For her efforts, Laferriere was named to the 2016 MASCAC Women's Lacrosse All-Conference First Team. Joining Laferriere on the MASCAC Women's Lacrosse First team were classmate Andrea Comeau, sophomore Lia Crutchfield and fellow sophomore Carrie Long, while junior Liz Darrigo and sophomore Jaimee Lutz were selected to the MASCAC Women's Lacrosse All-Conference Second Team.



ICE HOCKEY

The ice hockey team wrapped up the 2015-16 season with an overall record of 11-14-2, including a 7-9-2 mark in conference play, en route to capturing the fourth seed in the MASCAC Ice Hockey post season tournament.

Senior forward John Celli paced the Falcons offense, totaling a team-best 27 points on 14 goals and 13 helpers with five power play tallies in 27 appearance, while freshman goaltender Charles Jakobsson witnessed a breakout season in net, registering a 2.73 goals against average, a .922 save percentage and 486 saves. Senior forward Ryan Connolly earned a national accolade as well for the green and gold, being tabbed the 2015-16 NCAA DIII statistical champion in game winning goals, leading the nation among all division three schools with four game winning tallies.

WOMEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK

The Fitchburg State women's outdoor track team witnessed a pair of record setting performances this past season as freshman Molly Atkinson set a new school mark in the javelin with a second place toss of 38.97 meters at the Jim Sheehan Memorial Invitational, hosted by Fitchburg State as Atkinson was recently named the university's Female Rookie of the Year, while junior Morgan Steele broke the school's hammer throw record, placing fifth overall with a mark of 46.77 meters at the New England championships.



ALUMNI news

FENWICKS ISSUE CHALLENGE AT 50TH

his May, 88 alumni came together on the Fitchburg State campus to celebrate the 50th anniversary of The Fenwick Society. The Fenwicks recently completed a four-year fundraising effort to endow a scholarship. With proceeds from their Founders Day celebration, they eclipsed their goal and were able to offer a scholarship immediately next year.

Their efforts were also a challenge to the other fraternities and sororities to give back or "pay it forward" so Fitchburg State can continue to impact future generations of graduates. If you would like to accept the Fenwick Challenge and begin a scholarship named for another organization on campus, please contact the alumni & development office.



CLASS NOTES

1950s

CARMINE MOSCHELLA '56 has been completing and donating woodworking projects to the town of Saugus for several years. He has constructed an intricately designed three-piece conference desk used by the board of selectmen, the glass display cabinets in the foyer of Town Hall and the credenza in its conference room, a women's military display case, and most recently the handicap accessible podium in the auditorium.

1960s

DAVID S. HAY '69, G'80 retired as principal of Brookside Elementary School in Norwalk, Conn., in June 2015 after 47 years in education. He taught fifth and sixth grades for 17 years, then took his first administrative position as assistant principal in the Leominster school system. He served as principal at an elementary school in Baldwinville for some years before returning to Leominster to become principal of Fall Brook School. After five years at Fall Brook he retired from Massachusetts schools, relocated to Norwalk, and was appointed principal of Brookside in 2003.

1970s

RONALD F. CORMIER '71, G'74, and Marcelle (Coulombe)
Cormier '68, G'76 celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in August. In the fall, Ron was re-elected for his 15th term on the Gardner City Council, making him the longest serving counselor in the city.

JEFFREY O'NEILL '72, G'81,

now in his 10th year coaching girls' basketball, led the Oakmont Regional team in Ashburnham to the playoffs this year. O'Neill was a Lunenburg teacher and administrator until his retirement six years ago. He played for the Falcons and then began coaching boys' basketball in the early 1970s at Lunenburg High. After 11 seasons he moved on to coach at St. Peter-Marian in Worcester and St. Bernard's in Fitchburg, then at Leominster and North Middlesex in Townsend. As a head coach, he led one of his St. Bernard's teams to the Central Massachusetts finals. He has compiled more than 500 wins in his coaching career, which now spans 43 seasons. He and his wife, Carleen (DiMassa) O'Neill '72, live in Leominster and are the parents of three children and the grandparents of eight.

KEVIN P. McSHANE '73

published his second children's book, "Felix's World," in which a goldfish gives a tour of his "big" world, where we discover that he is not very different from us. McShane, who lives in New Sharon, Maine, includes a tip of the hat to Fitchburg State Professor Anne May.

LILIANA DILIDDO G'75, a member of the order of the Venerini Sisters, received the Retired Religious Award from Bishop McManus of the Worcester Diocese. She received her bachelor's degree at Catholic Teachers College in Providence, R.I., and earned a master's degree in education at Fitchburg State in 1975. She taught in various

schools in the Albany and Providence dioceses. However, most of her years were spent teaching in the Worcester Diocese at St. Anna Elementary School in Leominster and the Venerini Academy in Worcester. Sister Liliana taught nursery school through Grade 3, but first grade was her specialty.

DENISE L. MACALONEY '75, retired from her position as town clerk of Westminster at the beginning of 2016, after 31 years of service. She is the wife of former Fire Chief Brenton MacAloney '79.

MAUREEN (CALLAN) BINIENDA '76, G'81, of Worcester, has been chosen as superintendent of the Worcester Public Schools. She had served as principal of South High School for the past eight years. Prior to that she was assistant principal.

MARY E. CRINGAN '77, G'84 retired from her position as principal of the Thomas Prince School in Princeton.

PATRICIA M. DEEGAN '77 has served as an adjunct professor for the last three years, teaching community and family medicine at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth College. She also continues to work to spread the use of "The Common Ground" software program, which she developed and released in 2006, while running a mental health consulting company she and a colleague launched in 2001.



DEAN A. FULLER'78, Fitchburg
State's ice hockey coach, earned his
500th career win
December, when his

team defeated the visiting Ravens of Franklin Pierce. Fuller has coached Fitchburg State hockey for 32 years. His 500th career coaching victory placed him seventh all-time in the National Collegiate Athletic Association's Division III. Fuller was quick

to share the credit for his milestone. "When you surround yourself with good players, a good staff, great things like this can happen," he said after the record-setting game. His Falcons will return to the ice this fall.

RONALD M. PENCZAK '78, has published his first novel, titled Of Mixed Blood. He is currently working on a second book, a nonfiction work on the subject of alternative healing.

STEPHEN L. DINATALE '79 was elected mayor of Fitchburg in November 2015 after serving as Massachusetts state representative for almost 10 years.

1980s

JUDITH A. (COOMEY) MULROONEY '80 has been named director of special education for the Taunton Public Schools. Mulrooney brings 26 years of teaching and educational experience to the post. She began working in Taunton as a special education teacher, later becoming the director of the district's Alternative Program. For the last six years, Mulrooney has served as the special education coordinator for students in grades 7 through 12. Mulrooney is also an adjunct faculty member at the American International College in Springfield, where she teaches several special education courses.

MARY C. BARRETT '81 was hired as administrative manager to lead the Revolving Museum in Fitchburg. Barrett will work closely with the museum's founder and artistic director, the museum's board, partners and the public to develop organizational structures that will include budgets, fiscal management, fundraising, public relations, marketing, operations and program oversight.

EUGENE R. GRAY '81 retired from IBM Corporation after 35

years in the high tech industry. Gray resides in North Conway, N.H.



PATRICIA A. (LONG) MERTES '82 took her 16th trip to El Progreso, Honduras this year. After hurricane Mitch ravaged Honduras in 1999, Mertes began taking this trip with a handful of fellow nurse practitioners to do basic medical care for the local people, including conducting brief physicals, providing people with vitamins, toothbrushes and medicine for parasites and treating minor illnesses. Over the years two of her children and several of their friends have joined her in this life-changing experience. Being witness to how a tragedy can bring together communities in such a powerful way, Mertes and her husband are forming a nonprofit organization called EACH (Education, Action, Connection, and Health) so they can bring this type of service to other countries, such as Grenada and Kenya, where they have both traveled and participated in relief

Andrew J. White '84 was promoted to district chief of the Worcester Fire Department in a swearing-in ceremony at City Hall on December 1, 2015. White, of Rochdale, has been

a member of the department since January 1984. He has been assigned to the training division.

DEBRA A. (BARTLETT) ROMBOLETTI '86 was promoted to tax partner at LLB CPAs in Las Vegas, Nev., on December 4, 2015. A licensed CPA in Nevada, she has been employed with LLB since moving there in 2005.

SUSAN M. (McNeill) Spuhler '86 founded The Westford Pilot House, a group of volunteers who will offer free services to local professionals who have been unemployed for long periods of time. Services will include aiding with job searches, interview preparation, selfesteem and confidence-building, and providing vital needs such as fuel assistance. She is a doctoral candidate, and in addition to her degree from Fitchburg State, she has a degree from Worcester Polytechnic Institute.



CHRISTINE L. HOLMES '87, above, has been appointed the next vice president for academic affairs for Anna Maria College in Paxton. In addition to serving as a longtime academic administrator at the college, she is also a tenured professor of education. An Auburn resident, Holmes joined the faculty of Anna Maria in January 1999. She had been interim vice president for academic affairs since July 2015. Before that, she was an associate vice president for academic affairs and dean of the schools of Education and Justice and Social Sciences.

MARY-FRANCES (MITCHELL)
TINTLE '87, G'01, CAGS'08

has been named principal at West Pine Elementary School in West End, N.C. Tintle taught at the elementary school level for 16 years before serving as assistant principal of Bakersville School in Manchester, N.H., from 2003 to 2008. For the past eight years she has been principal of Mount Pleasant School in Nashua, N.H. Since 2011, Tintle has also served as an educational consultant for Edwards Educational Services in Alexandria, Va., where she focused on aligning state standards with district curriculum. She is a member of the National Association of School Principals and has had extensive training in Solution Tree Professional Learning Communities and the i-Ready Assessment System.

MICHAEL K. CONRAD '88 has been named director of inside sales for Accenture's Cloud First applications group.

1990s

RICHARD J. DENIO '90 has been hired as vice president of operations at Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union in Lowell. Denio, who lives in Shrewsbury, has been in the banking industry since 1995, most recently serving as vice president of operations at Centreville Bank in West Warwick, R.I.



CHRISTOPHER J. DEVANEY '90 has joined R.H. White Companies as director of business development. Devaney will focus on working with company executives and business-unit leaders to find and secure business and build relationships. He brings with him more than 27 years of experience in business development, marketing and sales. R.H. White is a full service contracting and construction management firm with seven locations throughout New England.

BRIGITTE M. GRENIER '90 has been promoted to vice president at Rollstone Bank & Trust in Fitchburg. She joined RBT in 2010 as a credit officer. She has more than 30 years of experience in operations management and financial analysis.

Anthony F. Lorenzen '90 is serving as the 16th settled minister of the Hopedale Unitarian Universalist Church. Before coming to Hopedale in August 2015, Lorenzen served in churches in Billerica and Weston. He also spent time in Houston, Huntsville and Southlake, Texas. He was director of the South Central Alliance of Churches in Fort Worth, Texas, and served on the board of the Keller, Texas, Farmers' Market, In Massachusetts, he has worked as a canvasser for MassPIRG and Mass Equality, served on the board of the Montachusett MLK Coalition and is currently involved with community efforts as part of the Milford Area Humanities Coalition. Lorenzen spends some of his down time writing for his Unitarian Universalist blog at sunflowerchalice.com.

MARC A. LORANGER '94, G'03 serves as assistant principal at Plymouth South High School. In addition to his bachelor's degree in history, Loranger earned a master's in general education at Fitchburg State in 2003. Loranger formerly served as the athletic director in Wareham.

ANDREW J. BAYIATES '97 worked with Fitchburg State students, alumni and a retired faculty member to present a staged reading of his play, "Faceland – 1853," in February at Weston Auditorium on campus. The reading also included alumni Jennifer A. Campbell G'13 and John N. Ardini '15.

2000s

JESSICA L. NORRIS '01 travelled to Lesvos, Greece, in April to volunteer on the front lines of the refugee crisis.

ARTHUR J. BUTTERS G'02, CAGS'09 is currently serving as assistant principal at Plymouth North High School.



CRAIG A.
CONSIGLI G'02
has been chosen
as assistant
superintendent
of the Milford
Public Schools.

Consigli, who had been principal of Woodland Elementary School for the past four years, began his new position in July. He began his teaching career at Stacy Middle School in Milford in 1999 and has worked in the Milford Public School district for 18 years. In 2006 he became assistant principal at Stacy Middle School and a year later was named principal of Middle School East.

Todd A. Finn '02 was appointed principal of Mill River Union High School in North Clarendon, Vt., in February.



NICOLE CORROTO
'03 has been
promoted to
assistant vice
president at
Rollstone Bank
& Trust. Corroto

began at RBT in 2005. She served on project teams within the bank, has conducted training sessions, and has an in-depth knowledge of the bank's systems.

JUSTIN GRACE '03, actor/writer/director in New York City, sat on the alumni panel this April during Visions 2016, the annual Communications Media juried student exhibition. Joining him were James B. Day '10, videographer at MIT Media Lab, Caitlin Healey '10, social media content manager at CVS Health, and Austin Soares '14, graphic designer at iFactory.

JENNIFER E. CURTIS-WHIPPLE CAGS'04 has been named superintendent of schools in Weymouth after having served as assistant superintendent since August 2014. Curtis-Whipple has spent her entire 21-year career in education in the school district. She taught for 15 years before being appointed principal at Academy Avenue Primary School in September 2010. As assistant superintendent, she coordinated curriculum instruction, special education, English as a second language and early childhood education.

JOSEPH T. MURPHY G'04 now serves as assistant principal at the Plymouth South Middle School.

BRIAN C. PALLADINO CAGS'05 is principal at the Plymouth Community Intermediate School.

DENISE N. PIGEON CAGS'05

has been named superintendent of the Nashoba Valley Technical School District. Pigeon came to the district during the 2005-2006 school year as the director of curriculum. In 2010 she became principal of Nashoba Valley Technical High School. An Amesbury native, Pigeon lives in Salisbury with her husband, Andrew, and their three children.



MICHELE L. EGERTON '06 appeared with actress Jennifer Lawrence in the David O. Russell directed-, Academy Awardnominated film "Joy" (2015).

Corey J. Hetherman '06 has been promoted to defensive coordinator for the University of Maine's football team. Hetherman joined the Black Bears' staff in 2015 when he was hired as UMaine's defensive line coach. He spent the 2014 season as the defensive coordinator and linebackers coach at Pace University, where he was in charge of developing and implementing the defensive game plan. Prior to his time at Pace, Hetherman spent a year at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va., as the defensive run game coordinator and assistant linebackers coach.

SARAH E. LYNCH G'06 is the new principal of Webster Elementary School in Manchester, N.H. Lynch came to Webster from the Lawrence School District, where she was an administrative mentor, and also was curriculum coach and a third-grade classroom teacher. Her experience includes serving as assistant principal at Walker School in Needham, a therapeutic residential and day school for students with severe behavioral, emotional and social disabilities.

CHRISTINE A. MORGAN G'07 is principal of Cold Spring Elementary School in Plymouth.

DANIEL SEAMAN '07 recently became a certified public accountant. He works for AAFCPAs in Westborough.

CHARLES E. FISHER '09
presented a talk on machine
learning support for the
cooperative communication
system to the Fitchburg State
Math Club this past November.
Fisher currently works for
Applied Research Associates in
North Carolina.

2010s

RYAN GARDELL '11 was selected in May to create one of five murals on the side of the Worcester Community Radio Station building in Worcester. Gardell, who resides in Worcester, is a visual artist, mixed media painter and graphic designer. He works as a custom frame builder in an art gallery.

JOSEPH D. RICE '11 has been ordained to the Order of Deacon by the Diocese of Worcester's Office of Vocations. This marks the final step in his journey to the priesthood. He is a native of Worcester, and his home parish is Our Lady of Providence.

After graduating from Fitchburg State, he attended the Pope St. John XXIII Seminary in Weston. He is currently studying at St. Mary's Seminary & University

in Baltimore, Md. He has had summer assignments in Rome, Italy, Sacred Heart in Webster, St. Joseph in Auburn and St. Roch in Oxford, and has had clinical pastoral experience at St. Vincent Hospital in Worcester.

ERIK G. WEIKERT '11 presented his work at the Communications Media Lecture Series on March 22 at Fitchburg State. Weikert is a graphic designer and senior art director at Pilot, a brand consulting and packaging design agency in Boston's Seaport District. He has designed and art-directed branding and packaging for Lucasfilm, Disney, Universal, Nike, Puma, Angry Orchard, Boston Beer Company, Hasbro, Rovio: Angry Birds, and Grand Cru: Confidential. He helped develop the retail branding for "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" and was recognized at the Boston Advertising Hatch Awards for his redesign of the Transformers logo.

MICHELLE E. (CREE) BIASELLA '12 and Nicholas Biasella Jr. '11. were married on August 8, 2014. They welcomed their first child, Liliana Joan, on March 3, 2016. After earning her bachelor's degree in special education from Fitchburg State, Michelle completed an M.Ed. in literacy and language from Framingham State University in 2014. She currently works as a literacy specialist for Framingham Public Schools and is working towards a second M.Ed. in curriculum and instructional technology. Nick received his bachelor's degree in communications media and is currently employed by TJX companies in Framingham. They reside in Marlborough, where they purchased a home in June 2015.

KATRINA M. BROWN '13,

membership assistant at the Fitchburg Historical Society, created a photographic montage to accompany an exhibition at Fitchburg High School about Felix Leger, a Cleghorn citizen who fought in the European theater during the Second World War as part of the First Infantry's famed Yankee Division.

MATTHEW COSTELLO '13

graduated with honors from Suffolk University Law School in May. Costello will clerk for Justice Gilbert Indeglia of the Rhode Island Supreme Court during the 2016-17 term and Chief Judge William E. Smith of the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island in 2017-18.

LYNNE M. PAJU G'13 received this year's Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award form the Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation. Paju is a special education teacher at Franklin County Technical School in Turners Falls.

MARCO L. BANGRAZI '15 serves as conservation agent and environmental inspector for the City of Leominster. As part of his degree requirement he completed an internship with the Leominster Conservation Commission, working closely with his predecessor before being handed over the department.

ILENE S. BLOOM '15 is working on her master's of health administration at Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in the pursuit of bringing about change in the policies and procedures of health care delivery.

CODY D. CAISSE '15 was elected to serve on the Leominster School Committee in November 2015.

IN MEMORIAM

GEORGE J. KALIL '42, G'47, of Shrewsbury, on May 5, 2016.

EDWARD W. CONNOLLY '49, G'50, of Middletown, R.I., on November 21, 2015.

GERARD J. HOULE '56, of Paxton, on November 9, 2015.

WILLIAM S. MICHAELS '57, G'60, of Leominster, on December 25, 2015.

CHARLES H. CAMPBELL '59, of Rutland, on November 26, 2015. He is survived by his wife, Barbara (Benham) Campbell '59.

EILEEN CONDIKE '59, of Granbury, Texas, on January 9, 2016.

THOMAS E. JAILLET '60, of Marion, on November 1, 2016.

LORRAINE B. (BELAIR) QUESADA '61, G'67, of Townsend, on April 23, 2016. She is survived by her husband, Raul Quesada '56, G'63

WILLIAM VAN ORDEN '61, G'63, of Fitchburg, on November 30, 2015.

WESLEY G. BATTLES '64, G'73, of Westminster, on March 31, 2016.

MICHAEL WILLIAMSON '65, G'70, of Gainesville, Ga., on November 2, 2015. He is survived by his wife, Susan Williamson '77.

JOAN M. McSHERRY '68, G'76, of Fitchburg, on February 17, 2016.

DAVID KASSABIAN '71, of South Hamilton, on March 29, 2016.

PATRICIA C. JONES '74, of Acton, on March 30, 2016.

MARY F. (WILEY) RUTIGLIANO '74, G'81, of Hampstead, N.H., on December 30, 2015.

BARBARA E. (KIMBALL) AMBURGEY '76, '78G, of Fitzwilliam, N.H., on February 26, 2016.

DAVID F. McCaffrey '76, G'81, of Lunenburg, on April 15, 2016.

JANET E. (LEHMAN) FINKELSTEIN '77, of Kingland, Ga., on January 13, 2016.

DOROTHY I. (GELINAS) RAGUCCI '78, of Fitchburg, on November 6, 2015.

EDWARD J. GALLANT '80, former Fitchburg police chief, of Spruce Head Island, Maine, on December 22, 2015. He is survived by his wife Gayle Gallant '83, G'92.

GAYLORD L. GRAY '80, of Ashburnham, on November 30, 2015

DOROTHY P. GREEN G'80, of Laguna Woods, Calif., on August 23, 2015.

MAUREEN O'DOHERTY '80, of Grafton, on January 21, 2016.

MARY E. SWEELEY '82, of Shelburne Falls, on January 24, 2016

LEO W. BOULANGER '83, of Westminster, on October 27, 2015.

MARILYN L. Hyson '87, of Holden, on February 10, 2016.

JANICE A. ROSENSTEEL '89, of Corbin, Ky., on May 4, 2016.

DENNIS P. CHENARD '90, of Ayer, on March 31, 2016.

HELEN M. DOLAN G'90, of Billerica, on January 13, 2014.

JOHN F. RICE, III '94, of Fitchburg, on April 27, 2016.

ROSEMARY E. "BETSY" (GUERCIO) SAWYER '97, of Shirley, on April 3, 2016. Sawyer was the 2015 recipient of the university's Joel D. Miller Award for excellence in teaching.

KAREN E. (RAYMOND) DUGUAY '06, of Athol, on February 24, 2016.

MICHELE A. OSHMAN G'14, of Millbury, on April 24, 2016. WILLIAM KAVANAUGH '58, of North Smithfield, R.I., on April 12, 2016. He is survived by his wife, Judith (Boyden) Kavanaugh '58. Born in Worcester, Kavanaugh completed his bachelor of science in industrial education from Fitchburg State and upon graduation took a teaching position in Connecticut. During that time he completed his master's degree, and after a decade of public school teaching, he moved on to Rhode Island College to serve as a professor of industrial education. While working at RIC, Kavanaugh completed all the requirements in the doctoral program at Boston University and received an Ed.D in career education. His position at RIC required him to work on out-reach opportunities with the Department of Defense Dependent Schools in the Southern Region of Germany, and with many U.S. Department of Labor Job Corps Centers around the country. He also consulted for the state Department of Education in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. While working at RIC Kavanaugh served as department chairman of the Industrial Technology Department and was appointed dean/director of the Center for Management and Technology.

Upon retirement from the college, Kavanaugh co-founded a new training and development organization that consulted in both business and education. He most recently was an outreach trainer for the Center for OSHA Education at Keene State College. Kavanaugh was awarded the Joel D. Miller Award in 1979 by the Fitchburg State University Alumni Association for his outstanding contributions as an educator. He served on the Fitchburg State University Alumni board of directors from 2010-2014, where he was on several committees and attended almost every open house and president's reception for accepted students that he could. His joy was engaging students.

Last year he presented a workshop at the Brand Yourself Conference, hosted by the Alumni Association. It was titled "Look Beyond the Obvious." He began the workshop by holding up a \$50 bill to a crowd of students to see who would be the first to grab it. The lesson he was getting across was that they needed to grab ahold of opportunity when it presented itself, not wait until it passed them by. Every student remarked how they would never forget this very important lesson.



Anna R. (Guglielmi) Mazzaferro '77, of Leominster, on May 3, 2016. The Fitchburg State community lost a proud alumna, loyal friend and steadfast supporter with Mazzaferro's passing. Her dedication to Fitchburg State transcended the financial contributions she offered with her husband, Aldo. She was a cornerstone of the university's Center for Italian Culture's founding and played an ongoing and vital role in its programming. Mazzaferro came to Fitchburg State later in life, earning a bachelor's degree in English in 1977 at the age of 50. She promoted Italian language, culture and events within the campus community and throughout the region. Mazzaferro lived her life joyfully, was devoted to her friends, family and church, and was generous with her time as well as her philanthropy to the numerous organizations she served. She was focused on helping others before herself, informed by an unwavering sense of justice. She was respected by all who had the privilege to know her, which was evident in the numerous honors and awards she was presented over her long and accomplished life.

In addition to Fitchburg State, among her most important devotions were St. Anna Parish in Leominster and St. Anna School. Through the CIC at Fitchburg State, she addressed what she perceived to be a lack of historical perspective and knowledge about Italian heritage and promoted Italian language, culture and events in a region where Italian ethnicity abounds. Thanks to her family's longtime and generous support, the Fitchburg State campus continues to enjoy the use of the Aldo and Anna (Guglielmi) Mazzaferro Center on Highland Avenue, which includes Presidents' Hall as well as the Alumni and Development Office.



IN MEMORIAM: FACULTY / FRIENDS

WILLIAM T. CASEY, of Fitchburg, on April 1, 2016. Casey was the library director at Fitchburg State from 1965 until his retirement in 1990. He is survived by his wife, Julia (Tomasini) Casey '90.

GUNTHER G. Hoos, longtime faculty member from the Communications Media Department, of Lunenburg, on December 29, 2015. In 2007, Hoos retired as a professor of film and video production at Fitchburg State, where he taught for 27 years. Many of his students used their time with Gunther to find their own paths in life, and went on to realize their dreams as Oscar and Emmy winners, celebrated authors, TV and film producers and editors, and special effect experts. The family held a memorial service on the Fitchburg State campus in April and thanked the many alumni and friends who attended and gave generously to the Gunther G. Hoos Scholarship Fund in his memory.

NORMAN C. "CY" LOCKE, of Chelmsford, on April 29, 2016. Locke was the director of the former Image Systems Department at Fitchburg State in the 1970s. In 1981 he assumed the position of professor of Communications Media, and was a key figure in the early development of the television and motion picture tracks. Locke retired from Fitchburg State in 1987 and was named professor emeritus in 1992. Prior to Fitchburg State, Locke worked for WNAC-TV, Channel 7 in Boston as film editor. He then joined WWOR-TV, Channel 14 in Worcester as production manager in 1953. He joined Chelmsford Public Schools in 1963 as director of television and media services. In 1967, he became director of television and television program instructor at Boston University School of Education.

NICHOLAS D. MERCADANTE, of Fitchburg, on January 23, 2016. He and his wife, Frances (Posco) Mercadante '53, served on the board of the university's Center for Italian Culture for over a decade.

MARY L. PADULA, Massachusetts state senator from 1983-1991, of Simpsonville, S.C., on October 29, 2015. Senator Padula, a longtime Lunenburg resident, was recognized by Fitchburg State as one of the 100 citizens who made the greatest difference in North Central Massachusetts in the last 100 years.

SARAH J. SADOWSKI, formerly an academic adviser with the Expanding Horizons Program at Fitchburg State University, of Holden, on January 21, 2016.

Mabel L. "Gin" Sgan, long-time professor of psychology at Fitchburg State, of Honolulu, Hawaii, on November 27, 2015. Dr. Sgan received bachelor's and master's degrees in psychology from the University of Hawaii followed by a doctorate in developmental psychology from Cornell University. Following a postdoctoral research fellowship at Brandeis University, she taught at Wellesley College and Boston University before joining the faculty at Fitchburg State in 1978. At Fitchburg State, she taught courses in child and adolescent psychology, research methods, personality, and social psychology. She also served as an adviser for the Psychology Club and she mentored many students in individual research projects. At her retirement in 1998, in recognition of her devotion to her students, her name was included on an award (now the Roder/Sgan Award) given to an outstanding student majoring in psychology.

ALUMNI EVENTS



In December alumni and their families attended the Annual Sigma Pi Holiday Reunion in Falcon Hub at Hammond Hall.



Alumni and family joined together at the end of February for a beautiful ski day at Wachusett Mountain in Princeton.



All alumni are invited to participate in the university's commencement exercises. The ceremonies are held annually in May and December. This academic year's winter ceremony will be held on Friday, Dec. 16; the graduate spring ceremony on Thursday, May 18; and the undergraduate spring ceremony on Saturday, May 20.



The Alumni Association held its first Falcons in Washington, D.C. events in March. These included a "Happy Hour on the Hill" for young alumni and a special cocktail reception at the Dirksen Senate Office Building.



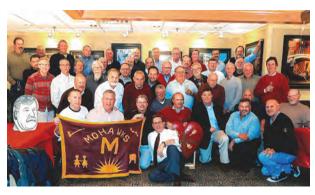
The alumni men's hockey game and reception brought more than 50 former players back to the Wallace Civic Center in February.



More than 40 alumni enjoyed the Falcons at Foxwoods event in April. We will be making another trip the Foxwoods Resort Casino in spring 2017.



The Second Annual Falcons in Florida trip this March was a resounding success, with more than 50 alumni attending the Red Sox spring training game at JetBlue Park in Fort Myers. Alumni also filled a trolley at the Naples St. Patrick's Day Parade. Tim '86 and Mary Lynn '85 Leary hosted a breakfast before the parade and Rose Anne Addorisio '63, G'67 hosted brunch at the Four Seasons Resort in Palm Beach, the group's first time in this area.



The annual Mohawk Christmas pasta festival was held at the Chateau restaurant in Waltham. Alumni spanning from the 1960s through the 1990s have held this event for more than 25 years.



ALUMNI SKI DAY at Wachusett Mountain

Alumni and their families are invited to enjoy a fun-filled day on the slopes.

You can get discounts on lift tickets, rentals and lessons by skiing or snowboarding with us. Stay tuned for more information.

ARE YOU A LEADER? JOIN THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD.

We're looking for members to fill upcoming vacancies. Email alumni@fitchburgstate.edu for more information or to nominate someone.

DO YOU KNOW ALUMNI WHOSE ACCOMPLISHMENTS DESERVE TO BE RECOGNIZED?

Please take a few minutes and tell us about them. We will be accepting nominations for the 2017 Alumni Awards through March 1, 2017. Nominations may be submitted online, or you may contact the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@fitchburgstate.edu or (978) 665-4555 to request a hard copy.

Current employees of the university and Alumni Association board members are not eligible, and self-nominations will not be considered.

To ensure that you are receiving the most current information on events, call or email the alumni office to update your contact record at (978) 665-4555 or alumni@fitchburgstate.edu.



A collaboration between the alumni office and admissions, the Alumni Poster Project launched at the President's Reception for Accepted Students this April featuring young successful alumni working. A big thank you to all who participated.



Katherine "Kay" Flynn, '57, G'60, retired professor and alumna, celebrated her 100th birthday with a party at the Falcon Hub. Flynn, seated at center, was joined by (from left) Mary-Beth Fafard '67, Rick Lavoie '72 and former Executive Vice President Michael Fiorentino '71.



Alumni from several decades led the processional at the 120th commencement exercises this spring.

5M Slattery's Turkey Trot

Calling all alumni runners and spectators!! The Alumni Association is sponsoring the 5M Slattery's Turkey Trot on **Sunday, November 20, 2016** and we hope you will stop by our tent for a gift and to enter into a free raffle. Last year we had close to 100 alumni runners. Let's see if we can break this record! Registration and more information to come.



SCORE YOUR TICKETS to the Falcons at Fenway

Red Sox Game

Sat., Aug. 27 | 7:10 PM

Boston Red Sox vs. the 2015 World Series Champs, Kansas City Royals

The Red Sox have retooled and are poised to contend for another World Series. There are limited tickets available, so hurry and purchase yours today before they are all gone!

\$40 for standing room tickets Seated tickets are sold out

support.fitchburgstate.edu/eventregistration





Each June, dozens of retired alumni educators return to campus to be celebrated at a luncheon held in appreciation of their years of service to the educational system and students of the region. At this year's event, Fitchburg special education teacher Meryl (Morgan) Higgins G'06 received the 2016 Joel D. Miller Award and upcoming senior Jessica A. Adams '17, received the Retired Educators Scholarship.



Do you know alumni whose accomplishments deserve to be recognized?

Please take a few minutes and tell us about him or her. We will be accepting nominations for the for the 2017 Alumni Awards through March 1, 2017. Nominations may be submitted online, or you may contact the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@fitchburgstate.edu or (978) 665-4555 to request a hard copy.

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October 11-16, 2016

| Presidential Inauguration of Dr. Richard S. LapidusThursday, | 2:30 PM |
|--|----------|
| Athletics Hall of Fame CeremonyFriday, | 5:30 PM |
| Class of 1963 Scholarship Dinner | TBD |
| Gold Key Society Breakfast Saturday, | 9:30 AM |
| Falcons Women's Soccer Game Saturda | y, 10 AM |
| Falcons Football Game Saturday, | 1:30 PM |
| Falcons Women's Field Hockey Saturd | ay, 6 PM |
| Class of 1966 50th Reunion | TBD |



Stay tuned for a complete list of Homecoming events **support.fitchburgstate.edu**